

have stepped forward to call this Nation to something greater. Today as we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I want to recognize three inspirational women from my district in Pennsylvania: Dorothy James, Ruby Golding, and Mary Wilson. In the 1960s they traveled down South to fight racial injustice and to join the struggle for equal rights.

Ruby Golding recalls what inspired her to join the Freedom Riders. She remembers segregated movie theaters and not being allowed to try on shoes at the local store in town. She remembers the March on Washington and hearing Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King talk about a dream he had, a dream that one day his children would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Ms. Golding said everyone was shocked by the size of the crowd that day and how peaceful it was. She said it was like being in one big family of all colors joining together to bring a better day to America.

Today let's recognize the legacy of Ms. James, Ms. Golding, and Ms. Wilson, and all those who joined the civil rights movement, for we have a freer nation because they had the courage to take a stand.

DHS SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we have less than 2 days—2 days—to fund the Department of Homeland Security before they run out of money. It is a dangerous world we live in. We know that. The tragic events recently in Paris and Copenhagen and, most recently, the arrests of three alleged terrorists yesterday in New York demonstrate that Americans are at risk from a terrorist attack every day. The Senate finally realized that funding Homeland Security is more important than jeopardizing the safety of our country.

Mr. Speaker, if you need Democratic support to pass a clean—clean—Department of Homeland Security funding bill, you have my vote, and you have the overwhelming votes of the majority of Democrats.

Congress should be focusing on protecting our families. Our constitutional oath that we take when we are sworn into office every 2 years requires us to first “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic.”

Let us not put Americans at risk because of partisan politics. It is not only irresponsible, it is immoral. Let us do the job that we were sent here to do.

MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 642, a bill that would help the men and women in our armed services who are victims of sexual assault get access to the care that they need.

Sexual assault is not acceptable anywhere in our society. It is not something many people like to talk about, but it is a very real problem. According to the Department of Defense, 20,000 servicemembers said they had experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact in 2014.

In my time as an emergency medicine physician, I have seen the deep, longstanding, and brutal psychological trauma that results from sexual assault, and I know how critical it is that victims receive the treatment they need and perpetrators are brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, this bill takes much-needed steps to ensure that treatment options are more accessible for our veterans who were victims of sexual assault by helping to pay for travel expenses for those who need to seek care outside of the VA system.

Mr. Speaker, this is a medical need and a moral imperative. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 642 and ensure servicemembers who are victims of sexual trauma receive the care they need.

DHS SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, last week Speaker BOEHNER stated that the Republicans were certainly prepared to shut down the Department of Homeland Security—a shutdown that would force thousands of TSA, Customs, Border Patrol, and Secret Service agents to work without pay.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to tell you, I come back and forth every week from Orange County, California. I usually go up to Los Angeles, to LAX. I was talking to my TSA guys as I went through the line, taking off my shoes. They said: Really, Ms. SANCHEZ, are they really going to do that to us? Are they really going to put our security at stake—America's security at stake? I said: They have done it before, and they are going to do it again.

I believe that it is time to pass a clean Homeland Security bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping America and Americans safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

RURAL HOSPITALS

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring attention to rural hospitals and the important service they provide to communities across north Florida.

Last week I had the honor of touring Doctors Memorial Hospital in Bonifay, Florida. I was so inspired by the hard work of the doctors, nurses, administrators, and volunteers who treat patients who otherwise would have to drive hours for care.

Mr. Speaker, these hospitals are providing outstanding care but face unique new challenges from government regulation. In Congress, we need to make sure rural hospitals are not overburdened by regulation that can cause more harm than good at smaller facilities.

Rural hospitals are vital to north Florida, and I am ready to work with Democrats and Republicans to make sure that we protect them.

LOOMING DHS SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with only hours remaining before Department of Homeland Security funding is terminated, and following a 98-2 Senate vote to restore some sanity here and proceed with consideration of that funding, House Republicans are still engaged in what amounts to a family feud among Republicans that threatens all American families. American shopping malls on heightened alert, arrest of ISIS suspects, and growing global crises—all of them are apparently not enough to spur these House Republicans into action.

Mr. Speaker, House inaction is not vigilance. Your fear of immigrants and your disdain for President Obama ought not to come between us and a secure nation. Our enemies are watching. So are the front-line DHS employees and law enforcement operations who could lose. It is long past time to approve the dollars that we need to secure our American families and secure our homeland. It ought to be the top priority. There is no reason why Homeland Security should be the only Department in the entire Federal Government that is not fully funded.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 26, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 26, 2015 at 11:35 a.m.:

Appointments:
Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.
Congressional Award Board.
Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 125 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 125

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes. No further general debate shall be in order. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-8, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment 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 equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by its proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1245

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order against consideration of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his point of order.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order against House Resolution 125 because the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act. Section 426 of the Budget Act states that the Rules Committee may not waive the point of order prescribed by section 425 of that same act. House Resolution 125 states: "All points of order against such further amendments are waived." The resolution, in waiving all points of order, waives section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act, therefore causing a violation of 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden under the rule, and the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration. Following debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration as the statutory means of disposing of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, this point of order revolves around this entire bill being an unfunded mandate for the States; but, frankly, Mr. Speaker, this is about the work of this body and the work of this country.

Rarely in my time in Congress has this body proven itself as detached and reckless as we do today. We are just over 24 hours away from an automatic shutdown of one of our Nation's greatest defense systems to keep the American people safe, and this body—one of only two bodies with the authority to prevent that shutdown—has no plan.

President Obama made a suggestion last year that we treat families humanely, that we retain the best and brightest of each new generation, we welcome those willing to fight for their citizenship, just as we welcomed my great-grandfather and yours. He did that because this body failed to move forward on a profamily, pro-America agenda.

These are not novel concepts. We stand on a Nation settled, built, and grown by immigrants. When the President acted to give immigrants across this country hope, consistent with actions taken by prior Presidents, he acted to uphold not only the law, but one of our greatest American traditions.

Yet, touting a fundamentally antifamily and un-American agenda, Republican House leadership has made endless attempts to prevent the President's lawful action from taking place. With each repeated attempt to override our constitutional checks and balances, House Republicans are playing games with our time and taxpayer money and, right now, frankly, playing games with our national security.

Time has kept this body from focusing on real issues facing our Nation. The security of our Nation should not be sacrificed for a political agenda, nor can the livelihoods of those who put themselves on the line as our first responders and to protect American soil.

A failure to fund DHS would block critical assistance from reaching snowstorms and wildfires. It could mean a delay in FEMA funding to rebuild communities after disasters like the floods that affected my hometown of Boulder and nearby towns of Loveland and Longmont. It could impede air and ground travel safety and mean withholding of pay from already overworked TSA and CBP workers.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has come to an agreement, by a vote of 98-2, on consideration of a clean DHS funding bill. I am a cosponsor of a similar bill in the House. The bill extracts politics from the conversation about immigration in exchange for the interests of the American people.

It removes the irrelevant policy riders that undermine the lawful authority of the President of the United States and, instead, focuses on keeping the Department of Homeland Security open through the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, this House has the opportunity to bring forward a clean DHS funding bill. We can always continue with Republican political stunts after we secure the safety of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ).

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, first of all, thank the gentleman for raising the point of order.

Keeping American families safe is the first responsibility of Congress, but Republicans have decided that appeasing the anti-immigrant Tea Party extremists is more important than protecting our homeland.

Just consider one moment—every House Democrat cosponsoring clean legislation to fund DHS. It is clear, therefore, that there are sufficient votes to pass a bill immediately and keep DHS funded and open. However, House Republicans continue to block consideration of a clean bill—a clean bill—DHS bill and sustain their latest manufactured crisis—because this is a manufactured crisis.

Think about it one moment. Three—not one—three former DHS Secretaries—Secretary Ridge, Bush; Secretary Chertoff, Bush; and Secretary Napolitano, Obama—sent a letter to Senators MCCONNELL and REID calling for a clean DHS funding bill. That is Chertoff, Ridge, and Napolitano, all said—former heads of DHS, two Republicans and one Democrat:

It is imperative that we ensure that DHS is ready, willing, and able to protect the American people. To that end, we urge you not to risk funding for the operations that protect every American and to pass a clean DHS funding bill.

I think it is preposterous that Republicans can even suggest a lapse in DHS