

There are billions of dollars for State and local governments, mostly to blue States that impose costly lockdowns, even though California is reporting a \$10 billion surplus; billions to bail out multiemployer pension plans; billions for subsidies to cover the cost of rising ObamaCare premiums; and a massive expansion of Medicaid with no reforms to address waste, fraud, and abuse within the program.

Meanwhile, a mere 1 percent of this is for vaccine distribution. Really? Maybe that is, perhaps, because the Trump administration, indeed, did have a plan for vaccine distribution. I don't know.

Of the billions they provide for schools, less than 5 percent will be spent this fiscal year with zero requirements to get kids back in the classroom.

The reality is that some provisions, like a \$15 minimum wage will only hurt the small businesses that Democrats claim they want to help. Many in my district have already told me they are going to lay off workers or shut down.

So I say this to my colleagues who seem to believe that the size of their heart is correlated to how much taxpayer money they are willing to spend: This is not how you help. This is not how you govern responsibly. This is not a contest to see how much debt we can rack up for whatever constituency or special interest you favor at the moment.

Americans don't want handouts. They want a vaccine. They want their businesses open. They want their kids back in school because they know it is safe, despite what the teachers' unions are saying. And they don't want to be told to wear three masks after they get a vaccine.

If you want to work with Republicans, assess what has been spent and what hasn't and focus on small business relief that increases jobs instead of killing them, then Republicans will be right there with you. Until then, expect some serious opposition.

#### RECOGNIZING THE TREMENDOUS STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE IN HOUSTON

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the tremendous the strength of the people in Houston, who I am honored to represent in Congress.

As we all know, last week, an historic arctic blast hit most of the South, including the great State of Texas, plunging millions of Texans into darkness. In the middle of freezing cold temperatures, people weren't able to heat their homes or access water. I personally had to gather water from a swimming pool in our apartment complex after our water was shut off.

I know that many had it much, much worse than I did. But through it all, the community came together. My friend Jim McIngvale, known as Mattress Mack, in Houston opened up his furniture store as a shelter last week to give people in need a warm place to sleep, eat or just get out of the cold for a few hours.

There are countless others who stepped up. Plumbers helped their neighbors repair their pipes free of charge; food and water distribution centers opened up across the city, including in my district office; and people who had power used it minimally so electricity could flow back to their neighbors faster. This is what we call Houston strong.

It got us through Harvey and Imelda, and it is what will get us through this difficult time as well.

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 50th anniversary to the Federal Protective Service.

I thank the 1,400 members of FPS, the men and women who protect the more than 9,500 Federal facilities, and the 1.4 million employees who work in those buildings on a daily basis.

All too often, you only gain attention when tragedy strikes, whether it is the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing or, just last year, bravely defending the Federal courthouse in Portland.

I wish to remind Americans that it is every day that they are there holding the line.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you we are thankful and we are appreciative of their service, and their commitment to keeping our Nation safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the FPS and I wish them a happy 50th anniversary.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF RANDY ROYAL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Sheriff Randy Royal, who recently passed away at the age of 57.

Sheriff Royal served Ware County in Waycross, Georgia, to the best of his ability throughout his four terms. He was known as a man of faith and deep commitment to bettering his community and those around him. Everyone he worked with can attest to his exceptional work ethic, focus, and innovative mindset.

Sheriff Royal selflessly worked without ever complaining, and his legacy will surely last for countless years to come. I am thankful for the life he lived, as Waycross is better off because of him.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Sheriff Royal's family, friends, coworkers, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

#### MIGHTY EIGHTH MUSEUM 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 25 birthday to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force.

Located only minutes from downtown Savannah, where the Eighth Air Force was activated in 1942, the museum features over 90,000 square feet of

exhibits, interactive displays, historical artifacts, and a remarkable collection of aviation art.

Throughout its existence, the Mighty Eighth Museum has preserved stories of courage, character, and patriotism displayed by the men and women of the Eighth Air Force from World War II to the present.

One of the projects they worked on in recent years, is the B-17 restoration project. Once completed, the B-17 Flying Fortress "City of Savannah" will be restored to its full combat configuration, including operational systems and components. The goal of the project is to make the finest static B-17 bomber display in the world.

As the former mayor of Pooler, I have a deep appreciation for the museum and its contributions to the Pooler community. I am thankful for all of the Mighty Eighth's wonderful volunteers and workers throughout the past 25 years, and I am especially grateful for the men and women the museum honors.

#### THIOLKOL CHEMICAL EXPLOSION WOODBINE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor those who lost their lives or were injured during the tragic explosion that occurred 50 years ago at Thiokol Chemical in Woodbine.

On Wednesday, February 3, 1971, a fire at the Thiokol munitions factory just outside of Woodbine triggered a chain reaction of blazes, culminating with an explosion that filled the sky with flames.

The horrible event caused the loss of 29 lives and at least 50 others were injured. Those employees were heroes, as they were working to help our country during wartime with commitment and courage.

Following the event, the Thiokol Memorial Project was founded to keep the story of that terrible day alive and to remember the victims.

I have had the pleasure of meeting folks from the organization and I have been encouraged by the work they have done to ensure every victim is properly remembered and honored. The Thiokol Memorial Project maintains a beautiful exhibit in Kingsland, Georgia.

Although it has been 50 years, the event and the victims will never be forgotten.

#### RECOGNIZING PHARMACIES NATIONWIDE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize pharmacies assisting in the COVID-19 vaccine administration across the country.

Thanks to former President Trump's Operation Warp Speed, the vaccine is now available to about 6,500 pharmacies nationwide. It is expected that the COVID-19 vaccine will eventually be shipped to roughly 40,000 pharmacies across the country.

Many of the participating pharmacies have gone above and beyond in their administration of the vaccine doses. For instance, recently, at Costco in Oregon, an elderly couple scheduled vaccinations for themselves within 20

minutes and reported the efficiency and safety in receiving the doses.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I thoroughly understand the vital role pharmacists play in fighting viruses, from administering flu shots to COVID-19 vaccines.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all participating pharmacies for their diligent work in ensuring safe and effective vaccine administration across the country. We can look forward to a brighter future because of them.

#### EQUALITY ACT NEEDS TO BE STRUCK DOWN

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of women, girls, and children.

I would like to talk about the Equality Act. It is a bill that we will be voting on this week. It is a bill that was passed before, but it is a bill that needs to be struck down. This is a bill that will add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under the Federal 1964 Civil Rights Act.

We live in a nation—thank God—that declares all of us equal. There should not be discrimination of anyone in the United States of America, and I fully believe that. But I ask everyone to take pause and truly consider what the Equality Act will do, because it has very serious consequences.

You see, women have come very far in America and our rights are extremely important. The work of our grandmothers and mothers to declare women as equal and push our way into the workplace and into sports has been a remarkable achievement.

Voting, being able to own businesses, achieve education the same as men in America is a gift that I feel so honored and blessed by. I know that every American woman treasures this.

□ 1100

You see, the Equality Act will change all of that, because it will put trans rights above women's rights, above the rights of our daughters, our sisters, our friends, our grandmothers, our aunts. It is too much.

Mr. Speaker, you see, as a woman, I have competed in sports, and I am so thrilled that I was able to do that, but I competed against biological women. It is a wonderful thing to be able to compete and prove yourself. Competition is a great, great thing. Little girls all over the country play sports. They play their hearts out, they practice, they enjoy time with their friends, then they compete at higher levels where they can earn scholarships, where they can go to college and achieve and receive an education through playing a sport for their university or college.

There are women that move on into professional sports fields and do remarkable things, incredible things for

women. For example, Florence Griffith Joyner became the fastest woman in the world in 1988 when she ran the 100-meter dash in 10.49 seconds. I could only dream of being that fast. But in 2019, Matthew Boling caught the fastest high school 100-meter time ever in 9.98 seconds, an entire half-second quicker than the fastest woman in the world.

Biological women cannot compete against biological men. Biological little girls cannot compete against biological little boys. And they shouldn't have to.

I have a daughter that is a D-1 athlete. We traveled the country for 10 years where she competed at the highest level. She earned her scholarship, and now she plays fast-pitch softball. And I can't tell you how much fun I had watching her play this weekend, and she had a home run. But if she has to compete against boys in her sport, not only will they be on her playing field and she has to compete against them; they will be in her locker room; they will be in her showers; they will be in her bathroom; they will be in her hotel room when she travels with her team—all under the Equality Act. This is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't about political parties. It is not about Democrat, Republican. This is about right and wrong. This is about girls' and women's rights.

Furthermore, it affects women in prison. Trans men, biological men that identify as women, will be put with women in prison.

Battered women's shelters, women that have been beaten and abused by men will have men in their battered women's shelters.

Drug rehab centers—and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to stop discrimination of a class of people, but it is another thing to completely violate and destroy the rights of girls and women in order to achieve this. This bill must be struck down. It is completely wrong.

Furthermore, we are in an institution where it says, "In God we trust." Well, it says in Genesis: God created us male and female. In his image, he created us. Science has two sets of chromosomes that prove male and female.

Mr. Speaker, 80 to 95 percent of children with gender dysphoria completely outgrow it after puberty. The Equality Act will force doctors and nurses to perform mastectomies on girls that want to have their breasts removed. It will force doctors also to perform abortions, because according to the Equality Act, a doctor cannot say no.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that everyone please pause and consider, and vote "no" for the Equality Act. We can't do this in America, and it needs to stop with political parties.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAKANO) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

By Your mercies, O Lord, we present ourselves to You this day, bringing with us not just diverse attitudes and a range of passions, but deeply held opinions which we truly believe are offered in faith.

We reluctantly admit that it is our faith that confounds us, for as we dare to interpret Your will and attempt to live into Your intent, we find ourselves viscerally at odds with the very ones with whom You have caused us to serve.

Renew our minds, individually and collectively, that we would not be conformed to the divisive patterns of this world but transformed by Your grace. May we not think so highly of ourselves that we fail to be reasonable or use careful judgment. Remind us that as Members of this one body, we are called to live in peace, to be thankful, to admonish in love.

Then together, in faith, enable us to discern Your will to determine what really is good, pleasing, and appropriate for our country, for our community, and for our Congress.

We offer ourselves, our words and deeds, praying in Your most holy name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CRAIG 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.

#### ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I