

This bill, which I strongly support, the Public Buildings Reform and Savings Act of 2016, may seem quite technical to those who have heard it described, but I do want to congratulate my friends, the chairman and the ranking member, for a bill that will have great substantive impact on the way that GSA does its business. I particularly appreciate the bipartisan way in which both of them have always performed. I also thank them both for accepting my amendments: one, in keeping with both this bill and the prior bill, for a new, federal footprint here, and a smaller Department of Energy; and then an amendment that is not related to any of this, for lactation space for visitors to Federal buildings.

I appreciate the acceptance of an amendment that allows the GSA to sell or exchange the Department of Energy Forrestal Complex that is right in the heart of The Mall area, at 1000 Independence Avenue, in accordance with the so-called Southwest Ecodistrict Plan, which means that all the appropriate planning has been done, given where this location is and how important it is to official Washington.

My amendment has two purposes. Because the DOE building is larger than necessary and results in wasteful spending, we now require a smaller footprint. It allows the Cotton Annex, close to the Department of Energy on The Mall, to be sold, and gives the GSA what a developer needs—that is what GSA is, a developer—the flexibility to develop this priceless land and assures that development will occur soon—GSA has to come back by June, and we are almost there—with a process for disposing of the Cotton Annex.

I want to thank both gentlemen for agreeing to my amendment that I call the “motherhood” bill. GSA already requires that employees be given lactation space, but we discovered that some employees at the Smithsonian were not getting it. When I called the Smithsonian, they immediately provided the regional space. It is not new space, only existing space for a mother to pump or to nurse a baby, if she is a Federal employee. I simply added visitors and guests to Federal facilities as those that can use this space.

The Nation’s capital is a tourist mecca, so there will be some nursing mothers.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 3 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the benefits of breastfeeding are well documented. Children’s immune systems build up. Studies have shown that even risks of asthma, diabetes, and the like are reduced in breastfed babies. There are benefits also to nursing mothers as well. The risk of diabetes and cancer are reduced.

This bill isn’t very much related to the important substance of the underlying bill, but the relationship is clear

enough. I very much thank my two good friends for accepting these two amendments to the underlying bill. I strongly support the underlying bill this evening.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZINKE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4487, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMEMBERING JUDGE EDMUND V. LUDWIG

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, tonight my constituents back home in Pennsylvania are gathering to remember and celebrate the life of a wonderful citizen. Judge Edmund V. Ludwig will be remembered for his contributions to the community and the courtroom, and for his leadership as a jurist, educator, mentor, and historian.

Judge Ludwig died on May 17, 2016, at the age of 87. He will also be remembered for his wit and wisdom. His legal accomplishments include leading the way to improve access to counsel for the poor, reformation of the juvenile system, and improvement to State services for the mentally ill.

Judge Ludwig founded many of these organizations and served on several of the boards. His well-known affinity for history led to the founding in 1955 of the Doylestown Historical Society, where he served as chairman until 2011.

The former judge of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas was appointed in 1985 to the United States District Court by President Ronald Reagan. He was honored with the William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award by the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2005.

Judge Ludwig’s life of service is imprinted in the history of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

COMBATING THE ZIKA VIRUS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly time for Congress to do its job.

Just last week we were briefed by the Centers for Disease Control regarding the Zika virus. Earlier today in my congressional district in Houston, one of the infectious disease specialists

called Houston and the Gulf region the epicenter of the Zika virus.

It is well known that treatment for any child that is infected will cost \$10 million. Frankly, the brain is literally destroyed by the virus. So the deformity is the fact that there is no brain functioning in these children.

This map indicates the whole Gulf region. That is clearly in the eye of the storm. This map indicates that Houston, among other big cities, is number one as it relates to the Zika virus.

So my call today is for us to fully fund the President’s emergency supplemental. This is a picture of the mosquito causing these impacts. We discussed today a task force, which I created in my district.

Finally, just to leave this information, this is the mosquito. Use DEET. This is a serious matter. We need full funding to combat the Zika virus and save lives.

COMMENDING PENN STATE

(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. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I visited Penn State University for their annual Energy Days program—focused efforts in research and education involving America’s energy sectors.

As many people from Pennsylvania know, the university was founded as one of our Nation’s first colleges of agricultural science. Now under the leadership of Penn State President Eric Barron, the university is taking strides to become known as the energy university.

Courses of study are already being offered that prepare students for careers in the Marcellus Shale industry, many of which offer a starting wage that can support a family.

I applaud the efforts of Penn State in striving to meet the needs of our energy sector, combining expertise in energy-related research, teaching, and service with contributions from leaders in the energy industries.

The new initiative will greatly expand efforts in energy policy, fossil fuels, renewable energy, systems and technology, and environmental impact. More importantly, those efforts will be expanded across the State at the university’s 24 campuses.

Our energy industries, such as coal, natural gas, and oil, are vital to the history, heritage, and future of Pennsylvania.

ISIS MURDERS CHRISTIAN GIRL

(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, last week, ISIS terrorists came to the house of a Christian family in Iraq to collect the religious tax imposed on all non-Muslims.

ISIS told the mother of the home: You have two choices. You are to leave now or you are to pay the tax.

The mother pled: I will pay, but give me a few seconds because my daughter is in the shower.

But the ISIS terrorists did not wait. Instead, they set fire to the house. The mother, clutching a small child, escaped. But the girl was trapped in the burning home. Later, she was found. She had such severe burns, she died in her mother's arms. The last thing she said to her mother was: Forgive them.

The girl is a better person than most of us.

From beheading to burning little Christian girls alive, ISIS' evil genocide knows no bounds. ISIS murders in the name of religious jihad.

Will we allow this evil to continue? Or shall all religions unite and hold ISIS accountable?

We must stop ISIS' malicious murder of the innocent. Justice demands it. And, Mr. Speaker, justice is what we are supposed to do.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 2015

DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for half of the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is once again an honor and a privilege to stand on the floor of the House of Representatives to help anchor the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour, this hour of power, where, for the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have the opportunity to speak directly to the American people on an issue of great significance.

Today's Special Order hour topic is Democracy in Crisis: The Reckless, Republican Assault on the Right to Vote in America.

It is with great dismay that many of us come to the House floor today to speak to an issue of significance to the American people and our democracy.

There is nothing more sacred to the integrity of the democratic process than the right to vote. There are people throughout the years who died trying to secure the ability to participate in the franchise to help execute upon that great American promise of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, to vote for those in-

dividuals who would represent them at the city, State or Federal level, regardless of race or religion, ethnicity, immigration status.

While we undeniably have made tremendous progress in America, clearly there has been an effort by some, unfortunately, led, in part, by people on the other side of the aisle, to stop something so fundamentally American as the unfettered right to participate in our democracy by voting.

Today we are going to explore some of the history connected to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, widely regarded as one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever enacted by this august body.

Of course, we know that, in 2013, in the Shelby County v. Holder decision, the Supreme Court effectively gutted section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, widely known as the preclearance provision, in a manner that has adversely impacted the ability of voting rights advocates and others to protect the ability of people to participate without obstacle or obstruction.

It is my honor, as one of the anchors of the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order, to join in that responsibility with my coanchor, who, from the moment which she arrived in the Congress, has been a tremendous force for the district that she represents, a voice for the voiceless, someone who is both fierce in her beliefs, but willing to reach out to others across the aisle in order to get things done on behalf of the American people.

It is now my honor and my privilege to yield to my distinguished colleague from Ohio, Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise this evening proud to stand with my coanchor, my classmate, the gentleman from the Eighth Congressional District of New York (Mr. JEFFRIES). I say to the gentleman that I look forward to tonight's Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman JEFFRIES and I, along with our colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus, will have scholarly debate on how our democracy is in crises because of the assault on the right to vote in America.

As we just heard from Mr. JEFFRIES and we will hear from others, voting is the voice of the people. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed with bipartisan support, established strong Federal protections for the freedom to vote, banning or limiting many of the discriminatory election policies and practices of the Jim Crow South.

Combined with subsequent legislation such as the National Voter Registration Act, which requires State agencies to provide opportunities for voter registration, the Voting Rights Act has helped our Nation make significant progress in boosting voting for African Americans and other historically marginalized groups.

But we find ourselves, Mr. Speaker, today facing our first Presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act.

As Mr. JEFFRIES referenced in Shelby, the Supreme Court decision reversed over 50 years of progress made to expand access to the voting booth and opened a pathway to new voting laws that discriminate against African American voters.

As a result of Shelby, new voting restrictions have been put in place in 22 States, 18 of them, Mr. Speaker, Republican-led since 2010, making it harder for millions of Americans to exercise their right to vote.

The way States have been able to reduce the voting power of minority communities and put in place new voting restrictions in an effort to make it harder for millions of Americans to vote is appalling.

Mr. Speaker, our democracy is in crisis. Our right to vote is under assault.

Mr. Speaker, why would we want to make it harder for Americans to vote?

I believe we should be making it easier for Americans to have access to the ballot box. But, apparently, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not agree.

We need to put forth a vote on the Voting Rights Act now. New laws range from strict photo ID requirements to early voting cutbacks, to registration restriction.

Among these 16 States with new voting restrictions is my home State of Ohio. In Ohio, in 2014, lawmakers cut 6 days of early voting and eliminated the golden week, during which voters could register and cast a ballot all in one trip, Mr. Speaker.

Of course, Ohio is not alone in its efforts to make it harder for Americans to vote. Mr. Speaker, the freedom to vote is one of America's most constitutionally guaranteed rights, and it should be easily accessible to those who want to exercise it.

That is why I am honored this Congress to serve as the deputy vice chair of the newly created Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, a caucus dedicated to protecting our democracy by ensuring the fundamental right to vote is safeguarded for all Americans.

However, after a longstanding tradition of bipartisanship on voting protections, House Republicans now refuse to bring either bill to the floor for a vote.

This is unthinkable, Mr. Speaker. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been reauthorized with bipartisan support five times. Congress has a duty to ensure elections are free and transparent so that all eligible voters feel comfortable and welcome.

I would echo President Obama's February 13, 2013, statement on the Voting Rights Act, and let me quote:

"We must all do our part to make sure our God-given rights are protected . . . That includes one of the most fundamental right of a democracy: the right to vote. When any American, no matter where they live or what their party, are denied that right . . . we are betraying our ideals."

There are 168 days until the Presidential election, and our democracy