

and H.R. 19 achieves this goal without harming innovation or access.

I am a cosponsor to this vitally important legislation, and I do urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with the House Republicans on delivering lower drug costs for the American people.

MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO HIDE?

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin must have been consumed with delight. President Trump chose to invite to the White House Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the right arm of Vladimir Putin.

The American people should be on red alert, asking themselves what the President has to discuss with a senior leader of an adversary, in a meeting closed to the press and closed to the American people.

Mr. President, what do you have to hide?

Importantly, Mr. Lavrov is the individual that first concocted the Ukraine false narrative on December 1, 2016, that hid Russia's involvement in our elections, blaming it on Ukraine.

It seems that this meeting is a part of a pattern of President Trump's disturbing behavior to cozy up to dictator Putin and his oligarch cronies, many of whom have invested heavily in Trump properties.

Astoundingly, President Trump welcomed Russia's intervention in our 2016 elections, and then he invited Russia back to the Group of Seven.

He shamelessly kowtowed to Putin at the Helsinki Summit.

And additionally, President Trump withheld critical military assistance and a White House meeting from the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, urging him to investigate false conspiracy theories about President Trump's political opponents here at home.

Meanwhile, the President publicly and continuously derides our closest allies, and questions the value of NATO, for heaven's sake, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the bulwark of our security as free people. And he embraces dictators from around the world.

Yet, again, need I remind the President that Russia seeks to destroy liberty. Putin seeks to destroy critical democratic alliances, forged at great sacrifice, such as NATO, that have brought unprecedented peace, security, and prosperity to the free world, which includes us.

In 2019, Russia illegally invaded the independent nation of Ukraine, leading to already over 14,000 deaths and the displacement of millions. Ukraine is the scrimmage line for liberty in the Transatlantic Alliance. Russia has been working hard to destroy that alliance, which is freedom's bulwark.

Russia has sided with the barbarous Assad regime in Syria, and Russia conducts constant cyberattacks and misinformation campaigns to meddle in democratic processes, including here in our 2016 presidential election; and she is intent to do it again next year.

Simply put, the enemy of liberty will stop at nothing to weaken the United States and our allies.

When the American people elect their President, they expect a leader to champion liberty on the world stage.

The world is watching, and so are our children. How should they interpret the United States rolling out the White House red carpet for corrupt Russian leaders, while freedom-seeking Ukrainian President Zelensky is still waiting for his invitation to the White House?

Indeed, this Lavrov meeting is rather sinister. It comes at a very sensitive time, domestically and internationally. On the eve of the meeting with Mr. Lavrov, Mr. Trump continues to deride our own national security institutions, such as the FBI, whose investigation clearly proved Russia interfered with our 2016 election, and she is on task to do it again.

Mr. Lavrov, himself, invented and directed the totally false narrative that Ukraine interfered in our election, a conspiracy theory spun up by the enemy of democracy himself. By siding with Russia, our President's behavior encourages Russia's malign behavior, while hurting our allies.

Interestingly, this secretive meeting in the Oval Office comes right after the Normandy Format talks in France between Ukraine, Germany, France, and Russia, when President Zelensky successfully withstood Russian pressure. He did not cross any red lines that could suggest capitulation of Ukraine in front of Russian aggression.

And during the Normandy meetings, thousands of freedom-loving Ukrainians showed up on the streets of Kyiv to show their support for President Zelensky and their readiness to defend their beloved motherland.

So, our conclusion is what Russia couldn't achieve through the open channel of diplomacy, it tries to do through the channels behind closed doors here in our own backyard.

Congress must demand full access to the transcript of the meeting between the President of our country and the Foreign Minister of Russia Lavrov.

Free people deserve it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

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INCENTIVIZE BUSINESS TO HIRE VETERANS

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

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Veterans Back to Work Act of 2019.

It is not hard to see that our economy is booming. We have the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years, and hourly wages continue to rise.

Despite the record-breaking economic numbers we continue to see every month, 326,000 veterans remain unemployed around the country. We should be doing everything we can to facilitate veterans' transitions back into the civilian workforce to help fill the over 7 million open jobs we have here in the United States.

The Veterans Back to Work Act would make the work opportunity tax credit, which is set to expire at the end of the year, permanent. This tax credit is issued to businesses and nonprofits that hire individuals who consistently face significant barriers that prevent them from obtaining employment.

Making the work opportunity tax credit permanent is a great way to ensure our veterans are set up for success. There is no reason not to incentivize businesses to fill jobs with the men and women who have served and sacrificed so much for our Nation.

I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to come together and support this critical legislation.

RECOGNIZING BILL ZEDLER

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, a lion of the Legislature in Texas is serving his last term in office.

Since 2003, State Representative Bill Zedler has been a champion of liberty, a champion of free enterprise, a champion of religious freedom, a champion for life. He has been a champion like few others in the Texas Legislature.

Whether the issue was taxes, education, healthcare, veterans benefits, whatever it was, his was a voice to which others listened because that voice has always been a voice of truth and wisdom. That voice will be greatly missed.

All of us in public office at the end of our time of service have to answer the question, did we leave things better than we found them? For my friend Bill Zedler, that answer is a resounding yes because Texas today is better because State Representative Bill Zedler served in the Texas Legislature.

At the end of the movie "Troy," Odysseus is commenting about how history will be written. He says that he lived among giants, that he wanted it to be said that he lived in the time of Hector, that he lived in the time of Achilles. Well, members of the Texas Legislature can be proud that they served in the time of Bill Zedler.

I thank Bill for all of his magnificent service to the Texas Legislature.

COMMEMORATING LIFE OF REVEREND CLAY EVANS

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

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the life of the prescient priest and prophetic pastor that was the Reverend Clay Evans.

Reverend Evans was the inspirational icon and tireless servant to his church, to his community, and to the people of Chicago and borders beyond. His untimely passing has left us all with yet another stunning and unimaginable loss.

Born in Brownsville, Tennessee, Reverend Evans founded the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in 1950. For the next 70 years, he would nourish and strengthen the souls of his flock with his unwavering wisdom, his incorruptible courage, and his unyielding devotion to the Word of the Lord, the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Bible, Madam Speaker, says at Psalms 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Reverend Evans lived his faith humbly. He was a prophet to both parishioners and pastors alike. When the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King brought his movement to Chicago, Reverend Evans had the courage to welcome Dr. King into his church against the objections and the retribution of then-Mayor Richard J. Daley and many others.

Reverend Evans was instrumental in founding the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition alongside the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. As chairman of the board of PUSH from 1970 to 1976, Reverend Evans worked diligently to establish Rainbow/PUSH as a national powerhouse in the fight for civil rights.

Madam Speaker, Reverend Evans leaves behind a long legacy of pastors who greatly benefited from his teachings, including Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. and Mother Consuella York, the first Chicago woman to be ordained in the Baptist denomination. In total, Reverend Evans ordained 93 preachers and pastors, inspiring them to go forward and spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

No celebration of Reverend Evans' life would be complete without mentioning the innovative role music played in his ministry. His radio broadcast reached far and wide into our Nation, into the homes of millions of Americans. Reverend Evans recorded 11 gospel albums and creatively infused gospel music into his sermons, evoking even more truth and life into the Scriptures from which he was preaching.

In October 2007, Reverend Evans graced this very Chamber with his powerful presence, serving as a guest chaplain. It was my deep honor to sponsor Reverend Evans. Even today, I can still feel his presence in the same way that I felt it all those years ago when he took us to church here in this very Chamber.

Madam Speaker, although we all feel deep pain with the passing of Reverend Evans, I am comforted in knowing that he is now with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and with our Father in Heaven.

Reverend Evans' wife, Lutha Mae; his daughters, Gail Claudette Pye and Faith Evans; his sons, Michael and Ralph; and all who loved him are in my

deepest prayers and have my greatest sympathies as they mourn the loss of this truly great religious giant, Reverend Clay Evans.

RECOGNIZING COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Computer Science Education Week.

Ten years ago, this awareness week was established to highlight the important skill set and the role it plays in all industries.

Every year, Computer Science Education Week serves as an opportunity for students in kindergarten through their senior year of high school to learn about the importance of computer science and the opportunities that abound with a skills-based education.

As the co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus, or CTE Caucus, I am proud to support Computer Science Education Week.

Our Nation is facing a skilled worker shortage. With more than 7 million open jobs in the United States, CTE opportunities can offer rewarding professional futures for learners of all ages while simultaneously closing the Nation's skills gap.

One field in particular that needs workers trained in computer science is cybersecurity. I was pleased to cosponsor H.R. 1592, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act, alongside my fellow CTE Caucus co-chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN from Rhode Island. H.R. 1592 will aid in the development of a critical infrastructure workforce that is well trained to handle cyber threats from bad actors.

The bill authorizes \$10 million to create a competitive grant program within the Department of Education to incorporate cybersecurity education into new and existing CTE programs. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Education to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security to better support cybersecurity education programs.

A successful career in any field starts with effective counseling. Far too many students begin their educational careers without fully understanding their options, but empowering students with counseling resources can better prepare learners of all ages for the workforce.

That is why Congressman LANGEVIN and I introduced H.R. 5092, the Counseling for Career Choice Act. H.R. 5092 would authorize \$40 million for grants to be used by States and local education agencies to assess counseling services and create new counseling frameworks.

The bill also provides professional development opportunities to counselors

so that they can better improve their skills to assist their students. We need a workforce that can meet modern technical demands, and students who choose a career in technical education are best suited for that challenge.

Through career and technical education programs like computer science, we can begin to close our Nation's skills gap with helping learners of all ages take control of their professional futures.

RECOGNIZING KWAME ONWUACHI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, New York City is recognized for both its tenacity and its profile as an incubator of elite talents. Perhaps no one embodies these Big Apple virtues more than chef Kwame Onwuachi, a Bronx native.

Chef Kwame's early life was branded by adversity, his early career marked by missteps. However, as a true New Yorker and as a true son of the Bronx, he bounced back.

A fusion of Bronx grit and culinary acuity has catapulted this young man, chef Kwame, from a subway candy salesman to winning a James Beard Award, perhaps the most prestigious award in the culinary world.

Now, as executive chef of the renowned Kith and Kin restaurant right here in Washington, D.C., at The Wharf here in our Nation's Capital, chef Kwame is a shining example of perseverance, prestige, and promise bred in the Bronx.

Go try his curry goat. Go try his oxtails. You will go back again.

Chef Kwame is an exceptional individual, and he continues to make us all proud. He is an inspiration to many.

He is right here with us, Mr. Speaker, in the gallery, and I welcome him to the House of Representatives. He is a Bronx native and now resides here in Washington, D.C. We are proud to have him. He is a young talent. You will be hearing a lot about him in the future, not only in written media, but you will be tasting his fine cuisine in many places around the world.

I congratulate him for having won the James Beard Award and for being a true example of how a young man of color from the Bronx can get up and shine. As the former great champion of the world Muhammad Ali said, he shook up the world.

Congratulations, chef Kwame.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The Chair would remind Members to refrain from making reference to occupants of the gallery.

HONORING OFFICER BILL CLARDY III

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