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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. CURTIS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 22, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN R. CURTIS 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 10:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, shooting swimming caribou from a motorboat, bear baiting, dogs for black bears, using artificial light, shooting wolf pups and bear cubs in their dens are outrageous practices that were banned under a 2015 rule from the Obama administration, which the Trump administration has now announced that it seeks to reverse. This is absolutely outrageous.

Our national parks and reserves have always had special status, and the Trump administration wants to roll that back, essentially making them into game parks. It is important for people to reflect on what this means.

Think about what goes on in Yosemite National Park or Yellowstone National Park. Would that experience be enriched by having these extreme hunting tactics to eliminate some of the top-line predators to be able to have more things to hunt? Absolutely not. Three hundred million people a year visit these national parks, and the draw is the wildlife. National parks without animals is just scenery.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that people focus on why this is such an outrageous policy. These are low-density animals with low reproductive rates. In Alaska, there is no conflict with livestock. They have very little interaction with people, other than the people who want to see them.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong on three fundamental levels.

First of all, it is just wrong. All animals suffer, and hunting them down with these extreme methods is cruel and is repugnant to virtually all Americans.

It is wrong ecologically. For millions of years, we have seen these animals co-exist, and the national parks—like Yosemite or what is happening in Alaska—are some of the few places where that ecological balance continues to work. Human beings cannot improve upon it; they can only damage that delicate balance.

It is also wrong economically. The economic impact for gateway communities, for these 300 million tourists, is profound. If we are going to turn these national treasures simply into game parks, hunting preserves, they are going to lose their allure, the economic impact will be dramatically diminished, as well as upsetting the ecological balance, and the fact that it is morally wrong.

What we should be doing, in this Congress, is raising our voices in outrage over the latest attempt by the Trump administration to roll back sensible, commonly supported protections. And while we are at it, not just raising our voices, but maybe taking some action on the floor of this House on animal protection.

We have the animal cruelty PACT Act that has 282 cosponsors, which could be on the floor Monday. The House Republican leadership has refused to act on the PACE Act, the Parity in Animal Cruelty Enforcement Act, which just got 359 votes on the floor of the House with an amendment. Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act, 246 cosponsors. The Pet and Women Safety Act, 248 cosponsors. The Shark Finning Prohibition Act, 238 cosponsors. The Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers, providing service animals for our veterans, has a majority of sponsors in the House of Representatives.

Why can't the Republican leadership allow us to debate and pass these provisions to improve animal welfare and add our voices to the latest outrage of the Trump administration in its assault on our animal friends?

2020 CENSUS AND ILLEGAL ALIENS

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend Alabama citizens' right to fair representation and equal apportionment under the United States Constitution.

In some recent censuses, the Census Bureau counted illegal aliens, and indications are they will count illegal aliens again in the 2020 census. This potentially illegal practice puts Alabama at significant risk of losing a congressional seat when the 2020 census reapportionment occurs for the 2022 elections.

□ 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 this reason, the State of Alabama and I have filed suit in Federal District Court for the Northern District of Alabama against the United States Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau to require them to exclude illegal aliens when they conduct the 2020 census.

Specifically, the State of Alabama and I challenge the legality of the Department of Commerce's residence rule, which counts everyone, including illegal aliens, in America's population count.

If the roughly 15 million illegal aliens in America—no one knows for sure how many there are—were dispersed throughout the United States in equal proportion to each State's population, then no State would be disadvantaged in congressional representation and this discrimination issue would be moot.

However, the difference in illegal alien population between States is dramatic. According to Department of Homeland Security 2014 estimates, 46 percent of America's illegal aliens live in just three States. California, with the greatest concentration of illegal aliens, estimated at 2.9 million, has roughly four more Congressmen due to apportionment that counts illegal aliens. Reapportionment of House seats and electoral votes is a zero-sum proposition: one State's gain is another State's loss. With an estimated 65,000 illegal aliens, Alabama citizens, and citizens of many other States as well, lose proportional representation because of various open borders policies of some States.

The exact effects of the illegal alien population on the apportionment of Congressmen is complex based on the Method of Equal Proportions formula that is used to minimize the percentage difference in population per Congressman.

But one thing is clear: Simulations of the apportionment process, using current population projections, suggest Alabama is at great risk of losing a congressional seat if the Census Bureau counts illegal aliens.

As with anything in the United States Constitution, the census should be read, understood, and strictly administered according to its original intent. The 14th Amendment protects the rights of citizens to fair and equal representation. Any deviation in this process threatens the right of each American citizen to fair and equal representation in Congress.

We cannot allow a small number of States to cheat the rest of America by promoting illegal immigration and then, as a reward for their lawless conduct, to receive greater proportional representation in Congress and the electoral college.

Mr. Speaker, the question is clear: Should congressional representation be based on the number of American citizens or expanded to include the number of illegal aliens?

I cannot speak for anyone else in Washington, D.C., but for me. And, as

for me, I side with American citizens, not illegal aliens and illegal conduct.

America is a Republic, and the essence of being a Republic is respect for the right of American citizens to equal protection and equal influence over congressional elections.

Any attempt by the Census Bureau to undermine American citizens' equal protection and equal influence over congressional elections must be opposed. That is exactly what the State of Alabama and I are doing by filing this action on behalf of Alabama citizens.

NO MORE MOMENTS OF SILENCE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, Glenda Perkins;

Cynthia Tisdale;
Kimberly Vaughan;
Shana Fisher;
Angelique Ramirez;
Christian Riley Garcia;
Jared Black;
Sabika Sheikh;
Christopher Jake Stone; and
Aaron Kyle McLeod.

Mr. Speaker, those are the 10 names of the people killed at Santa Fe High School in Texas last Friday. Two were teachers; eight were students. All were violently torn away from their loved ones and their pathways to bright futures way too soon.

As usual, the elected officials have expressed that their thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, but we all know by now that more is needed than a moment of silence, because the silence of lawmakers, especially those here in the House of Representatives, kills:

58 killed in Las Vegas, Nevada;
27 killed in Newtown, Connecticut;
14 killed in San Bernardino, California;
17 killed in Parkland, Florida;
4 at a Waffle House in Tennessee;
26 at a church in Texas;
49 at a nightclub in Florida;
6 at a Cracker Barrel in Michigan;
and
9 at Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina.

The gunmen—and they were almost all men or boys—had different motives or motivations, including crime, racism, terrorism, revenge, and seeking notoriety, which they got.

And they all had access to weapons and bullets that could kill scores of humans in just moments. For the most part, of the only thing the victims had in common was that they were killed by bullets.

The Washington Post reported that the number of people killed in schools in 2018, this year, is almost double the number of servicemen and -women killed in our military in both combat and noncombat fatalities.

And this coming weekend, just like clockwork, as America honors fallen

servicemembers on Memorial Day, Chicago—my city—will see a deadly toll. Fifty-two people were shot over the Memorial Day weekend last year, and that was actually down from the previous year, 2016, when 71 people were shot in my city.

There will probably be no national special reports or wall-to-wall news coverage, because when 50 or 75 people of color are shot in an American city over a weekend, it barely makes the news; unless the NRA or FOX News use my beloved Chicago and her tough gun laws as a way of giving political coverage to politicians, while failing to point out that the loopholes and weak gun laws in Indiana, Virginia, and other States feed illegal guns into my city.

And we should note that the NRA is now run by someone whose claim to fame—Oliver North—is that he lied to Congress, perjured himself, and sold guns to our country's enemies. And they claim to be on the side of law and order?

So, the result is political paralysis, societal paralysis, and actual, permanent paralysis as the butcher's bill of dead and wounded grows and grows.

When I came here in 1993, we had hope and optimism that we could cut crime and reduce the number of guns on our streets. But despite the drop in crime, all of our efforts to reduce the number of guns on our streets, in our houses, in our schools, and in our churches have been thwarted by the gun manufacturers.

The assault weapons ban, I voted for and worked for, was here until it was killed by politics.

The crime gun bill I wrote would work by reducing the availability and manufacture of the cheap, concealable handguns most often used in gun crimes, but it will never get a vote in this House of Representatives.

See, we have established a school-to-coroner pipeline in this country that will persist until the American people arm their politicians to do something about it. But I fear the profit motive of the gun manufacturers and the politicians they own, got in their pocket, is greater than the will of the American people to take on and tame our runaway love affair with bullets.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, it takes good people without guns working with good people who own guns to keep guns out of the hands of people who will use them to kill other people.

It is not that we do not know what works, because we do. Waiting periods, background checks, trigger and gun locks, restrictions on the sales of guns can all be effective in reducing suicide, murder, and accidental death by firearms.

We are not lacking the way. We are only lacking the will to overcome the deeply entrenched, highly profitable industry that thrives on fear, mistrust, inequality, racism, misogyny, and tribalism.