

harvest are critical first steps in getting our nation forests on track.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We thank You that You give us a share in Your creative work, having endowed each with unique and important talents.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the care of this great Nation's people. Because of the great blessings You have bestowed on our Nation, may we embrace the opportunity to build a better world beyond our borders as well.

Bless all those who work in the Nation's Capitol. May their work be appreciated by the American people, for their faithfulness in service to our Nation is truly edifying.

May all that they do this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ASHFORD 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.

HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the last few years, I have met with thousands of families of those with mental illness. Their number one concern is how the current system shuts them out.

Debbie and Chaz Mahoney lost their son Chuckie to suicide in 2002. Although Chuckie sought counseling from his college and showed signs of mental crisis, his parents knew nothing about his struggle. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, also known as FERPA, kept Chuckie's parents in the dark.

The Mahoneys aren't alone. Each day, millions of families experience the same tragic frustration. Schools will be sure to remind you when the tuition check arrives, but because of FERPA, when it comes to your child's mental health, you only receive a call when it is too, too late.

This Suicide Prevention Month, Congress can fix this problem. The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act allows doctors to provide limited, but crucial, information concerning individuals with a serious mental illness to known caregivers. To save their lives and protect their rights to treatment, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2646.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have only 7 legislative days left until another unnecessary, costly, and entirely preventable government shutdown.

We need to negotiate an agreement to replace the sequester with a responsible alternative. Because Republicans have refused to start these negotiations, I have talked to Mrs. LOWEY, the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, and I have talked to Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the ranking member on the Budget Committee, and I have talked to Mr. MCCARTHY, but we have had no discussions on how to keep the government open just 8 legislative days from now.

If the government were to shut down, as it did in 2013, it would cost our economy billions of dollars and put our national security at risk. Hundreds of thousands of public service workers would be furloughed, and millions of people would be cut off from critical programs and services.

Many Republicans are urging their leadership not to risk a shutdown. Representative CHARLIE DENT of Pennsylvania said, "I don't think we need to do a replay of 2013. It would be an enormous tactical and strategic blunder." Indiana Senator DAN COATS, a conservative Republican, called a shutdown a failed tactic for political purposes that is not going to succeed.

I urge my Republican colleagues to stop threatening a shutdown—not all of them, but some of them—and to, in-

stead, take action to keep the government open as we work to reach an agreement on a budget that replaces the sequester and funds our Nation's priorities responsibly.

NUCLEAR IRAN DEAL MERITS SENATE'S "NUCLEAR" OPTION

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, I am circulating a letter to my House colleagues that asks the Senate to drop the 60-vote requirement for consideration of the Iran deal.

The American people sent us to Congress to represent their interests and to take actions that benefit our great country.

Yet, time and time again, we hear from our constituents that Congress is not listening or is incapable of performing its basic responsibilities as a legislature.

Our request to eliminate the filibuster for some votes simply underscores that, in a democracy, the majority should decide.

It is time to send a strong signal to this administration that it can no longer disregard the will of the American people and their representatives in Congress.

I urge my colleagues to sign this letter that asks for a majority vote on the Iran deal in the Senate.

AVOID A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, we face another government shutdown, another government shutdown that threatens our economy.

And what is this potential shutdown about?

It is about Congress trying to dictate to women in my community which healthcare providers they can and cannot see to get care.

Let me set the record straight.

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland provides vital preventive care to women in my community. Last year, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland served nearly 10,000 patients.

They conducted over 4,000 cervical and breast cancer screenings and over 13,000 tests for sexually transmitted infections. They provided prenatal care, pregnancy testing, and other preventive health services.

They are an active supporter of the national campaign to prevent teen and unplanned pregnancy, and they even have licensed adoption professionals on site to help women navigate the steps of adoption.

I am a strong believer that education regarding women's health prevents abortions. We must come together and work in a spirit of bipartisanship to avoid this government shutdown.

SACRED RIGHT—RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Coptic Christians—the largest religious minority in Egypt and the largest Christian community in the Middle East—are constantly persecuted.

In 2011, Ayman Nabil Labib went to school like he did every day. Ayman, like most Coptic Christians in Egypt, had a cross tattooed on his wrist as a sign of his Christian faith.

When he got to school, Ayman's Arabic language teacher asked him to cover the tattoo. Instead, Ayman pulled the cross from underneath his shirt and left it hanging around his neck.

The teacher became enraged. He choked Ayman and asked Ayman's Muslim classmates: What are you going to do with him? Then his classmates beat him to death to silence his faith.

Ayman was murdered because he was a Christian.

Religious freedom is a basic, sacred, universal human right. Alexander Hamilton said in 1775, "The sacred rights of mankind . . . are written, as with a sun beam in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of the divinity itself; and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power."

And that is just the way it is.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, there are only 7 legislative days until the GOP shuts down this government again.

I have been back home. I don't know about you, but what I have heard is that the American people do not want to see another government shutdown. They don't want to see Planned Parenthood defunded, taking away essential health care for women across the country.

What they want to see is for us to work together. They want to see both parties work together to keep the government open for sure, but to go beyond that, to make sure that families can save to own a home, that they can send their kids to college, that they can have something set aside for retirement.

It is not just enough to keep the government open. That ought to be a given. We ought to take up the priorities of the American people.

Unfortunately, what we see is that, in an attempt to get something that a minority of this body wants, they are going to hold up the entirety of the government—shut down the government—over one issue. That is not responsible, and that is not what the American people sent us here to do.

House Democrats are ready to work together. We will compromise, but let's negotiate. Let's have a discussion.

Let's talk to one another and come up with a budget that we can work together on and that we can present to the American people, and let's get back to the business the people sent us here to do.

MANUFACTURING DAY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage support in promoting National Manufacturing Day, an annual event that is recognized on Friday, October 2.

During a time in which the manufacturing sector is under a number of challenges, Manufacturing Day aims to revitalize the image of manufacturing and to bring awareness of this sector's many contributions to the economy and to the United States' competitiveness.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, I intend to support this day of recognition on October 2 in my district, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same in their districts. Manufacturing Day also serves as an opportunity for manufacturers across the country to highlight their work.

Manufacturing is imperative for the future of the United States' economy, and it encourages the growth of American innovation, a skill that must continue to be fostered in this generation and those generations yet to come.

A BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need to come together, put aside partisan politics, and pass a budget.

More than 7 in 10 Americans are saying they would prefer a budget agreement to prevent the government from shutting down.

I was elected to Congress and came here promising my constituents no more government shutdowns, no more Federal furloughs, and no more sequestration.

I ask for the leadership of both parties to put forward a bipartisan, long-term budget solution to help prevent a government shutdown.

We need to focus on what matters: growing our economy, upgrading our aging infrastructure, and helping to ensure that our citizens are able to obtain the American Dream.

We cannot waste any more time on political gridlock, and it is not fair to hijack our Nation's budget bill. Let's

come together. Let's get to work. Let's answer the call of our constituents, and let's pass a budget.

CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month.

Cardiomyopathy is a chronic disease of the heart muscle that increases the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, which is a condition that claims approximately 295,000 lives in the United States every year. It is also the leading cause of death among schoolchildren.

That is one reason I introduced the SAFE PLAY Act, which would improve the health and safety of student athletes, including those who are diagnosed with cardiomyopathy.

We know that, when sudden cardiac arrest hits, quick intervention saves lives. That is why the SAFE PLAY Act includes provisions to teach students across the country the life-saving skills of CPR and how to use AEDs.

As we recognize Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month, I want to invite my colleagues and their staffs to the second annual AED Hunt on the Hill, taking place tomorrow at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. There you can learn more about cardiomyopathy, how AEDs save lives, and how the SAFE PLAY Act can help. Together, we can make a difference.

□ 1415

GOP SHUTDOWN/PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, once again, Republicans are threatening to shut down our government.

Instead of passing a sensible funding bill or a long-term transportation bill that will create jobs, Republicans have chosen to put jobs at risk. They have chosen to weaken security at our airports. They have chosen to close our national parks. They pretty much have chosen not to serve their constituents back home.

And it is for what reason? It is because they are so determined to regulate women's bodies and block women's right to access preventive and life-saving health care that they would rather throw Americans under the bus.

Last year alone, in my State of North Carolina, Planned Parenthood served more than 31,000 patients, providing mammograms, pap smears, cancer screenings, contraceptive services, and STD testing.

Why would we want to deny women, many who are low income, of these