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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. WEBER of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 14, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr. 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.

OUR LEADERS SHOULD KNOW BETTER

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a group of about 30 of us, including 10 Members of Congress, decided we had had enough of this administration's policy to scar children for life by taking them away from their parents when they turn themselves in to American authorities and ask for asylum.

We went down to the Ronald Reagan Building on 14th Street because we had

not heard from the three Cabinet Members we had written last week to give us answers about where the children at the border have been taken to and what our government was going to do to reunite them with their parents.

So JOHN LEWIS, JOE CROWLEY, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, AL GREEN, RAÚL GRIJALVA, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, and I, joined by hundreds of allies, went down to the CBP headquarters to protest their action and their secrecy.

And when we blocked the entrance to the building—ironically, a building named for the man who gave the famous shining city on a hill speech, who spoke so eloquently about immigrants, and was no fan of walls—yes, we blocked the entrance to the Ronald Reagan Building, but the Border Patrol did not arrest us.

No, they feel comfortable arresting 10-year-olds and taking 10-month-old babies from their moms and dads, but when 10 Members of Congress show up to demand answers they get a little camera shy, a little weak-kneed. But we will be back and we will do it again and again if we have to.

Right now, today, there are people who lawfully enter the United States and ask for asylum under our laws and international law, and then they are taken straight to jail to await Federal prosecution. And if they have children, the officers think of some pretext, maybe telling the parents that they are taking the child for food or for a bath, and then the kids never return, simply disappear, kidnapped. Many are taken to facilities that are hundreds or thousands of miles away.

The parent is given a mass trial, so their individual case may never be heard or evaluated, and most are deported back to the country they fled to face continuing violence and rape again and again.

And are their children given back to them? Well, we don't know. We can't get answers, which is why we went yesterday.

Then on Monday Attorney General Sessions had one of the most stunning, newspeak, 1984, mind-control moments we have ever heard. He said that if a man beats a woman, or if a family is systematically extorted, threatened, targeted by a gang, that that is a private matter and cannot be the basis of an asylum claim.

Rape and abuse, that is just a private matter, according to the Attorney General, between a man and a woman. According to the chief law enforcement officer of our country, that is just a private matter between a man and a woman, between the family and the gang of terrorists they are facing.

Only in the Trump administration could someone say something so thoroughly and utterly wrong, dangerous, ridiculous.

My friend, TREY GOWDY, is a Republican who is known around here on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the Judiciary Committee as a pretty no-nonsense former prosecutor. I went to his website to look at his biography. You can all Google it. It says it right there: "As 7th Circuit Solicitor, Trey led an office of 25 attorneys and 65 total employees. During his tenure, he started a Violence Against Women Task Force." Right there in his official bio.

So wife beating isn't a private matter in South Carolina. If you are being beaten, raped, or tortured by your domestic partner, your husband, the police, the prosecutor, the judge will get involved because it isn't a private matter in South Carolina or anywhere in the United States of America.

Go listen to TREY GOWDY's speeches on the YouTube channel or his Facebook. Watch the video of his speech on the House floor in support of the Violence Against Women Act. TREY GOWDY will move you to tears no matter what your political party or ideological persuasion.

But according to the Attorney General, it is a private matter between a

□ 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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man and a woman. He expects every domestic violence victim to hire their own lawyer and sue their husband to get a court order and be protected.

We have a prosecutor for domestic violence in Cook County and probably every county in the United States of America. This is a matter of public health, law enforcement and, come on, this is a matter of good men and women living by a moral code that says we should help those in danger when the weak are being preyed upon by the strong.

But apparently not to our Attorney General or President. To them, those are private matters. That is just wrong.

Sleeping with an adult film star and then paying thousands of dollars to keep it quiet, that is a private matter to be worked out between private attorneys. Fleeing death, and violence, and rape, and torture, that is a public matter, and our leaders should know better.

EFFECTS OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, Chaz Karidis of Madison County, Illinois, had dreams of being a husband and a father. His family said he wanted to be a good role model for his younger brother.

Sadly, those dreams came to an end in November of 2013 when Chaz's mom, Kari, received a phone call that no parent wants to receive. Kari learned that Chaz had lost his battle with heroin addiction just after his 23rd birthday.

As a parent and a grandparent, I can't imagine the agony in receiving that call.

This painful loss of a child led Kari to launch a nonprofit that provides support and assistance to the companions of people suffering from addiction. Sadly, organizations like Kari's are needed now more than ever.

In 2016, there were almost 2,000 opioid overdose fatalities in Illinois alone. That is nearly twice the number of fatalities that occur in motor vehicle accidents.

Opioid overdose deaths have increased 82 percent between 2013 and 2016 in Illinois; not counting how much it has increased around this Nation.

These aren't just numbers, and they aren't just statistics. These are moms and dads and sons and daughters and neighbors and friends.

Addiction doesn't care about your race, your income, your gender, or your politics. That is why I am proud to join my Republican and Democrat friends this week in the passing of legislation that focuses on treatment and recovery, prevention, protecting our communities, and fighting against synthetic drugs. If we work together, we can save lives and continue to restore hope in our communities.

To the folks at home, if you see someone struggling with addiction, please encourage them to seek help through the local drug and alcohol treatment centers. Don't wait for a phone call, the one you want never to come.

FATHER'S DAY AND PAID FAMILY LEAVE

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, it is almost Father's Day, a good time to think about the fathers in our lives and in the families we are honored to represent. I think about the families in Northwest Oregon, and I know that too many are still facing challenges. Too many are still struggling to make ends meet. Their paycheck, if they are fortunate to have one, just isn't enough to pay the bills, and it is hard for them to even think of saving for the future.

One policy that can make a big difference in the lives of families is paid leave. It is an economic issue for working families; and we need to recognize that both women and men need to be able to take paid time off when a child is born, or to care for their children or other family members when they need them.

In Oregon, our parental and family medical leave laws cover more people and have stronger protections than current Federal law, and I applaud those efforts; but there are still far too many workers across the country who are not able to care for a sick child or aging parents because they cannot pay their rent or buy groceries if they lose a day of work.

According to the Department of Labor, only 15 percent of workers in the United States have access to paid family leave through their employers. And although some employers recognize the importance of providing paid leave for all working people, most still do not.

Outdated gender norms in too many workplaces often pressure men, especially those in jobs without paid leave, to limit their time away from work for caregiving. We need to see a cultural shift in our societal expectations about men as caregivers, and we need to dismantle the stigma that being a caregiver is incompatible with success in the workforce.

Congress should get serious about supporting families and enact a meaningful paid family leave law. We should pass the FAMILY Act, legislation that will provide much-needed financial security to working people and their families and provide certainty for businesses.

A national paid family and medical leave program would help to foster a healthier and more equitable society. It would help to bring our Nation's policies more in line with the needs of our families and our workforce, and it would be a very meaningful way to say Happy Father's Day.

THE HOUSE IS TACKLING THE OPIOID CRISIS HEAD-ON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the efforts the House is undertaking this week to combat our Nation's opioid crisis. We will consider dozens of bills this week that are aimed at fighting the crisis next door that affects our families, our friends, and our loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, there is a nationwide epidemic of heroin and prescription drug abuse that is resulting in drastic increases in addiction rates, overdose deaths, and incarceration. No zip code in this country is immune from this crisis.

Heroin and pain pill addiction does not discriminate on age, race, gender or socioeconomic class. Your neighbor could be using heroin, or so could their high-honors high school student. It is the public health crisis of this generation.

As a senior member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I want to highlight some of the work that we have done to help combat this pandemic. The committee has collaboratively worked in a bipartisan manner to introduce and support the following bills:

H.R. 5889, which requires Health and Human Services to provide resources to early childhood care and education providers, as well as professionals working with young children, on ways to properly recognize and respond to children impacted by trauma related to substance abuse.

H.R. 5890, which calls on the HHS to re-evaluate plans under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to ensure the safe care of infants affected by prenatal substance abuse.

H.R. 5891 establishes interagency task forces to effectively and efficiently assist families who have been impacted by substance abuse disorders.

H.R. 5892 establishes an Advisory Committee on Opioids and the Workplace to advise the Secretary of Labor on actions the department can take to address the impact of opioid abuse on the workplace.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of all these bills, and I urge my colleagues to support them as well.

Mr. Speaker, the House is working to not only address this crisis, but combat it and overcome it. We will do so through treatment and recovery, through prevention, by protecting our communities, and by fighting fentanyl and other ever-changing synthetic or foreign illicit drugs.

No person can beat addiction alone, and overcoming this epidemic will not only take a community-wide effort, but a nationwide effort, and that is what we are prepared to do.