

by Pope Francis' address. His message was simple and honest. It crossed religious and political divides. He challenged us to do better and even invoked Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He reminded us that this Nation continues to be a land of dreams.

Pope Francis has returned to the Vatican, and we must get back to work. But I hope that his message will stay with us a little longer. And we should follow the Golden Rule. Paraphrased, we should treat others like we would like to be treated. Not only should that apply to how we treat each other in the Halls of Congress, but also to how we address the bigger problems that this Nation is facing.

From immigration reform to voting rights, each of us should place ourselves in the shoes of struggling families and work on the solution that is right for them and right for this country.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as this Suicide Prevention Month comes to a close, I believe it is crucial we remain committed to all suicide prevention efforts. We must continually ask ourselves: Are we doing enough when it comes to addressing mental health and suicide in our Nation? I don't think so.

As vice chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I know that this issue is especially important for our Nation's heroes. Recent data has shown that every day in this country approximately 18 to 22 veterans take their own lives. This statistic answers the question I posed earlier. It is obvious more needs to be done.

My COVER Act addresses suicide prevention for veterans by promoting access to better alternative complementary mental health treatments. While traditional forms of therapy may work for some, tailoring therapies to the veteran and finding the balance between traditional and complementary alternative treatments could be the difference in saving lives.

The COVER Act passed the House several weeks ago. I encourage my Senate colleagues to do the same in the Senate so we can get it to the President's desk for his signature.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE NEA AND NEH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities a happy anniversary, as both the NEA and NEH turn 50 years old today.

As a Rhode Islander, I share a special connection with these agencies because

both reflect the legacy of our late long-time senior Senator, Claiborne Pell. Senator Pell knew that art and culture were a vital part of our society because he grew up around the vibrant arts scene Rhode Island is justifiably known for.

Today I know that Senator Pell would be proud of the legacy that he has left in our Nation and in his State. Whether it is the Providence International Arts Festival, which had a terrific inaugural year thanks to NEA support, or Cafe Recuerdos, an NEH-funded traditional Cuban coffee cart that serves as a forum for sharing stories as part of Latino Americans: 500 Years of History or the numerous other arts and cultural organizations, institutions, and events that were given birth because of the endowments, the endowments have been integral to our continued social and economic development.

To the NEA and NEH, happy anniversary.

CONGRATULATING EARLY COLLEGE OF FORSYTH

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Early College of Forsyth, which was recently named one of America's top high schools by Newsweek magazine.

Established in 2008, Early College of Forsyth is a partnership between Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools and Forsyth Technical Community College. The school provides a small learning community of students with the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree. By considering their learning needs and providing support services, every student is given the tools to excel in both high school and college courses.

Early College of Forsyth provides an advanced educational experience that promotes independence, responsibility for learning, and community involvement. America needs more of this type of innovative learning that equips students for success in college, career, and life.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEA AND NEH

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the creation of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Humanities Caucus and a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am proud to strongly support the important missions of these two agencies.

The NEA partners with State arts agencies, local leaders, other Federal

agencies, and the philanthropic sector to promote arts education and community access to the fine arts.

The NEH remains the single most important source of Federal funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that provide us with invaluable ethical, cultural, and historical perspectives.

Both the NEA and the NEH merit increased support. This investment is one of the most efficient we make in terms of leveraging private, nonprofit, and corporate dollars. These programs are critically important locally as well as nationally, and they are the foundation of an arts and humanities community that supports millions of jobs.

Let's honor this 50th anniversary by renewing our national commitment to the arts and the humanities and the many ways they enrich our lives.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Hunger Action Month to discuss an issue that demands our immediate attention: hunger.

My district—North Carolina's 12th—ranks ninth in the Nation and first in the State for hunger. My hometown of Greensboro and High Point are first in the Nation for food insecurity. In May, I launched the Adams Hunger Initiative to draw greater attention to this issue and to foster bipartisan solutions.

This week I am introducing a resolution to highlight the severity of the hunger crisis across our Nation and to recognize the role critical programs like SNAP and others play in helping families put food on the table and to call on Congress to strengthen these programs and streamline requirements for afterschool and summer meals programs.

Mr. Speaker, if the government shuts down on Thursday, the SNAP program won't have enough to cover October benefits, impacting more than 65,000 people in my district and millions across the Nation. During Hunger Action Month, a time when we should be elevating and addressing this crisis, we are taking steps back. I call on my colleagues to stand with our most vulnerable and keep our government running.

SALUTING THE EFFORTS OF FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the eighth annual Hunger Action Month comes to an end, I salute the efforts of Feeding South Florida for its year-round efforts to end hunger in our communities.

For the past 8 years, we have dug our way out of a deep recession that turned once middle class families into people

who have less and already struggling families into have-nots. In Florida's 24th Congressional District, more than 200,000 children are food-insecure and go to bed hungry. Overall, 23 percent of individuals are food-insecure.

Feeding South Florida is a lifeline that runs food banks, a mobile food pantry that delivers fresh fruits and vegetables, a summer food service so students can continue to receive healthy meals when school is out of session, and a program that brings food to senior housing sites.

Just last week in this very Chamber Pope Francis reminded us that the fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts. Feeding South Florida does that every day and deserves all the support we can muster. That is why I wear this orange adornment today, to honor the entire organization, administration, and workers, of Feeding South Florida.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
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 September 29, 2015 at 9:27 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 599.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3495, WOMEN'S PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 444 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 444

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3495) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended,

are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of October 1, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 444 provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

Over the past few months, extremely disturbing information has come to light about the activities of abortion providers and their sale of unborn children's hearts and other organs for compensation. In light of those discoveries, we provide for consideration today of crucial legislation to ensure States are free to ensure their limited taxpayers' dollars do not provide sustaining funding to abortion providers whose activities are found repugnant.

H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, allows States to make a decision identical to the one this House made earlier this month when we passed H.R. 3134, the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, which stopped the flow of taxpayer dollars to Planned Parenthood as investigations continue into its sale of unborn children's parts.

As my colleagues noted during debate on H.R. 3134, arguments from the minority that this bill will prevent women from accessing health care ring hollow. We know that federally qualified health centers and rural health centers outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics at a rate of 20 to 1.

Of these over 13,000 federally qualified health centers and rural health centers, women have access to any healthcare service provided by Planned Parenthood or other abortion providers with one obvious exception. Because they are federally funded, these true health centers do not perform abortions.

Clearly, despite opponents' best efforts to argue otherwise, this bill does not deny healthcare services to women. It does allow States to decide whether their Medicaid funds should support a provider whose atrocities have shocked our national conscience and devalued human life.

It is not surprising, though, that we are hearing these hollow arguments about access to healthcare services, as the political machinery of abortion providers has kicked into high gear with scare tactics to protect their business. Abortion is, after all, a business. Planned Parenthood is the single largest abortion business in the country.

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Recently, they performed over 325,000 abortions in 1 year. That is nearly 900 every day, at a rate of over 35 an hour. They are able to continue that activity, in part, because Planned Parenthood has received over \$1 billion in 3 years from Medicaid alone. I have spoken previously on the floor about the absurdity of providing taxpayer funds to organizations that have had their willingness to accept compensation for the remains of unborn children exposed for all to see.

Several States, including Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, and Indiana, have recognized that alarming truth and acted on their own to stop providing abortion providers with taxpayer dollars through Medicaid. Unfortunately, the Obama administration has forced those States to continue providing taxpayer dollars to abortion providers.

Thankfully, when the Framers of our Constitution established our Nation, they saw fit to give States a right to determine their own affairs and the disposition of their citizens' taxes. Today, we restore federalism to the Medicaid program and enable States to make their own choices on which Medicaid providers to accept, allowing them to stop the flow of taxpayer dollars to organizations that accept compensation for the sale of well-developed unborn children's hearts and bodies.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this rule and the underlying bill to my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding the customary 30 minutes for debate.

My friend, the gentlewoman from North Carolina, says that the minority speaks in a way that is hollow. I will tell you what is hollow: talk about regular order in this institution.

The general public may not know that there is a methodology that allows for all proceedings to go forward. Customarily, a measure of this kind would have had a committee hearing and a committee markup. It did not, and that is not regular order.

Mr. Speaker, we are now less than 48 hours away from another government shutdown, and instead of considering a