

The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings is in violation of the rules of House.

THE HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in a couple of days we will have a moment of silence in respect and memory of the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary. We need to take those moments to pause, reflect, and pray.

However, afterwards, we cannot be silent on the need to get something done, on the need to pass comprehensive and meaningful legislation, and the need to help the mentally ill.

Has the world changed since Newtown and the other tragedies?

Sadly, little has been done to get those who need help the help they need. In the past few decades, this Nation has moved forward in knowledge of what it takes to help, but has moved backward in getting the help done. And where there is no help, there is no hope.

We have fewer psychiatric hospital beds, fewer outpatient treatment options, restrictions on the use of medications that can and do help those who are mentally ill, too few psychiatrists and psychologists and clinical social workers, especially child and adolescent specialists, and especially ones who are trained and specialize in treating the seriously mentally ill.

We have too many barriers that prevent doctors from communicating with parents of the sons and daughters with persistent serious mental illness.

We have Federal barriers that block treatment, Federal dollars that go to grants for programs that do not work. The National Institute of Mental Health has insufficient money to engage in needed research.

First responders who are called to deal with mental health crises have little or no training on what to do, and they miss critically important actions.

Treatment delayed is treatment denied; and where there is no help, there is no hope.

Today, I am introducing the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. It increases access to trained professionals at community health centers and community mental health centers, and refocuses the government spending on programs that work and gets to the people that need it in communities and not remain in bureaucracies.

It reforms government spending to eliminate redundancy and waste and refocuses us on getting evidence-based help. It brings scientific objectivity to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

It opens up the door of communication between doctors and parents and legal guardians of those with mental illness. It increases inpatient treatment options and availability. No more being told that there are no more beds. Take your son or daughter home, no matter how much they are at risk of hurting you or themselves.

It increases outpatient treatment options. It increases pharmaceutical treatment options. It reduces the warehousing of our persistently and seriously mentally ill in jails or homelessness.

It improves communication between primary care providers, psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed mental health practitioners. It increases mental health courts. It provides training for first responders, and it gathers essential and critically important information on the relationship between mental illness and violence and victimization.

Bottom line: if we want to change these trends in victimization of the mentally ill and the persistently mentally ill; if we want to reduce the high number of suicides, homicide and assaults; if we want to get people treatment, not jail time, and not abandonment; if we want to help the tens of millions of people with mental illness and the hundreds of millions of friends and relatives who are emotionally and financially strained by the untreated problems of mental illness; if we want to prevent the Newtowns, Tucsons, Auroras, Pittsburghs, and Columbines, we have to do something comprehensive, research based, and we have to do it now.

What we need is not only for Congress to act, but during these next few weeks, while Congressmen and -women are back home, we need to hear from every doctor and first responder and teacher and parent and patient and consumer that we must act thoroughly and thoughtfully and must act now.

Those who need the help the most have the most trouble getting the help they need, and where there is no help there is no hope. We can and must and we will take mental illness out of the shadows of ignorance, despair, and neglect, and into that bright light of hope.

So I ask my colleagues to support this bill, the Helping Families and Mental Health Crisis Act, because treatment and action delayed is treatment denied.

Let us help American families get the help they need because where there is no help, there is no hope.

THE MOST UNACCOMPLISHED CONGRESS IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, we are in the closing hours of the first year of the 113th Con-

gress, and the pundits who examine Congresses past and present have concluded that this is the most unaccomplished Congress in the history of the country.

We have passed a total of 56 bills here in this Congress. The fact is, we have taken 239 days off, and we have worked 133 days. And let's be honest with ourselves here: those 133 days often included a Monday or a Tuesday where we came in at 6:30 in the evening and took a handful of votes on some non-controversial issues. Where most of us come from, that is not a day's work.

And by the same token, more often than not, we left on a Thursday or a Friday, somewhere after taking a few votes that morning, and then heading back to wherever we were headed.

Back in 1948, Harry Truman got elected President of the United States by campaigning against the do-nothing 80th Congress in 1948. Well, guess what, that Congress passed over 900 bills. And we are looking at 56 here at the halfway mark?

I cannot begin to imagine how history is going to evaluate this Congress. The Wall Street Journal said:

This Congress is long on partisanship, indecision, and brinksmanship.

Others have constantly referred to the fact that most of what is done here and considered here in the past year has been political posturing in preparation for the next election.

□ 1045

To be fair, we have accomplished some things here: the middle-class tax cut, Hurricane Sandy relief, the Violence Against Women Act. We passed a couple of appropriations bills, and we may be on the brink here of actually passing a budget bill, which would be most important and quite an accomplishment. Not to mention, we formally recognized Soap Box Derby Day, and we have made it possible for hunters to buy their duck stamps online.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that we are not getting the job done. And the fact also remains that, in this country, the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and the middle class in this country is getting crushed. We are looking at large deficits and broken priorities and a broken government, and we are not addressing those issues of our time.

I did a little research. I have the unique perspective of having served some 32 years ago, and at that time we had between 7,000 and 8,000 subcommittee, full committee, conference committee hearings, markups, and meetings. This Congress, by contrast, has had 500, and most of those were procedural and Rules Committee meetings.

The Speaker himself said that we need to return to regular order in this country if we are going to get things done. "Regular order," for those who don't know, means going to work 5 days a week, like everybody else in America. It means working full days. It

means fully engaging the subcommittees and full committees and all the Members of the Congress, because when we do that, that is when we get things done. When we sit down and we have open, bipartisan discussions, everybody gets their amendment, everybody gets an opportunity to exhaust all the arguments, everybody gets a vote. That is how people come together. That is how you get things done. That is how you fix things, and that is the way the Congress operated for several hundred years. That is not the way it is operating today.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, if we are going to get things done and reverse the terrible reputation of this Congress, I implore the Speaker and the leadership and all of the Members to demand that, starting in January of next year, we restore regular order, we go to work 5 days a week, and we employ the subcommittee and the full committee process that has worked so well for so many hundreds of years in this country, because that is how we get things done. That is how we fix things here in this country. That is how we get our economy back on a pro-growth trajectory, and that is how we restore the people's confidence in what is now a broken government and a broken Congress.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. John Loudon, First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we acknowledge our need for divine guidance and confess we are imperfect people in need of Your forgiveness.

We give thanks that You are not only a God of righteousness, but also a God of compassion and offer us mercy.

Empower us to live in such a way that we strive for balance in our lives and seek to exhibit conviction as well as grace.

May we make our own an old prayer offered daily by Harry Truman:

Everlasting God, help me to be, to think, and to act what is right, because it is right. Make me truthful, honest, and honorable in all things. Make me intellectually honest for the sake of right and honor and without thought of reward for me. Give me the ability to be charitable, forgiving, and patient

with others, and help me understand their motives and their shortcomings even as You understand mine.

Amen and amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. JOHN LOUDON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude that my good friend Pastor Mike Loudon from my home church in Lakeland, Florida, could give the opening prayer in the United States House of Representatives.

Pastor Mike, as he is known back home, and his wife, Joyce, have lived a life of dedication to their faith and their family. Pastor Mike's ministry serves as an inspiration to everyone. Truly, he is a great man with a legacy of what counts in life and the life hereafter.

Pastor Mike is a pillar in the Lakeland and Polk County communities. He is active in Rotary Club and is a strong leader, a man of God, and has a fantastic sense of humor.

Pastor Mike has served churches across the country prior to coming to First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland in 1999. His messages are uplifting, encouraging, and always resonate with me. I am honored to have him as my pastor and as my friend.

I join countless others in expressing a deep thankfulness for his willing spirit to serve and the privilege of having him give the opening prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE ADS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this administration is desperate to enroll young, healthy Americans in the new exchange plans, and the recent ad campaign from ProgressNow Colorado shows just how low some groups are willing to go to catch young people's attention. The ads depict young men drinking right out of kegs of beer and objectifying young women. They try to encourage people to sign up for health care by making light of unhealthy behaviors.

I recently received a letter from Dr. Julie Welch, an emergency room physician in Indianapolis, specifically concerned about how the ads promoted risky sexual behavior. The Let's Get Physical ad depicts a young woman thanking ObamaCare, with the words:

Oh my God, he's hot. Let's hope he is as easy to get as this birth control. My health insurance covers the pill, which means all I have to worry about is getting him between the covers. I got insurance. Now you can too. Thanks ObamaCare.

Dr. Welch writes:

As a taxpayer, I am puzzled at why advertising campaigns for health insurance appear to promote high-risk behaviors?

Promoting health coverage by condoning binge drinking and promiscuity is not a step towards a healthier America. It is just another way that ObamaCare just doesn't work.

NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN IRAN

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important challenges that this country faces with allies is to make certain Iran does not have a nuclear weapon. For that reason, I, along with virtually all of my colleagues, voted for tough, enforceable sanctions.

There is a question now in this House about whether Congress should present yet another resolution on Iran. There are two questions that raises. Number one, do we send a message to the world that Congress is not on the same page as our President and Secretary of State in their absolute determination to rid