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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 5, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LARRY BUCSHON 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION TO PRESERVE AMERICA'S CORAL REEFS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reintroduce the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan, comprehensive bill builds on legislation that I have sponsored in the House since 2009 to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

I want to thank each of my 13 original cosponsors for their support: Rep-

resentatives SOTO, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, HASTINGS, CRIST, CASTOR, HANABUSA, GABBARD, RADEWAGEN, GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, RUTHERFORD, SABLAN, PLASKETT, AND MAST.

Our bill for this 115th Congress makes amendments to update and strengthen the 2000 law and reflects coral reef conservation work governmentwide.

Coral reefs are God-given natural infrastructure that provide real, tangible benefits to our coastal and island communities, as well as the Nation at large.

Healthy, resilient coral reefs safeguard against extreme weather, shoreline erosion, and coastal flooding and serve as natural breakwaters for maritime ports and harbors of refuge. Without the reefs to absorb the blunt force of wave action, many island and coastal communities would simply wash away.

Coral reefs also support countless American tourism jobs and valuable fisheries across the United States. According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, coral reefs support upwards of 12 percent of global fisheries and an estimated 25 percent of all known fish species.

In addition, coral reefs are the world's greatest source of biodiversity, covering less than 1 percent of the ocean floor but home to some 25 percent of all known marine species. U.S. territorial waters in the Pacific support the majority of our Nation's shallow water corals.

Guam, my home, sits adjacent to the western Pacific Ocean's Coral Triangle, one of the most biologically diverse and important marine ecosystems on the planet, and yet the planet's coral reefs are in crisis. 2017 marked a prolonged, unprecedented global coral bleaching event. Guam and the western Pacific, long home to some of the most well-preserved reefs in the world, were impacted severely.

Ocean acidification, warming sea temperatures, coastal pollution, invasive species, and other stressors linked to human activity and global climate change threaten to wipe out these incredibly productive ecosystems. These threats have necessitated special protections and listing under the Endangered Species Act for 25 coral species, to date.

The Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act addresses these challenges head-on, with concrete Federal actions and policy changes that will make a difference by:

First, strengthening the Federal response to coral reef emergencies, including vessel groundings, natural disasters, harmful algae blooms, and unexploded ordnance underwater;

Second, minimizing damage to coral reefs from invasive or nuisance species, vessel impacts, marine debris, and derelict fishing gear;

Third, directing new Federal grant making for local coral reef conservation projects;

Fourth, recognizing the importance of coral reef fisheries and the expertise of local fishery and wildlife management agencies;

Fifth, developing the first-ever national guidelines for environmentally responsible artificial reefs; and

Last, engaging our Nation's marine laboratories, aquariums, Sea Grant colleges, and coral reef institutions in federally funded research on coral biodiversity, propagation, and resiliency.

In particular, our bipartisan bill provides congressional authorization for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, codifying Executive Order 13089.

Since 1998, Mr. Speaker, the Coral Reef Task Force has coordinated Federal and local actions to protect coral reefs nationwide. Our bill preserves full voting membership on the task force for the Governors of all five U.S. territories and the States of Florida and Hawaii.

□ 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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The Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act also authorizes the U.S. Department of the Interior to take action to conserve our coral reefs. Many of our most spectacular coral resources lie within national parks, national wildlife refuges, and marine national monuments.

Congress needs to take action to protect our Nation's irreplaceable coral reef resources, and that starts with reauthorizing the Coral Reef Conservation Act. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of our House to join us in cosponsoring the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2018, and I look forward to working with our House and Senate colleagues to advance this important legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP T.F. TENNEY

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the Reverend T.F. Tenney, who died last week after dedicating more than 65 years of his life to the ministry through the United Pentecostal Church.

Bishop Tenney began preaching at the young age of 16. He and his wife, Thetus, were elected to the pastorate when they were just 19 and 18 years old, respectively, to lead a newly formed church in Monroe, Louisiana.

It was in Monroe where Bishop Tenney cultivated his leadership skills that would serve him throughout his career as he would go on to lead ministries directed toward youth, foreign missions, and the greater Pentecostal church as a whole throughout Louisiana.

Bishop Tenney will be remembered as a man who took new ideas and turned them into action. That enthusiasm made him a perfect fit for youth ministry, and he served for 6 years as the youth president of the Louisiana District United Pentecostal Church and 9 years as the international youth president.

In 1970, Bishop Tenney relocated to the UPC headquarters in Missouri to serve as the UPC's foreign missions director, a position that allowed him to share his belief in Christ with the rest of the world.

Bishop Tenney returned home to Louisiana to pastor a church in DeRidder. Later, he was elected as the Louisiana district director of the United Pentecostal Church, where he oversaw about 300 churches and 800 other ministers. He served in that post for 27 years before retiring to become bishop emeritus of the Louisiana district.

I am proud that Bishop Tenney called Louisiana and the Fifth Congressional District his home, though we know now that he is in his true home with the Father.

He was a true man of God, who touched the lives of countless people

both at home and around the globe. He published a dozen books, created thousands of YouTube videos, and had a Twitter following of more than 44,000 people, all signs of the incredible legacy of the Christian devotion that he left behind.

Bishop Tenney will be greatly missed, and Dianne and I will keep him and his family in our prayers.

HIGHLIGHTING NEW JOBS AND HIGHER WAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Federal Reserve estimated GDP will hit 4.8 percent in the second quarter of 2018. Under the former administration, GDP never hit even 3 percent.

Thanks to tax reform and regulatory relief passed by this unified Republican government, Americans are experiencing economic expansion after 8 years of stagnation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

One million jobs have been created since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was enacted—223,000 were added last month;

In May, average hourly earnings increased by 2.7 percent; and

Unemployment is at its lowest since 2000.

The Conference Board also reports consumer confidence is at a 17-year high.

Democrats apparently haven't learned the key to economic progress, promising to raise taxes if given the chance. However, tax cuts and repeal of onerous Obama-era regulations have been pivotal for our economy. Now, nearly every measure of success is in our favor.

THE PROSPER ACT IS GOOD FOR OUR COUNTRY

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit today about the PROSPER Act and share some articles that have been published that help explain why the PROSPER Act is so good for our country, so good for students, and needs to be passed.

The first article is an article in Forbes by Preston Cooper, May 23, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I include the entire article in the RECORD.

[From Forbes, May 23, 2018]

WHAT BETSY DEVOS SHOULD HAVE SAID ABOUT THE PROSPER ACT

(By Preston Cooper)

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos testified before the House Committee on Education and Workforce on Tuesday. Representative Bobby Scott, the Democratic ranking member on the committee, asked DeVos about his concerns with the PROSPER Act, House Republicans' bill to reform the federal role in higher education. DeVos' answer could have been better. Here's how the exchange between the two proceeded:

Rep. Scott: Madam Secretary, the PROSPER Act provides for a \$15 billion cut in student aid, is that right?

Secretary DeVos: I've heard that opined. I'm not sure I agree with that, but . . .

Scott: Do you have another number?

DeVos: Pardon me?

Scott: Do you have another number?

DeVos: It's an approach to giving students much more flexibility in pursuing their higher education.

Scott: \$15 billion cut. Do you have another number?

DeVos: I have heard that opined, that that is the case. I said I don't necessarily share that perspective.

Here's a better answer that DeVos could have given to Scott's question. (The below exchange, in case it's not clear, is entirely fictional.)

Rep. Scott: Madam Secretary, the PROSPER Act provides for a \$15 billion cut in student aid, is that right?

Secretary DeVos: That's not quite accurate, Congressman, but it's a common misconception. The Congressional Budget Office score of the PROSPER Act did estimate a \$15 billion reduction in student aid over the next ten years, but only on the mandatory side of the budget. Democrats and many in the media latched onto this number, which appeared on page two of the score, and ignored what the other thirty-five pages said. But as I have read the entire CBO score, I can tell you that the PROSPER Act does not cut federal spending on higher education.

The PROSPER Act expands the federal government's flagship student aid program for low-income students, the Pell Grant. To encourage timely completion, the bill provides a \$300 bonus to Pell Grant students who take on more than a full-time course load. Most importantly, the bill makes several regulatory changes aimed at expanding both student and institutional eligibility for the program. As a result, under the PROSPER Act, an additional 1.1 million students annually would receive Pell Grants by 2027.

All of these changes cost money, of course. But the Pell Grant is unique among federal programs in that it is funded partially on the mandatory side of the budget, and partially through the annual appropriations process. The \$15 billion reduction in student aid that you cited, Congressman, only reflects changes on the mandatory side. If you include the estimated increase in appropriations due to Pell Grant expansion in your calculations, you'll find that the PROSPER Act will increase, federal spending on higher education by \$12 billion over the next ten years.

While the PROSPER Act increases higher education spending overall, it's true that the bill finds savings in certain areas. In a time when the national debt surpasses \$21 trillion, it's important to live within our means. Changes to student loan repayment options are the largest single source of savings in the PROSPER Act. These changes mostly focus on limiting loan forgiveness, which in practice delivers its benefits mostly to graduate borrowers with very large loans. The bill makes these changes while retaining income-driven repayment options for borrowers to ensure monthly payments remain affordable.

The PROSPER Act therefore redistributes federal funds from graduate students and those with high student loan balances, who tend to be higher-income, to the low- and middle-income undergraduate students who receive Pell Grants. These priorities are also reflected in the administration's budget proposal, which would make the student loan program more generous for undergraduates and pay for it by asking higher-earning graduate borrowers to pay a little more.

In conclusion, the PROSPER Act does not cut federal higher education funding by \$15 billion. It increases funding by \$12 billion by making new investments in the Pell Grant program for our nation's most vulnerable