

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE), the ranking member.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment to require an annual report on the processing of claims for childcare assistance.

VA has made improvements in recent years in the speed at which community providers are being reimbursed for the services they provide to veteran patients, however, claims processing remains an area where VA struggles; to be kind to them, struggles.

We must take steps to ensure that veterans and childcare providers who are awaiting reimbursement pursuant to this bill are not left waiting like many veterans and community providers have been previously.

Mr. Chair, I am grateful to Congressman CLOUD for his leadership and sponsoring this amendment and I look forward to joining him in its support.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, I urge the passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers. I urge support for the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York) having assumed the chair, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, had come to no resolution thereon.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING COAST GUARD CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MICHAEL KOZLOSKI

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a young man from my district in New York's Hudson Valley who passed away last week while serving his country.

Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Michael Kozloski, originally from Mahopac, New York, was only 35 years old.

Michael died as a result of injuries sustained during a crane accident while serving in Alaska.

Mike leaves behind his wife of 13 years, Brie, and four young children.

He dedicated his entire adult life, 17 years, to protecting our country as a member of the Coast Guard.

We all owe Mike and his family an enormous debt of gratitude for his service and for making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

I spoke to Mike's wife earlier today, and she told me that the community of Homer, Alaska, has rallied to her side, even as a dozen family members have flown in.

At a time when we ask so much of our Coast Guard families, how fitting to be reminded that as Americans, we still rally to our heroes and their families at these difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of us to join in prayer for Michael and his family.

We will be closely monitoring the ongoing investigation in this incident and offering our assistance as needed.

Our hearts go out to Michael's family, his friends at Mahopac, and the entire Coast Guard community. We thank them for their service. We remember Michael for his sacrifice, and we pledge that he will not be forgotten.

Similar bills are being debated right now in States like Virginia, where the Governor spoke of making newborns comfortable while doctors and patients decide if they should be left to die.

We have to stand up against this radical legislation to protect the rights of all infants.

This is not a partisan issue. It is simply what is right to do.

Congress must pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and I urge this Speaker of this House to schedule a vote as soon as possible.

□ 1700

HONORING GUN VICTIMS IN AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to recognize and acknowledge gun victims in America.

This week in the Judiciary Committee, we held an important hearing on beginning the first steps toward real commonsense gun safety legislation.

In listening to witnesses from law enforcement, victims and near-victims, representatives from the health profession, and, yes, those who advocated for the Second Amendment, I would argue that, in this tribute to gun victims, recognizing the pain of their families and those lives lost, that no one is challenging the Second Amendment.

But with 100 persons a day dying by gun violence in the United States, it is without question that we must move quickly on universal background checks; we must move quickly on making bump stocks illegal; we must move quickly on the question of assault weapons; we must move quickly on closing loopholes and straw purchases; and we must work with the mental health community to ensure that we address that very sensitive question to help people who are disturbed and challenged.

Mr. Speaker, I honor those who have lost their lives, and I honor them by our action.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 494, TIFFANY JOSLYN JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be directed to make the change in the engrossment of H.R. 494 that I placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the change.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike section 1 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2019".

NEW YORK PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BILL

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge a vote on H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

This bill would require doctors to provide medical attention to children who survive an abortion attempt.

Unfortunately, H.R. 962 is needed more than ever with the passage of a radical law in New York State that essentially legalizes infanticide. That law allows abortions up to and even after birth and ends safeguards to protect babies born alive after failed abortions.

ATLANTIC CITY RAIL LINE

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment at New Jersey Transit.

New Jersey Transit promised the public that the Atlantic City project will be finished by early 2019, but recently, it announced that the Atlantic City Rail Line would be closed up to more than 5 months. That is not an inconvenience; that is a disaster.

My constituents want service to be restored immediately, and they want, most importantly, the truth. That is why a majority of my New Jersey colleagues and I are sending a letter of admonishment to New Jersey Transit.

Mr. Speaker, this is the time for New Jersey Transit to do the right thing for the sake of our commuters, to do the right thing for the sake of our workers, and to do the right thing for the State of New Jersey. People's livelihoods and the quality of their lives depend on the Atlantic City Rail Line.

ADDRESS THE ONGOING CRISIS

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to plead with my colleagues to address the ongoing crisis at our borders.

Just last week, Federal agents made the largest fentanyl bust in U.S. history at a checkpoint along our border with Mexico. These drugs were headed into our communities.

Some of our colleagues will say the fact that the bust occurred at a legal point of entry is proof that we are doing enough to keep our Nation secure and our neighborhoods safe.

I ask you, if these drug dealers are bold enough to try to sneak this much contraband through a known checkpoint, how much are they smuggling across our porous borders in the dark of night or through the open desert?

The answer is, more than we know. And it is far too much, Mr. Speaker.

Whether it is the promise of work and entitlements or the promise of an illegal drug market, we must demagnetize the attraction to our country for those who disregard our sovereignty and rule of law. We must secure our country and deal with the human trafficking and narcotics trafficking crisis that exists at our southern border.

STATE OF THE UNION REACTION

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the President gave a State of the Union Address that was short on details but long on hypocrisy. His remarks were long, self-absorbed, and divorced from reality.

Much like 1 year ago, his speech was noteworthy for the things he didn't say. He didn't mention that we live in a time of the greatest income inequality since the 1920s. He didn't mention the environment and our responsibilities to respond to climate change, to strengthen Social Security, or education for young people.

These are the real challenges facing working people today. They are also the things that the President has ignored during his time in office.

The people of this great country deserve better.

Democrats are committed to delivering for the people. That means:

Cracking down on corruption in Washington and reducing the influence of money in our political system;

Raising wages by rebuilding our infrastructure;

Lowering healthcare and prescription drug costs;

Ending the epidemic of gun violence; and

Taking on the challenge of climate change.

Let's get the job done and restore government of, by, and for the people of this great country.

THE REAL CRISIS AT THE BORDER

(Mr. CISNEROS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, a couple days ago, the President gave a State of the Union Address that did nothing to promote unity but, rather, used fear to further a divisive agenda against immigrants by repeating lies about his manufactured emergency at our southern border.

However, there was no mention of the real crisis. The real crisis stems from the President's inhumane separation policies.

Mr. Speaker, 8 months since his cruel zero-tolerance policy first came to light, the number of children who were ripped away from families at the border continues to rise. At first, the administration said nearly 3,000 children were separated from their parents. Now, we are learning that it has been thousands more.

The administration also claims that they can't easily find the parents of the children they ripped away, and they don't even think it is worth the time to locate them. This inhumane policy and how they treat these children goes against everything this country stands for.

The President and this administration need to do everything that they can to ensure the reunification of these families. The prolonged separation of these children has caused irreparable damage to their mental health and well-being.

That, Mr. President, is the real crisis that you have created at the southern border.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

(Mr. BIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss, briefly, some of the accomplishments of the Trump administration that were pointed out in the State of the Union Address the other day.

I think it is imperative that we recognize that over 5 million jobs have been created in the last 2 years, over 300,000 in the last month alone. The economists had predicted and projected 170,000 jobs, and yet almost twice as many jobs were created. There are now a record of 157 million Americans employed in this country.

The unemployment rate has remained at or below the 4 percent for 11

straight months. That hasn't happened in almost 50 years.

There has been half a million manufacturing jobs since President Trump became President, and there were more manufacturing jobs created in 2018 than any single year in the last 20 years.

We have seen the judiciary be restored to, in my opinion, normalcy, with the confirmation of Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, and more than 40 Federal judges confirmed just this week.

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and introduce extraneous material into the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of talk in the last few months on border security, what it takes to secure our border and what it takes to protect the safety and the security of the American people.

Today, we are taking a few minutes with different Members to share very powerful but very impactful stories from their districts. This is not hyperbole or set up for histrionics, but sometimes the message of actually what is going on in our country doesn't always cut through with our media outlets.

So today, the different Members, many of them have special relationships with these folks they will be referencing and talking about today in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), our first speaker, who represents Indiana's Sixth District and serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure and Foreign Affairs Committees. But even more impressive to me is that Mr. GREG PENCE is a veteran of our Marine Corps, and he is a successful businessman.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body to act on the national crisis that currently exists along our southern border.

This crisis plays itself out not only in the border towns of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, but in communities across the Nation, including my very own, Indiana's Sixth District. The statistics speak for themselves:

In my home of Bartholomew County, the sheriff's office booked 34 individuals with an immigration detainer 2