

\$700 fee for businesses in the Northern Mariana Islands that employ foreign workers under the Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker (CW) program.

Working with Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and other colleagues here in the House of Representatives, I was recently able to enact the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115–218, including a new requirement for employment of those workers: the U.S. Department of Labor must first certify that no U.S. worker is able, willing, and available for the job that would be filled.

This is the same kind of certification required prior to issuance of an H–2B visa for temporary foreign workers, but which is free for that purpose. In my view the certification should be free to employers in the Marianas, as well. I can understand that the Department may face new costs in standing up and operating this service for the Marianas CW program. The Department, however, had the opportunity during the drafting of the U.S. Workforce Act to ask for the authority to levy a fee. They did not nor is it likely I would have agreed.

Nevertheless, it is in the interest of our businesses and the Marianas economy that the new certification requirement be initiated without delay. The conferees have ensured that will be the case by providing in Section 118 of H.R. 6157 for the rescission of \$8.25 million in unobligated funds from the H–1B Non-immigrant Petitioner Account to be used in fiscal year 2019 for processing applications for foreign labor certifications, including activities related to wage determinations and associated tasks, submitted by Marianas employers. Again, I thank the conferees for adopting this win-win solution.

I wish also to record my support for extension of the Violence Against Women Act in the Continuing Resolution through December 7, although, of course, a reauthorization for a multi-year period is still wanting. I was an original cosponsor of the reauthorization in 2013 and included a provision in Section 201 that doubled funding allocated to the Northern Mariana Islands for the Sexual Assault Service Program. And Section 809 allowed women who petition for status as victims of human trafficking or violence to count the time lived in the Northern Marianas as time present in the United States, so they can more quickly adjust to a permanent immigrant status. I am also an original cosponsor of reauthorization of VAWA in this Congress, H.R. 6545.

Lastly, I strongly support the 2.6 percent pay increase for our uniformed services, mandated in H.R. 6157. Our country asks so much of these brave men and women and we owe them, at the very least, a wage that keeps pace with costs.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 6157, the Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Act for FY2019.

I commend Ranking Members NITA LOWEY, ROSA DELAUNO, and PETE VISCLOSKEY, as well as Chairmen RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN and TOM COLE and Chairwoman KAY GRANGER and our Senate counterparts for coming together on this bill. And I would be remiss if I did not recognize the outstanding efforts of both the majority and minority LHHS subcommittee staff—Susan Ross, Jen Cama,

Kathryn Salmon, Justin Gibbons, Lori Bias, Stephen Steigleder, and Robin Juliano—for their dedication, professionalism and responsiveness to staff on both sides of the aisle throughout the entire appropriations process.

While I wish the bills had come to the floor separately under regular order to give proper time to debate and discuss all the issues, I am pleased that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill is getting a vote on the floor for the first time in more than 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It rejects the draconian cuts the Trump administration proposed and strengthens our commitment to our constituents by funding critical programs. It also ensures our national defense remains strong in a dangerous world.

I am particularly pleased that HHS programs received such robust funding in this Conference agreement.

The bill increases funding for three of my top legislative priorities: fighting underage drinking, supporting newborn screening, and reducing maternal mortality. At a time when this country is experiencing the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in history, this bill restores both the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and all Title X Family Planning dollars that help our teens gain critical access to reproductive health care and education. And as this country faces a growing demand for health care providers, the conference report reinstates the Health Careers Opportunity Program to increase workforce diversity and restores funding for the Community Health Centers and the Nursing Workforce Programs to their FY18 funding levels.

As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, I was particularly pleased that the bill includes amendments from our markup to protect unaccompanied migrant children, including allowing Members of Congress to access facilities funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement for oversight visits. Finally, I am glad that we were able to maintain funding to help separated children deal with trauma.

Among Education and Labor programs, I am glad the maximum Pell award will get an increase, which I called for during our committee markup. I am also pleased we were able to work together to provide modest increases to Head Start and TRIO programs to serve students with the highest needs. Finally, the bill provides modest increases in funding for apprenticeships and maintains language that directs those funds to proven registered apprenticeships.

In the Defense section bill, I am pleased that we maintained the 2.6 percent military pay raise and that we express support for a civilian pay raise as well. The bill also ensures that families can receive death gratuities during government shutdowns. Finally, I am grateful that we were able to continue to show bipartisan support for assisting survivors of military sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, this bill funds vital programs and ensures that our government will remain open through December. I am proud to vote in support of the bill, and I encourage my colleagues to join me so that we can safeguard the health and well-being of the most vulnerable in our country and keep our nation secure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1077, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on adoption of the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

□ 1545

# RECOGNIZING THAT ALLOWING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS THE RIGHT TO VOTE DIMINISHES THE VOTING POWER OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1077, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1071) recognizing that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1077, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1071

Whereas voting is fundamental to a functioning democracy;

Whereas the Constitution prohibits discrimination in voting based on race, sex, poll taxes, and age;

Whereas it is of paramount importance that the United States maintains the legitimacy of its elections and protects them from interference, including interference from foreign threats and illegal voting;

Whereas the city of San Francisco, California, is allowing non-citizens, including illegal immigrants, to register to vote in school board elections; and

Whereas Federal law prohibits non-citizens from voting in elections for Federal office: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H. Res. 1071.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which expresses the official position of the United States House of Representatives regarding the sanctity of the vote in our Federal system.

The authors of America's founding documents extolled the necessity of voting to a free society. Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, believed that "should things go wrong at any time, the people will set them to rights by the peaceable exercise of their elective rights."

Jefferson also believed that "the elective franchise, if guarded as the ark of our safety, will peaceably dissipate all combinations to subvert a constitution dictated by the wisdom, and resting on the will of the people."

James Madison, the principal author of the Constitution and contributor to the Federalist Papers said at the Constitutional Convention that he "considered the popular election of one branch of the national legislature as essential to every plan of free government," and "that the great fabric to be raised would be more stable and durable, if it should rest on the solid foundation of the people themselves."

Madison continued that: "Under every view of the subject, it seems indispensable that the mass of citizens should not be without a voice in making the laws which they are to obey, and in choosing the magistrates who are to administer them."

Alexander Hamilton, another contributor to the Federalist Papers, wrote that: "A share in the sovereignty of the state, which is exercised by the citizens at large, in voting at elections is one of the most important rights of the subject, and in a republic ought to stand foremost in the estimation of the law."

John Jay, the third and final contributor to the Federalist Papers believed: "The Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of deliberating upon and choosing the forms of government under which they should live."

The Constitution prohibits discrimination in voting based on race, sex, poll taxes, and age. The sanctity of the vote is also part of the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the subject.

In the landmark case of Reynolds v. Sims, the Supreme Court stated: "The right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of a weight of a citizen's vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the franchise."

Voting is fundamental to a functioning democracy, and it is of paramount importance that the United States maintain the legitimacy of its elections and protect them from undue interference, including foreign threats and illegal voting.

While the Constitution allows States and localities to grant noncitizens the right to vote in non-Federal elections, citizenship today denotes an association with America which uniquely en-

courages voting in furtherance of the well-being of other Americans and the sovereign nation to which they owe their allegiance.

Consequently, it is very concerning to me that some localities have extended to noncitizens the right to vote in certain non-Federal elections, including school board elections.

Extending voting rights to those who are not lawfully present in the United States acts as another incentive for foreign nationals to come to the United States illegally and stay. Instead of helping deter illegal behavior, jurisdictions such as San Francisco continue to implement policies that encourage such behavior. They do so to the detriment of U.S. citizens and legal immigrants alike.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H. Res. 1071 because it is nothing more than a bald-faced political stunt concocted by the majority in an attempt to stir up its political base ahead of the midterm elections. It also represents just the latest in a long and cynical line of attempts by the majority to denigrate and delegitimize our Nation's immigrant population and to erode public trust in our electoral system, all to bolster short-term political gains.

Let me start out by saying that I can't imagine someone in a foreign country deciding to emigrate to the United States in order to vote in a school board election. That is just absurd.

But the resolution also falls short on its own merits. For example, the resolution states that it is "of paramount importance that the United States maintains the legitimacy of its elections and protects them from interference, including interference from foreign threats."

I agree with the statement as far as it goes, but I question why the resolution makes no mention whatsoever of the greatest foreign threat of electoral interference, namely interference by Russia in an attempt to disrupt our democracy and sow chaos in our political and governmental system.

It is the consensus view of our Nation's intelligence community that Russia interfered in the 2016 Presidential election in order to help Donald Trump become President. Indeed, senior administration officials warned just last month that Russia's attempts to interfere in our electoral system are ongoing and threaten the integrity of both the upcoming midyear elections and the 2020 Presidential election.

At a minimum, the resolution should call attention to this fact. Yet, incredibly, the resolution makes absolutely no mention of it.

The resolution also disrespects States' rights, failing to mention that

the Constitution allows States and localities to permit noncitizen voting in local elections, a practice that dates to the earliest days of the Republic. For example, New York City permitted noncitizen voting in local school board elections until elections in local school boards were done away with in New York City about 20 years ago.

Indeed, an earlier version of the resolution's text, obtained by the far-right Breitbart website, included the whereas clause acknowledging these facts stating: "Whereas, the Constitution allows States and localities to grant noncitizens the right to vote in non-Federal elections."

Yet perhaps recognizing that this was something of an admission against interest, the introduced version does not include this clause.

The fact of the matter is that local governments have permitted noncitizen voting in various local elections, school board elections, and so forth, through the entire history of the Republic. So why suddenly do we have this expression of terrible concern?

The resolution also speaks to the fact that "voting is fundamental to a functioning democracy." Yet, it fails to address any of the real threats to voting rights that our citizens face.

Five years ago, the Supreme Court effectively gutted the Voting Rights Act's preclearance requirement, the act's most important enforcement mechanism, in its decision in Shelby County v. Holder. The Court reached its conclusion notwithstanding Congress' factual findings in 2006 that the act, including its preclearance provision, was still needed in the face of continuing discrimination by some States against minority voters.

□ 1600

In response to the Court's decision, and under Republican control, States that had been subject to the act's preclearance requirement wasted no time in pursuing voting restrictions that once again threatened to undermine the voting rights of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority groups.

These measures included voter identification requirements, restriction or elimination of early voting or same day registration, and bans on ex-offenders from voting, all of which makes it disproportionately harder for racial and ethnic minorities to vote.

These restrictions, enacted by Republican legislatures, have probably deprived hundreds of thousands—or even several million—of our fellow citizens of the right to vote. They are the real threat to our democracy, not the few noncitizens who may vote in a school board election in some local government that has permitted it through the last 100 years.

Members have introduced various proposals to address these continuing attempts by certain States and localities to suppress voters. For example, H.R. 12, the Voter Empowerment Act,

which was introduced by Representative JOHN LEWIS and has 183 cosponsors, would reinforce the constitutional right to vote.

The bill includes, among other things, provisions to make it easier to register to vote and to prohibit and criminally punish voter suppression tactics like caging, voter intimidation, and the provision of false and deceptive voting information. The bill would also restore voting rights for nonviolent felons after they have served their sentences.

H.R. 2978, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which was introduced by Representative Terry Sewell and has 192 cosponsors, is a direct response to the Supreme Court's invitation to Congress articulated in the Shelby County decision to revise section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. The bill would amend the Voting Rights Act to protect voters by requiring States with a recent history of voter discrimination to seek approval from the Department of Justice before making any changes to their electoral laws.

Finally, H.R. 5011, the Election Security Act, which was introduced by Representative BENNIE THOMPSON and has 122 cosponsors, would designate election infrastructure as critical infrastructure and provide financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure to carry out elections so we are not subject to foreign invasion by hackers.

These measures each address critical threats to our electoral system and the right to vote, yet none of them has received a hearing or other consideration by the House.

It is a travesty that the Republicans have chosen to spend what is likely to be the last week of session before the midterm elections to consider this purely symbolic measure. They refuse to consider bills that would actually help ensure the right to vote but will consider this purely symbolic measure, one that in itself seeks to stoke the worst kinds of sentiments in the body politic, instead of devoting time to considering and passing meaningful and substantive protections for the right to vote and to protect us from foreign interference in our electoral system. I cannot support this travesty.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader and chief author of this legislation.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution condemning San Francisco for allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections.

I want you to imagine for 1 minute that you are an immigrant to this country. You came here the right way. You followed all the rules. And after years of anticipation, after improving your English, passing your citizenship

test, declaring your allegiance to the United States and renouncing your allegiance to foreign powers, finally, you are naturalized as an American citizen.

In that moment, you undergo a change. You have known many leaders in the past, but in that moment George Washington is your Founding Father. You have experienced many hardships, but suddenly Valley Forge is your winter. The Declaration is your inspiration, and the Constitution is your inheritance. Lincoln is your liberator. Electricity, skyscrapers, and flight are your heritage. The GIs of D-day are your heroes. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke of your dreams. The Moon bears your flag, and our future is your future.

Imagine, again, that you are this immigrant. What do you feel the first time you step into a polling place?

Actually, we don't need to imagine, because we know of so many naturalized citizens who have come here, played by the rules, and earned their citizenship. I have talked to many of these Americans. They describe casting their first vote as one of the proudest moments of their lives. In that moment, they are reminded that they have become Americans, with all the rights and responsibilities of Americans.

Unfortunately, a handful of cities in our country are short-circuiting the legal path to citizenship. In the process, they are devaluing the very concept of citizenship itself.

These cities—Chicago, Cambridge, and, most recently, San Francisco—allow noncitizens to vote in local elections. That includes illegal immigrants who broke our laws when they entered our country.

And not only that, noncitizen voting actually dilutes the votes and voices of law-abiding Americans, including naturalized citizens. If you are an American citizen in one of these cities, your vote in local elections counts less now than it did before. You can thank your local politicians for that.

But that isn't my ultimate concern with noncitizens voting. Ultimately, I am concerned about the message that this practice sends about American citizenship itself.

Ask yourself: Does the concept of citizenship mean anything? Does it grant a person special consideration in the eyes of our government? Does it impose upon him or her special duties or obligations?

Sadly, too many of our elites and even our politicians have trouble answering these questions. But for the rest of us, American citizenship still resonates as a source of significance, purpose, and identity.

We know that citizenship has a meaning, that borders have a purpose, and that sovereignty is an imperative. Precisely because we believe these things, we have to look out for our fellow Americans while guarding our elections against all outside interference. That is why I have introduced a resolu-

tion condemning efforts to allow noncitizens to vote in our elections.

American citizenship means something special. Just ask any naturalized citizen. They will tell you about it.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me in protecting the right to vote for every American citizen of legal age and rejecting all outside and foreign interference in our elections.

Citizenship means something. It means something to become an American. And today, I hope this body understands that and stands united in condemning a devaluing of citizenship.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), ranking member of the Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the ranking member for his leadership and commitment to working on real voter empowerment legislation. Let me acknowledge and thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, and seek an opportunity to really work on legislation that addresses the question.

I have looked at it, and I have no doubt that my friends on the other side of the aisle are sincere. I read the resolution, and I noted that one particular example was utilized, Mr. Speaker. The example happens to be in San Francisco, California.

I live in Houston and my colleague lives in New York. I know that if this was a moment of crisis, we would see Members from the 50 States—at least 20 States, 35 States—bringing this to the attention of the Judiciary Committee. To date, I have had no complaint from Houston or the State of Texas.

But I do know, when I engage in dialogue with my constituents, they are all aware of the Russian interference in the 2016 election and the constant pounding of emails and the leaks that occurred and the attack on the DNC. Everybody is aware of that.

To my knowledge—help me, those of my colleagues who are on the floor—we have not passed one single legislative initiative or crime bill that addresses the question of preventing Russian interference. We are now at the end of the first crunch of this year of legislation.

So I would ask my colleagues, if they are so concerned about voting, would they help us add back to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, in which Dr. King marched and our colleague, JOHN LEWIS, was beaten almost to his death, bleeding on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and restore section 5?

Section 5 might even help with this issue, because section 5 provides preclearance to any voting procedure that any State may have that would be unfair and discriminatory. If my colleagues want to argue anything, they can argue that the main bill that they should be putting forward is a restoration of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

We have found throughout the States that we do have violations. We have voter ID laws that are discriminatory. We have voter suppression. We have people being purged off of lists. Interestingly enough, they happen to be poor people, African Americans and Hispanic citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to this legislation. I don't like legislation that is "gotcha" legislation. I have great respect for my friend from California. I, frankly, believe it is a State matter—it is really a city matter—that could be handled by those who are concerned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I see that, for the national question of voter empowerment, there is a litany of laws still waiting for this body to pass: voter security, the ballot security, the question of our voting machines, the question of the individuals with the hanging chads, the right kind of voting machines and equipment, and, again, to protect people against purging legitimate registered voters off the registration list. I have faced that in Texas.

I have the Justice Department on notice. I would like to say publicly: Department of Justice, get back to me on that request that I made about being purged in Texas.

For all these reasons, I think we are going in the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker, and I would like us to put back on the floor section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Leader McCARTHY's resolution recognizing that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens.

I have been deeply concerned, seeing more and more municipalities around the country starting to allow noncitizens and illegal immigrants the right to vote in local elections, the most current example being San Francisco, as they have started allowing both noncitizens and illegal immigrants to register to vote in school board elections.

One day it is local elections; the next, it could be statewide elections; and then, finally, the Federal elections. We can't start down this path. But we know this is where the radical left wants to grow their electorate.

For generations, brave men and women have fought and died in order to protect the fundamental right of American citizens to participate in free and fair elections. You and I can't go and vote in the elections of other nations, nor should we.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) can't vote in New Jersey or

Pennsylvania because he isn't a citizen of New Jersey or Pennsylvania. He is a citizen of New York. Nor should he vote in those elections.

When we start granting others the sacred right reserved for U.S. citizens, it puts our whole democratic process at risk and diminishes the voice of the American people. We simply can't allow noncitizens and illegal immigrants to water down the desires and visions of the American people at the voting booth. This is dangerous, and it disrespects the importance and value of citizenship that has been fought for throughout our Nation's history.

Now more than ever, it is critical that we ensure only American citizens are casting ballots to determine our children's future in this country. The left continues to embrace deadly sanctuary cities, more illegal immigrants at the voting booth, and open border policies that simply do not fall in line with American values.

□ 1615

These ideas are so far out of mainstream and continue to be rejected time and time again by the American people of this country who want their voice to count.

This resolution is a critical step to stand up and protect our democratic process. And while I stand here 100 percent supportive of my good friend's resolution, I believe this is laying the groundwork for what is to come. We have work to do.

I believe we must defund these communities that adopt policies like noncitizen and illegal immigrant voting. These voting policies do nothing more than foster more of the dangerous, illegal sanctuary city policies that we have seen around the country. These sanctuary policies promote illegal activity, undermine law enforcement, and suppress concerns of actual U.S. citizen voters.

I encourage all Members to support the commonsense resolution to protect the integrity of the American elections and protect the value of U.S. citizen voting power. Let's protect the voting booth. Let's protect the rule of law. Let's protect American values. Let's always put America first.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, it appears the stated reason for this resolution, listening to my colleague who just spoke from South Carolina, is the rule of law, integrity, upholding our democracy, all things that I think people on both sides of the aisle support and can get behind.

But, when you read the resolution, you would also think that we have a nationwide problem of undocumented immigrants voting and influencing our election. I would expect that, if that is the case, the sponsors of this legislation would introduce evidence that shows this widespread problem. I would

hope that they are not relying upon the bogus, false claim that Donald Trump put forward that there are undocumented voters—3 million of them, he said—which has been panned and rebuked by every expert in the country.

I would hope they are not relying on the voting rights commission that Donald Trump put in place after the election that could best be compared to an airplane that is still at the gate with a lot of maintenance problems and is probably never, ever going to get off the ground.

There is zero evidence to support this resolution. But you know who did interfere in our last election; you know who did seek to influence the American voter? The Russians.

You know who does not care about the rule of law? The Russians.

Do you know who does not care about integrity at the ballot box? The Russians.

Our intelligence community unanimously concluded—unanimously, across the board—that the Russians sought to interfere and influence the last election. So I thought, well, if my colleagues across the aisle are interested in addressing integrity at the ballot box, they would accept an amendment that would also condemn what the Russians did.

They will not accept that amendment, and I would yield to my colleagues if they were open to accepting that amendment and showing the American people that they truly are interested in protecting the integrity of the ballot box.

After this attack on our elections, I put forward legislation with ELIJAH CUMMINGS to have an independent commission look back at our better days where, after September 11, Republicans and Democrats on the House stairs united and sang "God Bless America" but also came together, worked together, and used unity as an antidote against an adversary's attack. Only two Republicans have signed on to that bill.

I thought on the Intelligence Committee we could look at who was responsible, how the Russians did this, identify U.S. persons who worked with the Russians, and tell the American people how this would never happen again. Instead, that investigation has been shuttered, and we learn almost every day from new indictments from the special counsel's investigation that there is evidence that U.S. persons worked with the Russians.

I thought on the Judiciary Committee we would look at the government response to what the Russians were doing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I thought on the Judiciary Committee we would look at some of these issues in our democracy. Instead, we have gone back in time and we have reopened and relitigated the Hillary Clinton emails.

This resolution does nothing but divide Americans even further. It stokes an issue where there is no evidence of it even occurring, and it fails to address our true common enemy: any adversary, from any country who would seek to interfere in our election.

Let's not miss this opportunity now to address that threat and unite and say we are not going to tolerate it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Leader MCCARTHY for introducing this resolution.

It is important to underscore how seriously we must take the right for American citizens to vote. Several cities have granted the right to vote in local elections to those who are not citizens of the United States. San Francisco is allowing illegal aliens and other noncitizens to vote in certain local elections.

It is still illegal for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections, and rightly so. Twelve States plus the District of Columbia allow illegal aliens to obtain driver's licenses, eight of them offering voter registration at the time of getting that license, popularly called the "motor voter laws."

It is easy to see how illegal voting can occur. Illegal voting does not have to be widespread or number in the millions for it to make a real impact on our elections. In Ohio alone, there were 199 races or issues that were tied or decided by just 1 vote in the last 5 years.

Recent incidents of illegals attempting to vote in Federal elections have been in the news. Just last month, 19 foreign nationals were indicted in North Carolina for illegally voting in the 2016 election. In Ohio, seven were indicted for illegal voting in our elections.

Voter fraud is a serious crime. We have to take the integrity of our elections seriously. It is not just a matter of simple mistakes or a handful of improper votes. These elections determine the direction and policies of our cities, States, and the Nation. We must recognize the effect that allowing illegal immigrants to vote has on our right as Americans to self-determination.

Recently, I introduced the Ensuring American Voters Act, which would shore up potential gaps in our voter registration system like States that have the motor voter laws and give illegal aliens driver licenses.

Typically, when you register to vote, you have to show proof of residency. More importantly, in my legislation you would have to show proof of citizenship. Some say this isn't a problem, but when you don't really require proof of citizenship, how do we know the extent of the problem?

As the gentleman from California, Leader MCCARTHY, rightly says, it devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of American citizens. This is a commonsense resolution that

emphasizes current Federal law, barring noncitizens from voting in Federal elections.

A recent poll by Rasmussen shows nearly 70 percent of American people agree.

I want to thank Leader MCCARTHY for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, let's discuss voting in America.

Mr. Speaker, 53 years ago—I believe we all know it—Congress passed the Voting Rights Act to stop discriminatory practices which denied minorities the right to vote. Poll workers would ask people of color ridiculous questions like how many jelly beans are in a jar or use humiliating literacy tests and poll taxes to take away this constitutional right from good, decent people.

Now here we go again. Because the President of the United States just can't accept the fact that he lost the popular vote, which he did, my Republican colleagues are using racial fears and dishonest words like "protecting our elections" to encourage Americans to turn against each other.

If my GOP colleagues want to protect our elections, they should join us in restoring the Voting Rights Act, which was gutted in 2013. If my Republican colleagues want to protect our elections, they should join us in passing legislation to protect the special counsel. But obviously the GOP feels that they can't win on their merits, so they will suppress the vote instead, change the rules, close polling places in Black and Latino communities, remove legitimate voters from voting rolls, pass laws like the one in North Carolina that targeted African Americans with—and I quote—surgical precision.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of the division and distractions from the White House and the GOP to turn us against our neighbors, especially along racial lines. And 53 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the American people expect men and women of conscience to step up and refuse to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ), a member of the committee.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, this bill does not come to the floor in a vacuum. The midterms are coming, and Republicans will try to pass whatever they can before they lose and pass the gavel to the new speaker.

We know more indictments and guilty pleas are coming from Robert Mueller and his team.

And we know Republicans are having a hard time defending tax cuts where 83 percent of the cuts went to the richest

1 percent and the rest of America got the leftovers.

Don't forget the Republican agenda to systematically strip away healthcare coverage from American families who are struggling to make ends meet.

No, the Republicans don't want to talk about tax breaks, billionaires, or foreign Russian alliances of this President, Trump. They want to talk about San Francisco and immigrants.

Republicans will do anything to beat up on immigrants so that voters forget to beat up on Republicans who hold all the power. It is the oldest political hokey-doke trick in the book: Hey, look over there. Blame them, not us.

It started with immigrants are rapists and murderers. Then it was immigrants are cheats and frauds. Then they said immigrants and their children deserve to be locked up. Then the President started pushing the biggest lie of all, that immigrants are a drain on the economy.

The Attorney General, despite being humiliated—I mean humiliated—on a daily basis by this President is adopting a scorched earth, anti-immigrant agenda to ensure as many deportations as he can before he gets the axe.

The American people are smart enough to see through this smoke screen. They see how Republicans deal with a woman's claim of sexual assault. They understand their taxes are going up at the same time taxes on the Republicans' favorite people, that is to say, corporations, are going down.

They get the message that the President opposes immigrant families, except when it comes to his wife and her ability to make her own family citizens of the United States of America. They understand Republicans are opposed to legal immigration, refugees, Dreamers, and TPS holders.

Republicans are not interested in the kinds of immigrants or the kinds of average American families, for that matter, who wake up early every day and have to go to work. Nope. Not the people who work at Mar-a-Lago, not the people who tend to the greens at Trump golf courses, not the people who clean rooms at Trump Tower.

No, Republicans are not interested in people who work at Trump Tower, only the people who can afford to live there.

Well, your time is up. The American people will make that real clear in a few weeks, regardless of how many of these resolutions you pass.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to be abundantly clear that this resolution is nothing more than a political stunt steeped in hypocrisy. The resolution states that it is "of paramount importance that the United States maintains

the legitimacy of its elections and protects them from interference, including interference from foreign threats. . . .”

Yet, the resolution does not even mention the greatest foreign threat we face: Russian interference intended to disrupt our elections and sow chaos in our political system.

The hypocrisy is breathtaking. The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and others have worked all year to undermine and discredit the Mueller investigation into Russian interference with our 2016 election.

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To add insult to injury, House Republicans have voted to block needed funding to help States secure their election systems from the ongoing Russian and other efforts to interfere in the 2018 elections, ongoing efforts that have been confirmed by senior administration officials.

In short, this resolution ignores the real threats our elections are facing and, instead, plays political games by trying to stoke the worse kinds of sentiments in the body politic, all focused on local practices that are not sudden and not new but are as old as the Republic and suddenly pose a threat. I cannot vote for this charade.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very straightforward resolution that every Member of this House can and should vote for. It simply says: “Resolved, that the House of Representatives recognizes that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens.”

When a United States citizen registers and votes, they expect their vote to be a full vote that counts. When someone who is not lawfully present in the United States is allowed to go into a polling place and vote, they dilute the votes of the United States citizens who are voting in that same election.

Why not recognize that? Why not discourage that? Why not call it exactly what it is? The House of Representatives recognizes that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens. It is a very straightforward resolution. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is simply a divisive political stunt meant to stir up conservative voters ahead of the midterm elections and seeks to stoke the worst kinds of sentiments in the body politic.

The resolution states that it is “of paramount importance that the United States maintains the legitimacy of its elections and protects them from interference, including interference from foreign threats.” Yet the resolution does not even mention the greatest “foreign threat” we face—Russian interference intended to disrupt our elections and sow chaos in our polit-

ical system. The GOP hypocrisy is breathtaking. The Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and others have worked all year to undermine and discredit the Mueller investigation into the Russian interference with our 2016 election. Furthermore, House Republicans have voted to block needed funding to help states better secure their election systems from the ongoing Russian efforts to interfere in the 2018 election—ongoing efforts that have been confirmed by senior Administration officials. In short, this resolution ignores the real threats our elections are facing, and instead plays political games.

The resolution also states that “voting is fundamental to a functioning democracy,” yet it fails to address any of the real threats to voting rights faced by U.S. citizens. After the conservative members of the Supreme Court effectively gutted the Voting Rights Act’s preclearance requirement in *Shelby County v. Holder*, many states have sought to enact voting restrictions that target African Americans and other minority groups. This resolution says and does nothing about those actions.

The resolution shows that Republican support for States’ rights is trumped by anti-immigrant sentiment. An earlier version of the resolution obtained by Breitbart correctly stated that “the Constitution allows States and localities to grant non-citizens the right to vote in non-Federal elections.” This clause is no longer in the resolution, perhaps because Republicans understood how hypocritical it made them look, especially because the resolution is focused on condemning state and local ordinances regarding voting in non-federal elections.

Putting this resolution on the floor is nothing but a political stunt, a game designed only for political advertising for the mid-term elections forty-three days from today.

I refuse to play that cynical game with Republicans and will cast my vote as “present” in recognition of the fraudulent nature of these proceedings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1077, the previous question is ordered on the resolution and the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### 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 additional 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.

#### EMPOWERING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6729) to allow nonprofit organizations to register with the Secretary of the Treasury and share information on activities that may involve human trafficking or money laundering with financial institutions and regulatory authorities, under a safe harbor that offers protections from liability, in order to better identify and report potential human trafficking or money laundering activities.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6729

*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 “Empowering Financial Institutions to Fight Human Trafficking Act of 2018”.

#### SEC. 2. ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING INFORMATION PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 5333. Anti-money laundering information providers

“(a) COOPERATION AMONG FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue regulations to allow nonprofit organizations that the Secretary determines to be qualified to share information with financial institutions, associations of financial institutions, their regulatory authorities, and law enforcement agencies regarding individuals, entities, organizations, and countries suspected of possible human trafficking or related money laundering activities.

“(2) COOPERATION AND INFORMATION SHARING PROCEDURES.—The regulations required under paragraph (1) may include or create procedures for cooperation and information sharing focused on—

“(A) matters specifically related to those benefitting directly and indirectly from human trafficking, the means by which human traffickers transfer funds within the United States and around the world, and the extent to which financial institutions, including depository institutions, asset managers, and insurers in the United States, are unwittingly involved in such matters or transfers and the extent to which such entities are at risk as a result; and

“(B) means of facilitating the identification of accounts and transactions involving human traffickers and facilitating the exchange of information concerning such accounts and transactions between nonprofit organizations, financial institutions, regulatory authorities, and law enforcement agencies.

“(3) METHOD OF REGULATION.—The regulations required under paragraph (1) may—

“(A) be made coextensive with the regulations adopted pursuant to other programs, regulated by the Secretary, for sharing information on unlawful activities between financial institutions;

“(B) establish a registration process overseen by the Secretary that—