

SUPPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 11 VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge all my colleagues to support the Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund Act because it is the right thing to do.

I would like to thank my fellow New Yorkers CAROLYN MALONEY, PETE KING, and JERRY NADLER, who have led this fight for years, and LEE ZELDIN, who will work with me to build bipartisan support amongst the freshman class.

Because 9/11 wasn't just an attack on New York City; Washington, D.C.; and a field in western Pennsylvania; 9/11 was an attack on our entire country. This was an attack on the United States of America and everything that we stand for.

But what thousands of these 9/11 heroes and their families now face is being forgotten because the Victims Compensation Fund, which supports these families and these heroes in all 50 States, is running out of money and cutting benefits by 50 to 70 percent.

That is wrong. And if we fail to make this right, shame on us. Shame on anyone who says "never forget" and then turns their backs and pretends this doesn't affect their State or their district or they're suddenly fiscally responsible.

Shame on anyone who says that we can't afford to do this while we spend trillions of dollars on bombs in Afghanistan.

When it comes to doing what is right, it is about keeping our promises and honoring those who put their lives on the line and didn't ask for anything in return.

Now is the chance to put action behind the words "never forget."

ENSURE HEALTH PLANS COVER MEDICALLY NECESSARY SERVICES

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for Kannon Koser, a constituent and friend of mine who is with his family in the gallery this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, 3-year-old Kannon is one of 4 percent of children in the United States who is born with a congenital anomaly—in his case, hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia.

Most health plans provide coverage for congenital anomalies, and many States require insurers to provide coverage of any health services related to congenital anomalies.

Despite this, health plans systematically and routinely deny claims and appeals for any oral or dental related procedures under the pretense that such service is merely cosmetic.

That is why Representative COLLIN PETERSON and I have joined together to introduce the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act, a bipartisan bill that would directly address this issue and ensure that we don't have to tell children like Kannon that their health condition isn't valued by insurance companies.

As the original sponsor on the Republican side, I am proud to put my name on this bill and ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

ELSA would ensure all health plans cover medically necessary services, including reconstructive surgeries that are a result of congenital anomalies or birth defects.

If enacted, this life-changing bill will allow the Koser family the opportunity to save for Kannon's college rather than spend money on reconstructive surgery.

Commonsense reforms like this will help children like Kannon grow up healthier and have a better quality of life.

Hi, Kannon. We will see you later, Buddy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referencing occupants of the gallery.

IGNORING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL BORDERS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the serious border emergency that America is confronted with today is an emergency that Donald Trump has created by ignoring borders—ignoring the borders set forth in our Constitution, borders that were set forth to prevent an all-powerful executive, a would-be king, or the type of tyrant that Trump so admires abroad.

After Congress repeatedly rejected his phony border crisis and wasteful wall, Trump decided: build it anyway.

Well, today's emergency wouldn't have happened without two years of Republicans who have continued to yield the right-of-way to his creeping wrongdoing—more and more of it—Republicans who can just never summon the ability to say "no" to Trump.

Today, we must reject this unconstitutional power grab that diverts resources from real threats to an imaginary, politically contrived one.

Today, we defend our Constitution and our democracy by pushing back on the lies, the deceit, the anti-immigrant hysteria, and the fear-mongering mismanagement of this administration.

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

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, last year I attended a rally where the father of a gunshot victim spoke, and he talked about all the things that he and other people around this country are doing to end senseless gun violence.

Then he turned to the crowd and asked: But what is Congress doing? And tens of thousands of Americans, as if they had rehearsed it hundreds of times, all said in unison: "Nothing."

But what is Congress doing? Nothing. Standing in that crowd was not a proud moment for me, because he is right.

Mr. Speaker, 37 Americans have died from gun violence in my district alone in the past 5 years. Gun violence is now the second leading killer of young people Nationwide, trailing only car accidents.

For too long, Congress has done exactly what the crowd said: nothing.

This week, we are putting forth legislation to enhance background checks, but this alone isn't enough. Thoughts and prayers won't cut it. Only action saves lives. This is just a start.

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WELCOMING THE MAYORS COUNCIL ON RAHWAY RIVER WATERSHED FLOOD CONTROL

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to welcome the Mayors Council on Rahway River Watershed Flood Control to Washington. They represent towns in and around New Jersey's Seventh District and are here to ask our help to stop the flooding that hurts thousands of people in our communities.

For years, homeowners near the Rahway River have lived under the constant threat of flooding that devastates businesses and homes whenever there are heavy rains. The last major flood was in 2011, when Hurricane Irene ravaged the East Coast. The town of Cranford was the worst hit, with 1,600 homes sustaining damage worth \$40 million.

Our mayors have presented a proposed solution to the Army Corps of Engineers and are now asking for a feasibility study to be completed. This will get us one step closer to authorizing construction on the Rahway River Basin.

Mr. Speaker, this is a solvable problem. We need to start now. I will do everything I can to support our mayors' call to action and expedite this process so that we do not have to be pulling people out of second-floor windows in suburban New Jersey, so people up and down the Rahway River can feel safe in their homes.

ADDRESSING THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. LEVIN of California asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a monumental occasion for this Chamber. For the first time in decades, this body will take up major legislation to address the epidemic of gun violence in this country. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 8, bipartisan legislation to require a background check on every gun sale or transfer.

I know the vast majority of my constituents support this step, including Renae Greg, a woman from Carlsbad, who was simply trying to enjoy a country concert when she was forced to dodge bullets at a Las Vegas shooting.

I know that Lonna Leghart, a constituent from Vista, supports this commonsense legislation. Her sister Kimberly, tragically, lost her life as a result of gun violence in my district.

It is on their behalf and on behalf of all Americans who are impacted by daily gun violence in this country that I will support H.R. 8, and I hope all of my colleagues will stand with us.

There is so much more that we need to do to fully address the epidemic of gun violence, but today it is a huge step for Renae, Lonna, and families across this country.

REVERSE PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EMERGENCY DECLARATION

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the President has set a dangerous precedent by crying wolf in the name of national emergency.

I represent parts of the southern Arizona border. My community knows the border. We know the further away from the border you live, the more fictional the border narrative.

Border crossings are down to one-fifth of what they were in 2000, and apprehensions are at their lowest level in more than four decades. Those are facts.

Instead of protecting our national security, the President's declaration makes America less safe. The President is stealing billions from high-priority military construction projects that ensure our troops have the essential training and resources they need to keep the American people safe.

We will not sit by when the President abuses his power. I am confident that my Republican colleagues will regret supporting this false national emergency when there is a Democrat in the White House.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAME SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.,
Chairman.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 46, TERMINATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY DE- CLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 144 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 144

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 46) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. The provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622) shall not apply during the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress to a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Com-

mittee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 144, providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 46, relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

The rule provides for consideration of the legislation under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Additionally, the rule provides that the provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act shall not apply during the remainder of the 116th Congress to a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019. This provision was included to avoid privileged legislative action on redundant resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, today we must stand up for democracy; we must stand up for the rule of law; and, most importantly, we must stand up for the United States Constitution, the Constitution that we took an oath to defend when we were sworn into office.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution we swore to defend granted Congress the power of the purse. That means Congress decides how we spend the American people's hard-earned money.

Congress spoke when we passed, and President Trump signed, a spending bill that granted him \$1.4 billion for fencing along the border. Now President Trump is acting like a dictator by ignoring Congress and declaring a national emergency. As a result, billions of taxpayer dollars would be taken from high-priority military construction projects that ensure our troops have the essential training, readiness, and quality of life necessary to keep the American people safe.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have visited countries where the rule of law takes a backseat to the whims of their Presidents. Just look at Venezuela, where Nicolas Maduro has removed every single obstacle to his power.

When he objected to the rulings of the judges, he ended their terms early and replaced them with his political allies. When the democratically elected congress didn't agree with him, he created a new congress filled with his supporters.

Last year, he even banned prominent opposition leaders from running into the Presidential election. He has demonized the press and even took CNN en Espanol off the air. Last night, he detained one of America's journalists, Jorge Ramos, of Univision.

Fighting with judges, manipulating elections, attacking the press. Mr. Speaker, does any of this sound familiar?

Now you have a situation where food is so scarce that the average Venezuelan has lost 24 pounds in the last year and more than 3 million have fled the country. The Maduro presidency, now that is a true national emergency for the people of Venezuela.