The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives
FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, in You we live and breathe and have our being. We pause to acknowledge that nothing will take place today that isn’t under Your authority, subject to Your decrees, or reliant on Your sustaining Word.

Bless us, then, at the start of this legislative day. As we have made the first item on the agenda to orient ourselves to You, the giver of our lives, the creator of the universe, the author of our faith, so may our priorities throughout this day and in our lives, be thus aligned to Your will.

Call us to yield to Your leadership that You would direct our words and deeds. Censure us with Your loving judgment and may we with humility respond to Your divine guidance. Speak Your Word into our lives, that we would find refreshment in its promises and wisdom in its precepts.

Remind us in this moment of prayer, that when we place You first, You will order our steps and crown our efforts with success. In this is our hope and salvation. In Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN 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

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

TRIBUTE TO SHAWN FRIEDKIN

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Shawn Friedkin, who left this Earth on March 3 after a courageous battle with cancer.

When Shawn was 27, he was tragically injured in a car accident. The accident took away Shawn’s ability to walk, but it also inspired him to dedicate his life to helping other exceptional people. He founded the nonprofit association, Stand Among Friends, whose mission followed Shawn’s, to help people with disabilities to live a life without limits.

Stand Among Friends partnered with Florida Atlantic University to open the Disability Center, which provides resources and career guidance to help individuals with disabilities find meaningful employment. Shawn was a founding member of the Boca Raton Advisory Board for People with Disabilities. He advocated for the disabled community and was appointed to the White House Healthcare Task Force. Shawn’s mission was to help people with disabilities embrace their differences, realize their abilities, and leave a positive impact on their community. And his positive impact leaves a lasting legacy through the lives of all the people he helped personally, and most of all through his loving family. All of us are privileged to call him a friend.

Above all, Shawn was devoted to his family and cherished spending time with his loving wife of 38 years, Lisa, and their incredible daughters, Bennett and Sydney. We will all miss Shawn’s endless kindness, compassion, and generosity. Our lives are better for having Shawn as part of them.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shawn Friedkin’s life on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LINDSAY OVERBAY

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

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lindsay Overbay, a brave student from the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Lindsay was aiesel and passionate about gay rights and equality. She was a leader in her community and a voice for change. Her legacy will live on through the lives she touched and the fights she fought for.

In memory of Lindsay, I ask my colleagues to join me in the aisle today.

H1847
Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Lindsay Overbay.

Lindsay lost her life, and several of her coworkers were injured, in a tragic and senseless attack on the Allina Health Clinic in Buffalo, Minnesota, on February 9.

We continue to pray for Lindsay and her family and for the full and speedy recovery of her coworkers.

Lindsay was the best Minnesota has to offer. She devoted her life to family and her community, and her career to caring for people. She was only 37 years old. She leaves behind her husband, Donnie, and two young children, Gavin and Ava.

Special thanks to Wright County Sheriff Sean Derlinger and his deputies and the city of Buffalo Police Department for their immediate and professional response that ended the threat and prevented further loss of life.

Our community must heal, and we will continue to pray for this sad event, but we will always remember Lindsay, Donnie, Gavin, Ava, and the entire Allina family.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about the ongoing efforts to pass voter suppression laws across our Nation and in my home State of Texas.

Republicans have made it a priority to pass so-called “election integrity” bills. These misnamed bills are solely designed to limit access to the ballot box, particularly in urban counties like mine in Harris County.

In the 2020 election, Harris County saw record turnout despite the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic. We implemented drive-through voting, authorized casting sites to stay open until 10 p.m., and several locations were open for 24 hours. Hundreds of thousands of voters used these options to exercise their constitutional right without endangering themselves or their loved ones.

Now, Republicans in the State legislature are trying to ban and limit these measures under the false premise of “election integrity.”

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the Senate to pass H.R. 1, which would expand access to the ballot box and prohibit restrictions on drive-through voting for members of my community and all the voters across Texas.

Voting is a right that should be encouraged, not restricted.

REMEMBERING BILL DOWNEY III

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mr. Bill Downey III of St. Simons Island, Georgia, who passed away on February 28 at the age of 87.

Bill was a gentleman in every sense of the word, and he dedicated his life to serving others. After proudly serving in the United States Army, Bill met his wife of 58 years, Beth Newton.

Service to his community was an integral part of Bill’s character. His kindness and selflessness extended to every area of his life, including his time as president of the Golden Isles Board of Realtors, chairman of the St. Simons Island Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Airport Commission, and chairman of the Board of Frederica Academy.

He was also a member of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, where he served as senior warden. Everyone who knew Bill recognized his giving heart and his commitment to helping others. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

HOPE IN THE VACCINE

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic has cast a dark cloud over the world. Many have lost family members, friends, and other loved ones to the virus. And after many dark months, hope is here.

With the help of public health experts and science, we have vaccines to protect us and save lives. Democrats fought hard for a robust $20 billion national vaccination program in the American Rescue Plan. With these funds, we can ensure that everyone has access to a vaccine.

In my district, everyone 16 and older is eligible to get vaccinated. And as of this week, Riverside County reported that at least 1.3 million doses have been administered to over 400,000 residents are fully vaccinated, but to reach herd immunity, everyone must get vaccinated. We are all in this together and we can beat this virus together.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES H. COOLIDGE

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Technical Sergeant Charles H. Coolidge of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, and recognize a true American hero and will be greatly missed.

Charles H. Coolidge was born on August 4, 1921, Sergeant Coolidge passed away on April 6, 2022. Sergeant Coolidge was the second-to-last surviving Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from World War II and was the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the European theater.

Born on August 4, 1921, Sergeant Coolidge is a national hero. During the period of October 24 through October 27, 1944, Sergeant Coolidge led a valiant repulsion of German infantry and tank units near the French town of Belmont-sur-Buttant. Prior to that, he had received the Silver Star for valiant combat in Italy.

Sergeant Coolidge’s place in American history deserves the great acclaim bestowed on him then with the Medal of Honor, and now. He is truly an American hero and will be greatly missed.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this week was Black Maternal Health Week, an important opportunity to discuss disparities affecting Black mothers.

Maternal mortality rates have dropped around the world, but in the U.S. they have risen, leaving behind disheartened families, women who will grow up never knowing their moms. And for Black moms and other women and birthing people of color, the crisis is even more severe.

Throughout Black Maternal Health Week, I had deeply impactful conversations with moms, healthcare professionals, Secretary Becerra, and activists who have poured their hearts into solving this crisis. I was also inspired by other conversations I saw across the country.

The need to address our Nation’s maternal health crisis has never been more urgent, especially as we continue to confront a pandemic that has exacerbated existing health inequities, particularly for pregnant people. I am especially excited to have the Biden/Harris administration’s partnership in this critical work.

Madam Speaker, with the American Rescue Plan and solutions like the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, we can save lives, end disparities, and achieve true equity for all of our moms.

THE MASTERS 2021 OMS

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, during the first week of April, the world’s top golfers are invited to my hometown of Augusta, Georgia, as they compete in the most prestigious tournament in the world known as The Masters. As people flock to Augusta this year, let us remember the Augusta National Golf Club or tune in from the comfort of their homes, they get to experience a tradition unlike any other.

And in the 2020 Masters Tournament was postponed to the fall with no spectators due to the pandemic, there was a lot of excitement to be back this year—even at limited capacity.
Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman Ridley and members of Augusta National for putting on a safe and memorable tournament this year.

And I want to extend my personal congratulations to the 2021 Masters Champion, Hideki Matsuyama. He is the first Asian golfer to win a men’s major golf championship, and he has made his nation of Japan very proud.

Hideki is an inspiration to young golfers around the world, showing that you can reach the pinnacle of your profession through dedication and hard work.

HELPING YOUNG MOTHERS

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, earlier this month I visited Teen Parent Connection in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. It is an organization that serves young mothers, offering everything from diapers and formula, to doula, counseling, and domestic abuse support services.

They were extremely grateful for the recent $1,400 economic impact payments that, in many cases, helped these new moms cover critical expenses like housing, food, and healthcare. But as we talked, it became apparent that they were not taking advantage and didn’t even know about the larger $3,600 per child Child Tax Credit. And why would they? These are new moms that have never filed taxes before. They don’t follow the tax policy changes nearly as closely as we do here in the Capitol, but here is this fantastic news.

Our office is now working to connect them with free tax filing services, but to the rest of American parents—young and old—please make sure to take advantage of this program. Even if you don’t have any taxes due, the credit is fully refundable, and once you file, we will start sending checks to 70 million American families on July 1.

This tax credit will cut child poverty in half, help close the racial wealth gap, and help ensure more kids can live up to their full potential. In Illinois alone, it will lift 153,000 children out of poverty. It is, in short, a really big deal.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, as the designee of the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, pursuant to House Resolution 303, I call up the bill (H.R. 1195) to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS). Pursuant to House Resolution 303, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1195

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 101. Workplace violence prevention standard.

Sec. 102. Scope and application.

Title I—Workplace Violence Prevention Standard

Sec. 103. Requirements for workplace violence prevention standard.

Sec. 104. Rules of construction.

Sec. 105. Other definitions.

Sec. 106. Rules of construction.

Title II—Amendments to the Social Security Act

Sec. 107. Application of the workplace violence prevention standard to certain facilities receiving Medicare funds.
6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 655), promulgate a proposed standard on workplace violence prevention—

(A) for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2) and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 190 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 667), provided the Secretary finds that the final standard is feasible on the basis of the best available evidence; and

(B) be effective and enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as any standard promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)).

SEC. 102. SCOPE AND APPLICATION.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "covered facility" includes the following:

(i) Any hospital, including any specialty hospital, patient setting, or (c) clinic operating within a hospital license, or any setting that provides outpatient services.

(ii) Any residential treatment facility, including any facility that provides skilled nursing facility, hospice facility, and long-term care facility.

(iii) Any non-residential treatment or service setting.

(iv) Any medical treatment or social service setting or clinic at a correctional or detention facility.

(v) Any community care setting, including a community-based residential facility, group home, and mental health clinic.

(vi) Any psychiatric treatment facility.

(vii) Any drug abuse or substance use disorder treatment center.

(viii) Any independent freestanding emergency centers.

(ix) Any facility described in clauses (i) through (vii) operated by a Federal Government agency and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 190 of the Code of Federal Regulations as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Any other facility the Secretary determines should be covered by the standards promulgated under section 101.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term "covered facility" does not include an office of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or any other health practitioner that is not physically located within a covered facility described in clauses (i) through (x) of subparagraph (A).

(3) COVERED EMPLOYER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "covered employer" includes a person (including a contractor, subcontractor, a temporary service firm, or any entity that employs an individual to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services).

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term "covered employer" does not include any individual who privately employs, in the individual's residence, a person to perform covered services for the individual or a family member of the individual.

(C) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term "covered employee" includes an individual employed by a covered employer to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services.

SEC. 103. REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD.

Each standard described in section 101 shall include, at a minimum, the following requirements:

(I) WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of promulgation of this standard, a covered employer shall develop, implement, and maintain an effective written workplace violence prevention plan (in this section referred to as the "Plan") for covered employees at each covered facility and for covered employees performing a covered service on behalf of such employer, which meets the following:

(A) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—Each Plan shall—

(i) be developed and implemented with the meaningful participation of affected employees, other employees, and employee representatives, for all aspects of the Plan;

(ii) be tailored and specific to conditions and risks for the covered facility or the covered service, including patient-specific risk factors and risk factors specific to each work area or unit; and

(iii) be suitable for the size, complexity, and type of operations at the covered facility or for the covered service, and remain in effect at all times.

(B) PLAN CONTENT.—Each Plan shall include procedures and methods for the following:

(i) Identification of the individual and the individual's position responsible for implementation of the Plan.

(ii) With respect to each work area and unit at the covered facility or while covered employees are performing services, risk assessment and identification of workplace violence risks and hazards to employees exposed to such risks and hazards (including environmental risk factors and patient-specific risk factors), which shall be—

(I) informed by past violent incidents specific to such covered facility or such covered service; and

(II) conducted with, at a minimum—

(aa) direct care employees; and

(bb) where applicable, the representatives of such employees; and

(cc) the employer.

(iii) Hazard prevention, engineering controls, or work practice controls to correct hazards, in a timely manner, applying industrial hygiene principles of the hierarchy of controls, which—

(I) design and install alarm systems and adequate exit routes, monitoring systems, barrier protection, established areas for patients and clients, lighting, entry procedures, staffing and working in teams, training and systems to identify and flag clients with a history of violence; and

(II) shall ensure that employers correct, in a timely manner, hazards identified in any violent incident investigations described in paragraph (2) and any annual report described in paragraph (5).

(iv) Reporting, incident response, and post-in incident investigation procedures, including procedures—

(I) for employees to report workplace violence risks, hazards, and incidents;

(II) for employers to report to employees of workplace violence;
Each violent incident shall—

(i) be maintained for not less than 5 years—

(ii) be located in a conspicuous place or places where notices to employees are customarily posted;

(iii) be completed on a form provided by the Secretary;

(iv) be posted for 3 months beginning February 1 of each year in a manner consistent with section 1910.1020 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), relating to the posting of summaries of injury and illness records;

(v) be altered, defaced, or covered by any other material.

Each covered facility that makes such records and logs available shall incorporate changes to the Plan, including a review of the violent incidents that are set forth in the annual summary, in an employment training program that is provided to employees in a manner consistent with section 101(a), the Secretary shall make available a platform for the electronic submission of annual summaries required under this subparagraph.

(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(A) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Not later than February 15 of each year, each covered employer shall report to the Secretary, on a form provided by the Secretary, the frequency, quantity, and severity of workplace violence, and any incident response and post-incident investigation (including abatement measures) for the incidents set forth in the annual summary of the violent incident log described in paragraph (4)(C). The contents of the report of the Secretary to Congress shall not disclose any confidential information.

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after February 15 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a summary of the reports received under subparagraph (A).

(6) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—Each covered employer shall conduct an annual written evaluation, conducted with the full, active participation of covered employees and employee representatives, of—

(A) the implementation and effectiveness of the Plan, including a review of the violent incident log; and

(B) compliance with training required by each covered facility.

SEC. 105. OTHER DEFINITIONS.

(1) WORKPLACE VIOLENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "workplace violence" means any act of violence or threat of violence, without regard to whether the incident involves a covered facility or while a covered employee performs a covered service.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "workplace violence" does not include lawful acts of self-defense or lawful acts of defense of others.

(C) INCLUSIONS.—The term "workplace violence" includes—

(i) the threat or use of physical force against a covered employee that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, psychological trauma, or stress, without regard to whether the employee sustains an injury, psychological trauma, or stress;

(ii) an incident involving the threat or use of a firearm or a dangerous weapon, including the use of common objects as weapons, without regard to whether the employee sustains an injury, psychological trauma, or stress.

(2) TYPE 1 VIOLENCE.—The term "type 1 violence" means workplace violence directed at a covered employee at a covered facility or while performing a covered service by an individual who has no legitimate business at the covered facility or with respect to such covered service; and

(B) includes violent acts by any individual who enters the covered facility or worksite where a covered service is being performed with the intent to commit a crime.

(3) TYPE 2 VIOLENCE.—The term "type 2 violence" means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by a customer, clients, patients, students, inmates, or any individual for whom a covered facility provides services or for whom the employee performs covered services.

(4) TYPE 3 VIOLENCE.—The term "type 3 violence" means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by a present or former employee, supervisor, or manager.

(5) TYPE 4 VIOLENCE.—The term "type 4 violence" means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by an individual who is not an employee, but has or is known to have had a personal relationship with such employee, or with a customer, client, patient, student, inmate, or any individual who a covered facility provides services for whom the employee performs covered services.

(6) THREAT OF VIOLENCE.—The term "threat of violence" means a statement or act that—

(A) causes an individual to fear for such individual's safety because there is a reasonable
possibility the individual might be physically injured; and
(B) serves no legitimate purpose.
(7) ALARM.—The term ‘alarm’ means a mechanism or electronic device that does not rely upon an employee’s vocalization in order to alert others.
(8) DANGEROUS WEAPON.—The term ‘dangerous weapon’ includes an instrument capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury, without regard to whether such instrument was designed for that purpose.
(9) ENGINEERING CONTROLS.—
(A) In general.—The term ‘engineering controls’ means an aspect of the built space or a device that removes a hazard from the workplace or changes the manner in which an employee interacts with a covered employee and the hazard.
(B) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of reducing workplace violence hazards, the term ‘engineering controls’ includes electronic access controls to employee occupied areas, weapon detectors (installed or handheld), enclosed workstations with shatter-resistant glass, deep service counters, separate rooms or areas for high-risk patients, locks on doors, removing access to or securing items that could be used as weapons, furniture affixed to the floor, opaque glass in patient rooms to protect patient privacy, but does not include the health care provider to see where the patient is before entering the room), closed-circuit television monitoring and video recording, sight-aids, and personal alarm devices.
(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘engineering controls’ does not include items that are consumer products, or personal items that may be owned by an employee.
(D) EFFECTIVE DATES.—Engineering controls are not effective until such time that they exist or are designed for that purpose.
(E) DETERMINATION.—The determination of whether an instrument is capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury, is made by the employer referenced in paragraph (A) of this section.
(F) NOT SUBJECT TO BLOODBANE PATHOGENS.—The term ‘engineering controls’ means instrument that are not otherwise subject to such Act (or such a State occupational safety and health plan, to comply with the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard (as promulgated under section 101 of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act).’; and
(G) SUBJECT TO SANCTION.—If the employer is found in violation of this section, the employer shall be subject to the civil or criminal sanctions that are otherwise subject to such Act (or such a State occupational safety and health plan), for violation of the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard (as promulgated under section 101 of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act).

SEC. 201. APPLICATION OF THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD TO CERTAIN FACILITIES RECEIVING MEDICARE FUNDS.
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SEC. 201. APPLICATION OF THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD TO CERTAIN FACILITIES RECEIVING MEDICARE FUNDS.
No more delays. It is time that Congress puts a clock on this issue so that we can get the preventative measures in place nationwide that we know will save lives.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chair of the committee, Mr. SCOTT, for his great support on this measure, as well as Chair ADAMS, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections chair, as well as my Republican colleagues, because there actually is some agreement on the basics on this issue.

Lastly, I want to thank our outstanding, stellar staff: Richard Miller; Jordan Barab, who is leaving us shortly; at the end of the month, for his incredible institutional knowledge and work; and Maria Costigan, from my office.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2021.

Hon. BOBBY SCOTT, Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I write concerning H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, which was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 1195, the Committee on Energy and Commerce agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Committee will take this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. I also request that you support any legislation that will result in a rushed and overly prescriptive rule that omits important input from stakeholders and experts, while driving up compliance costs for already struggling industries, is far from a sensible solution. Yet, that is what we are asked to consider today.

Workers in the healthcare and social services industries are at an increased risk of workplace violence, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics finding they are more likely to experience violence in the workplace than workers in other industries.

While the threat is real, the response the Democrats are proposing to address the situation, to further their own partisan agenda, is not grounded in reality.

Workplace violence is already a well-recognized hazard by employers and employees in the healthcare and social services industries. According to a 2018 American Hospital Association survey, 97 percent of respondents indicated they already have workplace violence policies in place.

In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, is already enforcing workplace violence prevention measures, issuing citations to employers who fail to provide safe workplaces during both the Obama and Trump administrations.

The agency is also working on a rule through the standard OSHA rulemaking process and has announced plans to initiate a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act panel, a key part of the rulemaking process that allows the agency to gather valuable feedback from small businesses before a regulation is written.

H.R. 1195 is particularly ill-timed and ill-advised as it forces OSHA to issue an interim final rule on workplace violence within 1 year, which will significantly stress the facilities that are heroically working on the front lines, responding to a once-in-a-century pandemic.

The CBO recently estimated the cost of this bill to private entities would be at least $1.8 billion in the first 2 years that the rushed OSHA rule is in effect and $750 million annually after that. The cost to public facilities will be at least $100 million in the first 2 years and $55 million annually after that.

Financially struggling healthcare facilities, such as rural hospitals that are already at risk of closure, cannot afford a rushed and costly government-imposed mandate from Washington without the chance to provide them.

The House is considering H.R. 1195 at a time when the Biden administration is also considering a burdensome, over-reaching emergency temporary standard, ETS, on COVID–19. Though OSHA is weeks behind in deciding whether to issue the ETS, handing down two expensive, punitive Federal mandates on an already burdened healthcare industry could be the straw that breaks the camel’s back.

There may be a time and place where a workplace violence prevention rule is appropriate, but now is certainly not it.

While I cannot support H.R. 1195, I want to be clear. The safety of our Nation’s healthcare and social service workers is not a partisan issue. Republicans offered a workable solution at a recent committee markup and were willing to negotiate with our colleagues across the aisle on a compromise, one that requires OSHA to analyze a rule properly, heed appropriate and necessary input from stakeholders, and launch an educational campaign on workplace violence prevention.

Yet, here we are, considering another Democrat bill being pushed through with no Republican input.

Healthcare workers are family, with the Hippocratic oath: “First, do no harm.” In its rush to judgment, H.R. 1195 does great harm. By short-circuiting the public input process and prescribing a specific result from the beginning, this bill will not achieve what it aims to accomplish.

Our healthcare workers and caregivers deserve an evidence-based and effective solution that protects them in the workplace. H.R. 1195 fails to deliver this result.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Very briefly, again, I appreciate that Ms. FOXX acknowledges the severity of this issue, and I think that is important. But I would note, if anyone checks with the House Clerk’s office, we actually have a solid number of Republican cosponsors on this bill. I want to make that clear, for the record, and I appreciate their support as well.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT). The chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor and an outstanding staunch supporter of this legislation.
Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Over the past year, we have voiced exceptional praise for healthcare and social service workers, who have risked their lives to care for ourselves and our loved ones. Yet, too long, we have failed to address the high and growing rates of workplace violence for these workers, who are regularly beaten, kicked, punched, and sometimes even killed on the job.

In 2018, healthcare workers accounted for nearly three out of four nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses caused by violence. Let me repeat that. In 2018, healthcare workers alone accounted for nearly three out of four workplace injuries and illnesses caused by violence.

Many of these incidents are foreseeable and can be prevented by sound workplace violence prevention plans. They work, and when they are implemented, they can reduce workers' compensation claims.

Yet the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, still has no enforceable workplace standard that requires healthcare and social service employers to implement violence prevention programs. We have tried voluntary guidance for the past 25 years, yet still too many employers choose not to follow the best evidence on what is well understood to be authoritative guidance issued by OSHA.

To make matters worse, without action from Congress, protections for healthcare workers and social service workers are nowhere in sight. OSHA typically updates its regulations 20 to 30 years after a new standard. The recent beryllium standard that was adopted a couple of years ago was in the works for over 17 years.

We cannot ask healthcare and social service workers to wait any longer, particularly during this global pandemic when Congress has the ability to ensure that OSHA can act as quickly as possible to protect workers' lives.

The SPEAKER. Time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, to that end, H.R. 1195 directs OSHA to issue an interim final standard within 1 year and a final standard within 42 months, requiring healthcare and social service employers to develop and implement workplace violence prevention plans. It protects workers from retaliation for reporting assaults to their employers or government authorities. It also protects the employees of healthcare facilities run by State, county, or local governments in the 24 States that are not covered by either Federal OSHA or a State-run OSHA plan.

Madam Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to join us in voting for this legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, my 25 years in private industry taught me many lessons. One which resonates with me today is that sweeping industry mandates with no input from those who will be impacted don't work. No one knows better what the workforce needs to be successful than the workforce itself.

It seems to me that my colleagues across the aisle have yet to learn this lesson and are rushing and pushing H.R. 1195, a bill that would institute a rushed, sweeping initiative that ignores the data and, more importantly, ignores the people it will effect.

Though H.R. 1195 is founded on the premise of finding solutions for workplace violence—especially for our healthcare workers and social service workers, who are most susceptible—this bill clearly misses the mark.

In tandem, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration also recognizes the risks that our healthcare and social service workers face in the workplace. However, this rulemaking process should and must account for the important views of impacted stakeholders.

There is not a more notable red flag to H.R. 1195 than the fact that the American Hospital Association came out to oppose it because it would institute additional restrictions to already struggling rural hospitals across the country. To ensure long-lasting policy that can address the complex problem of workplace violence, it is imperative we develop a solution that seeks input from stakeholders and employers that goes through the normal rulemaking process.

Our healthcare and social service workers have given so much during this pandemic, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their work. Moreover, we owe them policy that will improve workplace safety without making it harder for them to do their jobs. We owe it to them to seek their input.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 1195.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I include in the Record letters from the American Society of Safety Professionals, who actively support this bill.

To: Contacts, Stakeholders and Participants. Workplace Prevention Legislation (H.R. 1195)

From: Joseph Weiss, ASSP External Affairs

Comments of the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)—The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195 & S 851)—Confirming ASSP’s Position on HR 1195.

GREETINGS: The attached statement and comments were originally submitted by the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) in support of The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195 & S 851) in April 2019.

We understand this legislation has been reintroduced as HR 1195. Our comments in the April 2019 statement remain current and reflect our position on HR 1195.

ASSP stands ready to assist with initiatives and endeavors to help move occupational safety and health forward. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our support of HR 1195.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cordially,

JOSEPH WEISS
ASSP External Affairs.
The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) is pleased to submit the following comments to the House Education and Labor Committee and the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee in support of HR 1309 & S 851. Legislation that would ensure workplace safety and health (OSH) professionals, including occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals, who are integral to the first response and emergency efforts that are currently under way, are protected against workplace violence.

ASSP notes that this legislation has already secured nearly 60 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 8 cosponsors in the Senate. This bipartisan support of the legislation and additional public hearings on this critical issue. ASSP is the oldest society of safety professionals in the world. Founded in 1911, ASSP represents more than 38,000 dedicated occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals. Our members are experts in managing workplace safety and health issues in every industry, in every state and across the globe. ASSP is also the Secretariat for various voluntary consensus standards related to best practices in occupational safety and health management and training.

In late October 2018, ASSP hosted the Women’s Workplace Safety Summit, and workplace violence involving women was one of the themes of the event. Workplace violence has a disproportionate impact on women and is the leading cause of fatalities in the healthcare industry as well as the social service sectors. This is unacceptable when interven- tion is such a priority rulemaking area, and for ASSP, we believe that a workplace violence prevention standard, accompanied by comprehensive workplace violence prevention programs, would be required within two years of enactment.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) commenced a rulemaking to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan. If enacted, the legislation would ensure that enforceable and effective workplace violence prevention programs would be required within two years of enactment.

The OCC submitted its comments to OSHA on that RFI (at the time, the organization’s name was American Society of Safety Engineers), and those comments are attached to this submission, along with an article from our “HealthBeat” publication, Preventing Workplace Violence, A Systematic & Systemic Approach, which was also submitted to the OSHA docket. We ask that these materials be fully included in the record on this legislation.

OSHA’s November 2018 regulatory agenda included “Prevention of Workplace Violence” as a rulemaking item with no action indicated any time in the foreseeable future. The next regulatory agenda will reveal whether any further action is anticipated by OSHA, and we believe that the OSHA civil penalty was $7,000. The case is still subject to appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Barriers arising from the agency in this regard, it is appropriate for Congress—in its oversight role—to signal to OSHA that this is a priority rulemaking area, and for your committee to take the lead in helping to fill the gaps in protections for the many vulnerable workers in this high risk area.

Currently, OSHA can take enforcement actions against employers under its General Duty Clause (GDC) (Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970) and can issue penalties of up to $129,366 per violation. However, OSHA has the burden of proving that the cited employer was aware of a recognized hazard, that employees were actually exposed to the hazard, and that action was taken within six months and that there is a feasible method of abatement. GDC citations are often difficult for the agency to sustain, they cannot trigger criminal prosecution even in the case of a fatality, and OSHA does not have the ability to provide that the cited employer was aware of a recognized hazard, that employees were actually exposed to the hazard and that action was taken within six months and that there is a feasible method of abatement.

OSHA states also cover the safety of their public sector workers (and several state governmental agencies in federal OSHA states also cover the safety of their public sector workers), but most workers go without OSHA protection. We urge you to consider including public sector coverage of healthcare and social service workers in this legislation to the extent possible.

CONCLUSION

ASSP condemns all forms of violence in the workplace and is particularly concerned with the rise of injuries associated with violence in the healthcare and social service industries. We believe that this is a priority rulemaking area, and for ASSP, we believe that a workplace violence prevention standard, accompanied by comprehensive workplace violence prevention programs, would be required within two years of enactment.

This complex issue deserves an evidence-based solution, not a rushed and costly top-down government mandate. Unfortunately, H.R. 1195 would prevent workers and stakeholders from giving meaningful input based on experience regarding how to address this critical workplace safety and health issue. The CBO estimates that the rushed rule will cost private entities at least $3.8 billion in the first 2 years that the rule is implemented.
rule is in effect and $750 million annually after that. For public facilities, it will cost at least $100 million in the first 2 years and $55 million after that.

The last thing our healthcare facilities need right now is another costly top-down approach to workplace violence. Oregon AFSCME members organized to improve working conditions that were compromising the quality of services for vulnerable clients and the safety of the employees.

Workers across the country, like the workers at Outside In, in Portland, need an evidence-based workplace violence prevention plan tailored to the needs of the vulnerable populations they serve. Today, we have a chance to support their safety and well-being in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter in support of the legislation from the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) and our more than 52,000 members. I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1196, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act of 2021. This important and timely legislation will ensure that health care and social service employers undertake steps to protect their employees and patients from violence in the workplace.

As you know, workplace violence against health care workers, including emergency nurses, has become a national crisis. According to the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), workers in the health care sector accounted for only 20% of workplace injuries yet comprised approximately 6% of workplace assaults. The same study found that between 2002 and 2013, serious incidents of workplace violence were four times more common for workers in the health care sector versus all workers in the U.S.

Unfortunately, assaults and batteries directed at workers occur at especially high rates in emergency departments (EDs), which are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are required under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) to stabilize and treat all patients. Often, health care professionals in the ED interact with members of the public when emotions run high and their behavior can sometimes become violent. Research has found that emergency nurses and other personnel in the ED experience a violent event about once every two months. Further, a 2007 study reported that one-third of emergency nurses had considered leaving the profession due to workplace violence.

The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act will ensure that health care employers, including hospitals, take specific steps to prevent workplace injuries that ensure the safety of patients and workers. This bill will require health care and social service employers to develop and implement a comprehensive violence prevention plan which must include procedures to identify and respond to risks that make workplaces vulnerable to violent incidents. In addition, the legislation will help ensure that employees are appropriately trained in mitigating hazards.

Emergency nurses are disproportionately victims of workplace violence. We would like to thank you for introducing this important legislation and your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely, Ron Kraus, MSN, RN, EMT, CEN, ACNS-BC, TCRN, 2021 ENA President.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman COURTNEY for his leadership on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, memo to my friends across the aisle—in just the first 2 years of mandated implementation, and then $750 million annually going forward? Where does this money come from for these unnecessary mandates? From consumers in higher prices. You might call this hidden tax increases. This is how all regulations are paid for, unless they actually force the organization to go out of business because they can't deal with the cost.

The CBO estimates that the cost to public healthcare facilities will be $100 million in the first 2 years. The last thing that financially struggling rural hospitals, like those in my district, can afford is more unfunded mandates from Washington. While we seem to be far off course today, Congress, in the past, has actually passed statutes that make regulations more accountable, requiring that bureaucrats give public notice regarding new rules and mandates, and solicit feedback before implementation.

But, today, House Democrats want to make it easier for OSHA to issue one-size-fits-all regulations without having to receive any feedback from the public.

Article I of the Constitution mandates that Congress make our Federal laws, not Federal agencies and their unelected bureaucrats.

Congress should make the regulatory process more accountable to the taxpayer. That is why I introduced a bill called Article I Regulatory Budget Act that would require agencies to account for the full cost of regulation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. In that spirit, Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member FOXX for her leadership on regulatory reform with her Unfunded Congressional Record — House April 16, 2021
Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 170,000 registered nurses represented by National Nurses United, we write to urge you to cosponsor the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, introduced by Representative Courtney.

Across the country, registered nurses and other health care workers are put at risk every day when providing quality care for those in need. Over the past year, the dangerous working conditions in our nation’s hospitals and health care facilities have been exposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But these hazardous working conditions pre-date Covid-19.

The danger of violence in the workplace has become its own epidemic in our nation’s health care and social service workplaces. In 2019, nurses reported more than three times the rate of injuries due to workplace violence than workers report being punched, kicked, bitten, beaten, and threatened with violence as they provide care to others—and far too many have experienced stabbings and shootings.

Violence on the job has increased for nurses during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to a recent survey conducted by National Nurses United, twenty percent of nurses report facing increased workplace violence on the job over the course of the pandemic, which they attribute to decreasing staffing levels, changing patient populations, and visitor restrictions.

There are practical steps that healthcare and social service employers can take to fulfill their obligations to protect their employees from these serious occupational hazards. We know that violence can be prevented through the development and implementation of plans that are tailored to specific patient care units and facilities. These plans must assess and address the range of risks for violence—from the sufficiency of staffing and security systems to environmental and patient-specific risk factors.

The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act mandates that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration promulgate a workplace violence prevention standard that would require healthcare and social service employers to develop and enforce plans to protect their employees from violence on the job. To ensure that workplace violence prevention plans are effective, workers (including nurses, other direct care employees, and security personnel) must be involved throughout all stages of plan development, implementation, and evaluation, and be hand-in-hand with the standard’s comprehensive training requirements. The enforceable occupational health and safety standard established in this legislation will create and maintain protections against workplace violence that our members, other
Ms. STEVENS. Workplaces need violence protection. Vote to pass H.R. 1195.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we have discussed today, workplace violence is a very real and persistent issue for healthcare and social service workers.

The Democrat title of H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, presupposes that the rushed, overly prescriptive, and complex federal regulation required by this bill will somehow prevent workplace violence.

However, a true solution to violence in the workplace will not be in the form of a Federal regulation. Rather, a broader, bipartisan approach is needed to address the root causes of this serious and complicated issue.

According to the American Hospital Association, increases in assaults in healthcare facilities are being driven, in part, by growing numbers of behavioral healthcare patients being treated in emergency departments and other acute-care settings.

The opioid and drug abuse epidemic is another major contributing factor to workplace violence, as healthcare workers are often tasked with treating patients that may be under the influence of potent drugs or experiencing their painful side effects.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1195 does nothing to address these realities.

Ultimately, an OSHA workplace violence regulation that is written under the standard rulemaking process will be much more informed and effective because it will require evidence-based input related to behavioral health and opioid abuse that are responsible for many workplace violence incidents.

But as I said earlier, we need to roll up our sleeves and develop a comprehensive, bipartisan response to address the root causes of this serious and complicated issue.

Again, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1195, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I just want to compliment Ms. Foxx about her very thoughtful remarks about what is driving this crisis. She referenced for healthcare workers that there is no question that behavioral health and the heroin and opioid addiction—and we heard this from witnesses who testified before our committee.

But I would respectfully suggest that the people who are actually out there on the front lines, the EMTs—their association has endorsed this bill—and the American College of Emergency Room Physicians—they are the ones right there taking in these very sort of high-risk, intense cases—have issued a letter of support for H.R. 1195 because they realize that what this bill will, in fact, create, is a safer system for better communication, better lighting, not leaving people alone with patients, who have been under the influence.

Really, all you have to do is talk to any ER doc. They will tell you it is tough out there, and we need to change. We need to have systems in place to better protect them.

Madam Speaker, include in the RECORD a letter of support from the American College of Emergency Physicians.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS,

March 25, 2021.

Hon. Joe Courtney,
Washington, DC.

Dear Representative Courtney: On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and our 40,000 members, thank you for introducing for H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. ACEP appreciates your leadership to help establish procedures to ensure that emergency physicians, health care workers, social workers, and patients, are protected from violence in the workplace, and we urge Congress to swiftly consider and pass this important legislation.

Violence in the emergency department is a serious and growing concern, causing significant stress to emergency department staff and to patients who seek treatment in the emergency department (ED). According to a survey conducted by ACEP in 2018, nearly half of emergency physicians polled reported being physically assaulted with more than 60 percent of those occurring within the past year. Nearly 7 in 10 emergency physicians say ED violence has increased within the past 5 years. Beyond the immediate physical impacts, the risk of violence increases the difficulty of recruiting and retaining qualified health care professionals and contributes to burnout.

Most importantly, patients with medical emergencies deserve high-quality care in a place free of physical dangers from other patients or individuals, and care from staff that is not distracted by individuals with behavioral or substance-induced violent behaviors.

There are many factors contributing to the increase in ED and hospital violence, and like you, we recognize there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Employers and hospitals should develop workplace violence prevention and response procedures that address the needs of their particular facilities, staff, contractors, and communities, as those needs and resources may vary significantly.

To this end, ACEP asks that Congress also take into consideration how emergency departments are staffed to ensure that the important provisions of this legislation are implemented in the most appropriate manner. As you are aware, emergency physicians may be contracted into an ED by hospitals, whether directly employed through the hospital in an academic setting, or contracted as a member of a small democratic practice or a larger, national physician group. Given that emergency physicians and these groups do not control the resources of an individual facility that they staff, it would be neither practical nor effective to require contracted groups themselves to be responsible for implementing, tracking and reporting of violent incidents. ACEP believes that emergency physicians that contract with hospitals or facilities should not be held responsible for situations or hazards outside of their direct control; however, they can and should serve an integral role in developing effective violence prevention strategies.

We appreciate your efforts to date to provide additional clarity on what a covered entity is ultimately responsible for, and ask Congress to ensure that any new federal requirements do not create any unintended or undue burdens for entities that do not control the health care workplace.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. ACEP looks forward to working with you to enact this bill.

Sincerely,

Mark Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP, ACEP President.
Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Act.

Yet, Congress has abdicated its responsibility to protect these essential workers from violence in the workplace. These workers are almost five times as likely to experience a serious injury from workplace violence than workers in other sectors.

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1195. I want to acknowledge the principled, compassionate, committed and effective leadership of Congressman COURTNEY for shepherding this bill to the floor.

This legislation would direct OSHA to quickly issue an interim final standard mandating healthcare and social service employers implement workplace violence prevention plans.

This is not a partisan issue. I hope we can all agree that everyone deserves to feel safe at work. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Public Health Association in support of the legislation.


DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities, I write in strong support of H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. This important bipartisan legislation would require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to develop a workplace violence prevention standard to protect workers who are at the greatest risk from violence on the job.

Workplace violence is a serious problem that has increased substantially in the last decade. Every day, nurses, psychiatric aides, social workers and other caretakers are assaulted on the job. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2019 health care and social service workers experienced the highest rate of workplace violence injuries at 14.7 per 10,000 workers, compared to a national average of 4.4 for all workers. In the same year, the unrecorded rate of serious injury due to workplace violence at 152.4 per 10,000 workers. Since 2010, the rate of serious workplace violence injuries has increased by 52% in health care and social assistance jobs. Health care and social service workers are at greatest risk because they are on the frontlines of patient and client care and serve high-risk populations who need specialized care and attention. This type of violence has a significant and long-lasting impact on individual workers and on the culture of safety for every worker, patient and family member who enters our facilities. However, because hospitals have already implemented specifically tailored policies and programs to address workplace violence, we do not believe that the OSHA standards required by H.R. 1195 are warranted, nor do we support an expedited approach that would deny the public the opportunity to review and comment on proposed regulations.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H1859

Your bill would direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an expedited timetable—Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard requiring employers in health care and social services to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan. America’s hospitals and health systems are committed to a culture of safety for every worker, patient and family member who enters our facilities. However, because hospitals have already implemented specifically tailored policies and programs to address workplace violence, we do not believe that the OSHA standards required by H.R. 1195 are warranted, nor do we support an expedited approach that would deny the public the opportunity to review and comment on proposed regulations.

Further, the prohibitive costs that the mandates in your bill would impose on America’s hospitals, particularly on those that provide care in rural and underserved areas, could strain scarce resources and jeopardize patient care. These mandates would burden healthcare providers that are struggling to maintain services during the most deadly public health emergency in 100 years.

I urge you to support the nurses, social workers and other healthcare professionals in your district by voting for committee approval of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.
According to the Congressional Budget Office’s (CBO) estimate of your bill in 2019, in the first year that the proposed new rule would be in effect, the cost to private entities would be at least $1.3 billion and at least $2.7 billion and at least $5 billion for subsequent years. CBO concluded that “substantial personnel and capital costs would be imposed by the requirements for training, investigation, engineering, and course changes where such costs are unsustainable. A recent report by Kaufman-Hall forecasts that total hospital revenue in 2021 could be down between $33 billion and $78 billion from pre-pandemic levels. In addition to lost revenue, hospitals must absorb increases in many expenses due to COVID-19. These losses come on top of the historic financial crisis that hit the hospital field last year, with an AHA report estimating total losses for the nation’s hospitals and health systems to be at least $323 billion through 2021.

HOSPITALS ALREADY STRIVE TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

Hospitals and health systems depend on compassionate, skilled, trained, and dedicated staff to support healthcare providers in their core mission of caring for people. As a result, they view the safety and well-being of employees as a top priority and take serious steps to ensure workplace safety and security, to create a safe workplace free of all forms of violence—whether such violence results from encounters between staff and patients or their families, staff-to-staff aggression and harassment, or the intrusion of community conditions and community violence into the workplace. Hospitals are focused on prevention evidence-based policies and in the communities they serve.

To support hospitals’ efforts, the AHA has implemented a cross-association effort to develop tools and resources to help hospitals to identify best practices for various workplace settings and circumstances and widely disseminating information about such best practices would do much to improve hospitals’ ability to address workplace violence.

FEDERAL POLICYMAKERS SHOULD CONSIDERazzi in the workplace. A critical component of this initiative includes developing tools and resources to highlight and share with the hospital field programs, initiatives and other efforts to help combat violence at hospitals.

We believe that these approaches would help mitigate workplace violence and aid hospitals and health systems in addressing these incidents through policies and strategies that are best suited to their needs and the needs of the communities they serve. We are ready to work with you to explore an appropriate congressional response that would improve hospitals’ ability to address workplace violence.

Sincerely,

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, really quick, on page 11 of the bill it specifically states that the plans proposed for this act would ‘be tailored and specific to conditions and hazards for the covered service, including patient-specific risk factors and risk factors specific to each work area or unit.’ That is not one size fits all. This is different for different settings.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA), a Member who can really bring a very powerful personal experience to this issue.

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Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am here today to express my support for this very important piece of legislation. This is something that is much needed; and it is just a commonsense bill.

For my friends across the aisle who think that this is some intellectual exercise, that we are trying to find some more regulations, or that we need to listen to the front lines, well, I am here to tell you what happens on the front lines. It was not yesterday; it was when I was a geriatric social worker. We had
received a report of a street child taking care of a senior, and there was concern about the senior and the street child.

I went to the door to make an assessment. I knocked on the door, and I was greeted by a Saturday night special right me. I thought there was a social worker just trying to do my job. She kept saying: “You ain’t gonna take my baby. You ain’t gonna take my baby.” I was scared, scared, and scared, never having had a gun to my face.

Many times, I am sure you know what I am talking about because you have probably had similar experiences. I was a social worker just trying to make an assessment to see if this senior needed help at home. I had nothing to do with trying to take her child away, but she confused me for a child welfare worker.

This is what can happen. It has happened to me. It happens today. As Representative STEVENS pointed out, it happened at 2 a.m. this morning, not to a social worker but to a FedEx worker. We must do something to make sure that we can protect workers and that we end workplace violence.

This is a small step. It is not an intellectual exercise. It is real. I am speaking personally, and I am here to stand with social workers across America to make sure that we do everything we can to make their workplace safe and that everyone is protected. As Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. CHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, workplace violence has reached epidemic levels and is the third greatest cause of job death right now.

Nurses, medical assistants, emergency responders, and social workers face some of the greatest threats, suffering 72 percent of all workplace assaults. Women suffer two out of every three serious workplace violence incidents.

This is unacceptable. We need to protect workers and require employers to put in place effective workplace violence prevention plans. It is simple. Make a plan.

We need to protect our healthcare and social service workers who have done so much for us during the pandemic and for us. Now, we need to care for them.

We need H.R. 1195 now. Let’s come together and get it done.

Madam Speaker, I include in the Record an editorial column from Bonnie Castillo and a letter from the AFL-CIO.

[From The Hill, Apr. 9, 2021]

WE CAN’T AFFORD TO LOSE ONE MORE NURSE—PASSING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL WOULD HELP

(By Bonnie Castillo, Opinion Contributor)

“...my children were very distraught to see their child taken away,” said Luciana Herr, a registered nurse in the inpatient psychiatry unit at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, Minn. Herr entered a hospital room in early March to find a patient hitting and hitting her co-worker. With no security or other staff around, she tried to help and was pummeled for nearly 20 minutes. It was the second time she had been assaulted in just a few months. Tragically, Herr’s story is all too common.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, health care and social service workers have a five times greater likelihood of experiencing a workplace violence-related injury than workers in all other industries. Nationally, the rate of violence is unacceptable, a fact driven home by the pandemic. We cannot let nurses and other health care workers go one more day fighting for protections while also wondering whether they will be assaulted at work.

That’s why national Nurses United (NNU), the largest union of registered nurses in the United States, is fighting to get a critical bill across the finish line. The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195) would mandate that federal OSHA hold health care and social service employers accountable for developing comprehensive workplace violence prevention plans, public reporting incidents of violence, and not retaliating against workers who report violence.

The legislation passed the U.S. House in the 116th Congress and was reintroduced this session by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (D–Conn.). It will come up for a floor vote in the House, and nurses across the country urge congressmembers to vote yes.

Planning to prevent violence means everything because once violence happens, it’s already too late. This truth really hit home when our beloved NNU member Cynthia Pulong, a registered nurse from California, was killed by her patient in 2010. Countless nurses across the country are attacked physically and verbally each year, and the violence may be growing. In February 2020, the National Nurses United surveyed 15,000 registered nurses across the country found that 20 percent of respondents reported an increase in workplace violence during the pandemic.

It’s important to remember that when nurses aren’t safe, patients, visitors, and family members aren’t safe. Violence can harm anyone in the vicinity.

According to Herr, staffing at an optimal level, adding security, and making sure patients and staff are located where they are best served are examples of actions her employer could take to curb violence before it happens. But there is no federal mandate for health care and social service employers to have a comprehensive, unit-specific prevention plan. This bill will establish one. In our profit-driven health care system, employers will never invest in prevention unless they are held accountable.

“...all I got was an ‘I am sorry that happened to you’,” said Luciana Herr, a general surgery registered nurse at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., who—a long with her co-worker—was attacked in January by a patient with dementia. “I made me feel like I was not safe working here. It made me feel like ‘What does it take?’”

In Ayturey’s case, simple things may have helped, like improving hospital staffing in “sitter,” staff who can watch over patients in need of supervision and notice changes in behavior before a patient grows violent. There are so many reasons why health care employers can take to prevent violence from happening and to ensure nurses can focus on caring for patients, not on wondering whether they will lose their job. But, if we don’t hold profit-driven employers accountable, they will never change.

As of early April, more than 3,570 registered nurses and other health care workers have already died of COVID-19. We can’t afford to lose one more—not to the virus, not to workplace violence. The new OSHA standard requires health care and social service workers from injury and death. We also urge you to oppose Keller #7.

Workplace violence is a serious and growing safety and health problem that has reached epidemic levels. Workplace violence is the third leading cause of job-related death, and results in more than 30,000 serious lost-time injuries each year. Nurses, medical assistants, emergency responders and social workers face some of the greatest threats, suffering more than 72 percent of all workplace assaults.

Women workers particularly are at risk, suffering two out of every three serious workplace violence injuries. The legislation passed the U.S. House in the 116th Congress and was reintroduced this session by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (D–Conn.). It will come up for a floor vote in the House, and nurses across the country urge congressmembers to vote yes.

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Madam Speaker, the healthcare industry is currently in the midst of responding to a once-in-a-century pandemic and has rightly prioritized significant resources to caring for patients and keeping its employees safe from COVID-19.

Forcing OSHA to issue an interim final standard on workplace violence within 1 year, as H.R. 1195 requires, will have a devastating impact on the healthcare industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last thing our healthcare providers need during this unprecedented public health crisis is more costly mandates from Washington that will strain resources and personnel and jeopardize patient care. Moreover, the Biden administration is expected to soon impose new employer mandates in the form of an OSHA emergency temporary standard for COVID-19 and, eventually, a permanent infectious disease rule, which will have a significant impact on the healthcare industry.

At a time when healthcare facilities are experiencing massive revenue losses and have invested significant resources into responding to COVID-19, the issuance of new regulations from Washington, potentially within months of each other, will be devastating.

Our Nation’s healthcare providers have responded admirably to the pandemic and are doing heroic work to keep Americans safe and healthy. The House should reject this ill-timed and ill-advised legislation that will inhibit work and burden the healthcare industry at exactly the wrong time.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I, yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, just over 2 months ago, a man walked into an Allina Health clinic in Buffalo, Minnesota, and opened fire, killing one employee and injuring four others.

On that tragic day, nurses, doctors, social workers, and others were reportedly targeted because of their professions.

Tragically, this senseless and horrific act of violence is representative of a broader trend in our society. Today, members of the healthcare workforce are five times as likely to suffer a workplace injury than Americans in other professions.

Madam Speaker, what in the hell are we doing in Congress if we are not going to stand up and do anything for our healthcare heroes and those workers?

My colleagues who vote against this bill are ignoring the pleas of the EMTs, the emergency workers, and all of those folks who have been on the front lines of this healthcare pandemic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, it is our responsibility to step forward and help protect our workers. It is beyond the pale to put our heads in the sand, as Members of Congress, and say there is nothing that we can do. What is the hell are we doing here if we do that?

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we grieve for anyone who is killed violently in this country under any circumstances. Again, that is not a partisan issue.
here, but once again, Democrats have
outcomes.
mental impact on workplace safety
sequences, which could have a detri-
and will lead to unintended con-
erts and parties, including small busi-
standards through the normal rule-
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and safety in the workplace.
demic, is to offer them more protection
we can do, especially during this pan-
family members are not equipped for

care of our loved ones, take care of our
all of that, she was dealing with the

Sincerely,

MARTHA BAKER, RN,
President SEIU 1991,
Chair, National
Nurse Advocate of
SEIU Healthcare.

Ms. TLAIB. These are protections
that should have long been in place and
enforced. I urge my colleagues to sup-
port this legislation.

When the pandemic hit and signed into law, I
urge OSHA to immediately work to issue the standards necessary to pro-
tect these workers.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time is now, and has expired.
Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the
gentlewoman from Michigan.
Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I gave
that story of Kenya, who lives in
Livonia, Michigan, because, on top of all of
that, she was dealing with the
number of protections that were lack-
ning in the workplace.
Again, these are people who take

care of our loved ones, take care of our
sick, take care of those who are men-
tally ill, who need assistance, whose
family members are not equipped for
what they are trying to do. The least
we can do, especially during this pan-
demic, is to offer them more protection
and safety in the workplace.
Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield
myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, overbearing regula-
tions burden workers and stifle the
economy. Preventing workplace vi-
cence in healthcare and social service
settings is crucial, and we should get
this done by allowing OSHA to issue
standards through the normal rule-
making process, which brings all
experts and parties, including small busi-
tnesses, to the table.

Short-circuiting the process and
rushing to a conclusion eliminates va-
uable technical and scientific input
and will lead to unintended con-
sequences, which could have a detri-
mentary impact on workplace safety
outcomes.

A bipartisan solution was possible
here, but once again, Democrats have
kicked it to the curb. I urge a "no"
vote on H.R. 1195, and I yield back the
balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I
yield myself the balance of my time.

Here is the good news. When we
started this journey on this legislation
back in 2013, then-Min. Hart pushed for
a GAO report because we had heard an-
cedotal evidence about the fact that
healthcare workers were experiencing
this really disturbing level of violence
that was something that people had
really never seen before.

GAO took 3 years, very methodically,
as only they do. They are the gold
standard, in terms of research. They
brought in all the studies and all the
evaluations. They verified, sadly, all
the statistics that we have talked
about here on the floor today. Seventy-
three percent of incidents happen in
these two sectors. The fact is that they
not only verified that, but they showed
that those numbers are actually under-
reported.

What is happening out there is be-
cause we don't have any system that
people can turn to when they are expe-
riencing this kind of unacceptable be-
havior. They basically are in a situa-
tion where, most of the time, they just
are saying, "Shut it up, shake it off,"
that is part of the job, just move on, don't
spend any time on that.

In fact, what GAO told us is that the
numbers that we are seeing in other
sorts of reports underreport what is
going on out there.

We took that report, and we crafted
legislation. We really did accommodate
some of the issues that we have heard
talked about on the floor here today,
about ensuring that there is going to
be an adequate comment period for all
stakeholders. We want that. We under-
stand that the hospital association,
just like the emergency room doctors,
just like the nurses, should all have
their opportunity to weigh in, in terms
of what is a viable, workable standard.

But what we don't need to is have
OSHA just sort of lapse into its noto-
rious dysfunctional delays in terms of
developing a workforce standard.

Mr. SCOTT ticked off, again, some of
the most recent examples: 2017 beryll-
ium took 18 years, silica dust took 17
years.

Again, when the last administration
came to the committee, they said, "We
are going to start the process. We are
going to begin a docket in terms of get-
ning a rulemaking."

And then the first scheduled date was
delayed, then the second scheduled
date was delayed again, and on and on
and on. Right now, today, as we stand
here in this Chamber, there is nothing
scheduled.

When you really boil it down, where
I think the disagreement exists—and I
am happy to admit that I disagree that, but I
think it is a meaningful distinction—is
that we are going to put this agency on
the clock. We are telling them that,
you know, you can follow the proce-
dures, take the comment, but we are not
going to sit back and allow this un-
acceptable trend to continue unad-
ressed.

That agency was created back in the
New Deal administration to protect Amer-
ica's workers, and as the branch of gov-
ernment that created them, we want
them to develop a standard in a reason-
able amount of time.

Madam Speaker, this is not unprece-
dented. Congresses, in the past, have
done this. During the last pandemic,
during AIDS, we saw a blood-borne pathogen that was just totally sweep-
ing hospitals and healthcare institu-
tions all across the country, and we in-
tervened and put a clock on OSHA to
develop a blood-borne pathogen work-
force standard.

That is why, today, when you go to
the hospitals, people are wearing
gloves and using disposable needles. All
that stuff that we take for granted
now, that was OSHA. Actually, it was
Congress who told OSHA to develop
that standard. So we are in a situation
here today in 2021 where, again, we are
seeing something out there.

I thank Ms. FOXX because she is not
in denial, that is for sure. She really
thoughtfully talked about what is driv-
ing some of this, but the fact is now it
is time to act. I thank some of the Re-
publican Members who came forward
because it is hard right now, but they
came forward and cosponsored this bill.


MADAM SPEAKER, I yield back the
balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as
senior member of the Committees on the Judi-
ciary, on Homeland Security, and on the
Budget, I rise in strong support of H.R.
1195, the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health
Care and Social Service Workers Act," which
would establish within one year an Occupa-
tional Safety and Health Administration
("OSHA") interim workforce standard requiring
health care and social service providers to im-
plement workplace violence prevention plans,
and which would establish a permanent OSHA
standard within 42 months.

Currently, there is no OSHA standard
that requires employers to implement violence pre-
vention plans that would help reduce work-
place violence injuries among health care and
social service workers.

The lack of an enforceable standard means
that OSHA, the federal agency that is supposed to
protect workers' safety, has few meaningful tools
to protect health care workers from the threat
of workplace violence.

The Government Accountability Office has
estimated, conservatively, that it takes OSHA
at least 7 years to issue a standard.

Seven years; Our healthcare workers have
worked too hard and sacrificed too much for
them to wait a minimum of seven more years
before measures are in place to secure their
basic physical safety.

H.R. 1195 would provide health and social
service workers the protection they deserve by:
Compelling OSHA to issue an interim final standard in one year and a final standard within 42 months requiring employers within the health care and social service sectors to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan.

Identify high-risk situations, specify solutions, and require training, reporting, and incident investigations. It would also provide protections from retaliation for reporting violent incidents.

Protecting health care and social service workers in the public sector in the 24 states not covered by OSHA protections.

Our nation’s caregivers—including nurses, social workers, and many others who dedicate their lives to caring for those in need—suffer workplace violence injuries at far higher rates than any other profession.

While the previous administration relegated the OSHA standard protecting healthcare and social workers to the back burner, making no progress for 4 years, we will not do the same. Study after study has confirmed that health care workers are not adequately protected in the workplace.

In 2014, OSHA reported that there are nearly as many serious violent injuries in healthcare as there are in all other industries combined.

In 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the rate of violence against health care workers increased more than 60 percent between 2011 and 2018.

Just last year, the BLS reported that health care and social service workers were nearly five times as likely to suffer a serious workplace violence injury than workers in other sectors.

And this problem has been exacerbated by the influx of patients and stressors during the COVID–19 pandemic—according to National Nurses United, 20 percent of registered nurses across the U.S. reported increased workplace violence due to the pandemic.

This is not a new problem; this is an old problem that has found fertile ground to grow during the COVID–19 pandemic due to an influx of patients and increasing demands on our healthcare workers.

In my home state of Texas, over 50 percent of nurses in Texas have reported being subject to workplace violence during the course of their duties in 2016.

A 2016 study by the Texas State Health Services found that in any given year:

- 6 percent of Texas nurses experience sexual harassment;
- 12 percent of Texas nurses experience physical violence;
- Nearly half of all Texas nurses experience verbal abuse.

The injuries healthcare workers take from workplace violence are not only physical; victims of workplace violence often suffer mental trauma that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

One example is Bridgette Jenkins, a nurse for 20 years in Houston and professor at Houston Baptist University’s School of Nursing, who was a victim of workplace violence a cause 19 years ago when a psychotic patient hit her so hard that half her face became swollen, and doctors encouraged her to get an x-ray to ensure her jaw wasn’t broken.

Another is Norma Broadhurst, who testified before the Texas House of Representatives that she experienced a “traumatic amputation” of her right ring finger due to an intoxicated spring break patient biting off her finger.

Workplace violence against healthcare workers is so ubiquitous that more than a third of Texas nurses surveyed who did not report a recent violent incident said they did so because it was “an accepted/expected part of the job” or because they didn’t “expect anything to change.”

One stark example of this is Kimberly Curtin, a nurse for nearly 28 years in Houston, who was punched in the side of the head by a patient as a young nurse.

Her colleague who witnessed the attack said to her, “Welcome to ER.”

Curtin, a nurse for nearly 28 years in Houston, Medical Center in Houston. Powell said violence against health care workers heroes, and we have laundering them for being the front line defense against this deadly violence.

But words are only the first step towards action, and action is what is needed here today.

Although it is not enough, the very least we can do to repay their sacrifice and heroism is to make sure healthcare workers everywhere are secure against violence from within their workplace.

I urge all members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 1195, the “Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act,” to reduce workplace violence injuries among health care and social service workers.

(From the Texas Tribune, Feb. 9, 2021)

Half of Texas’ Nurses Experience Workplace Violence. A Texas Lawmaker Says It’s Time To Protect Them.

(By Shannon Najmabadi and Neelam Bohra)

Steven D. Powell is a nurse with Texas Medical Center in Houston. Powell said violent patients have left him covered in bruises, but he more regularly faces verbal assaults. Credit: Shelby Tauber for The Texas Tribune

State Rep. Donna Howard was working as an intensive care unit nurse in the 1970s when a patient pulled an intravenous drip out of his arm and assaulted her. She rushed to help him—but didn’t see the metal urinal he was clutching behind his back until it was too late. He smacked her in the jaw with it, knocking her across the room. “I was briefly stunned by the hit,” said Howard, then working at the Brackenridge hospital in Austin. “But I continued working.”

Over decades, health care workers have faced rampant violence in the workplace. Now praised as heroes of the pandemic, those front-line medical workers have been routinely spit on, cursed out, sexually harassed, faced with threats to their physical safety. Madam Speaker, throughout this deadly COVID–19 pandemic, we have called our healthcare heroes, and we have lauded them for being the front line defense against this deadly violence.

But words are only the first step towards action, and action is what is needed here today.

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(From the Texas Tribune, Febru
Dr. Theresa Tran, an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine, said violence is an “unfortunate commonality” in emergency rooms everywhere, and patients there have to always be “vigilant” about.

An OSHA webpage says people who work in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care settings face meaningful risks of violence, in part because they may work closely with people who have a history of violence or are under the influence of drugs. A state report to emphasize the “highest risk” among health professionals because of how often they interact with patients. Violent nurses may be viewed as “non-threatening” and may be vulnerable to being struck because they work in close proximity to patients. There can also be outdated sex-based stereotypes of nurses—about 88% of whom are women—as being passive or doctors’ “handmaids,” said Zolnierek, though male and female nurses experience sexual harassment from patients.

Daniel Funtong, a nurse who works in North Texas, said older patients sometimes react poorly to pain medication, in some cases threatening to use knives or spoons that are served with meals.

“I don’t think they understand the magnitude, because after going through trauma, when the person is in a crisis—sometimes it affects their brain function—because the brain doesn’t function as normal,” Funtong said.

A variety of factors can spark aggression or a form of violence from patients. The presence of needles can trigger violence, and patients who want to leave the hospital or are frustrated with waiting could be more prone to embarrassment, according to researchers who analyzed a year of incident reports at a hospital system in the Midwest.

In other workers’ family members have lashed out if they think the health care worker isn’t doing enough to care for their loved one.

Nurses and physicians “constantly” feel threatened by patients and family members, Funtong said, and have been trained to identify crisis-type situations and alert building security if needed. He wishes police would work closely with health care facilities’ private security to more promptly intervene with violent patients.

Regrettably, even Powell said violent patients have left him covered in bruises, but he more regularly faces verbal assaults. Recently, a patient called him a racial slur—an occurrence that’s not uncommon for nurses, according to experts.

“When you look at the workforce for nurses, it’s a very diverse landscape,” he said. “The violence that they can experience from a verbal nature, threats due to their culture—they may keep it to themselves or not respond in the same manner that everyone would have a plan like this that encourages reporting.”

Powell, who also works as a travel nurse, said health care facilities he worked at in Dallas area were prepared for the pandemic—and that lack of readiness extends to how they plan for violence.

“Not all facilities are taking the steps necessary to protect their staff,” Powell said.

Some 82% of Texas nurses report being verbally abused, which can include yelling, swearing and the use of hurtful words, according to the 2016 state report. Nearly half also reported physical violence like being hit, slapped or choked.

The threat of violence or abuse can take a heavy toll, leaving health care workers with psychological trauma or decreased morale. The violence also take a toll on their employers or coworkers less, become more guarded when treating patients or even leave the profession—while Texas faces a shortage of nurses.

“One abusive patient can negate 25 lovely patients, and it just hurts you on so many levels,” said Mary Ball, a registered nurse at Parkland Health & Hospital System. Ball said a coworker was recently bitten by a patient who drew blood on her face. “I don’t think they understand the magnitude of what we’ve faced, and I don’t think it provides enough information about safety issues.”

Ball, who is still in therapy after being robbed at an employee parking lot almost two years ago, said she wishes more armed officers were present in and outside the hospital, and that red alarms should be more frequently used to protect them from potentially violent patients.

A Parkland spokesperson said the hospital “puts out information about safety and discusses these matters regularly in our system-wide town halls, which is open to all employees.” Police officers are also present to protect patients and employees.

The Dallas-based hospital has used other initiatives to try to reduce workplace violence. It created a free course a few years ago for workers to raise the prevalence of workplace violence and to teach employees and nursing students how to protect themselves. It also purchased wearable devices to alert doctors that emit a piercing noise if they need help and are not near a panic button, said Karen Garvey, Parkland’s vice president of safety and clinical risk management.

Ball said the wearable alarms wouldn’t have helped her when she was being robbed.

Workplace violence is thought to be vastly underreported among health care workers, in part because of a professional obligation to “do no harm,” and a steadfast focus on helping users who hurt them, according to experts. Some health care workers who experience violence may not want to blame or shame violent patients who are ill or affected by medication. Others may be reluctant to report violence because they view it as part of their job, fear retaliation from their employer or are deterred by the time and administrative hassle of going through the process, experts say.

“They may think, ‘Nothing ever happens when I report so why should I bother?’” said Judy Andersen, a nursing professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston, which for decades has studied workplace violence in the health care sector. Some health care workers may also sym-pathize with the patients they hurt and think they “didn’t mean to hurt me, that patient . . . suffers from dementia or was under the influence,” she said.

Though awareness about workplace violence has grown, there’s still a dearth of information about how frequently it erupts and affects health care workers, largely because of a lack of reporting, said Arnetz, one of the researchers who analyzed incidents at the Midwestern hospital system.

Health care providers have said hospitals can add more security guards or metal detectors and instill a culture of violence prevention to help deter workplace violence. They should also better understand where violence is occurring and why. Violent outbursts have been reported more frequently in emergency rooms or psychiatric facilities, where people may be anxious, stressed, in pain or under other kinds of psychological strain, experts have said. But it can still happen in other health care settings, and facilities should be less prepared to deal with the violence.

Tran, the emergency room physician, said health care workers’ role in stabilizing patients is extremely important, but increased physical violence can add a complicated layer to the violence.

“I think health care workers, especially physicians and nurses in the ER, tolerate violence more than other industries because we see ourselves in a position where we’re supposed to help patients and lock past any aggressions on ourselves,” she said.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Each further amendment printed in part C of House Report 117–15 not earlier considered as part of any amendments en bloc pursuant to section 6 of House Resolution 303, shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, shall be divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor or his designee to offer amendments on bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part C of House Report 117–15 not earlier disposed of. Amendments on bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, as the designee of the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and pursuant to section 6 of House Resolution 303, I rise to offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, printed in part C of House Report 117–15, offered by Mr. Courtney of Connecticut: AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

On page 8, line 23, insert the following:

“(C) that provides for a period determined by the Secretary, not to exceed 1 year, during which the Secretary shall...”
prioritize technical assistance and advice consistent with section 21(d) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 676(d)) to employers subject to the standard with respect to compliance with the standard.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. JONES OF NEW YORK

Page 11, line 18, strike “shall”.
Page 11, line 23, insert “shall” before “be”.
Page 12, line 4, strike “and” at the end.
Page 12, line 5, strike “shall” before “be”.
Page 12, line 6, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.
Page 12, after line 6, insert the following:
(iv) may be in consultation with stakeholders who specialize in workplace violence prevention, emergency response, or other related areas of expertise for all relevant aspects of the Plan.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. OCASIO-CORTES OF NEW YORK

Page 26, line 25, strike “and”.
Page 27, line 4, strike the period and insert “; and”.
Page 27, after line 4, insert the following:
(4) nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or diminish any protections in relevant Federal, State, or local law related to domestic violence; stalking; dating violence; sexual violence; and

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 303, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the amendments en bloc.

These five amendments will: one, direct OSHA to prioritize providing technical assistance and advice to employers to promote compliance during the first year to clarify that nothing in this act will limit existing protections against domestic violence, stalking, or sexual violence; three, clarify that employers can consult experts when developing their workplace violence prevention plans; four, provide additional training to workers who interact with survivors of torture, trafficking, and domestic violence; and, five, adds Alzheimer’s and memory care facilities as facilities covered by this legislation.

Furthermore, this amendment makes meaningful improvements to the bill, and I urge a “yes” vote on the amendments en bloc.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, my amendment makes a simple change that would help improve the development of workplace violence prevention plans required under H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

As you know, our Nation’s nurses, social workers, and other caregivers suffer from workplace violence injuries at far higher rates than any other profession. In fact, these workers are nearly five times as likely to suffer a serious workplace violence injury than workers in other sectors, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The underlying legislation would require employers within these sectors to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan to reduce the incidence of injuries and create safer working conditions for their workers.

In order to covered employers in the healthcare and social service industries develop thoughtful and comprehensive workplace violence prevention plans, my amendment clarifies that the OSHA must be able to outreach to experts and specialists who lead in the issue of workplace violence. Healthcare and social service workers have unique needs and face many difficult challenges in the workplace. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support for H.R. 1195 from the CEO of AIHA, Mr. Sloan.

AHIA.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1195, WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT


Rep. Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, Education and Labor Committee, House of Representatives.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT, RANKING MEMBER FOXX, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: On behalf of AHIA, which represents scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety in the workplace and community, I urge you to quickly approve H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

AHIA supports this bipartisan bill, which has 120 cosponsors, to address workplace violence in health care and social service settings. Violence in these industries remains a leading cause of traumatic workplace injuries and death. The bill would help solve this problem by requiring covered employers to develop and implement comprehensive workplace violence prevention plans that are tailored to meet their individual needs.

AHIA looks forward to our continued work together on workplace violence and other occupational and environmental health and safety issues.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE D. SLOAN,
Chief Executive Officer.

Ms. Foxx.

Ahia.

Support for H.R. 1195.
Representative JONES’ amendment puts the cart before the horse. Consultation with outside experts regarding compliance should occur while a regulation is being written by OSHA and before it is issued so the final product takes this expertise into account. This amendment simply adds another costly mandate on employers.

H.R. 1195, which requires OSHA to issue an interim final rule within 1 year, short-circuits the opportunity for the agency to hear from experts before a rule is issued. This amendment is a feeble attempt to correct this critical flaw.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that every Member of this Chamber is committed to ensuring American workers are safe and healthy in the workplace. I appreciate Mr. COURTNEY’s very kind comments about my concern for this personally, but I can say every Republican feels this way.

Our Nation’s caregivers, who have been on the front lines of responding to the COVID–19 pandemic, are deserving of a responsible, workable, and thorough response to the serious issue of violence in the workplace. However, this legislation is a far cry from a sensible or workable solution.

H.R. 1195 is overly prescriptive and heavy-handed and takes the wrong approach, prejudging and imposing a rushed regulation without allowing for necessary stakeholder input. Unfortunately, this legislation does nothing to change this fact.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Democrat amendments en bloc and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate Mr. COURTNEY for yielding to me, and I appreciate him for bringing this issue to the House 15 years of looking out for workers, laborers, and their fair place in our country, and I thank him for that.

Over the past 13 months, our healthcare and social service workers have gone over and beyond in their efforts to keep us healthy and free during this COVID–19 pandemic. This bill, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, is one way Congress can help keep them healthy and look out for their safety.

This amendment is a simple one. It simply says that Alzheimer’s and memory care facilities are added to the type of residential treatment facilities covered by this bill. Alzheimer’s and memory care facilities are sometimes overlooked in the definition and should not be.

With our aging population, Alzheimer’s and dementia is growing in prevalence. In the United States, more than 5.5 million people now are living with Alzheimer’s. The number is expected to increase to 14 million people by 2060. Alzheimer’s is the sixth leading cause of death in our country, but third among senior citizens, behind only cancer and heart disease. This increase in Alzheimer’s diagnoses means more healthcare workers and social workers will be needed to help patients and their families to try to manage this disease and cope with the effects.

This bill doesn’t only help the workers, but it helps the victims of these diseases that put them in the institutions by making it more likely that people will want to go into those professions and not fear for their health.

As anyone who has or had a loved one with Alzheimer’s knows that Alzheimer’s patients can become aggressive for many reasons. Sometimes it is just the inability to grasp a subject or to remember something or they are hungry or whatever, and they get violent.

That is the reason oftentimes they are put into long-term facilities caring for Alzheimer’s patients, and that is going to continue to grow. They have these outbursts of aggression. Healthcare professionals and social service workers must be protected similar to their colleagues that work in residential treatment facilities.

I appreciate your consideration. I appreciate this amendment being put in the en bloc. Hopefully, we pass it and end the problems that we see going on.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I believe I have the right to close, and I apologize for neglecting to say I oppose the amendment at the beginning.

I believe I have the right to close, therefore, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, again, I support the en bloc as stated and approved by my colleagues.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank Mr. COURTNEY for the comments he has made during this debate today. He has been a very kind colleague.

However, what we should be doing is more debating of some of the underlying issues that are creating this increased workplace violence, and we are not doing that as a Congress. We need to look at why these things that are happening are happening. And I am sorry that we are not doing that. And I am sorry we are doing a rushed product here when we could be working together.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the en bloc amendments and “no” on the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 303, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc printed in part C of House Report 117–15 offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

The question is on the amendments en bloc. The en bloc amendments were agreed to. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. KELLER
The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part C of House Report 117–15.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

STRIKE all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.
The table of contents for this Act is as follows:
Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD

SEC. 101. FINAL STANDARD.
Sec. 102. Scope and application.
Sec. 103. Requirements for workplace violence prevention standard.
Sec. 104. Rules of construction.
Sec. 105. Other definitions.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Sec. 201. Application of the workplace violence prevention standard to certain facilities receiving Medicare funds.

TITLE I—WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION STANDARD

SEC. 101. FINAL STANDARD.
(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall promulgate a final standard on workplace violence prevention that (1) to require certain employers in the healthcare and social service sectors, and certain employers in sectors that conduct activities similar to the activities in the healthcare and social service sectors, to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan to protect health care workers, social service workers, and other personnel from workplace violence; and
(2) that may be based on the Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor in 2015 and adhere to the requirements of this title.
(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF STANDARD.—The final standard shall—
(1) take effect on a date that is not later than 60 days after promulgation, except that such final standard may include a reasonable phase-in period for the implementation of required engineering controls that take effect after such date; and
(2) be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as any standard promulgated under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 65(b)).
(c) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.—(1) DURING RULEMAKING—During the period beginning on the date the Secretary commences rulemaking under this section and...
employers on the requirements of such final standard.

SEC. 102. SCOPE AND APPLICATION.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘covered facility’’ means a facility with respect to which the Secretary determines that requirements of the final standard promulgated under section 101(a) would be reasonably necessary or appropriate, and which may include the following:

(i) Any hospital, including any specialty hospital.

(ii) Any residential treatment facility, including any nursing home, skilled nursing facility, hospice facility, and long-term care facility.

(iii) Any medical treatment or social service setting or clinic at a correctional or detention facility.

(iv) Any community-based residential facility, group home, and mental health clinic.

(v) Any psychiatric treatment facility.

(vi) Any drug abuse or substance use disorder treatment center.

(vii) Any independent freestanding emergency department.

(viii) Any facility described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) operated by a Federal agency and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 1960 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘‘covered facility’’ does not include an office of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or any other health practitioner that is not physically located within a covered facility described in paragraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1).

(2) COVERED SERVICES.—The term ‘‘covered service’’ includes—

(A) any services and operations provided in home health care, home-based hospice, and home-based care agencies;

(B) any emergency medical services and transport, including such services when provided by firefighters and emergency responders;

(C) any services described in clauses (i) and (ii) performed by a Federal Government agency and required to comply with occupational safety and health standards pursuant to section 1960 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); and

(D) any other services and operations the Secretary determines should be covered under the standards promulgated under section 101; and

(E) does not include child day care services.

(3) COVERED EMPLOYER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘covered employer’’ includes a person (including a contractor, subcontractor, or a temporary service firm) that employs an individual to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘‘covered employer’’ does not include an individual who

...privately employs a person to perform covered services for the individual or a family member of the individual.

(C) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘‘covered employee’’ includes an employee employed by a covered employer to work at a covered facility or to perform covered services.

...the employer shall conduct an investigation of such incident, under which the employer shall—

(i) review the circumstances of the incident and whether any controls or measures implemented pursuant to the Plan of the employer were effective; and

(ii) solicit input from involved employees, their representatives, and about the cause of the incident, and whether further corrective measures (including system-level factors) could have prevented the incident, risk, or hazard.

(B) DOCUMENTATION.—A covered employer shall document the findings, recommendations, and corrective measures taken for each investigation conducted under this paragraph.

(3) EDUCATION.—With respect to the covered employees covered under a Plan of a covered employer, the employer shall provide education to such employees who may be exposed to workplace violence hazards and risks, which meet the following requirements:

(A) Annual education includes information on the Plan, including identified workplace violence hazards, workplace violence risk assessment, control measures, reporting procedures, recordkeeping requirements, response procedures, and employee rights.

(B) Additional hazard recognition education for supervisors and managers to ensure they can recognize high-risk situations and do not assign employees to situations that predictably compromise their safety.

(C) Additional education for each such covered employer whose job circumstances has changed, within a reasonable timeframe after such change.

(D) Applicable new employee education prior to employee’s job assignment.

(E) All education provides such employees opportunities to ask questions, give feedback on such education, and request additional instruction, clarification, or other followup.

(F) All education is provided in-person or online by an individual with knowledge of workplace violence prevention and of the Plan.

(G) All education is appropriate in content and vocabulary to the education level, and literacy of such covered employees.
Each violent incident log—

(i) shall be maintained by a covered employer for a minimum of 5 years; and

(ii) may be based on a template developed by the Secretary not later than 1 year after the date of promulgation of the standards under section 101(a); and

(iii) may include a description of—

(I) the violent incident (including environmental risk factors present at the time of the incident);

(II) the date, time, and location of the incident, names and job titles of involved employees;

(III) the nature and extent of injuries to covered employees; and

(IV) a classification of the perpetrator who committed the violence, including whether the perpetrator—

(aa) a patient, client, resident, or customer of a covered employer;

(bb) a family or friend of a patient, client, resident, or customer of a covered employer;

(cc) a stranger;

(dd) a coworker, supervisor, or manager of a covered employer; or

(ff) any other appropriate classification;

(V) the type of violent incident (such as type 1 violence, type 2 violence, type 3 violence, or type 4 violence); and

(VI) how the incident was addressed; and

(iv) not later than 7 days, depending on the availability or condition of the witnesses, after the employer learns of such incident, shall contain a record of each violent incident, which is updated to ensure completeness of such record;

(v) shall be maintained for not less than 5 years; and

(vi) in the case of a violent incident involving a patient, client, resident, or customer as defined in section 101(b)(7) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), shall protect the identity of employees in a manner consistent with that section.

SEC. 104. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

Notwithstanding the rules of section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 667(c)) is enforced.

SEC. 105. OTHER DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) WORKPLACE VIOLENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘workplace violence’’ means any act of violence or threat of violence, that occurs at a covered facility or while a covered employee performs a covered service.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘‘workplace violence’’ does not include lawful acts of self-defense or lawful acts of defense of others.

(C) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘‘workplace violence’’ includes any act of violence or threat of violence, including the use of common objects as weapons, without regard to whether the employee sustains an injury.

(2) TYPE 1 VIOLENCE.—The term ‘‘type 1 violence’’ means workplace violence directed at a covered employee at a covered facility or while performing a covered service by an individual who has no legitimate business at the covered facility or with respect to such covered service; and

(B) includes violent acts by any individual who enters the covered facility or worksite where a covered service is being performed with the intent to commit a crime.

(3) TYPE 2 VIOLENCE.—The term ‘‘type 2 violence’’ means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by an individual who has no personal relationship with such employee.

(4) TYPE 3 VIOLENCE.—The term ‘‘type 3 violence’’ means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by a former employee, supervisor, or manager.

(5) TYPE 4 VIOLENCE.—The term ‘‘type 4 violence’’ means workplace violence directed at a covered employee by an individual who is not an employee, but has or is known to have had a personal relationship with such employee.

(6) ALARM.—The term ‘‘alarm’’ means a manual, electrical, or other device that can alert others but does not rely upon an employee’s vocalization in order to alert others.

(7) ENGINEERING CONTROLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘engineering controls’’ means an aspect of the built space or a device that removes or minimizes a hazard from the workplace, or creates a barrier between a covered employee and the hazard.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of reducing workplace violence hazards, the term ‘‘engineering controls’’ includes various methods for controlling or removing hazards, including but not limited to: architectural barriers, furniture, lighting, signage, and guards.

(8) ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘environmental risk factors’’ includes factors specific to a covered facility or area in which a covered service is being performed that may contribute to the likelihood or severity of a workplace violence incident.

(B) CLARIFICATION.—Environmental risk factors may be associated with the specific hazard being performed or the work area, such as poor lighting, lack of visibility, or exposure to hazardous chemicals.

(9) PATIENT-SPECIFIC RISK FACTORS.—

The term ‘‘patient-specific risk factors’’ means specific factors specific to a patient that may increase the likelihood or severity of a workplace violence incident, including:

(A) a patient’s psychiatric condition, treatment and medication status, history of violence, and known or recorded use of drugs or alcohol; and

(B) any conditions or disease processes of the patient that may cause the patient to exhibit behavior that is non-responsive to instruction, or to behave unpredictably.

SEC. 106. COMPLIANCE.

Each covered employer shall—

(A) maintain at all times records related to each Plan of the employer, including workplace violence risk and hazard assessments, and identification, evaluation, correction, and education procedures; and

(B) maintain such records and logs available, upon request, to covered employees and their representatives for examination and copying in accordance with section 1100(d)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-9(b)(3)) and part 2 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as such part is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), and in a manner consistent with HIPAA privacy regulations (defined in section 1108(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-9(b)(3)) and part 2 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as such part is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), shall provide employees with marked and legible records of each violent incident log for the preceding calendar year that shall—

(i) with respect to each covered facility, and to the same extent as a violation of section 1904(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 667)—

(1) nothing in this title shall be construed to limit or prevent health care workers, so-called ‘‘frontline’’ workers, including an agent of the employer) from discriminating or retaliating against any employee for reporting, or seeking assistance or intervention from, a workplace violence incident, threat, or concern to the employer, law enforcement, local emergency services, or a government agency, or participating in an incident investigation.

(E) ENFORCEMENT.—Each violation of the policy shall be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as a violation of section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 667(c)) is enforced.

SEC. 107. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.

 covered employee by an individual who has no personal relationship with such employee.

(6) ALARM.—The term ‘‘alarm’’ means a manual, electrical, or other device that can alert others but does not rely upon an employee’s vocalization in order to alert others.

(7) ENGINEERING CONTROLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘engineering controls’’ means an aspect of the built space or a device that removes or minimizes a hazard from the workplace, or creates a barrier between a covered employee and the hazard.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of reducing workplace violence hazards, the term ‘‘engineering controls’’ includes various methods for controlling or removing hazards, including but not limited to: architectural barriers, furniture, lighting, signage, and guards.

(8) ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS.—

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(9) PATIENT-SPECIFIC RISK FACTORS.—

The term ‘‘patient-specific risk factors’’ means specific factors specific to a patient that may increase the likelihood or severity of a workplace violence incident, including:

(A) a patient’s psychiatric condition, treatment and medication status, history of violence, and known or recorded use of drugs or alcohol; and

(B) any conditions or disease processes of the patient that may cause the patient to exhibit behavior that is non-responsive to instruction, or to behave unpredictably.
Healthcare and social service workers face real safety risks in the workplace. This issue demands our attention and thoughtful consideration. Unfortunately, H.R. 1195 will result in a rushed and flawed OSHA rule that does not effectively address workplace violence. This bill is excessively prescriptive and heavy-handed, prejudging and imposing a regulation without allowing for necessary stakeholder input and expert review. Just as members of Congress should be working together to develop adequate solutions to these pressing issues, OSHA should be working with and listening to industry experts and stakeholders closest to the problem.

That is why this amendment requires OSHA to follow proper procedures in their rulemaking process, including inviting meaningful stakeholder participation, and responding to comments from the public.

The amendment also calls on OSHA to convene the already planned Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act panel before proceeding with the rulemaking process. This will ensure that small employers directly impacted by the rule have the chance to speak on it, allowing for a more informed solution that empowers workers and employers, not one that cripples them with overbearing Federal mandates.

This amendment would also require OSHA to conduct an educational campaign on workplace violence prevention in healthcare and social services industries.

This initiative would target the regulated community and raise awareness of the issue while also increasing compliance with the eventual final rule.

Finally, despite the heavy burdens placed on our healthcare system responding to the pandemic, the Biden administration is considering a job-killing emergency, temporary standard on COVID-19 that will further bog down small businesses with sweeping and costly mandates at the very time that vaccines are widely available and the economy is recovering at a record pace.

As such, this amendment removes the unnecessary and problematic requirement that OSHA issue an interim standard on workplace violence within 1 year, enabling these facilities to continue fighting COVID-19 and allowing our entire economy to continue recovering from the pandemic.

We all agree that our frontline workers have shown incredible courage in responding to this global health crisis and their efforts continue to be an invaluable part of our Nation’s recovery. We owe it to these heroes to provide a solution that keeps them safe at work without drowning employers in compliance costs or implementing overbearing rules and rushed regulations from Washington that do not take into account their meaningful input.

We owe these frontline workers the opportunity to have their say and their input. This amendment does just that, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I again want to clarify for the record that Congress in the past has required interim standards in situations where there have been real acute problems in America’s workforce. We did it for workers who were working in hazardous waste and hazardous disposal sites, and we did it for workers who were exposed to lead.

So, again, there is precedent for this. This is not having an interim standard where there is an urgent need to have some action for just a program standard for workers out there. We have done it in the past. And I think we have certainly heard enough from the other side that they acknowledge the severity of the problem and the incredible people that would benefit from having a standard out there that we should apply the interim rule in this case, which would go into effect a year from enactment and then the final standard 3½ years from enactment.

I want to be clear. When we drafted the bill, we put in language that requires a notice and comment section for the interim standard and the final standard. Nobody is being foreclosed in terms of having an opportunity to weigh in.

Since 1996, OSHA has had voluntary recommendations and guidelines for workplace safety in healthcare settings. This thing has been knocking around for 25 years, and that is no secret here. We are not starting from a blank sheet of paper.

So, again, all the stakeholders know what some of the strategies are that could be employed to protect workers better, and what we are doing in the baseline of the bill is basically saying we are not going to sit back and let the dysfunctional history of OSHA dominate and really expose people needlessly to workplace violence.

Again, Mr. Scott went through the sad history over OSHA: 18 years for beryllium; 17 years for silica dust; 16 or 17 years for working in enclosed construction spaces. This is notorious in terms of going slow, and, in fact, the last administration, which did try to convene the Small Business panel, postponed it five separate times, and today there is nothing scheduled. I mean, zero.

So, again, I appreciate the fact that the other side acknowledges the seriousness of the problem. Again, I think the bill acts on that by actually putting a clock on OSHA to move forward.

I will close by saying that the administration has weighed in, who actually is the executive branch that has control of OSHA, and, again, they submitted a letter titled: “Statement of
Administration Policy" on April 13 supporting this bill, and specifically the 1-year interim standard and the 42-month final standard timeline that is due in the bill. I include that letter in the RECORD, Madam Speaker.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY H.R. 1195—WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT—Rep. COURTNEY, D-CT, AND 145 CO-SPONSORS

The Administration strongly supports passage of H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. This bipartisan legislation will support development of health care and social service employers develop and implement plans to protect their staff, prevent and improve the response to workplace violence, and address existing barriers to reporting.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, incidents of violence against health care and social service workers have been on the rise. A 2016 Government Accountability Office study reported that rates of violence against health care workers are 12 times greater than rates for the overall workforce. In 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that health care and social service workers face nearly five times as likely to suffer a serious workplace violence injury than workers in other sectors, and that healthcare workers accounted for 73 percent of such injuries. In 2017, state government health care and social service workers were almost nine times more likely to be injured by an assault than private-sector health care workers. Front line employees in these settings interact with a range of patients, clients, and their families, often with little training or direction for how to handle interactions that may become violent. Workplace violence often causes both physical and emotional harm. Victims of these incidents often suffer post-traumatic stress that undermines their ability to continue their employment in that sector.

This burdens a stretched health care workforce that has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is currently no Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard that requires employers to implement violence prevention plans that can help reduce workplace injuries among health care and social service workers.

Under the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, OSHA must issue an interim final standard in one year and a final standard within 42 months requiring employers in the health care and social service sectors to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan. Under such a standard, employers would need to ensure that health care and social services workers are effectively involved in the development, implementation, and assessment of these plans. This will include identifying risks, specifying solutions, and requiring training, reporting, and incident investigations. It would also provide protections from retaliation for reporting violent incidents. Additionally, this legislation will protect health care and social service workers in the public sector in 24 states where those employees are not covered by OSHA protection.

The Administration commends the bipartisan support for the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act and urges swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, respectfully I rise in opposition and recommend a “no” vote on Mr. KELLER’s amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 303, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

The question is on the amendment. The amendment was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appear to have it.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 168, nays 256, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 117]
Mr. COMER changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

The RICE of South Carolina and KIM of New Jersey changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:
Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Mr. ADAMS of Utah. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Mr. ADAMS of Utah. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Mr. ADAMS of Utah. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

ELECTING MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Jacobs of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 321

Resolved.

SECTION 1. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY AND JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

(a) Joint Committee of Congress on the Library.—The following Members are hereby elected to the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, to serve with the chair of the Committee on House Administration and the chair of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Committee on Appropriations:

(1) Mr. Butterfield.
(2) Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois.
(3) Mr. Loudermilk.

(b) Joint Committee on Printing.—The following Members are hereby elected to the Joint Committee on Printing, to serve with the chair of the Committee on House Administration:

(1) Mr. Raskin.
(2) Ms. Leger Fernandez.
(3) Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois.
(4) Mr. Loudermilk.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENATE SHARED EMPLOYEE ACT

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 422) to allow Senators, Senators-elect, committees of the Senate, leadership offices, and other officers of the Senate to share employee, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 422

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Senate Shared Employee Act”.

April 16, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H1873
SEC. 2. ALLOWING SENATORS, COMMITTEES, LEADERSHIP OFFICES, AND OTHER OFFICES OF THE SENATE TO SHARE EMPLOYEES.

(a) In GENERAL.—Section 114 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1978 (2 U.S.C. 4576) is amended by—

(1) inserting “(a)" before “Notwithstanding;”;

(2) by striking “position, each of” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “qualifying position if the aggregate gross pay from those positions does not exceed—

“(1) the maximum rate specified in section 105(d)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1968 (2 U.S.C. 4575(d)(2)), as amended and modified; or

“(2) in a case where 1 or more of the individual’s qualifying positions are positions described in subsection (d)(2)(B), the maximum rate specified in section 105(e)(3) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1968 (2 U.S.C. 4575(e)(3)), as amended and modified; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b)(1) For an individual serving in more than 1 qualifying position under subsection (a), the cost of any travel for official business shall be paid by the office authorizing the travel.

“(2) Messages for each electronic mail account used in connection with carrying out the official duties of an individual serving in more than 1 qualifying position under subsection (a) may be delivered to and sent from a single handheld communications device provided to the individual for purposes of official business.

“(3)(A) For purposes of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), the rate of basic pay for an individual serving in more than 1 qualifying position under subsection (a) shall be the total basic pay received by the individual from all such positions.

“(B) For an individual serving in more than 1 qualifying position under subsection (a), for purposes of the rights and obligations described in, or described in the provisions applied under, title II of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1989 (2 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.) related to practices used at a time when the individual is serving in such a qualifying position with an employing office described as a qualifying position under subsection (a) shall be the individual rate of pay received from the employing office.

“(c)(1) If the duties of a qualifying position under subsection (a) include information technology services and support, an individual may only serve in the qualifying position if the access to the individual for the individual’s duties is paid by the employing office.

“(2) Notwithstanding subsection (a), an employee serving in a qualifying position in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate or the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate may serve in an additional qualifying position only if—

“(A) the other qualifying position is with the other Office; or

“(B) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate has approved the arrangement.

“(d) In this section, the term ‘qualifying position’ means a position that—

“(1) is designated as a shared position for purposes of this section by the Senator or other head of the office in which the position is located; and

“(2) one of the following:

“(A) A position—

“(i) that is in the office of a Senator; and

“(ii) the pay of which is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

“(B) A position—

“(i) that is in any committee of the Senate (including a select committee) or a joint committee of Congress; and

“(ii) the pay of which is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate out of an appropriation under the heading ‘SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES’.

“(C) A position—

“(i) that is in another office (excluding the Office of the Vice President and the Office of the Chaplain of the Senate); and

“(ii) the pay of which is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate out of an appropriation under the heading ‘SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEERS’.

“(D) A position—

“(i) that is filled pursuant to section 105 of the Second Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1976 (2 U.S.C. 6311); and

“(ii) the pay of which is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate out of an appropriation under the heading ‘MISCELLANEOUS’."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect beginning on the day that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for next week. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes expected no earlier than 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and 12 p.m. for legislative business.

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 12 p.m. for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business, with last votes no later than 3 p.m.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business today.

In addition, Madam Speaker, we will consider bills relating to justice and civil rights: H.R. 1333, the NO BAN Act, which prevents origin-based discrimination against those seeking to visit our country to do business, see family, or engage in tourism, rejecting the previous administration’s policy of banning arrivals from predominantly Muslim countries; H.R. 1573, the Access to Counsel Act, which reaffirms key American principles of justice with regard to immigrants’ rights to counsel during status hearings; and then lastly, H.R. 51, standing for the 51st State. H.R. 51 is the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, to admit the District of Columbia as a State and provide equal representation in Congress for its residents.

There will be our schedule for the week to come. The following 2 weeks in April will be our committee workweeks so that the committees can produce additional product for consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I know, just yesterday, one of the Members of the House Democrat leadership team, Chairman NADLER, introduced a bill to pack the Supreme Court.

This is a proposal that we have seen in other countries. Unfortunately, it is in mostly socialist countries. If you look at some of the examples, in 2004, Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez packed his court, and the result was totalitarian dominance for his socialist regime. Congressman GOMEZ, who himself fled Cuba, fled a communist regime, said just recently on court-packing:

Packing the courts is a tactic used by brutal dictatorships to consolidate the socialist power which resulted in tens of thousands of court rulings in its favor, basically destroying the country.

I wanted to ask the gentleman, is that court-packing a bill that the majority is going to be bringing to the floor or even marking up in committee? I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I have not had a discussion with Mr. NADLER, but as the gentleman knows, we have a lot of work to do on the floor of the House of Representatives, and we intend to get that work done. We have not considered bringing to the floor the bill to which the gentleman refers.

Did the gentleman in his research find any instances in any authoritarian country where they refused to consider a constitutional appointee to their Supreme Court that the President, with 10 months on his term, sent down to the United States Senate or some other body in those countries?

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I haven’t read the Constitution of Venezuela, but I know in the Constitution of the United States, it actually gives the Senate the advise-and-consent role, the responsibility, as it relates to Supreme Court picks. Obviously, that has been kept.

The borking incident was probably the most embarrassing, egregious abuse that started this back-and-forth, where individual Supreme Court picks became more personally scrutinized. That process has been abused in cases like Bork.

Even the Kavanaugh hearing got out of control, where disgraceful false allegations were made.

But in the end, the Senate’s advise-and-consent role is part of the United States Constitution. I don’t know if the gentleman is suggesting that that
Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I don’t know about the Nadler bill, but I do know that the Constitution says nothing about the Senate’s ability to simply refuse to consider an appointee of the President of the United States. And I don’t think the Founders had any concept that that would be the case when they gave the power of appointment to the President of the United States.

And when then that occurred, when the present Attorney General was appointed to the Supreme Court, MITCH MCCONNELL said, We are not going to go through this before the end of the term of a President of the United States. And then they said the reason being is because we have an election coming up in just a few months—in that case, it was 8 months—and the next election to appoint

Madam Speaker, that deep principle enunciated by Mr. MCCONNELL, by Mr. GRAHAM, and others—who was the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, that deep principle was abandoned when it became politically pragmatic for the Republican Party to do so and to steal a Supreme Court justice.

So he can talk about socialism all he wants. What a distraction that is. A failure to want to discuss on the merits of the issues.

So what do they do, Madam Speaker? They talk about socialism or communism or dictatorship, none of which we have in the United States of America.

Now, we just lost a President of the United States that, in my experience—and I have served with many Presidents of the United States—was the most authoritarian-seeking President with whom I have served.

Madam Speaker, so I tell my friend that we are going to focus on issues important to the American people. We want to pass a jobs bill to make sure that America is competitive in the 21st century. We want to pass a jobs bill to make sure that families have good-paying jobs that they can support themselves and their families. We want to support bills that build America back better. I want an America that makes sure that everybody can “make it in America,” not only manufacture it in America but make it in America. That is what we are going to be focused on.

Madam Speaker, we hope that the debate is on the merits of those proposals, not some aspersion of some ideological tinge that they may think their opponent has.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding back. This is the bill. It is not even a page and a half, but the real change in law by the Member of House Democratic leadership Chairman NADLER, says, “A Chief Justice of the United States and 12 Associate Justices, any eight of whom shall constitute a quorum.” So in essence the hour of takeover of the Supreme Court, not going through the traditional process that has been in place for over 100 years.

And I think the gentleman knows, if you go back historically, the President has a right to appoint and to appoint in a different party—I can’t recall a case in generations where if in the election year there was a vacancy in the Supreme Court it was filled.

And everybody in the country knew that that was an issue in the election of 2016. In fact, it was probably one of the deciding issues that helped elect President Trump, was that there was that vacancy and the public wanted to be engaged in the direction of the country, as well as the direction of the Supreme Court. It was absolutely a heavily debated item in the 2016 Presidential election and President Trump won that election.

But, again, I have never heard anybody suggesting changing the Constitution to take away the Senate’s advise and consent role. But we do see here a bill that was filed just this week by a leader in the Democratic Party to have a hostile takeover of the Supreme Court, similar to what has been done in socialist countries. And I think it is important to point to who has proposed those kinds of changes in the past, and what it has led to. And I know President Biden himself is on the record many times criticizing heavily the idea of packing the Supreme Court.

Now, that was before he was President. Now that it would be him that would be able to appoint these extra judges, I don’t know if his position has changed.

But, again, I have never heard anybody suggesting what they want to allow their judicial officers to do, perhaps we ought to do, when their tax rate is approximately 100 percent, except what they want to allow their people to have.

Madam Speaker, let me just close on that point with: The Supreme Court has been packed.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Finally, I want to bring up the crisis that our Nation is facing at our southern border. And this has been a crisis that has been brewing for months. It is not an overnight problem, but it is an executive order-created problem when President Biden on day one got rid of some policies that were working incredibly well.

And every border patrol agent that I have talked—and I was on the border last week, Thursday, in McCooll, Texas, and in Donna, Texas, at the Donna processing facility—every border agent said the same thing. They said getting rid of the remain in Mexico policy, that one action alone opened up the floodgates to a surge, that 1,000 is a day crossing our border illegall.

Then you couple that with the deterioration of the Northern Triangle agreements. And, yes, it was President Trump who negotiated those agreements with Mexico, with Honduras, with El Salvador, with Guatemala. And maybe President Biden just doesn’t like the fact that President Trump did said, there are clearly Members on both sides that want to agree on an infrastructure bill and have lots of areas of agreement if we are talking about infrastructure. And by infrastructure, I think most Americans—if you asked them what they thought was infrastructure, they would say roads, bridges, ports, waterways, and broadband.

Once you get into social policy and Green New Deal-type policies or tax hikes that would make America the highest tax rate than America? Hopefully, we do the bipartisan approach and not a partisan approach.

And I yield to the gentleman to enlighten us on what direction is being approached right now.

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman refers to Communist China, apparently wants to follow that example. A communist authoritarian government that owns most of the manufacturing capability in China—not all of it. It is ironic that in two different debates in less than 5 minutes that the gentleman would point to China as the example of what perhaps we ought to do, when their tax policy is approximately 100 percent, except what they want to allow their citizens to have.

Madam Speaker, let me just close on that point with: The Supreme Court has been packed.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SCALISE. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, one of the decisions that helped elect President Trump, was that there was that vacancy and the public wanted to be engaged in the direction of the country, as well as the direction of the Supreme Court.

But, again, I have never heard anybody suggesting what they want to allow their judicial officers to do, perhaps we ought to do, when their tax rate is approximately 100 percent, except what they want to allow their people to have.

Madam Speaker, let me just close on that point with: The Supreme Court has been packed.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

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Then you couple that with the deterioration of the Northern Triangle agreements. And, yes, it was President Trump who negotiated those agreements with Mexico, with Honduras, with El Salvador, with Guatemala. And maybe President Biden just doesn’t like the fact that President Trump did...
something that was working well. Why doesn’t he renegotiate those agreements and call them his own? But they were working.

Madam Speaker, now today, it is so out of control that we have, for example, at a Donna processing facility, a facility designed for about a 250-person capacity—when I was visiting that facility last Friday, there was over 4,000 people—young kids, primarily—crammed into that facility, in those holding cells like sardines.

In fact, yesterday, we had a committee hearing with Dr. Fauci and CDC Director Walensky. And I asked them specifically about what is going on down at our southern border; showed them some of the pictures that have been taken.

And if you look at the CDC guidance that is out there on how we, as American citizens, have to conduct ourselves—if you own a restaurant, for example, whether it is in Baltimore, New Orleans, or anywhere else, if there is a capacity limit, and if that limit was 250 people, if there were 4,000 people in that restaurant, it would be shut down today. And I asked both Dr. Fauci and Dr. Walensky: Would that facility be in violation of the CDC guidance? And in fact, both of them said, Yes, in testimony under oath.

And then I talked to them about what is happening at our southern border. And I asked them: Are these conditions in compliance with the CDC guidance? Both Dr. Fauci and Dr. Walensky said: No, this is not.

We talked about the Donna detention facility and the inhumane treatment of these young children by the Biden administration in that facility. And I asked Dr. Fauci: Is that facility, the conditions in which they are treating those young kids by the Biden administration in compliance with the CDC guidance? And Dr. Fauci said: No. And Dr. Walensky, the CDC director, testified the exact same way, that: No, those are not in compliance. And in fact, as we know, they are coming across from Mexico.

Do you know that the CDC guidance designates Mexico as the most dangerous nation right now? Along with probably a few others, but they are the most dangerous in terms of COVID transmission.

So CDC guidance encourages American citizens not to go to Mexico, but they say if you do come back from Mexico, you are mandated by the CDC to show a COVID-negative test before you, as an American citizen, can come back into the United States.

Do you know that not one of these people are being tested for COVID when they come in illegally across the Rio Grande from Mexico? And then many of them are being put on airplanes, without ID, being paid for mostly by the taxpayers—put on airplanes to fly off into the other side of the country.

Border patrol agents have told us at least 15 percent of these people that crossed illegally are COVID-positive.

So I asked Dr. Walensky and I asked Dr. Fauci: Does that process by the Biden administration violate CDC’s guidance on travel from Mexico? And they both testified that, yes, in fact, it does. That if they are getting on an airplane, they should be testing negative, according to Dr. Fauci, and according to Dr. Walensky, in fact, some of them are known to be COVID-positive, being put on airplanes, flying to cities all across this country.

It is going on right now. It was going on Friday. About half the plane that I flew back from McAllen back home had people with folders that said: I do not speak English, and it had a city on it. And it was multiple cities.

But this is what the Biden administration is doing in violation of CDC guidance that you and I have to follow, that our constituents who are seeing their livelihoods crushed, their restaurants closed down—many that won’t open again ever—because they have to play by the rules that CDC and their states issue. And yet, the Biden administration is exempting themselves from this.

Madam Speaker, now we have legislation, I would like to bring up to the majority leader, that would fix this.

My colleague, Mrs. MILLER-MEeks, requires that a COVID test be done before anyone is released from CPB custody.

Ms. HERRELL wants to prohibit DHS from ceasing title 42.

There is a bipartisan bill by Mr. CATKO and Mr. CUELLAR, which establishes a regular migration surge border response fund.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman if he would bring those bills to the floor to address this crisis at the border that is not only a humanitarian crisis and a national security crisis, but it is a Biden-created crisis that is violating the very CDC guidance, according to Dr. Fauci, that American citizens have to follow.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we have a situation that is heart-wrenching and unacceptable. And it must be dealt with. In fact, this situation comes because of the draconian policies of the previous administration.

It comes also because Republicans have refused, in both Houses, to come to agreement on a comprehensive immigration bill. So we have chaos as a result because our immigration system, as I believe almost every Member of your side of the aisle and every Member of my side of the aisle believes, is broken.

Now, unfortunately, what we see in that picture is broken systems causing great danger, apprehension, and fear among many people who are fleeing to America for refuge. It has, of course, Lady Liberty at the head of the harbor, the Hudson River; raises her torch and says: This is America for.

Now, having said that, this situation is unacceptable. It is unacceptable for humanitarian reasons. It is unacceptable for the safety of not only those people that are in that picture, but for American citizens as well.

Madam Speaker, now it is my understanding that the CDC’s existing pandemic public health order for closed borders is, in fact, being followed. In fact, diversified flight testing in California, unaccompanied children crossing the border are tested—are tested—by the Department of Health and Human Services. The migrants entering ICE facilities are tested, and they are quarantined if they test positive.

So protections are trying to be effective, and this administration is working very hard to ensure the safety of Americans and the safety of these many children who have come across the border.

None of them have been taken out of the arms of their parents. None of them have been made orphans by this administration.

I didn’t hear the gentlemen lamenting the fact that we had hundreds of children who had been taken out of the arms of their parents, and then they could not be found by their parents. They could not be reunited with their parents.

This is a challenge. It is not a partisan challenge. It is a challenge for America. It is a challenge for us all.

This administration is working to come to a solution that is both humanitarian and effective. I am hopeful that they will proceed in accomplishing that objective.

The gentleman mentions the policies of the Trump administration, which substantially underfunded its own policies of trying to help the Northern Triangle countries. If I say help the triangle countries, unfortunately, the leadership of those countries, in too many instances, is not trying to help themselves. So, we see panicked people fleeing.

Madam Speaker, I don’t know whether the gentleman from Louisiana, my friend, Mr. SCALISE, saw the pictures of two children being dropped over the fence—by the way, that very large fence, billions of dollars of fence. Smugglers dropped two children over the fence. That is how secure it was.

The tragedy of those children being dropped over that fence alone, I don’t know who they are or who they are, but my faith teaches me that they may be strangers, but they are brothers and sisters.

In that context, we need to come to grips, and I am hopeful that the gentleman will support the administration’s desire to get a comprehensive immigration bill adopted in this Congress.

In 2013, the Senate passed, Madam Speaker, a bill which was supported by Democrats and Republicans, 14 Republican senators, including myself, and the majority leader, Mr. SCALISE, and 37 Democrats.

We pleaded with the Republican leadership to bring that bill to the floor. They will say they brought a
Thursday night at midnight last week, when I was with those Border Patrol agents, 40 percent of them were pulled off of guarding our border, where their primary mission is to stop drug cartels from smuggling fentanyl, cocaine, and heroin into our country, which they are doing at much higher levels, killing Americans all across the country.

Forty percent of them pulled away because they are going to be changing diapers in the Donna detention facility, which is being ignored right here.

That is where the law comes into play, which—the gentleman says Mexico is adjudged to be one of the most dangerous nations on Earth for COVID–19.

That doesn’t mean we can take everybody, but it does mean that we need to deal with it in a humanitarian way, in a way that honors our values and honors these people as our fellow human beings.

So, I tell the gentleman, in conclusion, that these are sad scenes, and we need to respond to them in a humanitarian way, but also a smart way. We need to respond to the cause as well as the effect.

Mr. SCALISE. As we talk about asylum, let’s be clear, America has laws on how someone can seek asylum. I haven’t seen anybody suggest that those laws are just repealed, and you just take somebody’s word that if they say they want to come to America to seek asylum, to come in today and jump ahead of everyone else.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield on the asylum issue?

Mr. SCALISE. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Does the gentleman believe we ought to obey America’s laws on asylum?

Mr. SCALISE. I think we ought to obey America’s laws on immigration across the board. If you look at the asylum laws, there is a process to seek asylum.

In fact, every year, people are granted that asylum if they prove their case. That is where the law comes into play, which is being ignored right here.

What President Trump did when there was a surge in 2019, he confronted it, as a leader should do. He talked to people on the ground. He talked to our Border Patrol agents, who are the ones who have to deal with this crisis on a daily basis.

In fact, 40 percent of our Border Patrol agents tonight at midnight, like
go down to the border, maybe because she doesn’t want to be associated with President Biden’s debacle.

She was put in charge of it. She is the Vice President of the United States. She has a responsibility to go down there and do something else, but she didn’t.

Maybe if they saw that, if they looked into the eyes of these young kids—one of the first girls we ran into might have been 10 years old, a girl in one of these cells, and she was crying. We asked her: Why are you crying? And she said: I don’t want to be here.

She is an orphan. The gentleman talked about orphans. All of these kids, there are no parents with them. They don’t want to be here. Many were crying because they are jammed into these cells for 20 hours a day, at least 15 percent with COVID, 6 inches apart, not 6 feet apart. That is what the Biden administration is doing right now.

President Trump fixed this problem. Again, if President Biden just doesn’t like President Trump, call it his own name. We don’t care. The template, if he doesn’t want to do what actually works, then do something else that works. But just doing this, it is not only a national disgrace, Dr. Fauci and Dr. Walensky said it is a violation of the CDC protocols that every American taxpayer has to follow. And they don’t. Exempting themselves from a problem, but making everybody else comply with it, is no way to instill confidence in the American people.

I hope the President goes down there. I hope the President resolves this issue. He should meet with us. He said he wanted to unify the country. He said he wanted to work with everybody. It is time he starts following through on those promises.

Mr. HOYER. Donald Trump didn’t fix the problem; he delayed the problem. That is what happened. That is what those pictures reflect.

He didn’t fix the problem. He would say they got it out of the way and go back to Mexico. Maybe you have a parent there, maybe you have somebody who will take care of you, but get out of here.

That was one way to “solve” the problem, I presume. Those kids didn’t go away. The fear that they have for being home didn’t go away.

Nor, I have said, Madam Speaker, this is something that we all need to deal with from a compassionate standpoint, and from a human standpoint, which I guess is redundant to “compassionate.” But the fact of the matter is that President Trump did not solve this problem; he simply delayed it.

What President Trump was so great because they did not believe that this President would simply throw them to the wolves, take them from their parents, treat them as refuse.

We need to deal with this, and, hopefully, we will. Hopefully we will get comprehensive immigration reform.

I will say again that one of the reasons that we have the problem of not adjudicating these people quickly is because we don’t have enough judges. And the reason we don’t have enough judges, which were included both in the 2013 bill and the subsequent reform bills, is because we haven’t passed bills to provide the judges on the theory that if we don’t provide the judges, then we won’t be able to approve asylum and people won’t be able to get in. Madam Speaker, I am at the end of this circuitous argument.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, these are children being thrown to the wolves, and it is not President Trump who is doing it. It could end, and I hope we can work together to solve this problem.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

UNIONIZATION

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize, or PRO, Act.

In 1987, I was arrested for standing on a public sidewalk.

My crime? I was seeking to help hospital workers organize with SEIU. That was one of many experiences I had demonstrating how American elections for workers to form a union are more like political elections in a dictatorship than in a democracy.

The recent union election at an Amazon warehouse in Alabama shows just how stacked the deck is against workers. It shows the power wielded by companies large and small and the lengths they will go to keep owners and executives reaping the benefits of growing productivity, even at the expense of their workers’ democracy.

It shows the urgent need for change. The Senate must send the PRO Act to the President’s desk.

RECOGNIZING SIKH MASTER GURU TEGH BAHAHUR

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American and global Sikh community as they celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of their ninth Sikh Master Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Master Guru Tegh Bahadur lived a very meaningful life. He was one of the 10 gurus who founded Sikhism.

Islam was imposed during the reign of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. Hindu temples were pulled down and turned into mosques, and the emperor persecuted those who would not convert to Islamic law.

Guru Tegh Bahadur spoke out amid the persecution. He refused to convert to Islam and, in 1675, he was beheaded in Delhi. He is celebrated in the Sikh community because of his heroic efforts in defending religious freedoms. Because of his efforts to protect human rights, he is often referred to as Srishti Chadar, protector of humanity.

Madam Speaker, Master Guru Tegh Bahadur’s memory inspires us to work even harder to support religious freedoms for everyone everywhere.

RECOGNIZING OFFICERS JEFFREY JOHNSON AND MICHAEL POLLACK

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, as we mourn the victims of another senseless mass shooting in America, I rise to recognize two police officers in my district: Jeffrey Johnson and Michael Pollack of the Westfield Police Department, who prevented a potential mass shooting in my district in 2019.

On June 13 of that year, Officers Johnson and Pollack responded to a call at Tamaques Elementary School in Westfield, where they were met with a man armed with a .45-caliber gun, hollow-point bullets, and 130 rounds of ammunition; an arsenal much of which is not legal in New Jersey, but which he had obtained legally in another State.

The officers disarmed and arrested the man, potentially saving the lives of teachers, staff, and kids. The officers recently received the Hero Award from our Union County Prosecutor’s Office, and I continue to honor their heroism here on the House floor today.

This incident is another reminder that while we have strong gun laws in New Jersey and one of the lowest rates of gun violence fatalities in the country, as a result, many of our neighboring States do not. As long as our gun laws and gun markets are at odds, those who wish to commit mass murder will find the means to do so.

AMERICAN STEEL FOR AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, a long time ago, I made the decision to stand by the people who grow our food, protect our country, and make our stuff. Now, for a moment, if we could put aside the ever-expanding definition of infrastructure, I think we could see where the heart is. If we are going to ask American taxpayers to fund new American infrastructure, then we need to use American companies, American steel, and American labor.

It is especially important that American-made steel not be outsourced for fabrication to nations with lax environmental standards and lax labor
Americans of all ages, from children to our seniors, are affected. Eighty-eight percent are over 45 years old. Of course, many of our brave servicemembers suffer injuries resulting in limb loss, over 1,500 currently from Iraq and Afghanistan. Each of these Americans has their own story and faces unique challenges. Many amputations result from some preventable disease and have preventable issues, such as diabetes and peripheral vascular disease. This is another reason to raise awareness of limb loss and educate ourselves and others about what it is like to live with limb loss and limb difference.

END U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. JACOBS of California and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. Speaker, wars are supposed to end. In the time that we have been in Afghanistan, I have graduated from middle school. I have graduated from high school. I have graduated from college and grad school, worked at the U.N. and the State Department, started two organizations, and was elected to Congress.

I represent San Diego, a proud military community, and one that knows better than most the human cost of war. Ending this war does not invalidate those sacrifices. It recognizes them. We are indebted to the thousands of servicemembers who answered the call to serve, and we remember those who never came home. It is in their honor that we look to the next challenge.

Now it is time to prioritize diplomatic and humanitarian work in Afghanistan, to reassert Congress’ authority on war powers, and to focus our efforts on the security needs of the future, not the past.

RECOGNIZING DASIA TAYLOR OF IOWA CITY

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young woman in my district who is making strides in the field of medical science.

Ms. TAYLOR of Iowa City is currently in the research phase for her groundbreaking invention: surgical sutures that change color when a wound becomes infected.

These sutures will be an asset to both doctors and patients to catch post-surgical infections early on when they can be treated more easily with antibiotics. This, in turn, will save lives.

For her intellect, research, and ingenuity, Dasia was recently recognized among the top 40 finalists in the 80th Regeneron Science Talent Search, one of the most prestigious science and mathematics competitions in the United States for high school scholars.

I could not be prouder of Dasia and excited for the next generation of women scientists working towards building a better future for generations to come.

AMERICA’S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, 17-year-old Dasia Taylor of Iowa City is currently in the research phase for her groundbreaking invention: surgical sutures that change color when a wound becomes infected.

These sutures will be an asset to both doctors and patients to catch post-surgical infections early on when they can be treated more easily with antibiotics. This, in turn, will save lives.

For her intellect, research, and ingenuity, Dasia was recently recognized among the top 40 finalists in the 80th Regeneron Science Talent Search, one of the most prestigious science and mathematics competitions in the United States for high school scholars.

I could not be prouder of Dasia and excited for the next generation of women scientists working towards building a better future for generations to come.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, there is a crisis at our Nation’s southern border, as you heard when our minority whip Steve Scalise outlined it earlier.

Last month, more than 170,000 illegal immigrants were encountered and rescued by border agents at our southern border, and almost 19,000 of them were children, the most ever in a single month.

This is a humanitarian catastrophe, as cartels are profiting at record levels from this egregious human trafficking scheme.

I visited the border, including a child processing center at the El Paso Sector, and witnessed this firsthand. I left with an even deeper sense of respect and admiration for the men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection...
agency and those other agencies tasked to assist them.

Chief Gloria Chavez leads her force along the El Paso Sector with incredible tenacity, courage, compassion, and great energy. The team of agents under her command are doing an excellent job in a nearly impossible situation. These terrific people are overwhelmed because of the dangerous and inhumane policies now coming from Washington. I am grateful to Chief Chavez and her team for their insights.

Human trafficking is a nonpartisan issue. We must come together to stop it. We must finish the border wall, improve barrier technology around the wall, and we must reform this disastrous immigration policy.

□ 1315

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENNIS CAPRARO

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, the Salad Bowl of the world lost a key ingredient with the sudden passing of Dennis Caprara. In his 74 years, Dennis contributed so much to our leading industry of agriculture and our fundamental identity in the Salinas Valley.

A true local boy, Dennis grew up in Gonzales, grew fond of farming, and grew to appreciate the hard work and sound judgment necessary to succeed in agriculture.

Starting RC Farms and RC Packing, Dennis and his family became the definition of what it means to be a successful family farm.

But Dennis was not just a farmer; he was a leader: chairman of the Grower-Shipper Association, director of the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce, and a distinguished fellow at a local college.

Dennis also gave back to the community that gave him so much; as a member of the Swiss Rifle Club, and always attending the local livestock auctions where he and his wife, Janice, were active bidders, supporting the kids of 4H and FFA.

Dennis was a friend and a mentor to many, including myself. And although he often fondly called me a donkey, not necessarily referring to my political party, he offered so much more to those who knew him, who worked with him, who listened to him, and who loved him.

Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Dennis Caprara. But because of Dennis, every day we realize that the Salad Bowl of life tastes so good, not just because of the products, but also because of its people.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LA HABRA CHIEF OF POLICE JERRY PRICE

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer some words of appreciation to someone in my 39th Congressional District in California who deserves special Congressional recognition.

For 30 years, La Habra Chief of Police Jerry Price has unselfishly served and protected our community in the La Habra Police Department.

Chief Price joined the La Habra Police Department in 1991 and quickly rose through the ranks across multiple bureaus, most recently serving as chief of police for the past 8 years.

Chief Price always set an example for other officers and the community, always having a positive attitude and serving with pride. He also has actively mentored and prepared others for success in law enforcement.

It is because of these admirable qualities that Chief Price has earned many awards and accolades, not only from the La Habra community, but also from other outside law enforcement agencies.

I thank Chief Jerry Price for his 30 years of service and the past 8 years as chief of police, and I offer my sincere congratulations on his retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MRS. FRANCES PERCIVAL

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Mrs. Frances Percival, who has dedicated 63 years of her life to the students of Millwood School District.

Mrs. Percival began her service in 1958 as a volunteer with the Millwood School District, and then served in the Parent Teacher Association for several years. She was affectionately known as "Mrs. P" and "homecuer mother." Fifty-one years ago, Mrs. P made the decision to run for the school board and was successful. In her five decades on the board, she was the recipient of many awards, including the National School Boards Association Award for Distinguished Service.

In addition to being a strong leader, Mrs. Percival said her mission was to teach Millwood students to appreciate life and show respect for humanity.

Madam Speaker, we should let Mrs. Percival's story be an inspiration for us all to focus on improving the lives of our children, our communities, and our schools.

Individuals like Mrs. Percival hold together schools and communities across this Nation. I thank Mrs. P for her years of service, and I wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Jacobs of California.) Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I saw one study that indicated that these masks are very helpful; that, by wearing a mask, you have two-tenths of a percent less chance of getting COVID. So hurray for that two-tenths of 1 percent, especially for those of us who have had it or have had vaccinations. But I look forward to getting our freedom back at some point.

But you can’t have the free society if the media is dishonest. When the Founders fought for the right to have free media, they anticipated that there should always be a majority of the media who would work willing to expose media who were dishonest.

But we are living in a dangerous time, when what used to be called the mainstream media is anything but honest; and that was played out before booing ratifies the director said, 2 percent less chance of getting COVID. So hurray for that two-tenths of 1 percent, especially for those of us who have had it or have had vaccinations. But I look forward to getting our freedom back at some point.

But this story, dated April 14, says a CNN head has personally intervened to order the cable network staff to display the number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the broadcast, according to a CNN technical director who was caught on hidden camera making the comments. The goal was to boost ratifies the director said, ex- planing fear truly drives numbers and is the thing that keeps you tuned in.

That is rather tragic.

A former segregationist President, Democrat named Franklin D. Roose- evelt, and said last memory: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." And he was right that that should be a big concern.

But what we are hearing from the un- dercover tape is that CNN sees fear as the best way to increase ratings.

So another article from The Gateway Pundit: "CNN director caught on hidden camera saying the network is 'try- ing to help' BLI by only pushing sto- ries that implicate White people.'"

Well, that is unfortunate. What that shows is that CNN doesn’t mind being racist. It is very unfortunate that we would stir up that kind of animosity; have a major news network, or what we used to call a major news network, CNN, pushing racist divides.

Madam Speaker, I have been joined by a friend—hopefully, she doesn’t mind me calling her a friend because that is the way I see her—from New York, an extraordinary Member of Congress. I am thrilled she is back.

I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).
Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I just wanted a moment to take the opportunity to share something that I launched this week with Representative GARCIA from California, and that is the Election Integrity Caucus.

In that Caucus, our mission is to make sure that we have and preserve integrity in our election process, and that we have people understand just how important the right to vote is and why that is such a sacred act and a cornerstone of our constitutional Republic and the democratic principles that we hold dear.

A lot of people don’t realize how important their right to vote is, and we just want to make sure that people understand that. We don’t want it to be undermined.

We think that the Speaker’s signature legislation, H.R. 1, undermines the integrity of the right to vote. We think every person who has a legal right to vote should be able to vote in every election, but just once, not multiple times.

One of the things I wanted to mention because I just have a few minutes here, is that we would love to have all the Members join the caucus. Obviously, not every person is a bipartisan caucus, but I am reaching out to everyone across the Nation to support our efforts to try to bring integrity to our election process and to understand how sacred the right to vote is.

I truly believe that Mike GARCIA, the Representative from California, who won by 333 votes, is joining me. I won by 109 votes in upstate New York in one of the longest election cycles in the Nation and did not even get sworn in until February 11.

So we just wanted to make sure everyone understands that we want to expand the number of people that vote. You know, you hear all the time that the Republicans want to suppress the vote. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We know so many great Americans through our Nation’s history that have lost life and limb for this sacred right to vote privately, and we want those people to exercise that right and feel that their vote actually counts.

I think one thing that my race and Representative GARCIA’s—also our colleague, MARIANETTE MILLER-MEEKS, who recently was confirmed the winner again in the Second District—shows is that every vote does count. And it should be something that people joyfully do, is to exercise that right to vote because I think a lot of people don’t realize, we have a self-governing constitutional Republic; it is by and for the people.

I think one of the enduring themes, one of the reasons I love our former President Lincoln was that he used to talk about: Can we save the Republic? Can we save a self-governing? And we want to be sure that we preserve all of that and how great this country is by actually forming this Election Integrity Caucus to travel around the country and encourage people to register to vote, and to vote.

And I will add, I just visited the border. And we have a great community of refugees where my district is up in New York’s 22nd District, and I can’t tell you how excited I was of these people who finally get to be citizens, and when they have a chance to vote, and when they have a chance to vote privately without somebody looking over their shoulder or knowing how they voted.

We just want to make that act sacred, and we want to make everyone aware that they have the opportunity to vote, and their vote is secure, and no one is going to take their vote or dilute their vote. We need to make sure that we preserve the integrity of our voter rolls.

It is interesting; I come from New York, and people think of New York as being this liberal bastion, which it is. But Article II of New York’s Constitution only talks about the right of suffrage.

In my own district, the first women to vote in New York State voted in Lisle, New York, in my district of New York. So we know how sacred that right is for women to have the right to vote. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton all hailed from New York State, so we have a great tradition of voting, and we want to lead the way toward that.

I know that we would love to have the gentleman join if he is interested in joining our caucus.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman’s efforts, and I would be thrilled to join that caucus. That is absolutely meritorious, and it should be something that all of us work to support together.

Yet, we get cast, as Republicans, as wanting to limit the number of voters, when actually, we want more voters; but we need to have people vote legally, not multiple times, not voting after you no longer have a pulse, but voting as citizens. So I am thrilled. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. And we have many safeguards in place to reserve that right to vote, but also to encourage people to go out and realize that their vote does count. And wouldn’t it be great if every legal citizen voted in every election? That would be a true self-governing—a self-governing where we all aspire to maintain and preserve.

Once again, I cannot emphasize enough, we urge everyone to join the caucus, including our Democratic friends. I think they would like what we are going to be standing for. We are going to be preserving and protecting the votes in all districts across the entire Nation, and I think it is going to be an exciting initiative.

I thank the gentleman for being willing to join. I know my time is limited today, but I wanted to take advantage of this. And I want to also thank the gentleman for taking this opportunity to be in this amazing place.

It is an honor to be elected to this great body, with so many good Members on both sides of the aisle, and to be able to do the business here for the people of our country in such a tough time, in so many ways, as we are emerging, hopefully, from the pand—

I am grateful that you take this time and talk about the news and events of the day that may sometimes get missed in the mainstream media. I am grateful to you, and I want to wish you the best and everyone a great weekend.

Let’s talk about election integrity.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it brings to mind being in Iraq back in 2005. Iraq had just had its first true fair election, and people stood in line for hours and hours.

In talking to a police chief, he pointed out one place where there was a very long line. We knew that radical Islamists were going to disrupt the election. There was a suicide bomber who was found in the line, and a policeman grabbed him, threw himself on top of the suicide bomber. The bomb was set off, and the policeman and the radical Islamist were both killed.

I said: Wow. Did the voters come back?

He looked a little surprised and said: They never left the line. They knew if they got out of the line and did not vote, that the policeman would have given his life for nothing. They wanted the policeman’s life to count, and they were not going to be intimidated by a suicide bomber trying to prevent them from voting, so they stayed in line to vote.

Too many Americans have come to think of voting as too onerous, that they don’t really have time to do it, that it doesn’t really matter, when, actually, as we hear and find over and over, elections do have consequences.

It is important that if you are legally allowed to vote, you should vote. It is unfortunate that there is a push to have people who do not— they are not citizens. They haven’t been educated yet to understand what it takes to preserve a republic, which has allowed us to drift toward a more Orwellian-style government, a totalitarian, more socialist government.

Yes, you have to have a totalitarian government in order for socialism to succeed. Khrushchev finally came to grips with that. True communism is where everybody shares and shares alike, and there is no government.

I remember doing a report in college about a commission that Khrushchev set up to figure out a plan to move to where there was no government and it was pure communism, pure sharing. Ultimately, they disbanded the commission because they realized there is no way to have no totalitarian government.

And if you are going to have communism or socialism, the government has to be big, powerful, and totalitarian enough to take from those who earn and give to those who don’t.
Anyway, elections are important. The next national election, of course, will be in 2022. That is something we need to be working toward making sure is fair. But it is difficult when you have entities like CNN that are more interested in rating people, and supporting the Democratic Party than they are in reporting the news. It really makes it difficult to have free and fair elections when people are being deceived. It was also interesting that since James O’Keefe, who founded Project Veritas, getting the truth out, he had the video of a leader at CNN exposing exactly what CNN was about: helping the Democratic Party and scaring Americans.

Twitter, being part of the high-tech oligarchy, has banned Project Veritas. O’Keefe, the founder, was first banned, and then, later, it was indicated he was banned “for promoting the Twitter rules on platform manipulation and spam.” So, according to Twitter, if you expose the truth about somebody or some entity that Twitter is figuratively in bed with, Twitter will ban you because they don’t want the truth out there. They don’t want the truth about Americans being manipulated by entities like CNN, Twitter, Facebook, or Google. They don’t want the American people finding out, so they will ban you.

When any entity is powerful enough that it can prevent people from, say, learning about the Vice President’s family, helping them may have engaged in an impropriety, or from finding out that, actually, when the current President, at that time a candidate for President, was saying that Russia was paying bounties to kill American soldiers, or maybe simply that the story, at least some of them, knew was not true, knew was not likely true, that they want that falsity out there. They want to hurt a candidate with false news.

I don’t know what the Supreme Court will end up doing, but the Sullivan case is there, requiring malice to be shown by a public figure in order to prevail in a lawsuit. But it ought to be clear, especially with things like this video exposing that CNN is out to destroy Matt Gaetz, out to deceive the American public, out to fearmonger to increase ratings even though it hurts America. They don’t care. It is okay, in CNN’s leadership mind, to harm America if it helps their ratings. We have seen the same thing from Major League Baseball and some international corporations. They are okay with doing business with the Chinese Communist Party and benefiting from helping them, making money for them, if it makes money for the corporation or the sport, even though it is greatly to the detriment of millions or, in the case of the Chinese Communist Party, hundreds of millions or a billion people.

It is okay, in the minds of some of these people. It is okay to be totally hypocritical and hurt Black-owned businesses in Atlanta, where they are so prevalent, and move the All-Star Game to a place that is substantially White if it makes you appear woke, even though you are hurting African-American businesses and helping White businesses.

It is okay to help the Chinese Communist Party, which is trying to destroy America. They are trying to get to a place where the American economy could collapse, and China would benefit from that. If they get to that place, then you will see them taking additional actions, rather profoundly, to bring down our economy and leave them remaining as the only, at that point, superpower.

We have to be more wise than we have been. We need to call out corporations or entities in the United States that are out to help the enemies of the United States and stir up divisiveness within the United States if they think it creates a profit.

We are seeing that with CNN. We are seeing that with Major League Baseball. It is just a sad time in America.

This article from Epoch Times says: “Twitter pointed to a section in the company’s rules, which states: ‘You can’t mislead others on Twitter by operating fake accounts,’ and ‘you can’t artificially amplify or disrupt conversations through the use of multiple accounts.’”

Well, Twitter really has to stretch in order to come up with a basis for banning someone who is promoting truth and is exposing truth that CNN did not want exposed and, obviously, Twitter did not want exposed.

This is a story by Allum Bokhari, “Twitter Permanently Blacklists James O’Keefe After CNN Expose.” This article also mentions: “In the first video, Chester admits that CNN’s negative coverage of unproven allegations — summarizing: Matt Gaetz is ‘propaganda’ because Gaetz is a ‘problem for the Democrats.’”

Yes, I am told, he is nice-looking. I don’t see it, but I am told he is nice-looking. He comes across well. I do hear that, I see him come across well. He is quite smart, quite clever, and insightful.

The CNN leader says: “It would be great for the Democratic Party to get him out. So we are going to keep running those stories to keep hurting him.”

“In further undercover footage posted today, Chester can be heard admitting that CNN is unlikely to give a great deal of attention to the race of a mass murderer in its coverage if they ’aren’t White.’”

“Chester also admits that ‘a bunch of Black men’ have been responsible for recent violent attacks against Asian Americans and that this is a problem because ‘the optics of that are not good’ and CNN is ‘trying to help BLM.’”

BLM, let’s be fair, they are trying to establish socialism and get rid of the constitutional government we have and move to a more Orwellian, socialist type of government.

“This is pure censorship for political reasons because he has successfully exposed CNN,” talking about Twitter banning O’Keefe. That is a comment from Robby Starck on Twitter. My friend Matt Gaetz says: “O’Keefe exposes CNN for lying about me and Donald Trump for propaganda. Then Twitter suspends him.”

Conservative commentator John Cornyn says: “If Twitter weren’t terriﬁed, they wouldn’t be banning people.” □

So, anyway, it is rather tragic that Twitter has joined in to become a part of, figuratively, the ministry of truth that Orwell talked about in his novel “1984.” I mean, Orwell was apparently in a great deal of pain, dying of cancer, had been through brutal cancer treatments. Some think that is where he came up with the idea of some of the torture that was utilized by the ministry of love, which would arrest people with whom they disagreed and would torture them for hours, days, weeks, months, and many people was necessary to finally get them to change their story.

But the ministry of truth were the ones that were constantly rewriting history to serve the interests of this totalitarian government that appears to be exactly what we are beginning to see from many in our own media in the United States.

I was struck the summer that I was an exchange student to the Soviet Union, how Pravda always—it was like the ministry of truth that Orwell wrote about. They would change any story in order to make the Soviet Government the prime player, the prime interested party. They would lie about everything. In the summer I was intrigued by what they were saying about this Watergate thing, that that was clearly stirred up by the Democrats against Richard Nixon because Nixon had had the courage to be the first U.S. President to go to the Soviet Union and to reach out to create a viable relationship with the Soviet Union. So the Democrats were totally manufacturing Watergate just because Nixon had dared to be friendly toward the Soviet Union.

Well, we know that was not the case, but that is the way the Soviet Union would use the media, Pravda, to lie about what was going on to make them the central players in everything.

Obviously, Watergate was real. There was manipulation of the law. If you listen to some of the tapes or read some of the transcripts of the Nixon tapes, you are struck by the inconsistency and the ability of a President of the United States to be two-faced in talking to different people and the manipulative approach of being President.

So, hopefully, the truth will all come out. Apparently, unless Twitter and CNN change their approach to news,
the truth will not come from Twitter, will not come from CNN. But, hopefully, emerging news sources will take the place of the once great CNN, unless CNN begins to report more truthfully. That would be a welcome change.

Anyhow, we can all hold onto that hope that springs eternal in the human breast, that maybe someday somebody will take over at CNN that will see CNN’s viewership surge because they have decided finally to be going after real news and truth instead of manipulating public opinion. Democrats want to create a Special Political Committee or an entity like Black Lives Matter.

Of course, they matter. But that is not what BLM is about. They are about moving America toward socialism. They are about destroying the nuclear family, which the War on Poverty helped do for Black families, and now it is all families. We have seen that happen, and Thomas Sowell and Candace Owens have both covered that very well in their recent books.

This article from Joel Pollak, April 16: “Patrisse Cullors, a co-founder of Black Lives Matter, told interviewer Marc Lamont Hill on Thursday that there is no contradiction between her radical politics and owning four homes because she is providing for extended family.

“In the interview on ‘Black News Tonight,’ Hill asked Cullors, also known as Khan-Cullors after spouse Janaya Khan, about the truth of reports that she had bought four homes since 2016—including a $1.4 million compound in the remote Topanga Canyon neighborhood of L.A. and a vacation home with an airplane hangar in Georgia—and that she and her spouse had considered buying exclusive property in the Bahamas also.

“The reports prompted criticism from within the Black Lives Matter movement”—and I would hope that it would—“and questions about her source of funds.

“She replied that ‘never taken a salary from Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation,’ and that she had other sources of income from her work as a college professor, as a TV producer, an author, and a YouTube content creator.

“In a statement, the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation,’ and that she had other sources of income from her work as a college professor, as a TV producer, an author, and a YouTube content creator.

“According to the article, she is buying a $1.4 million compound in an exclusive part of Los Angeles and a vacation home with an airplane hangar in Georgia.

“It is her way of life. A direct support to Black people, including my Black family members, first generation my money, not my own. I see it as my family’s money as well.”

“But a true Socialist would not say that because a true Socialist says everybody shares and shares alike, from those according to their ability to those according to their needs. So your family can’t be foremost if you are a true Socialist. So there is some confusion here on what is true socialism, and Ms. Cullors does not have that down, and that’s why.

“According to the article, she is buying a $1.4 million compound in an exclusive part of Los Angeles and a vacation home with an airplane hangar in Georgia.

“No, no, no, not in that supposed to happen. If you are a true Socialist, you share and share alike. You may think you have earned all this money, as she said she had, doing all these different things, but a true Socialist would say: No, but we are going to share that with everybody.

“Apparently she would appropriately think: I have all this additional ability that others don’t have, so you should take my money away from me, from those according to their ability, and give it to those according to their needs.

“So she has got a way to go before she understands the socialism that she is trying to force on the United States. She does not understand the point of the criticisms, she said, was ‘to discredit me, but also to discredit the movement.’ She added: ‘We have to keep looking over here at what we will call white supremacy.’

“Yeah, don’t look behind the curtains at the guy that is manipulating things, as seen in the case of Omar. No, no, no, keep looking over here at what we will call white supremacy.

“Anyway, ‘She responded to claims that Black Lives Matter should distribute funds to the Black community by noting that while she was sympathetic, the organization was not a ‘charity’ and was not the government.’

“So she has got a way to go before she really understands the socialism she is trying to force on everybody else.

“She says: ‘Our target should be calling on Congress to pass reparations.’

“Well, she doesn’t understand that true reparations in a Socialist society would take from somebody that had $1.4 million to spend on a home and spread it out to everybody else. So she could never own a $1.4 million home. But, anyway, hopefully others will help her and any other leaders with Black Lives Matter who don’t understand what they are trying to force on America, and we will see if that actually happens.

“Now, I heard our majority leader in what some call a colloquy or soliloquy, whatever you want to call it, talking about compassion for those who are foreigners. It strikes me, there are so many people across America in the latest stream of news and even on this floor who think it is compassionate to lure people across miles, hundreds or thousands of miles even, across horrendous terrain; have them pay drug cartels, which thoroughly oppress a country like Mexico; have as much, maybe, as 25, 30 percent of young women raped, we are told, often repeatedly on that journey; have many girls subjected to a life of sex trafficking in order to pay back the money they owe to the drug cartels. Others subjected to human trafficking and drug trafficking in order to pay back the money they owe to the drug cartels. Creating a life as a servant, as a bondsman to the drug cartels, where people have no hesitation to cut off fingers, hands, arms, or heads; where policemen have had happen, as a message from the drug cartels that: You don’t mess with us.

“Somewhere that is compassionate to add to the billions of dollars the drug cartels have to terrorize a country or region, are there those who think we are looking closely enough at this problem on our southern border, you will find that is not compassionate at all.
The most compassionate, caring, neighborly, Christian thing we could do for the people of Mexico would be to secure our southern border, cut the billions of dollars going to the drug cartels that they use to terrorize a continent, just cut that down to a trickle. They can make some, but you can cut it to a trickle if we secure our southern border.

And then Mexico, because of the incredible people in Mexico, some of the hardest workers in the world and with natural resources, and most of the countries in the world—and actually a better location between the Atlantic and Pacific; yes, we are between the Atlantic and Pacific in the United States, but it is closer across Mexico from one ocean to the other. They are in a prime location. They ought to be a top economy in the world. And the only thing that appears to be holding them back, the one thing is the corruption from the drug cartels that has greatly hindered this new administration. It is a boon to the drug cartels that President Biden is helping their human trafficking business as he is.

Now, he doesn’t look at it, I am sure, as helping the drug cartels. He is looking at it as helping the Democratic National Committee down the road when they can give amnesty and make them voters, but that is so harmful to Mexico.

How about cutting the power of the drug cartels and allowing Mexico to keep its own citizens and central American countries that are being depleted of good, hardworking people, letting them keep their citizens, getting rid of the corruption. We are the main source of the funding for the corruption south of our border.

Compassion would dictate that we stop funding the corruption instead of turning a blind eye to that corruption that is keeping Mexico and their Central American countries, you know, in a prime location. They will have their own vibrant economy, and they will be blessed immeasurably because of it.

A TRIBUTE TO FORMER SPEAKER BOEHNER

Mr. GOMIERT. Madam Speaker, I do want to say a special word of tribute. I know our former Speaker Boehner has been in the media recently, and I have been asked about comments he has made about some of us.

Speaker Boehner was an interesting Speaker. I don’t know if he knows what Machiavelli was, but he employed some of those tactics. I remember July, I believe it was, of 2011, when he was pushing a big sequester deal. I got up at conference and said—I haven’t seen it, but I read that he apparently said that I didn’t make sense. But I stood up at conference. And I can understand sometimes his mind was a little clouded, I might not seem to make sense, but I pointed out this sequester deal was a mistake. It is a terrible mistake because you are going to cost billions of dollars for the military, to our own defense. That is our own security.

I actually said in front of the whole conference, when I was in high school, a friend of mine and I made a bet on a poker game, and he thought he had a hand that nobody could beat. He was out of money, so he put his home on the table, and somebody had a hand that beat him, and he lost his home in a card game. And I have known since that time that you never gamble with your own security, your family’s security, your country’s security.

Speaker Boehner said: Louie, listen, those sequesters will never happen. And I said: Of course they are going to happen.

And he said: No, because we have the super committee that will reach an agreement; because they don’t, cuts to Medicare will happen.

I forget if it was $200 billion or $300 billion.

And I said: Of course there will be no agreement, because ObamaCare cut $716 billion from Medicare, from our seniors’ coverage for healthcare. And they did it without a single Republican House vote. So the only way in 2012 the Democrats will be able to run a commercial that says Republicans cut Medicare is for the Democrats to prevent an agreement by the super committee. So the cuts will take place to Medicare, and the defense and the Democrats will get a twofer, I explained to Speaker Boehner. They will be able to cut the defense, which they have been wanting to do, and there will be a cut to Medicare that they will blame on Republicans’ unwillingness to compromise.

As I recall, there were a couple of Speaker Boehner’s that every way to raise fees that wouldn’t be called taxes, and there was an article that said Democrats thought that was going to get a deal worked out. Then they met with Democratic leaders and they had to come back and say: You really made a good-faith offer, but we are told there won’t be a deal.

Well, I tried to explain that that is what would be coming just as it happened, but as the Speaker has now admitted, I didn’t make sense to him because he had said those sequesters will never happen. That was in July. Before the end of the year, he had to come before the Republican conference and explain why the sequesters were going to happen, but we are going try to minimize the damage.

I also remember another summer when there was a short, funds were running out for a particular area of our budget of our appropriations, and we were going to have to do something before we went out on August break. I asked my dear friend THOMAS MASSIE: Have you talked to McCONNELL? Are we going to get a deal on this?

And he said: Yes, I was at breakfast with him this morning, and he said he couldn’t cut the defense, and we are going to extend the funds for a couple of months, and they are going to throw in some additional money to help veterans. They have got it all worked out.

So we are listening as Speaker Boehner gets up, and he says: “You know, what often happens is the Senate passes something and leaves town and they jam us, and then we have to pass what the Senate passed. But here is what we are going to do—He even put his hand in the air—"We are going to pass a bill, and we are going to extend this a couple months”—the funding—“we are going put some money in there
for veterans, and then we are going to pass it, and we are going to leave town, and we are going to jam the Senate.”

And most of the House Republicans jumped to their feet and were giving him a standing ovation because the Speaker just told us we were going to jam the Senate. And though I am told according to what Senator McConnell told another, Kentucky, he and Boehner had a deal worked out. But it got Speaker Boehner a standing ovation and big loud cheers, not from my friend, Representative, and myself because we knew what the truth was.

But, anyway, some people, I hear miss those days when he was Speaker and did things like that, or totally missed an opportunity on Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. Speaker Boehner said that could never pass the House of Representatives. We assured him it could, and it would if he would just bring it to the floor.

So Speaker Boehner finally agreed, and he brought it to the floor, and it passed and it was a huge victory, a huge day. But by that very afternoon, he was already talking about scapping that and working a deal with the Senate. In other words, he had no intention of carrying out the will of the House, as we had just passed it, which would have been great for lowering the indebtedness and getting America on a financially secure path. He was already scapping the big victory we had before it even had a chance to be discussed in the Senate.

So I know there is some that miss those days, but if God grants us the chance to be in the majority again, we will have leaders that will do what we should not be honored in such a way. It reads—and for our purposes today, I will simply say, “Dear Colleague.”

It is with love of country above politics that I would request to remove the name of the racist Democrat—commentary: I will be saying some things about Democrats today because this involves Democrats—remove the name of the racist Democrat, Richard Russell, from the Senate office building named in his honor and revert to using the building’s original name, the Old Senate Office Building until the Senate selects another nominee who will be honored.

The letter goes on to say:

In 1972, the Old Senate Office was renamed the Russell Senate Office Building, hence for 49 years, the Old Senate Office Building has been a symbol of national shame bearing the name of an unapologetic white supremacist. Richard Brevard Russell, Jr., was a segregationist who worked throughout his career to disenfranchise and dehumanize people of color in our country, especially Black Americans.

He participated in his first filibuster of a civil rights bill in 1935, and in 1937, he was a part of the filibuster against antilynching legislation. In his 1936 re-election campaign, Russell committed himself to preserving and ensuring white supremacy in the social and economic, as well as the political life of our Nation. He also blocked the passage of a 1942 bill to eliminate poll taxes, and stated: “If progressives want to force social equality and commingling of races in the South, I can tell you now that you are doomed to failure.”

In 1956, Russell coauthored the “Southern Manifesto” with Senator Strom Thurmond in opposition to integration of public schools after the Supreme Court unanimously ordered it in Brown v. The Board of Education.

In 1964, during a civil rights movement, he proposed a voluntary relocation program, a racial relocation program to adjust the imbalance of the African-American population between the 11 States of the Old Confederacy and the rest of the Union.

My dear friends, this causes me to reflect upon the Trail of Tears. The Trail of Tears, quite similar but not nearly the same as what happened. The Trail of Tears was from 1838 to 1839, when the Cherokee Nation was forced to give up its land east of the Mississippi and to move to an area that we now know as Oklahoma. Thousands died. Thousands. Many others suffered; they cried. It was a tragic event in our history.

I suppose this was then-Senator Russell’s contemporary version of what could have been a Trail of Tears for African Americans. What a shame and sinful thing to propose that people simply be relocated because you have the power to do it, not because it was the right thing to do, not because it was a thing that would be done with some degree of honor and dignity. It was done because he had the power. He had a racist mentality, Democrat Senator Richard Russell.

That same year, Russell and 17 fellow Democrats—all senators—along with one Republican, led the 60-day filibuster against the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I don’t care what party they were in; it was wrong.

When this filibuster failed and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, Russell, a Democrat, led a southern boycott of the 1964 Democratic National Convention as an act of rebellion. He was wrong then and it is wrong now.

Regrettably, dear friends, our Nation’s history is stained with the big-otry of men like Russell. And although racism still dwells in our country, we do not have to honor it, and that is what we are doing with the Russell Senate Office Building. We are honoring bigotry and racism. We are honoring in a sense, antisemitism and the hate and the bigotry that he espoused and was proud to do so. He never repented. He never atoned. And taxpayer dollars are being used to maintain this facility, the Russell Senate Office Building.

Friends, by reverting the name of the Russell Senate Office Building back to the Old Senate Office Building, we are given the opportunity to honor this bigotry for 49 years, as well as we are given the opportunity to honor someone worthy of having a Senate office building named in their honor. This would be the appropriate thing to do.

And by the way, I, in no way, advise that a certain name should be utilized. I simply say remove the name of Russell, and after removing the name of Russell, let it revert to the name that it had, the Old Senate Office Building. And in so doing, the Senate has time to select a new nominee, another person to be honored.

A building maintained with taxpayer dollars should bear the name of Richard Brevard Russell, Jr.

To this end—and it actually reads therefrom—I will introduce a resolution calling on the Senate to remove...
the shameful name of Richard Brevard Russell, Jr., from the taxpayer-maintained Senate office building bearing his name. And I am going to request serious consideration of this resolution in the 117th Congress.

But that is not all that I plan to do. I shall not go into great detail about the rest of what I intend to do, but I will say this: When I go over next to the building, I will go over there to stand in the area where there is a statue of Richard Russell, Senator Richard Russell’s statue. There is a rotunda. He is the prominent figure; there are no other statues in that rotunda. If you traverse the Capitol, you will find many statues but none, in my opinion, honored to the extent that Richard Russell is being honored. He has an area unto himself.

I am going to go there, and I am going to point out that this is the statue that we have to move. I am going to talk about it from the statue itself, and I do so pugnaciously, so to speak, for things that we are going to say out some things about the statue, because we cannot tolerate this kind of legacy being perpetuated. It is time to end it. It is time to stop glorifying bigotry and hate with taxpayer dollars.

How can we insist on renaming military bases that bear the names of racist Confederate generals and others, or military people, and then have an office building that we traverse on a daily basis that we are in and out of that is named after a racist and a bigot? How do we justify this?

We have the power—not the House—but the Senate has the power to change this. I will ask that the Senate change it, but I will also go over to the Senate. And I want to let the world see what’s going on in that hallowed facility wherein we allow to occur what we desire to change—and what we are changing, in fact, in other facilities. It is time to change it.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this change should take place immediately. It has been 49 years. We have had enough time to consider it.

Madam Speaker, 49 years under various Presidents; 49 years Democrats in control, Republicans in control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, just prior to coming to Washington this week, I spent a couple of days down at the Mexican border to see for myself exactly what was going on down there.

I visited the El Paso sector. I would like to thank the Border Patrol, ICE, the ranchers, and local law enforcement for all their work to put out these kinds of circumstances that demeane the reputation of the United States of America.

This symbol of national shame puts a stain on the notion that we believe in liberty and justice for all. It puts a stain on the notion that all persons are created equal, endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It puts a stain on the notion that we would speak to the world about their shortcomings but won’t address one that the government has the power to change. It is shameful. This has to change.

Now, there are some who would want the change to take place, but they don’t want it to appear as though someone has called this change to the attention of people and that they somehow will feel that it was done because it was called to the attention of the public.

Friends, when others speak out about injustices against other subsets of society, I have always been there to fight for that change, and I will continue to be there to fight for that change. It doesn’t have to originate with me. If it is something that requires a righteous movement to make a positive change, I am going to be a part of that.

I am going to continue to support and fight for the rights of persons in all the various subsets of society who have been discriminated against. Just today, I was on the floor to fight for the rights of people who work in certain venues, who are behind the scenes, and some who even die. That is my calling. That is why I was sent to Congress. I wasn’t sent here to go along by trying to get along, not calling to the attention of my constituents and this country the changes that have to be made.

This is where I stand. This is where I will not retreat from. This is a position that means something to me and my constituents, and it ought to mean something to every person in this country.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the time. I thank the leadership for the time. And I thank the people who have taken the time to hear these words.

But there is much more to be said and much more to be done about a symbol of national shame.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FAILUREs CREATING BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, just prior to coming to Washington this week, I spent a couple of days down at the Mexican border to see for myself exactly what was going on down there.

I visited the El Paso sector. I would like to thank the Border Patrol, ICE, the ranchers, and local law enforcement for all their work to put out these kinds of circumstances that demeane the reputation of the United States of America.

This symbol of national shame puts a stain on the notion that we believe in liberty and justice for all. It puts a stain on the notion that all persons are created equal, endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of
southern border in which we are strengthening the control of the drug cartels.

But, again, our relationship is going south there. The migrant protection protocol, in which we are holding prospective illegals up for asylum south of the border, has ended.

Another thing that I think is causing this problem is the actions of the President and Vice President. Three weeks ago now, our Vice President was appointed to be in charge of the administration on what goes on at the southern border. She hasn’t been there yet. This has to raise red flags all over the world.

Do the Vice President and the President get along? Right now, it is not hard to find articles by talking heads. Did the Vice President want this position? Has she accepted the position with any enthusiasm? Why, for 3 weeks, in what to me is probably the second biggest crisis, maybe the biggest, second biggest crisis the the United States has undergone in the last 6 years, why do we have a person in charge of the crisis who has not gone down to the border? Does she consider this a serious problem or not?

I wish if she gave a speech, a wholehearted speech, saying that she does believe we have a problem on the border, and she is going to do something. I am going to divert a little bit from my discussion on what is going on at the border. I want the Biden administration to also give a little thought to how this looks to other countries around the world. I don’t like the United States to have enemies—and I don’t consider these countries necessarily enemies—but there are times when, clearly, we are being challenged by Russia, China, Iran, and other countries around the world.

How does the United States look to other people when we can’t even secure our southern border, when it looks like we are not even trying to secure our southern border? I want the Biden administration to think that the complete inaction at the southern border, allowing tens of thousands of people to cross every month, sends a message around the world that this administration is not yet fully engaged.

The Vice President has said she wants to deal with root causes. If root causes mean people making less money than in the United States, I mean, we are going to have open borders forever.

We have something great here in the United States, and if we feel that some people would rather live here, or they are not materially as well off in the United States, I will tell you, if we are not going to secure the border until that is solved, we are not going to solve this problem until we have over a billion new people in this country.

We noticed other things on the border. We noticed the stopping building the wall. It is not until you are down there that you see all the planks that are supposed to be put together on the wall just sitting there in the sun. Somebody presumably paid for these things. I don’t know why, since we had all the pieces for a wall down there, that we didn’t at least try to build it for another month or 6 weeks so that the material down there could at least have been useful.

I want to point out, by the way, with regard to the wall, because some people think it cost money, compared to the alternative, not only people coming in this country using the services we provide, but we were told at the southern border that when you have the old-fashioned barbed wire, you may should have two or three Border Patrol agents per mile. But when you have the wall, you need one agent for every 2 miles. There is a tremendous savings in the number of people you need in Border Patrol at the border if you had the wall.

The idea of stopping it mid-construction, where you have all these metal beams in the southern sun, is very frustrating.

Another thing to point out is that we met with ranchers down there. How difficult it must be for ranchers to see these poor children at the border. What are they doing? They are escorting into the country by the drug cartels. A lot of people don’t realize this. Another reason so many people are coming across the border, and another organization that will educate people around the world that you ought to come to the United States, is the Mexican drug cartels.

Why do they do that? They do that because they are charging $3,000 bucks a head for every Mexican person who comes across the border. They are charging $5,000 a head for every Central American. They are charging $5,000 to $10,000 a head for every Brazilian.

As long as the drug cartels are making money at the border, is it any surprise that we have such a surge here, as they attract people or encourage people to come to the United States?

I want to make another point about these poor children at the border. What goes on right now is that the children come to the border. If they are unaccompanied, we hold them, looking for somewhere to put them in the United States. It is very heart-rending to see these kids without anybody there. But right now, under the current protocols, if you have a child who has parents in Honduras, but the drug cartels are making money at the border, is it any surprise that we have such a surge here, as they attract people or encourage people to come to the United States?

I want to make another point about the kids at the border. One thing that really irritates the Border Patrol down there is they know that if American parents were to send a 5-year-old child, let’s say, and drop him off at the Milwaukee airport and hope he shows up in the airport in Miami the next day, Child Protective Services would be there saying: What is wrong with the parents?

Here at the southern border, we are co-conspirators on these dangerous trips for the children, some of which wind up dying, and many of them wind up being sexually assaulted, which is just a horrible thing.

Another thing that we found out at the border is that the amount of hard core illegal drugs is rocketing up. I know some people may say that is an old story. The week before that to the border, I happened to visit with the DEA in Milwaukee. Last year alone, in Milwaukee County, 540 people died of illegal drug overdoses. When I talked to the people at the DEA in Milwaukee, they felt it was entirely possible that as many as 10,000 people were poisoned to death with drugs either brought across the southern border or ingredients for drugs brought across the southern border.

Madam Speaker, look at the skyrocketing number of people who are dying of hardcore drugs. Why is that?

We should have anticipated it. The powerful Mexican drug cartels are going to make money. There was a time, maybe 10 years ago, when marijuana coming across the southern border was common. But now as more American States legalize marijuana, Washington, Colorado, and what have you—there is so much marijuana being produced in the United States that there is no money to be made by importing marijuana from Mexico.

I heard an anecdote of marijuana being brought here from Mexico, and it was being carted around the Southern United States, looking for somebody to take it. Nobody would take it because you can have higher quality marijuana growing legally here in the United States.

So what are the Mexican drug cartels going to do? They are going to import in this country more heroin, more meth, and especially more fentanyl. That is what we are seeing at the border.

So rather than being a time to cut back and saying that we don’t care as much about the border, now is the time to dial up enforcement. That is what we are saying. 540 fatalities from fentanyl in Milwaukee County alone last year from fentanyl and the other drugs, which is a shocking number—now is the time to dial up enforcement at the border. But instead, it seems, we are going the opposite way. I don’t know what is going on at the border. I want to let more fentanyl in this country, Madam Speaker. I know there are some people who say that it is a victimless crime or what have you, but you tell that to the families of the 540 people who died last year in Milwaukee County. That is another result of this lax, devil-may-care attitude, as far as what is going on down there.

One thing that really irritates the Border Patrol down there is they know that if American parents were to send a 5-year-old child, let’s say, and drop him off at the Milwaukee airport and hope he shows up in the airport in Miami the next day, Child Protective Services would be there saying: What is wrong with the parents?
So the question is: What to do?

Maybe Mexico will not get back to the old agreement, but I think the President should beg Mexico to go back to the migrant protection protocol where one more time we are allowed to hold people on the Mexican side of the border pending hearings as to whether they are eligible for asylum.

Secondly, we have to hire more Border Patrol.

I want to go back and explain something else about the 170,000 people in March who are touched by the Border Patrol. That doesn’t include people whom they don’t catch. The more the Border Patrol has to deal with the children on the southern border, the less time they have to guard the border. So there is clearly a significant increase in people crossing the border because they know the Border Patrol is no longer there. They are dealing with paperwork for the children that they have to process, and that has to be the priority.

If you are going to go down this path, President Biden, and not care about the southern border or not reinstate the migrant protection protocol with Mexico, at least hire more Border Patrol officers so we can process the people who are letting in this country; and don’t leave these huge swaths of the southern border wide open.

Because of that, people I have talked to—I think that—that whereas, last year, maybe 100,000 people a month were crossing the southern border without the Border Patrol touching them, now it is more like 30,000 people a month. What a disaster.

We should amend the Flores agreement, which is what is requiring us to take so many of these children and ship them around the United States. We should be able to send them back to their native country.

We should try to undo the damage we have done the way we have treated the El Salvador President and see if he can, one more time, assist us in preventing people from all around the world coming up from south of Mexico.

Since the metal beams used to put together a wall are just sitting there in the hot sun, we should at least, at a minimum—it would be great to build a whole wall-use up the raw materials for the wall that are sitting down there. It is more than a wall; it is a whole wall system. Just don’t have those metal beams just sitting there in the desert forever.

Above all, President Biden and Vice President Harris, show you care. Show you care. Let the world know that the United States does not have an open border for anybody to come across the border, be they criminal, especially people coming across with that tainty. Show that you care. Hold a press conference.

It would be nice if Vice President Harris would show that she accepted her new job with some enthusiasm. Again, the talking heads I read right now imply that maybe she didn’t even want the job.

So, please, President Biden, show you care before we have 200,000 people a month coming in the country. Show you care a little about the fentanyl crisis, as we are approaching 50,000 people a year in this country of illegal drugs, most of which come across the southern border. Show you care about those little children sitting in row after row of mattresses on our southern border. Show you care about the drug cartels that are corrupting the Mexican Government and beginning to corrupt the United States. Say you want to stop the system in which they are able to make so much money sneaking people in this country. Show you care about the poor ranchers on the southern border, who have been there for generations and now have to be scared to death to go out late at night and can’t let their children ride their horses on their land for fear of what will happen to them.

If you won’t do it, we have to call upon the public and other Members of Congress to let the Biden administration know that the current situation is completely untenable. You have to step up to the plate and do something.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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**BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT**

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 14, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1689. To prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 2 o’clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 19, 2021, at noon for morning-hour debate.

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**OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Member executed the oath for access to classified information:

Julia Letlow

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**EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.**

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-826. A letter from the Army Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Admission to the United States Military Academy [Docket ID: USA-2020-HQ-0008] (RIN: 0705-AH09) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-827. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance and Investment Management, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission’s interim final rule — Handbook of Federal Government Companies Accountable Act Disclosure [Release No.: 34-91364; IC-34227. File No.: S7-03-21 (RIN: 3235-AM64)] received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-828. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards; Delay of Effective Date [Docket No.: FR-6149-F-04] (RIN: 2502-AJ49) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

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**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE**

April 16, 2021
EC-835. A letter from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone: Lower Mississippi River, Mile 1779.4 to 1779.6 (Docket No: USCG-2021-0043, (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-836. A letter from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary interim rule — Safety Zone: Arkansas River, Mile Marker 16 through 19, AR (Docket Number: USCG-2021-0123; (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-837. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Personal Protective Equipment Treated as Deductible or Reimbursable Medical Care Expenses — Final Disposition — (Notice 2021-9, 2021-7 I.R.B. 1-1; (RIN: 1545-AC02) received April 1, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 2610. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to verify that each student is being educated by each sports team, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:
H.R. 2627. A bill to amend subtitle B of title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid program of pregnant women in an institution for mental diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAMAR ALFA (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. Johnson of South Dakota, Mr. McCARTHY, Mr. WESTERMANN, and Mr. CRAWFORD):
H.R. 2628. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education, as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned, as follows:

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SPANBERGER, and Mr. FINGER):
H.R. 2629. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to establish a competitive grant program under which the Secretary of Agriculture provides technical assistance and funds for universities to support agricultural producers in adopting conservation and innovative climate practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:
H.R. 2634. A bill to provide for the retrocession of the District of Columbia to Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Armed Services.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself and Ms. CRAIG):
H.R. 2655. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow certain applicants for paycheck protection program second draw loans to select a 90-day period to demonstrate eligibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mr. MOUTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. PITERS, Mrs. NADLER, Mr. BALDWIN, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. Kim of New Jersey, Mr. VELA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CROW, Ms. NEUMANN, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SANT PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. OMAR):
H.R. 2616. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for the eligibility of Transportation Security Administration employees to receive public safety benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. HICE of Georgia):
H.R. 2617. A bill to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. BUD, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. GUEST):
H.R. 2618. A bill to provide for congressional review of the imposition of duties and like charges on goods imported into the United States by the executive branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mrs. HARTZELL, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MANN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BILLIKAS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WELTZ, Mrs. BOEHRT, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. EMMER, Ms. MCCLAIN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. LEONAKIS, Mr. GUTENBERG, Mr. BUD, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. STAUBER):
H.R. 2619. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to entities that do not certify the entities will not perform or provide any funding to any other entity that performs, an abortion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEERS, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. VELASQUEZ, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. DEAN):
H.R. 2620. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit mandatory arbitration agreements in employment disputes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FULCHER:
H.R. 2621. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a forestry education and workforce development grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PAUCHENTHALER, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):
H.R. 2622. A bill to establish limitations regarding Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GUTHHEIMER (for himself and Mr. KAGAN of Maryland):
H.R. 2625. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the amount of the orphan drug tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):
H. R. 2624. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a program to track potential bioairborne debris to prevent the collision of aircraft with such debris, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JACOBS of New York:
H. R. 2625. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to designate the State of Wyoming in the region covered by the Northern Border Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DEYTON:
H. R. 2626. A bill to redesignate the Pullman National Monument in the State of Illinois as the Pullman National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. DEYTON, and Mr. FLECAINS):
H. R. 2627. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the period of eligibility for Federal Pell Grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MEEKS:
H. R. 2629. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to extend the provisions of that Act to cover a debt collector who is collecting debt owed to a State or local government or to a public defense under such Act for inflation, to provide for civil injunctive relief for violations of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FALLONE, Ms. SCHAROWSKY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DESAULNIERS, Ms. SOUTHWICK of New York, Ms. STRUCK-MEADOW, LINDSAY, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. BARR, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. COSTA):
H. R. 2629. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of the profession of linemen, the contribu-
tives and Senate to pass the Washington, D.C. Admission Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. ROUGER:
H. Res. 323. A resolution recognizing line-
men, the profession of linemen, the contribu-
tions of these brave men and women who are essential for public safety, and extending authorization to the President for the designation of April 18, 2021, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. ESCH):
H. Res. 323. A resolution supporting the gener-
tive ideals of National Telecommunicators Safety Tel-

ding Congress to temporarily amend cargo carrying truck length and weight restric-
tions on state highways and interstate highways that are a part of the National Network to allow North Dakota and surrounding states to conduct a road train pilot program and to per-

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:
H. Res. 322. A resolution expressing the Sense of Congress that the Eagle Staff should be recognized as the first flag of the sov-

cies promoting the cultural signifi-

By Mrs. NORTON:
H. Res. 321. A resolution recognizing the enduring cultural and historical significance of the National Capital on the anniversary of President Abraham Lin-
cing the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, which es-

By Mr. SILVA:
H. Res. 321. A resolution establishing a National Committee on Fiscal Responsi-

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):
H. Res. 321. A resolution electing Members to the Library and the Joint Committee on Printing; considered and agreed to.
CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 2610. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
As described in Article 1, Section 1, “all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.”

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of Americans.”

In the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96–88), Congress declared that “the establishment of a Department of Education in the public interest, will promote educational excellence and ensure equal access.”

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:
H.R. 2611. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. LaMALFA:
H.R. 2612. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:
H.R. 2613. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. GRIFFITH:
H.R. 2614. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 Clause 17

By Mr. BALDERSOON:
H.R. 2615. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H.R. 2616. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 2617. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 2618. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution Article I Section 8, clause 3

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:
H.R. 2619. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 2620. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FULCHER:
H.R. 2621. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOTTHEIM:
H.R. 2622. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:
H.R. 2623. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2624. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MEEKS:
H.R. 2625. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:
H.R. 2626. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. PAPPAS:
H.R. 2627. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 Clause 18

By Ms. SEWELL:
H.R. 2628. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. DAVIDSON:
H.R. 2629. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:
H.R. 2630. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. TONKO:
H.R. 2631. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SEWELL:
H.R. 2632. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 40: Mr. HOYER and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 82: Mrs. BUSTOS and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 151: Mr. ALLRED and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 340: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. AXN, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 263: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 310: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 350: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 379: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 471: Mr. HERN.
H.R. 549: Mr. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 571: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 695: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 708: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 725: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 751: Mr. WALBERG and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 790: Mr. VALE.
H.R. 793: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 804: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 1, April 14, 2021, by Mrs. CAMMACK on House Resolution 274, was signed by the following Members: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Scalise, Mr. Cloud, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mrs. Kim of California, Mr. Feenstra, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, Mr. Baiderson, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Lamborn, Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, Mr. Waltz, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Latta, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Meijer, Mr. Kustoff, Mrs. Walorski, Ms. Tenney, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Huizenga, Mr. Hagedorn, Mr. C. Scott Franklin of Florida, Mr. Harris, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Barr, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Steil, Mr. Stivers, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Green of Tennessee, Mr. Massie, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Buchanan, Mrs. Rice of Oklahoma, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Fallon, Mrs. Steel, Mr. Rose, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Womack, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Schbach, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Westerman, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Bishop of North Carolina, Mr. Banks, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Hudson, Mr. McKinley, Mr. Baird, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Pence, Mrs. Miller of Illinois, Mrs. Spartz, Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Johnson of South Dakota, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Gimenez, Mr. Garcia of California, Mr. Bost, Ms. Granger, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Benta, Ms. Herrera Beutler, Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mr. Heins, Mr. Young, Ms. McClain, Ms. Cheney, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Amodei, Mr. Owens, Mr. Chabot, Ms. Van Duyne, Ms. Issa, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Hill, Mr. Webster of Florida, Mr. Carl, Mrs. Miller of West Virginia, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Jacobs of New York, Mr. Mullen, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Stauber, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Meuser, Mr. Keller, Mr. Tiffany, Mr. Budd, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Fortenberry, Mr. Wittman, Mr. Bergman, Mr. Rice of Georgia, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Van Drew, Mr. Palmer, Ms. Hillikrist, Mr. Graves of Louisiana, Mrs. Harshaar, Mr. Clyde, Mr. Gosar, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Ms. Lotzlow, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Valadao, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Zeldin, Mr. Kinzinger, Mr. Wenstrup, Mr. Moore of Alabama, Mr. Reed, Mr. Buck, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. Posey, Mr. Rose, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. Nehls, Mr. Long, Mr. Turner, Mr. Lewis, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Grothman, Mr. DesJarlais, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Cline, Mr. Allen, Mr. Mast, Mr. Moore of Utah, Mr. Comer, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Rice of South Carolina, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Perry, Mr. Horrell, Mr. Tony Gonzales of Texas, Mr. Gonzalez of Ohio, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mr. Upton, Mr. Curtis, Ms. Mattiottakis, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Garbarino, Mr. Estes, Mr. LaTurner, Mr. Gooden of Texas, Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. McHenry, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Perry, Mr. Obernolte, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Mann, Ms. Salazar, Mr. Buchon, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Cole, Mr. Guest, Ms. Mace, Mr. Good of Virginia, Mr. Katko, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Roy, Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois, Mrs. Boebert, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Norman, Ms. Nunes, Mr. Brady.
RECOGNIZING DANIEL CROWLEY OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT

HON. JAHANA HAYES OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Friday, April 16, 2021

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, which takes place annually on April 9th. This day honors the men and women who fought two battles, one in combat and another in enduring universal brutality by our enemies.

April 9th is also the 79th anniversary of the start of the infamous 1942 Bataan Death March in the Philippines. Invading Imperial Japanese forces forced more than 80,000 American and Filipino soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines to walk 65 miles up the Bataan Peninsula in the tropical heat without food, water, or medical care while subjecting them to beatings, bayonetting, and beheading. Thousands died.

One of my constituents, Daniel Crowley of Simsbury, Connecticut, is a survivor of the Battle of Bataan. A member of the U.S. Army Air Corps, he was sent to Bataan in December 1941 after Japan destroyed the military airfields in the Philippines. He was part of the United States Army’s Provisional Air Corps Infantry Regiment and fought in the historic Battle of the Points on the Peninsula.

Daniel avoided the Bataan Death March by swimming from Mariveles on Bataan through three miles of shark-infested and mined waters to the fortress island of Corregidor. There, he became part of the 4th Marines Regimental Reserve who fought a dangerous and desperate shore defense until Corregidor fell to Japan on May 6, 1942.

He was one of 300 Prisoners of War sent to build an airstrip on Palawan Island for the Japanese Army. Today this site serves as the Philippine Air Force’s Antonio Bautista Air Base. Daniel was fortunate to be transferred to the United States Air Force. During his time in the service, he began to have a deep hunger and desire to wholeheartedly serve the Lord. It was then that he had a dream that led him to the book of Acts 1:7–8. He realized that he needed the power of the Holy Ghost and one week later at a revival, he received the gift of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking tongues. The following Sunday morning, February 8, 1954, he preached his first sermon titled, “You Must Be Born Again.” Once he left the Air Force, he traveled around the United States of America evangelizing and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a National Evangelist, he conducted tent revivals throughout America, Jamaica, Belize, and Honduras. In 1965, Dr. Smith went to Selma, Alabama to run a revival after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. This march was later called Bloody Sunday.

In 1970 the Lord led Dr. Smith and his wife, Mrs. Geneva O. Smith, to begin the Apostolic Revival Center. The ministry started in a storefront church on 62nd Street and 14th Avenue in Miami, Florida. The ministry began with 7 adult members and a group of kids out of the projects of the Liberty City community in Miami, Florida. On May 31, 1971, the church was registered with the State of Florida as the Apostolic Revival Center, Inc. As a result, there are seven Revival Centers in Kenya from the plains, mountains and coast. Many years later, the Revival Center Child Care Center for children 6 weeks to 5 years old.

Dr. Smith supported a Bible Ministry in Israel which led to his dream of a minister in Nairobi, Kenya. Subsequently, he began a ministry in Kenya. Today, there are over 150 Revival Centers in Kenya from the plains, mountains and coast. Many years later, the call of God came for Dr. Smith to journey to Tanzania to establish a church in Dar Es Salaam. As a result, there are seven Revival Centers, a childcare center, and an orphanage in Tanzania.

In 1983, Dr. Smith and his wife opened the Distribution Center to help the needy with clothing and food with the help of the American Red Cross. This 501c3 program supplied thousands of families per month with food and food vouchers.

In 1986, the Apostolic Revival Center taped its first television broadcast. This is reported to be the longest-running African American TV ministry in South Florida. Dr. Smith and his wife purchased their own television equipment and began broadcasting from directly at the Apostolic Revival Center. In 1988, the “Hope For Today” television broadcast was formed and distributed every Sunday on cable networks and satellites. “Hope For Today” broadcast expanded nationally.

In the early 1990’s, the ministry expanded to the Caribbean Islands, Belize, Central America, and Georgetown Guyana. The Revival Center purchased and dedicated a church and school in St. Ann’s, Jamaica. Bibles were distributed to Russia through mission possible in Dallas. In 1998, Dr. Smith and his wife supported the work in Belize. There are 8 Revival Center churches in Nicaragua, 16 in Guyana, 2 in Haiti, 1 in Grenada and 2 in Trinidad with 2 schools.

**This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor. Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.**
In 2001, Dr. Smith established the Inner Strength Biblical Training Center. The biblical training center equipped men and women with the fundamental teaching of the Word of God. In 2004, Dr. Smith established the Apostolic Enrichment Center, Inc. The center assisted students with standardized testing and other tutoring needs. On October 27, 2008, City and County Commissioners honored Dr. Gilbert S. Smith with a street naming ceremony to designate a portion of Northwest 15th Avenue from 62nd Street to 79th Street, as “Rev. Dr. Gilbert S. Smith Ave”.

Dr. Gilbert S. Smith is a true visionary and has been a pillar of the Miami “Liberty City” Community for more than 50 years. His home mission efforts have included helping to improve conditions of his local community such as, the ARC Street Ministry, Enrichment Center, Prison Ministry, and Distribution Center. His foreign mission continues to span over several different continents. Over 250 churches in Africa, 16 churches in Nicaragua, 13 churches in Guyana, 1 church in Grenada, 3 churches in Trinidad with schools.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to please join me in recognizing Dr. Gilbert Smith for his contributions and for his commitment to our community, state and country.

RECOGNIZING BAYLOR UNIVERSITY MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Baylor University’s men’s basketball team as the 2021 NCAA National Champions. Eighteen years ago, Coach Scott Drew talked about coming to Baylor “for a chance to win a national championship.” A dream vocalized by one man turned reality by a team of men with great faith. A team that played as one. Oh yes, they had individuals and they were outstanding. But it was their teamwork mindset that achieved this victory.

This season, Baylor defeated more top-25 teams than the other three Final Four teams combined. These results prove that hard work, a determined mind, and a willing spirit can conquer any challenge. To say I am proud is an understatement. My hometown Baylor Bears have proved their abilities and I believe this is just the beginning of much more greatness to come. I wish these young men have made their school and their state proud.

I congratulate these hard-working athletes and the Pleasant Hill High School wrestling team on their impressive accomplishment. I am honored to represent them, and I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

BONNIE ZEE DAY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bonnie Zee with the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Bonnie Zee began her career as the elected Town of Albany Clerk in April of 1975 and has continued to serve as a valuable, and trusted asset to her community to this day; and

Whereas, Bonnie Zee’s vast knowledge, dedication, and outstanding performance of her duties throughout her tenure has earned her the respect, and admiration of her community; and

Whereas, Bonnie Zee’s service as Town of Albany Clerk resulted in efficient and effective Town government for nearly five decades; Now, therefore, I hereby proclaim April 20, 2021 as Bonnie Zee Day in honor of her 46 years of public service to her community, the Town of Albany, and the State of Wisconsin. I join her friends, family, and colleagues in offering her best wishes on her much-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF EDITH BETTIS ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize longtime East Tennessee resident Edith Bettis as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Edith was born in Oconaluftee, North Carolina to Arthur and Ellen Chambers on April 16, 1921. She lived in Smokemont, North Carolina until age 11 when her family’s land was made part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She then moved to Sweetwater, Tennessee where she attended high school.

After briefly attending school in Oak Ridge, she moved to Detroit, Michigan to help with the war effort. During World War II, Edith worked on airplanes as a riveter, and after the war, she returned to East Tennessee to work in a Lenoir City hospiary mill.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Lara Larson on her retirement and to thank her for over 30 years of dedicated public service with Fairfax County.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUNEATA HITE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ms. Luneehta Hite, a long-time resident of Detroit in Michigan’s 13th Congressional District as she celebrates her 105th birthday. Truly an amazing milestone to reach in life.

Born in New York in 1916, Ms. Hite spent part of her childhood in Texas before settling in Detroit, Michigan. She went on to attend The University of Michigan and pursued a career in social work. Ms. Hite takes pride in one of her most interesting and powerful work pursuits—helping to investigate restaurants accused of discriminating against African American patrons. This work should inspire us all in this Chamber as we continue to rid society of all forms of discrimination. In 1941 Ms. Hite married Sherman Johnson and was a devoted wife. Together they nurtured and raised three children in their home in Detroit.

Ms. Luneehta Hite is cherished by her family, friends, and neighbors. Please join me in wishing her a very happy birthday, surrounded by love and light.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, for a vote on April 15, 2021, Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 114.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to cast the following vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 108.

LARA LARSON

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021
Lara dedicated her career to supporting the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), which provides services for people of all ages who have mental illnesses, substance use disorders, or developmental disabilities. She contributed her wisdom and guidance to the CSB's agency-wide, and especially with the CSB Communications Team. Her career is exemplary of her commitment to the many residents of Fairfax County, and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

I thank Lara for all the years of faithful service to her community and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

DEPARTURE OF KAREN LLOYD, DIRECTOR OF THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

HON. RON KIND OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on April 10, 2021, after sixteen years with the Library of Congress, including four and a half years as the director of the Veterans History Project (VHP), Karen Lloyd retired from public service. I want to thank her many years of dedicated work at both the Library and Veterans History Project are very much appreciated.

Since the VHP was created following the passage of my bipartisan legislation in 2000, the program has been led by Directors and developed a repository of over 110,000 individual collections in the Library’s American Folklife Center—highlighting the experiences of American veterans from every major military conflict since World War I. Karen ably guided the Library’s effort to collect, preserve, and make accessible these personal remembrances for use by future scholars, journalists, and historians. It’s an important job and one that Karen clearly enjoyed doing.

Karen led efforts to increase the development of women veterans collections, and expanded outreach to Native and Indigenous veterans, working to ensure that the Library’s collection reflected the broad diversity of America’s military forces. She also devoted considerable resources to working personally with Members of the House to raise awareness about the program and grow the collection of veterans histories from every state. She can proud of her efforts to increase the accessibility of the Veterans History Project as a constituent resource.

Before coming to the Library, Karen served fourteen years as a U.S. Army Aviator, six of them as a dustoff pilot, and was the first female Medical Service Corp Officer to receive Aviator Wings. She served another fourteen years as an Army comptroller in a variety of positions. She retired as a Colonel after twenty-eight years of military service. Before joining the Veterans History Project, Karen served in several positions at the Library—including the Offices of the Librarian and Strategic Planning, where she coordinated special projects and assessed Library program performance and risk management.

I have known and worked with Karen throughout her time as VHP director, and I can attest to the dedication and care that she brought to the job. Her passion for highlighting the stories of our nation’s veterans was evident from every interaction and event held by the VHP over the years.

Karen leaves the Library well positioned to help usher in a new realm of collections stewardship and digital discovery. I wish Karen all the best in her next endeavors.
of his love, life, and legacy: his six children: Elder JoeAnn (Lucious, Jr.) Moore Taylor, Deacon Steven (Deborah) Moore, of Houston, TX, SSgt. George (Melonie) Henry Moore (USAF) of Orangeburg, SC, Psalmist Kimber Lee Moore Santacruze of La Place, LA, Sgt. Felix Santacruze (USAF) of Dallas, TX, Petty Officer 3rd Karl Moore (USAF) of Houston, TX; along with their mothers: Ms. Alma L. Henderson and Ms. Minnie Moo; nine grand-children: Dr. Jessica Diana Jones, Dr. Vincent Johnathan Jones II, Enisha (Galen) Santacruze-Source, Sophia Santacruze, Simeke Lou Taylor, Lucious Taylor III, and Tarilyn Taylor, Tatiana Taylor; three great-greats, Luke Daniel Bailey Jones, Farrah, Kayden Swanson and one soon-to-be great granddaughter whose name will be Princess Zoë; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FRED-ERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to recognize the late Staff Sergeant Specialist Joe Henry Moore for his commitment, dedication and service to our country.

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP AR-KANSAS’ XV GRADUATING CLASS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to a new crop of emerging leaders from the Natural State.

Leadership Arkansas is a unique program grounded in the belief that real progress is embodied in both the public and private sectors. Leadership Arkansas recruits highly motivated business leader and philanthropist. Mr. Massey remained active in his office daily even later in life. Beyond his role in business, Mr. Massey extended his endeavors across the globe, developing operations abroad and championing new uses for coal. He expanded mining into China and Venezuela and founded the Evan Energy Company to improve coal mining safety in South America and China. Mr. Massey supported research such as that at Virginia Tech which generates rare earth minerals from coal and coal byproducts. A tireless innovator and entrepreneur, Mr. Massey remained active in his family's firm, A.T. Massey Coal Company, in 1949. Mr. Massey helped drive the company from a midsize operation to one of the largest coal companies in the United States. The family sold the company to ST. Joe Minerals in 1973, and Mr. Massey continued to run the company until he retired in 1991.

Following retirement, Mr. Massey extended his philanthropy throughout the globe, developing awareness of working with him. He has consistently contributed to charities and foundations he believes in, providing the lives of many.

Mr. Massey's survivors include his daughter, Elizabeth Anne Massey, Susan Chapman Massey and Nancy Lee Massey; sons, Evan Morgan Massey, Jr. and John William Massey and his wife, Kelli, Charles Taylor Massey and his wife, Sarah and Craig Lewis Massey and his wife, Sky; 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I offer them my condolences on this loss of the great business leader and philanthropist.

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENI-POTENTIARY OF ROMANIA, GEORGE CRISTIAN MAIOR

HON. H. MORGAN MASSEY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Evan Morgan Massey of Richmond, Virginia, who passed away on March 10, 2021 at the age of 94. Morgan Massey was a business leader and philanthropist whose visionary leadership in the coal industry made an impact across the globe and certainly in the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia I represent.

Mr. Massey was born on December 29, 1926. He trained for service as an aviator during World War II and later graduated from the University of Virginia. He joined his family's firm, A.T. Massey Coal Company, in 1949. Mr. Massey helped drive the company from a midsize operation to one of the largest coal companies in the United States. The family sold the company to ST. Joe Minerals in 1973, and Mr. Massey continued to run the company until he retired in 1991.

Beyond his role in business, Mr. Massey extended his philanthropy throughout the globe, developing operations abroad and championing new uses for coal. He expanded mining into China and Venezuela and founded the Evan Energy Company to improve coal mining safety in South America and China. Mr. Massey supported research such as that at Virginia Tech which generates rare earth minerals from coal and coal byproducts. A tireless innovator and entrepreneur, Mr. Massey remained active in his office daily even later in life. Beyond his role in business, Mr. Massey extended his philanthropy throughout the globe, developing awareness of working with him. He has consistently contributed to charities and foundations he believes in, providing the lives of many.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, on April 15, 2021, I missed Roll Call Vote 112 on the Debarment Enforcement of Bad Actor Registrants Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 112.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks
April 16, 2021

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021
Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 106. Had I been present I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021
Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote on April 15, 2021 during a period of time for H.R. 1502, the Microloan Improvement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 114.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021
Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Shirlee Lafleur a beloved mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend, a community leader in South Florida, and a longtime member of my staff. Shirlee Moreau was born on November 10, 1969, in Miami Beach, Florida to Eugenie V. Moreau and Avenant Moreau, Sr. She was the second of three children born to this union.

Shirlee found her true purpose in life on January 26, 2002, when she laid the foundation for one of the most beautiful and God-blessed families by marrying Pierre Paul Lafleur. Their love produced two talented and amazing daughters, Amanda and Samantha around whom they centered their lives, and who like their parents excel in the classroom and in the many activities in which they take part. While Shirlee was dedicated to helping others, she was even more devoted to her two blessings from God, always glowing and excited when talking about them.

God touched Shirlee in a very special way and she, in turn, touched the lives of so many others. A faithful member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, led by Reverend Arthur Jackson, Jr., she was very proud of her membership and was not shy about inviting others to find solace in the bosom of Christ. Shirlee had a very close and personal relationship with Christ. Her faith was grounded in being a dogged advocate for others.

Shirlee was an outstanding student at North Miami High School. After she was quiet, she was well liked for her friendly nature and helpful attitude that would become the trademark of her life. As a flagette of the North Miami marching band, she began to blossom into the social butterfly that she would later become.

After graduating from high school, Shirlee continued to excel academically earning a degree in business administration from Florida International University. Even more impressive, Shirlee worked while in college to support herself, which is indicative of her independent spirit. Upon graduation, she developed what initially began as an internship into a permanent supervisory position with Dade's Team Metro. She was a natural for the position which required her to help Miami Dade residents resolve often complex issues with county services.

In 1998, she elevated her burgeoning career in public service by accepting a position as a legislative assistant in the office of then-Florida State Senator Kendrick B. Meek. Shirlee’s commitment to helping her community shone even brighter as a member of Senator Meek’s staff and she continued to be one of his most trusted staff members when he ascended to the United States House of Representatives.

Shirlee played a prominent role in several initiatives that made national headlines. She was the central cog to many of the life-changing efforts that the congressional office undertook during her tenure. She was integral in helping to facilitate the efforts to liberate the nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls, known as the Chibok Girls, kidnapped by Boko Haram as part of the international #BringBackOurGirls campaign that I had pledged to wage until all of the girls are returned home. Shirlee helped coordinate documentation and travel for several of the girls who escaped their captors to find safe havens and a brighter future in the United States.

This effort was not the exception, but the norm. She worked through the night many times to stave off a deportation of parents who were casualties of a sometimes-harsh immigration system. Families were reunited and their stories made headlines, but Shirlee, a central figure in turning miraculous efforts into reality, was soon on to the next challenge within only a few minutes. Without exaggeration, her work has saved the lives of thousands who have sought refuge in our great nation.

In one of the rare times she was unable to avoid the spotlight, she was recognized in a May 2013 Miami Herald article for organizing an eleventh-hour effort to prevent a father from being ripped from his family and deported to Mexico. When an 18-year-old asked at a town hall meeting if there was anything that could be done to save his father who was set to be deported at 4 a.m. the following morning, I was initially stunned by the short window within which there was to work, but knew that if anyone could keep this family together, it would be Shirlee. She did, and as the article noted as a true testament to her commitment, “Shirlee Lafleur called everyone.”

HON. VICKY HARTZLER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of Constance (Connie) Dorl, and to congratulate her on her March 26th retirement.

Connie has served at the USDA in Johnson and Henry counties for the last 31 years. She has helped many farmers, producers, and ranchers within these counties of Missouri’s 4th District over those three decades. Connie has been with the USDA through all the years’ changes and has never failed to help others through her work. It is dedicated professionals like Connie who enable our farmers to succeed and feed the world.

In addition to helping agricultural communities, Connie has also been a dedicated military spouse and mother. She has been able to balance these three elements of her life in such a successful way that she has been there for anyone in need. Those who know Connie can attest to her untriting support of her family and Missouri’s agricultural communities.

I would like to recognize Connie’s dedication and 31 years of service and congratulate her on her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHIRLEE LAUFLEUR

Shirlee Lafleur

Shirlee Lafleur was born on June 10, 1969, in Miami Beach, Florida to Eugenie V. Moreau and Avenant Moreau, Sr. She was the second of three children born to this union.

Shirlee found her true purpose in life on January 26, 2002, when she laid the foundation for one of the most beautiful and God-blessed families by marrying Pierre Paul Lafleur. Their love produced two talented and amazing daughters, Amanda and Samantha around whom they centered their lives, and who like their parents excel in the classroom and in the many activities in which they take part. While Shirlee was dedicated to helping others, she was even more devoted to her two blessings from God, always glowing and excited when talking about them.

God touched Shirlee in a very special way and she, in turn, touched the lives of so many others. A faithful member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, led by Reverend Arthur Jackson, Jr., she was very proud of her membership and was not shy about inviting others to find solace in the bosom of Christ. Shirlee had a very close and personal relationship with Christ. Her faith was grounded in being a dogged advocate for others.

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Beyond immigration, Shirlee helped save the homes of countless families in South Florida and staved off evictions and foreclosures by connecting families with services that were able to provide the help they needed. Most telling of Shirlee’s ability, is that many of the resources that she connected families with were not on the federal level. She was so well respected and her assistance so trusted and valued that many people turned to her first to connect them with the appropriate local agency, knowing she would follow up to make sure their issue had been resolved.

Shirlee was a congressional staffer for more than two decades and her loss has created a major void. The thousands of lives that she has touched and the even more connections she has made will remain a testament to the erstwhile presence of a one-in-a-million personality. Shirlee was a champion for teachers, seniors, workers, and the most vulnerable members of our community.

Shirlee transitioned into the presence of God on March 22, 2021. She leaves to cherish her fond memories, her devoted husband, Pierre Lafleur, beautiful daughters, Amanda and Samantha, father, Avenant Moreau, Sr., mother, Eugenie Moreau, brother, Avenant Moreau, Jr., sister, Mirianda M. Russ (Travelis), sister-in-law, Marie J. Pyram, nephews, Christien A. Moreau and Gabriel R. Allende, nieces, Nathalie and Justina Pyram, and great-niece, Skylyn G. Allende, countless extended family and friends, and thousands of others upon whose lives she made a positive impact.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Shirlee Moreau Lafleur for all that she has done for our community and the lives of the many she has touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, April 16, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I strongly support our bipartisan efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. On April 15, 2021, I missed Roll Call No. 112 on the DEBAR Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 112.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 2610–2638; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 41; and H. Res. 321–326, were introduced.

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted.

Agreed to:

Courtney en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part C of H. Rept. 117–15: Brown (No. 1) that states that additional training shall be provided for covered employees who work with victims of torture, trafficking, or domestic violence; Cohen (No. 2) that adds Alzheimer’s and memory care facilities as facilities covered by this legislation; Delgado (No. 3) that directs OSHA to prioritize providing technical assistance and advice to employers throughout the first year of the Act to ensure businesses are in compliance; Jones (No. 4) that clarifies that a covered employer may consult with experts in workplace violence when developing their workplace violence prevention plan; and Ocasio-Cortez (No. 6) that ensures that nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or diminish any protections in relevant Federal, State, or local law related to domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault.

Rejected:

Keller amendment (No. 5 printed in part C of H. Rept. 117–15) that sought to require OSHA to issue an occupational safety and health standard on workplace violence prevention for the health care and social service industries through the standard rule-making process (by a yea-and-nay vote of 168 yeas to 256 nays, Roll No. 117).

H. Res. 303, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 7) and (H.R. 1195) was agreed to Wednesday, April 14th.

Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act: The House passed H.R. 1195, to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, by a yea-and-nay vote of 254 yeas to 166 nays, Roll No. 118.
Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Wednesday, April 14th.

504 Credit Risk Management Improvement Act of 2021: H.R. 1482, to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 119.

Pages H1872–73

ELECTING MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING: The House agreed to H. Res. 321, electing Members to the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library and the Joint Committee on Printing. Page H1873

Senate Shared Employee Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 422, to allow Senators, Senators-elect, committees of the Senate, leadership offices, and other offices of the Senate to share employees. Pages H1873–74

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1871, H1872, and H1872–73.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

INNOVATION IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY: MAXIMIZING IMPACT AND RESULTS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations and Global Corporate Social Impact held a hearing entitled “Innovation in Development Policy: Maximizing Impact and Results”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION REFORM ACT (FITARA)

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Agency Compliance with the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA)”. Testimony was heard from Gundeep Ahluwalia, Chief Information Officer, Department of Labor; Jay Mahanand, Chief Information Officer, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Kevin Walsh, Director of Information Technology and Cyber-security Issues, Government Accountability Office.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on the negotiation process and understanding the security situation in Afghanistan, 6 p.m., SVC–217.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the Senate
3 p.m., Monday, April 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of S. 937, COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act.

At 5:30 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
12 p.m., Monday, April 19

House Chamber

Program for Monday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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