

because I don't believe many would have voted for such language if Hillary Clinton was President. Thank God the Senate didn't include this language in their version of the NDAA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the conferees from both Houses and both parties to reject this rash amendment and for all of us to return to our senses. Insurrections are rare but ugly things. Let's not tie a future President's hands at a time when our people may need his, and our military's, protection here at home.

CITIZENS UNITE FOR PEACEFUL PROTESTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express the extent to which I am proud of my constituents in southwestern Connecticut in Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District, but also to observe that just as in this country we have work to do in addressing the racial disparities that exists in all of our institutions, we have work to do in Connecticut's Fourth District.

Mr. Speaker, I was enormously proud that after we began to bend the curve on coronavirus—thanks to the leadership of our Governor, Ned Lamont—just as we saw those numbers begin to decline, like the rest of the country, my constituents were appalled by the brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Nobody was unaffected by what we saw that day.

To the great credit of my constituents, people rose up in the broad diversity of my constituency. My constituency includes some of the wealthiest, small, and—yes—very White towns in the country: Towns like New Canaan and Darien. It also includes diverse cities that struggle with the issues of urban poverty: Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford.

But as one, my constituents rose up—young, old, poor, wealthy, Black, White, straight, LGBTQ—and demanded progress and change, and they did it peacefully. They did it side by side with the leaders of the Police Department of Stamford, of Wilton, of New Canaan—police chiefs standing side by side with Black Lives Matter protestors. That was a good thing. That was an example of how we come together in the face of something awful.

But I also rise because there is no room for complacency. I remind my fellow citizens of Connecticut, while we are a progressive State, and while we did come together in all of our communities, it could happen here. I remind my constituents that Connecticut was actually the last State in New England in 1848 to eliminate slavery. That is just a few years before Abraham Lincoln did so in the South and around the country. So there is no place for complacency amongst my constituents.

And the truth is, as I have observed and many have observed, what hap-

pened to George Floyd is the pinnacle atop a structure of four centuries of racism and discrimination. Of course, George Floyd is not alone. The names echo in the chamber of shame in this country.

Breonna Taylor. Tamir Rice. Ahmaud Arbery. The names echo, and they go on and on.

But those Black Americans who have been killed unjustly sit atop a structure of the denial of equal access to opportunity. And that is in our systems of housing, our systems of education, and in the private sector.

So even as I celebrate and express my pride in my constituents, we need to be there for the broader struggle. We need to be there as we consider how we make one of the more segregated parts—at least with respect to housing in the United States—more fair. We need to be there when we contemplate the fact that too many of our Black and Brown brothers and sisters don't have the access to the extraordinary educational institutions in the State of Connecticut and around the country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be there. It is good to show up and protest peacefully when a Black man is murdered at the hands of the police, but it is not enough because that act sits atop an edifice—a four-century long edifice—of discrimination, the effects of which still echo through every aspect of our society.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just my constituents. It is this Chamber and this Congress that must get serious about addressing the unequal distribution of opportunity in this country. That is our mission. I just said goodbye, with so many of my colleagues, to JOHN LEWIS. I know that is what John would have us do, and I know that he would have us do it with grace and with dignity and humility.

Mr. Speaker, that is what I charge my constituents with, and that is what I hope this Congress will address, in the memory of JOHN LEWIS, who just left us this morning.

CLIFTY FALLS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clifty Falls State Park for its 100th anniversary. Located in beautiful Madison, Indiana, Clifty Falls gives its visitors an experience that you can't get anywhere else.

For 100 years, Hoosiers and Americans across the Nation have enjoyed beautiful hiking trails and waterfalls in Clifty Falls. I congratulate Clifty Falls State Park for its 100-year anniversary. Indiana is lucky to have such a beautiful place.

KEEP AMERICA SAFE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to challenge mayors, Governors, leaders of this country to stand up and shut down the rioting we are witnessing in

communities across our Nation. Anarchists are destroying homes, businesses, and whole communities. These people are not peaceful protestors. They are violent agitators.

The leaders of these cities need to get their act together and end this violence. American citizens are getting hurt and, yes, even killed, and it is time to stop this madness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in calling to end this lawlessness and to help keep all of our communities safe across this country.

REOPEN OUR SCHOOLS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for reopening schools across our Nation. I have been talking to parents in my district, Indiana's Sixth District, and the consensus is in: Let's get our kids back to school.

The science is on our side. Both the CDC and Academy of Pediatrics agree it is safe to reopen our schools. In fact, it would be unsafe to keep our schools closed. The emotional scarring, unreported abuse, and learning deficits of keeping our kids stuck inside staring at a screen and away from socialization is far too great. Working parents doing everything they can to put food on the table, they need our support.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let an entire generation fall behind in education. We must find a safe way to reopen our schools.

SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRUMP

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for President Donald J. Trump.

Perseverance in the face of lies from the media and his political opponents shows fearless leadership and should be admired.

The D.C. swamp continues to attack him relentlessly, stopping at nothing to take him down. The collateral damage in this grotesque war against our President is the American people.

President Trump created an economy where minorities were thriving, workers and families had good-paying jobs, and businesses were finally flourishing. When Democrats and the media do everything in their power to halt Trump's work, they are actually attacking the very American way of life that we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to continue to support President Donald Trump and his agenda to make the American people stronger than ever.

MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR NATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the mental health crisis our Nation faces as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic and the resulting economic crisis have resulted in a mental health and substance abuse crisis like we have never seen before.

Veterans, students, families, and Americans with a history of mental illness or addiction are really suffering. To continue to shut down our country does not make scientific sense, economic sense, or common sense. It is