



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

No. 206

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 18, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

LEGISLATION FOR IMPROVING THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate what I believe to be the most significant legislation of the 21st century. Of course, I am referring to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, as I travel my State of Kansas and across the country, people invariably share with me what they feel their priorities should be for this Federal Government.

Number one, almost everyone will say within 5 or 10 minutes that they think national security is very, very important.

Next, people typically talk to me about how important they feel education is.

Thirdly, people will talk about how important they feel infrastructure is: roads, bridges, railroads, high speed internet, and those types of things.

Mr. Speaker, no matter what your priorities are as an American, none of those will happen unless we have a strong, healthy economy; and that is what I believe the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act does. It helps to continue the strong economy that we have created.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate this year. We are about to celebrate our third quarter in a row of GDP growth over 3 percent. It seems like just January and I was coming here as a rookie Congressman. All the experts and all the press said this country will never see GDP growth again, yet we are about to have our third quarter in a row of it. It just amazes me to hear people continually tell me what we can and cannot do.

I took a second to look at that. Why do we have this strong economy? Why is GDP growth going so well?

I think it is very simple. We have rolled back regulations and slowed that down.

So many people I have talked to have been sitting on the sidelines for the last 8 years, waiting for some certainty. This new President has given them the certainty to invest in this economy. Now it is time to pass this tax reform bill and make this economy even stronger.

From day one, from the first day we got here, we talked about common visions and goals for what tax reform would look like.

Number one, we wanted to make sure that we gave relief to hardworking Americans so that they would be able

to keep more of the money they have earned through their labors.

Number two, we wanted a simpler process.

Number three, we wanted to grow a healthier economy that would create more jobs and pay higher wages.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be here this week and say that we have delivered for the American people.

Let's take a look at this bill.

Number one, it gives relief to hardworking Americans. In Kansas, with the House bill, the average hardworking couple with two children is going to keep \$1,400 more of their money.

But as we continue this process, we tried to make each rendition of this bill better and better. Now, the average Kansas family will be able to keep up to \$2,000 more of their hard-earned money.

But more than that, there are another 5 million Americans who will get another \$2,000 bonus this next year. Those are the people who paid for the ObamaCare health insurance penalty that they refused to take because the insurance was not worth anything.

Many hardworking Americans will keep up to \$4,000 more of their money.

Next, it is simpler. Ninety percent of Americans will be able to do their taxes on the back of a postcard.

Is that not simpler?

Of course, it is. I don't think anybody can argue those first two points.

Thirdly, the goal was to figure out how we grow the economy, how we grow jobs, how we increase wages for people. That is what we have done. We have lowered taxes on small businesses, which will be the main job creators of this economy. By lowering those taxes, they are going to invest more in their people, in labor, and in capital items. Those will all lead to growing this economy.

This is a very easy bill to support, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a Ph.D. in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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economy, but I come from the school of hard knocks and hard work. Having ran several companies myself, I think the job pattern that we have going on will keep growing.

We have a 16-year high in consumer confidence, a 16-year low in unemployment. That is mostly due to rolling back regulations. But as we go forward with this tax reform, we are going to grow more jobs and have more opportunities for Americans.

This is the start of a new year with the greatest tax reform, the most important legislation of the 21st century, and I am so proud to be part of this process.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 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. BUDD) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Dan C. Cummins, Peoples Church, Jacksonville, Texas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth. When we consider the heavens and the Earth, the works of Your fingers, what is man that You are mindful of us?

In our troubles, we cry out to You, and You hear us. Your ear is not deaf, Your arms of mercy never refuse our salvation.

Great is the Lord, greatly to be praised. You are our refuge, our very present help in times of trouble.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to its people.

Forgive us O Lord, where we have sinned and come short of Your glory. Let Your grace wash over us. Though our sins be as scarlet, wash us and make us whiter than snow.

Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord. Let us exalt the Lord together, and He will heal us.

In Jesus' name, 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 Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS 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.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL BEN HODGES

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate General Ben Hodges on his 37 years of active military service and his retiring on December 15.

Ben and I entered West Point together in 1976, and both graduated as Goats in 1980. We both branched infantry and attended ranger school together, graduating in the spring of 1981. While I went Active Duty and Reserves, Ben continued his active military service.

We met in Kirkuk, Iraq, as he commanded the brigade in the 101st Air Assault Division.

We bumped into each other as he headed the Army legislative liaison here in Washington, D.C., and we saw each other numerous times in his last assignment commanding the United States Army in Europe. In that position, Ben gave comfort to our NATO allies in the east, creating a permanent rotational mission.

Congratulations, Ben, on a job well done. Pride and excellence, and beat Navy. May God bless you and your future endeavors.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas

and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

RECOGNIZE, ASSIST, INCLUDE, SUPPORT, AND ENGAGE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT OF 2017

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3759) to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3759

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage Family Caregivers Act of 2017" or the "RAISE Family Caregivers Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term "Advisory Council" means the Family Caregiving Advisory Council convened under section 4.

(2) FAMILY CAREGIVER.—The term "family caregiver" means an adult family member or other individual who has a significant relationship with, and who provides a broad range of assistance to, an individual with a chronic or other health condition, disability, or functional limitation.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(4) STRATEGY.—The term "Strategy" means the Family Caregiving Strategy set forth under section 3.

SEC. 3. FAMILY CAREGIVING STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop jointly with the Advisory Council and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the State agencies responsible for carrying out family caregiver programs, and make publicly available on the internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a Family Caregiving Strategy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Strategy shall identify recommended actions that Federal (under existing Federal programs), State, and local governments, communities, health care providers, long-term services and supports providers, and others are taking, or may take, to recognize and support family caregivers in a manner that reflects their diverse needs, including with respect to the following:

(1) Promoting greater adoption of person- and family-centered care in all health and long-term services and supports settings, with the person receiving services and supports and the family caregiver (as appropriate) at the center of care teams.

(2) Assessment and service planning (including care transitions and coordination) involving family caregivers and care recipients.

(3) Information, education and training supports, referral, and care coordination, including with respect to hospice care, palliative care, and advance planning services.

(4) Respite options.

(5) Financial security and workplace issues.