

will fund research to increase our understanding of the causes, impacts, and possible treatments of alopecia areata.

I know that our work is far from over, and I will continue to fight. I will take my seat at the table. I will take up space, and I will create it, too; and with this space, we will make change.

Every single person deserves to show up in the world exactly as they are without fear or discrimination. To my fellow alopecians wherever you may be, today I bring our story to the floor of the people's House to say that we belong, our stories deserve to be heard, and we are absolutely beautiful and worthy.

□ 0915

#### THE REPUBLICAN COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, maligned policies from Democrats that seek to defund, destroy, and dismantle our country are dangerous. Quite frankly, these policies pose a threat to the liberties and freedoms that define the American dream as we know it. Republicans understand this threat, and we refuse to sit idly on the sidelines.

That is why we have developed our Commitment to America. The message is simple. Restoring, renewing, and rebuilding America is a mandate that we must work every day to uphold. We are fighting for families, for generations of Americans to come, and for a country that has always served as a beacon of hope to the world.

In short, it is a blueprint that gets our country back on track. The American people deserve leaders who fight for freedom, the values that we hold dear, and the promise of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, at such a pivotal moment in the history of our country, we must work to advance policies that are pro-growth, pro-family, and pro-America. Anything less is unacceptable.

Time and time again Democrats have turned their backs on the American people with a "my way or the highway" approach to legislating.

This year alone, the House of Representatives has taken up a myriad of bipartisan messaging bills that do nothing to help our country. If anything, these bills send a concerning message about the Democrat vision for America.

Substantive legislation has been pushed to the back burner, the spirit of bipartisanship has been rendered virtually nonexistent, and political posturing has replaced meaningful conversations on pressing issues. We have had ample opportunities to work together, but Democrats have taken it upon themselves to prolong a partisan blockade that stifles progress.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong and that is not leadership. Leadership is fighting for the American people at every turn. Leadership is defending the promises of the American Dream. Leadership is advancing policies that raise America to new heights.

I am proud to stand alongside Leader MCCARTHY and my Republican colleagues as we chart a meaningful pathway forward. The road ahead may seem uncertain, or even arduous, but we are confident that with steadfast leadership and commonsense policies, America will flourish.

#### BIRTH OF THE HERO ACT

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of my bipartisan measure, H.R. 1646, the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act, or the HERO Act.

The HERO Act is the best of what we do in this people's House, which is accessible to our constituents and others, and that is why we love the House of Representatives.

Over 2½ years ago, two of my fire chiefs, Mike McLaughlin and Maurice Johnson, visited my office here in Washington to talk about some issues. In passing, they also talked about the number of firefighters and first responders that succumb to suicide, and the stresses of the job.

We talked about it and we started to do a little bit of research. We realized we didn't have good statistics on the actual incidence of firefighters or first responders that were succumbing to suicide.

We started to talk to others, the International Association of Firefighters, and we talked to law enforcement. We realized the stresses that these individuals, men and women, who are out there protecting our communities every day, face. They see untold challenges that normal human beings don't see. So we started talking about this.

We looked for those statistics, talked to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance founder, Jeff Dill, and again, realized we ought to challenge the CDC to collect these statistics, and we ought to do something about it. We ought to help relieve the suffering of these first responders, firefighters, law enforcement individuals.

So we went about writing a bill and working with our partners. That was before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. What we have seen since the pandemic is untold pressures on our frontline healthcare workers, our nurses, the folks in the hospitals. And I want to applaud a fellow doctor, a Republican Member, MIKE BURGESS, who is the ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Healthcare Subcommittee, he realized this fact. And working together with our staff, we amended the HERO Act to include and recognize the

unique stresses that these frontline healthcare workers are facing.

We talked about how they don't need to suffer by themselves, how we could put in place peer-to-peer contacts where folks could reach out, create a space for some of these individuals that might be suffering alone to talk about what was going on.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member WALDEN on the Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, Ms. ESHOO, for helping get this bill to the floor and getting it passed yesterday evening.

Again, the HERO Act demonstrates what we can do when we come together as Democrats and Republicans, when we listen to our constituents, and we work with those folks that are out there.

I, again, want to applaud the frontline healthcare workers, the firefighters, the law enforcement individuals, and emergency responders that are out there keeping us safe every day. You have got our back, we have got your back. So thank you to all of them.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SCHEDULER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a group of courageous Federal employees: Matt Nordquist; Janet Hartman, now Schmautz; Jake Gibson; Carren Crossley; Virginia Mueller, now Partridge; Jordan Haverly; Joy Henrichs; Perry Ford Stamp; and Molly Mackenzie Harris.

There is no more difficult job in Washington than that of a congressional scheduler. My thanks and apologies go to those who served in my office these past 24 years.

For me, being away from home was the worst part of the job. Who booked the flight and told me I had to get back to D.C.? The scheduler did. Who would meet me in the office at 7:30 a.m. to get me to a breakfast meeting at 8 a.m.? Who would hang around to pick me up at 9 a.m., just to race me to the Hill for a 9 a.m. meeting? The scheduler did. Who received an irate call from me wondering why no one was at the meeting in HC-5, only to be told that if I had looked at my schedule, I would have seen that the meeting location had changed to the Capitol Hill Club? The scheduler did.

Who took the frustrating call asking how I can be in a meeting in the Capitol from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and then in my office in the Rayburn Building for an 11 a.m. meeting? The scheduler did. Who took the blame when I finally cried out that I needed a bathroom break after consecutive 30-minute meetings? The scheduler did. Who picked me up after votes at 6:30 p.m. to hit a reception at 6:45 p.m., another

one at 7 p.m., and then dinner at another location at 7:30 p.m.? The scheduler did.

Who scheduled the flight to get me home, and then had to sweat as to whether I could make the early flight or not? Who received my continuous calls asking them if I thought I could make it? The scheduler did. Who waited in the car for that final vote just to see me run down the stairs and tell them, let's go, just to get caught in traffic in the plaza, traffic on Independence Avenue, and traffic on Interstate 395? The scheduler did.

Who had to put up with the worst backseat driver in Washington, D.C.? The scheduler did. My schedulers took the brunt of my frustration as we tried to fit 36 hours of work into a 24-hour day. They took the barbs of criticism when I missed my family.

If there was ever a single group that I need to apologize to, it is them. Having said this, this group of workers professionally conducted their job with poise, confidence, efficiency, and compassion. I can say without hesitation that because of me, the toughest job in my office is that of the scheduler. Matt, Janet, Jake Carren, Virginia, Jordan, Joy, Perry, and Molly, I thank you.

#### WE MUST ADVANCE URGENTLY NEEDED CORONAVIRUS ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this body must advance urgently needed coronavirus assistance.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar said, "Every death we experience is a tragedy." When he said it, the United States had just hit the grim milestone of 100,000 souls lost from the COVID pandemic. That was mid-May, around the same time Democrats advanced the HEROES Act in the House. In the 4 months that followed, 100,000 more Americans have died as the epidemic has spiraled out of control, and chaos has continued to reign from the White House.

We have reached the breaking point. Plain and simple, it is time for the Senate to pass our comprehensive rescue package or offer a real alternative of their own. No more waiting. No more excuses.

Throughout this crisis, the Senate majority has abdicated responsibility to this President's insufficient leadership and papered over his deadly shortcomings. For the lives and livelihood of every one of my constituents, I beg my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to seize this moment to follow a new guide.

Let that guide be science. Let it be truth, because politics, really, truly bad politics, has brought America low in the face of this crisis. But it is not too late.

On January 22, President Trump tweeted "China has been working very

hard to contain the coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency." He made similar remarks again on January 30 and on February 7. The very same day President Trump was privately admitting to journalist Bob Woodward that the coronavirus is an airborne pathogen more deadly than the flu.

Despite his full awareness of the danger, he kept going, praising China and publicly downplaying the coronavirus threat. Politico has found at least 15 examples of President Trump publicly praising China's coronavirus response during this period, including on February 10, 13, 18, 23, 26, 27, and 29. He said it over and over.

In the following weeks and months, he would repeatedly downplay the danger and suggest, fully aware of his deception, that this virus was comparable to a seasonal flu.

President Trump's deception on these matters is not opinion, he was recorded. He is literally on the record saying that he intended to downplay this disease and deny the American people the information we would need to make vital decisions for ourselves, our families, our communities, and indeed, our Nation.

Every death that resulted from this was a tragedy. In February, President Trump said, "It is going to disappear one day. It is like a miracle, it will disappear." He knew better.

At this point the virus had been given nearly 2 months to circulate unchecked. Americans were still going about our daily lives, flocking to movie theaters, churches, synagogues, going to Mardi Gras, going on spring break, unaware of the true extent of the threats spreading all around us.

On March 11, President Trump took only his second major national step, another travel ban. It was around this time that Congress stepped up the scale of our response to this threat. We moved quickly to pass the CARES Act, including delivering emergency funds for America's hospital and staff, small business owners, laid off workers, and everyday Americans facing unprecedented fear and uncertainty.

The CARES Act was a rescue plan. It wasn't perfect, but it was America's first real effort to stem the tide. That rescue was powerful, but it was no substitute for executive leadership. Sadly, we are still waiting for executive leadership.

Between March and May, America saw its death toll skyrocket past 100,000. The Members of this Chamber again moved swiftly to advance another rescue package, the HEROES Act. Since the House passed the HEROES Act on May 15, more than 110,000 Americans have died of COVID-19.

For comparison, this is the equivalent of losing every soul living in Albany, New York, our State capital, that I represent. And that is just the recorded death toll since mid-May.

Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL responded that States

should file for bankruptcy instead, and the Senate would wait and see. Wait for what? Haven't we seen? We have waited 4 months and paid dearly for it. Enough of this craven politics.

Senators, consider your oath to the people you serve. What will you say when they ask what you did to stop this disease from stealing their loved ones; from destroying their small business? What will you say to the teachers that are being laid off as States and cities drastically cut their budgets? From undermining America's standing in the world?

To my colleagues, I say this: We have a plan. Join us. Let's invest heavily in research and follow science and public health guidance. They are the fastest route to get us to the other side of this crisis. Our HEROES Act gets it done.

Let's deliver emergency funding to sustain local essential services, and the salaries of first responders, nurses, teachers, infrastructure maintenance workers, and many more. The HEROES Act gets that done, too. Let's save lives and turn the corner on this crisis with a coordinated national plan for testing and tracing. The HEROES Act gets it done.

Let's deliver the financial support our essential workers, unemployed workers, and financially strained Americans need to weather the storm. The HEROES Act gets it done. Let's rescue our schools, our healthcare providers, our first responders, our hungriest families. The Republican skinny bill just doesn't get it done. I say pass the HEROES Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 0930

#### HONORING HAROLD LEE DICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harold Lee Dick, Gunner's Mate Second Class, who was one of 43 brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice on July 24, 1944, aboard the USS *Colorado*.

While serving aboard the USS *Colorado*, Gunner's Mate Second Class Dick supported landings on Tarawa, the Marshall Islands, Saigon, Guam, and Tinian, where he ultimately lost his life.

Although he was initially listed as missing in action, his body and those of his deceased shipmates were recovered and preserved in the 4th Marine Division Cemetery on Saipan. Once the war had ended, Dick's remains were preserved for identification and transportation back to the United States.

Unfortunately, Gunner's Mate Second Class Dick's remains were unable to be identified, so he was buried as unknown at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. However,