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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARPER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 6, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREGG HARPER 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 8, 2018, 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 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF DREAMERS

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the deadline for the U.S. Congress to secure the futures of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers. Our constituents, who grew up in the United States, have been here at least 10 years, but do not have permanent legal immigration status and, therefore, are deportable, vulnerable, and exploitable.

And guess what? The cynics were right, and Congress has taken no action. There have been a few attempts, but the reality is that Congress has not passed a bill, and the opportunities for us to pass a bill are dwindling.

How did we get here? How is it that we always end up here when it comes to immigration?

Well, it has been a failure of both parties to act, to compromise, and to legislate. But let's be honest, the President doesn't want these immigrants in this country, and Republicans in Congress only want to do what the President wants them to do because they fear his tweets and the effect it might have on their voters in November.

The President said he loved Dreamers. Remember? He wanted to preserve DACA and treat them "with heart." He said he wanted to give a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and he told a group of lawmakers on national television that he would take the political heat and sign whatever bipartisan approach they were able to come up with, but he was lying, again.

Just like his conversations with lawmakers on guns after the massacre in Florida—also with the television cameras rolling—what the President says in public, what he does behind closed doors, what he tweets, and what he thinks from moment to moment do not seem to be connected in any logical way.

And when the cameras are turned off, the radical rightwing whispers their orders in the President's ear, and he falls right in line—whether it is with gun manufacturers or the anti-immigration nationalists.

And when you cannot trust the President to have a stable opinion for more than 2, maybe 3, hours, it makes it hard for Republicans to figure out what will please him and make him happy from moment to moment.

Bipartisan proposals that could have passed the House and the Senate were

brought to him and he rejected them, saying that he wanted to eliminate various types of legal immigration avenues used by people, especially people of color and people from the developing world. Without these massive cuts to legal immigration, the President just wasn't interested.

And we offered him money for his silly, mindless, stupid, dimwitted, racist wall, but he rejected that, too.

In the end, this is not about Dreamers, it is not about the wall, it is not about border security. Do you know what it is about? It is about a deeply held core belief of the President, and many of his advisers, that there are just too many people of color coming legally to the United States. There are too many family members of immigrants, unless those immigrants are members of Trump's own family.

It is clear that the President doesn't want immigrants who look like the diverse and colorful fabric of the world. And he doesn't want Dreamers who were raised in the U.S. alongside of our own children, who reflect the diversity of America.

Now, to be fair, some of my Democratic colleagues are just as happy about the injunctions in the Federal courts that are keeping the Trump deportation machine from fully engaging and going after Dreamers. Lawmakers—both Democrats and Republicans—don't need much encouragement sometimes to just kick the can down the road.

But let's not kid ourselves. Relying on the courts to save Dreamers is a cop-out, and a lot of people are left out if they do not already have DACA. And for the ones who can renew their status, we may be back here in a few days or weeks trying to prevent the deportation of Dreamers and lots of other immigrants if the courts change course, which they may.

So I will not let my colleagues in either party rest.

□ 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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For now, every person who has DACA should renew their DACA as quickly as possible for whatever time they have left. I say run, don't walk, to renew.

I have been here long enough to know that even when faced with an issue on which 80 percent of the American people agree—whether it is sensible gun control or preventing the deportation of children raised in America—it is the 20 percent of the American people who Republicans are listening to, and playing to, and tweeting to, and playing nice-nice with the White House to appease.

And the rest of us, what do we get? Nothing—on immigrants, on guns, on climate change, on healthcare, or on taxes—unless we, as voters, simply reshuffle the deck.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

BORIS NEMTSOV

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week sadly marked the third anniversary of the murder of the Russian human rights activist Boris Nemtsov.

On February 27, 2015, Boris was assassinated while crossing a bridge near the Kremlin in Moscow, shot in the back in the most cowardly manner. Boris' murder was no doubt directed by Putin, because Boris had actively organized rallies against the regime and even had the courage to report in detail on corruption in the Putin regime. His death was a great loss for the people of Russia who are fighting for a free and Democratic society.

I was lucky enough to have known Boris and met with him several times over the years. I had the great privilege to work with him on getting the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act passed into law in 2012. In fact, I met with Boris right after the House passed that bill.

That day, Boris told me something that resonated with me, Mr. Speaker. He told me that Putin had made stopping the Magnitsky Act his utmost priority.

Though that resonated with me, it did not surprise me, because I was born in communist Cuba, and I was forced to flee my homeland with my family to get away from the Castro regime. And I know that Castro would have had the same reaction as Putin, because thugs fear the people who are brave enough to challenge their authoritarian rule.

That is why Putin feared Magnitsky; that is why Putin feared Boris; and that is why Putin fears my friend and close friend of Boris' Vladimir Kara-Murza, who the Putin regime has tried to kill on two occasions, both by poisoning.

Vladimir has bravely picked up the mantle from Boris, and he carries out

his mission of speaking the truth about the Putin regime and calling attention to the human rights abuses in Russia. He has carried on the legacy and brought Boris' message to the world. And through Vladimir's efforts, the legacy has been memorialized right here in Washington, D.C.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, I attended the unveiling of the naming of the plaza right in front of the Russian Embassy after Boris. Boris personified the fight for human rights in Russia.

And now, in front of the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., 3 years after Boris was murdered, he is now memorialized as a symbol—a symbol signifying that one person or one idea can be more powerful and more threatening to a corrupt regime than even the biggest army.

That plaza also serves as a symbol for the future because one day Putin will be gone and Boris' dream will become a reality. When that day comes, the diplomats who come to the United States, representing a free and democratic Russia, will be able to look out the windows of their embassy beaming with pride at what Boris' sacrifice helped them realize.

And they will honor Boris' legacy and everyone else who told the truth about the regime of Putin and who gave everything for a free and democratic Russia, where human rights and the rule of law are respected, not feared. I hope that day is soon upon us, Mr. Speaker.

PASSING A STRONG, BIPARTISAN FARM BILL

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the challenges that we face, not only in my constituency as it relates to California agriculture, but a host of other issues as well.

We are in the process of trying to reauthorize the farm bill, something we do every 4 years. It used to be—and we hope it will continue this year—one of the more bipartisan efforts we are engaged in.

I represent not only the heartland of the San Joaquin Valley, but third-generation farmer.

Last week—as I do every weekend when I go home—I was walking the rows of the almond trees on my ranch outside of Fresno, California. They are beautiful. They are in full bloom this time of year. There is not a time, though, in the year, in the San Joaquin Valley, where the incredible bounty of the 300 crops that we grow are not on display because they are always out there.

The blossoms in the spring grow into the almonds, walnuts, and pistachios until late summer. Tomatoes are harvested in August and September, followed by cotton in October and November. The dairymen and dairy processors work every day because those cows

have to be milked every day year-round to produce the finest quality milk, cheese, and butter.

As I walked through my orchard, I remembered the countless stories and insights by my fellow California farmers, ranchers, dairymen and -women shared with me over the past year, and I think about my father, who farmed all of his life, and my grandfather.

In anticipation of the 2018 farm bill, I have held round tables and listening sessions, attended agriculture town-halls, and met with our farmers and farm workers, who, every day, work so hard to put those food products on America's dinner table.

I have done this to hear firsthand the concerns and priorities of our local producers, farm workers, and nutrition organizations regarding our Nation's food supply.

I have also had numerous meetings with key agriculture and trade officials, including Agriculture Secretary Perdue, who has been out to California a number of times.

And as we in Congress move together with farm bill negotiations, we must maintain strong support for the cultivation and production of fresh fruits and vegetables, which are the foundation of a healthy diet. California produces over half of the Nation's fruits and vegetables. It is truly amazing. Three hundred crops.

We must also make sure that we do not abandon our Nation's most vulnerable through inhumane cuts to the nutrition programs that provide a steady source of food to our Nation's food supply. We are talking about our safety net, we are talking about the SNAP program, and we are talking about Women, Infants, and Children. This has been part of the glue on a bipartisan basis that has kept Democrats and Republicans together in the reauthorization of the farm bill.

But we must have a safety net for those who are most unfortunate in our society. We should work to expand foreign markets for our products and to incentivize sound conservation practices and research. Research is very important to ensure the sustainability. Sustainability is critical—and continued growth of American agriculture.

We have the opportunity with the farm bill to address the crippling agriculture labor crisis afflicting our farms, and it must be addressed as we look at a broken immigration system that not only impacts our Dreamers—the DACA program—but a reliable supply of farm labor.

These are all among the issues that we must address to ensure that our Nation's food supply is reliable, because, guess what, it is a national security issue. People don't look at it that way. People go into the grocery store and they think: Well, what is the problem; grocery stores have all the food in the world. They go to the restaurants, and they have all the food that you need.

But the food doesn't go to the grocery store or to those restaurants without it being grown by America's men