

U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass S. 2330, the Empowering Olympic Paralympic and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020.

This bill is the result of several years of work that began in 2016. Indiana's very own Indianapolis Star broke the story about former USA Gymnastics' team doctor, Larry Nassar's abuse of athletes under his care. Several years have passed since Dr. Nassar went to prison, but Congress has continued to work to ensure this kind of abuse never happens again.

In 2017, I led the charge in the House to address the horrible situation by introducing the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act. I was grateful to see it pass the House and see it get signed into law.

That law established the U.S. Center for SafeSport as the entity responsible for developing policies that all U.S. Olympic governing bodies must implement to better protect their athletes and, most critically, the center was charged with investigating claims of abuse against amateur U.S. athletes.

The center has received hundreds of claims they are responsible for investigating. And, today, with the passage of this bill later today, we will help ensure they will be able to fulfill that mandate.

When it was originally conceived, the center was not provided a steady revenue stream, but today S. 2330 will require the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to provide direct funding to the U.S. Center for SafeSport to guarantee it stays committed to protecting athletes.

This reform, along with many others included in Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act, will bring much-needed further reform to ensure our young athletes will not have to suffer at the hands of another in their quest for gold.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this measure.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEAN) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send us Your spirit of peace. Inspire the Members of the people's House this

day with Your spirit of wisdom, patience, and understanding in the work they do.

Throughout our country, the effects of the coronavirus plague continue. Keep safe those who are in harm's way: healthcare professionals, those engaged in delivering goods and services to our communities, and teachers at all levels.

Comfort and send Your spirit of healing to those who suffer from illness and those who mourn those who have died.

Lord God, have mercy on us.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHIFF led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EVERY AMERICAN DESERVES QUALITY HEALTHCARE

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death."

As our Nation confronts the crisis of coronavirus, we must also confront the crisis of systemic racism in our society. Nowhere is the fight for racial justice more urgent than in the field of health.

The legislation I introduced this week would create a clear and forcible standard for equal healthcare, treating it as a civil rights issue, as it is, and provide strong tools to identify inequitable care and correct it wherever it is found.

I acknowledge and thank Dwayne Hall, whose own family experience with bias in healthcare was a driving force behind this legislation and without whose leadership this bill would not have been possible.

Every American deserves quality care and every American deserves equal care. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this bill to make health equity a reality in this country.

HONORING BLAKE HURST

(Mrs. WAGNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous service of a leader in Missouri agriculture, Mr. Blake Hurst.

Starting out as a young farmer in northwest Missouri, Blake rose through the ranks of the Missouri Farm Bureau to become a statewide board member, vice president, and, finally, president in 2010. Over his tenure, Blake brought the organization to new heights and developed a national reputation for his expertise in agriculture policy.

After decades of service, Blake plans to retire this year and spend more time on his farm with his loving wife, Julie, and their beautiful family.

Madam Speaker, I thank Blake for his unwavering support for Missouri farmers and wish him the very best as he begins this new chapter in his life.

AMERICA CAN AGAIN BE A WELCOMING NATION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, one of the first actions of this administration was to shut down our Nation's doors to families, women, and children around the world fleeing violence and seeking refuge within our borders.

These bans showed a lack of decency and empathy, and they ignored the lessons of history. Immigrants built America, and they helped sustain and expand all that is good in a just and free society.

The President's ignorance of this history is perhaps the point of his policy, one that he uses to exploit and divide. Reports now show that the country intends to admit only 15,000 refugees this year, down from nearly 100,000 4 years ago.

The refugee community in western New York has helped revitalize entire neighborhoods, bringing diversity, culture, and new economic opportunity.

The organizations that support refugees, like the International Institute of Buffalo, Journey's End, Jewish Family Services, and others, continue to do their work with dwindling Federal support, but still they continue to do their good work.

I believe that we can once again be a generous and welcoming nation to the world's most vulnerable. It is imperative for our future that we do so.

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

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF WINSTON GROOM

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a man I was proud to call a constituent and a friend, the great author Winston Groom.

Winston passed away recently in Fairhope, Alabama, after a long and vibrant life whose words touched untold millions around the globe. Most of America knows Winston is the author of "Forrest Gump," the timeless American novel adapted into the classic film of the same name.

Winston and I share a hometown, Mobile, and, as adults, lived near each other in Fairhope. I was blessed to be able to develop a friendship with Winston over the past several decades.

Our State of Alabama, particularly southwest Alabama, is renowned for the quality of writers we have produced. We are also renowned for the colorful qualities of many of those writers.

Winston was not only an incredible talent who will leave a lasting impact on the literary world, but one of the most colorful characters to ever call Alabama home. As Forrest Gump would say: "That's all I have to say about that."

I wish Winston's family all the best, and I thank them for sharing Winston with the world.

DEMOCRATS ARE FIGHTING FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, since the beginning of this Congress, House Democrats have fought for the people. From lowering healthcare costs to raising wages by rebuilding America, to cleaning up corruption and strengthening democracy, House Democrats have passed major legislation and shown the American people what our priorities are.

At the same time, sadly, Republicans have also made clear what their priorities are, priorities the American people, in my view, do not share, for example, and particularly, on healthcare.

For years, Madam Speaker, President Trump and Republicans have been telling the American people that they have a plan that is better than the Affordable Care Act which will cover more Americans. As a matter of fact, the President said he would cover everybody at a lower cost and higher quality. Not a single Member of this House can rise and say, "I know what the President's bill is," because they have never seen it after 3 years and 8 months.

But after years with no plan being put forward, it is clear exactly what their plan really is: Eliminate the Af-

fordable Care Act and offer nothing in return. They continue to tell the American people, "You are on your own."

They tried to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act more than 65 times in Congress and failed. Now they are trying to overturn the law in court, and they are attempting to ram a Supreme Court nominee through in order to do what they failed to do through the legislative process, of course, after saying that we ought not to consider a Supreme Court nominee in an election year because we ought to let the people speak.

In fact, the people spoke in 2016 and voted for Hillary Clinton by over a 3 million disparity. Republicans didn't care. They wanted to know what the electoral college said. And, of course, that is our Constitution, but it is not the people speaking.

The fight over this nominee is very much about the ability of Americans to access quality, affordable healthcare.

When Democrats came into the majority, we took immediate action, Madam Speaker, to defend the Affordable Care Act in court and stand up for its protections for more than 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions.

What can we expect if Republicans succeed in ending the Affordable Care Act?

Free preventative screenings and services, gone.

The guarantee of coverage for those with preexisting conditions without higher premiums, gone.

The ability to get covered under your parents' plans if you are younger than 26, gone.

The ban on lifetime and annual limits of coverage, gone.

That is what we are defending for the people and what we will continue to protect.

Madam Speaker, we also took real action to lower prescription drug costs with the passage of H.R. 3 and other legislation—not a gimmick like President Trump's meaningless executive orders or his illegal coupon cards that endanger the future of Medicare, but real action to benefit those who need more affordable prescription drugs.

And when an unprecedented, deadly pandemic swept across the globe and on to our shores, House Democrats led the way with swift action, enacting four bipartisan laws and passing a fifth bill, the Heroes Act, 4½ months ago. No action in the United States Senate for 3½ months, and then a lame effort, which was not supported by Republicans in the Senate and certainly no Democrats in the Senate.

President Trump and the Republican Senate, however, have blocked the Heroes Act so necessary for those on unemployment, so necessary for those who are trying to feed their families, so necessary for family support, so necessary for small businesses, so necessary for hospital workers and those who are administering testing, and so

necessary for the States and localities that are hiring police, firefighters, sanitation workers—the critical personnel necessary to help confront this virus.

Where Democrats have said we are in this together, President Trump has said it is what it is.

Let me say to the American people: What it is does not have to be.

House Democrats have shown that there is a better way to lead and a more responsible way to govern in this crisis.

Democrats have also been fighting to make our economy work, Madam Speaker, for the people while Republicans fight to make our economy work for the wealthy. That is why they are fighting about the tax provision that they put into the CARES Act, which we think ought to be deleted because it is for the wealthy, not for those who are struggling.

In 2017, President Trump and Republicans enacted an unpaid-for \$1.5 trillion tax cut where 83 percent, more than 8 out of 10 Americans who got relief in that tax act were some of the wealthiest people in America, the top 1 percent. That bill also raised taxes on 86 million middle-class households.

In contrast, Madam Speaker, House Democrats have used our majority to benefit working families and grow our economy. We voted to raise the minimum wage and ensure equal pay for equal work for women. It lies untended in the United States Senate. Senator McCONNELL will not bring it up.

We invested in new infrastructure and clean energy innovation that drives growth of new, high-paying American jobs. It sits untended in the United States Senate.

□ 1115

House Democrats have been working to make government more transparent and accountable to the people.

Our majority moved swiftly, Madam Speaker, to pass the strongest and most comprehensive government reform legislation in decades, the For the People Act.

That bill will hold government officials more accountable, increase transparency and ethical standards, and increase voter protections while instituting national redistricting reforms.

Where is it? In the Senate left untended, unconsidered by the United States Senate, because it is on McCONNELL's desk and he will not move it.

While this President and Republicans continue to make it harder for Americans to vote, and sow confusion and uncertainty about balloting, House Democrats passed H.R. 4 to restore the John Lewis Act, to restore the protections in the Voting Rights Act that so many fought for, demonstrated for, and died for.

But unfortunately, too many in this country are trying to make it more difficult, not easier, to cast that central facet of being a citizen in a democracy, the right to vote.