

Going to the polls is among the most democratic of American traditions. Making election day a holiday would honor that tradition, while helping voters to continue it long into the future.

I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman SARBANES, for introducing this historic bill. I thank all of the many Members and stakeholders who have helped shape this bill and who have seen fit to support the measures I have described.

As the name indicates, this bill is for the people, and I look forward to the day when we do the people's work and pass it.

□ 1215

THE CRISIS ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, the crisis on our southern border is very real. When I took the oath to represent the big First District of Kansas, it became my responsibility to put our citizens and their security first. Without secure borders, we cannot ensure our Nation's safety, period.

We have tens of thousands of immigrants filling our entryways every month and, in result; drugs, criminals, and violence spilling into our country. I challenge all my colleagues that are denying this crisis exists to go and see our southern border firsthand, as I did, and it was quite an eye-opening moment.

Last year alone, there were 1.7 million pounds of narcotics—let me say that again—1.7 million pounds of narcotics seized by Customs and Border Patrol. Seventeen thousand adults with existing criminal records attempted to enter our southern border; that is over 40 per day.

But perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the most eye-opening of all, we are now averaging over 1,000 illegal and inadmissible people per day. That is in 1 day, over 1,000 people.

The \$5.7 billion the President is asking for is an investment of taxpayer dollars that will pay off for decades.

The fact that some of my colleagues are blatantly ignoring that walls along the border work is intellectually dishonest. According to DHS and U.S. Border Patrol, illegal trafficking has dropped more than 90 percent in places where walls and barriers were built.

It is embarrassing that, even with this evidence, my friends on the other side of the aisle shut down the government because this Congress cannot do its most basic duty to do its job and prioritize our country's safety by funding initiatives that we know for a fact work.

I agree, though, that we cannot stop at border security alone. It is crucial that we also address and fix our very broken immigration system and allow

hardworking migrants who want to work hard and raise their families in the United States to come.

There is a right way to do this. There is a win-win-win opportunity. There is a win for border security; there is a win for immigration policy overhaul; and there is a win to reopen the small portion of government which is closed.

I am continually frustrated by the narrative that we can't win for all American parties here in these negotiations. This is an opportune moment to quit kicking the can down the road and actually work together to couple border security priorities with long-term immigration fixes.

As we enter the 17th day of this government shutdown, I will continue to stand for a secure America and hope my colleagues choose an open government over open borders.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pause now in Your presence to acknowledge our dependence on You.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House, who are settling into new spaces and committees here on Capitol Hill.

As the new session begins, help them and, indeed, help us all to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive and ready to serve You.

May all that is done this day be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Watkins) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WATKINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE G.K. BUTTERFIELD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable G.K. BUTTERFIELD, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 7, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: On January 4, 2019, you designated me to administer the oath of office to Representative-elect WALTER B. JONES of the Third District of the State of North Carolina pursuant to House Resolution 22, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

Under such designation, I have the honor to report that on January 4, 2019 at Farmville, North Carolina, I administered the oath of office to Mr. JONES. Mr. JONES took the oath prescribed by 5 U.S.C. 3331. I have delivered two copies of the oath, signed by Mr. JONES, to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Thank you very much.
Very truly yours,

G.K. BUTTERFIELD,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from North Carolina, the whole number of the House is 434.

IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, 7 years ago, my son was violently torn from my life, a victim of gun violence, a victim of a person who had a gun who should never have received one.

Today, I join my colleagues and former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords to prevent more families from facing the horror and heartbreak wrought by gun violence.

Later today, Congressman KING and Congressman THOMPSON will introduce bipartisan legislation to ensure that no one is able to get a gun from an unlicensed sale without a background check. Background checks empower law enforcement to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers. Quite simply, they save lives.

I am honored to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation for my son, Jordan, and for the safety of every family in this country. I ask my fellow parents, my fellow Members, and my fellow Americans to stand with me today, in support of universal background checks. Together, we will make our communities safer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO FELLOW KANSANS

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, many Kansans have followed the path from military to political service, names like Pompeo, Roberts, Dole, and Eisenhower.

I stand on the shoulders of giants. I do so with humility and with gratitude that the people of Kansas have bestowed upon me such an honor.

To my fellow Kansans: I won't let you down.

To my colleagues: We will have our disagreements and our debates. We should. But we should also maintain civility and integrity, and we should work to make the government more efficient, more accountable, and more effective.

God bless the 116th Congress and the great people of Kansas, and may God bless the United States of America.

HARMFUL IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the occupant of the White House.

Mr. Trump, you took an oath, just as I did 5 days ago, to protect and defend

the Constitution and the American people. Sir, you dishonor that oath. You devalue the life of the immigrant, the worker, and the survivor. I see right through you and so do the American people. This has nothing to do with border security. Your shutdown, another Trump-generated crisis, has brought a tsunami of hurt on the American people.

Today, I rise to lift the voices of the unheard. I rise today on behalf of the families concerned about feeding their children because their WIC benefits will run dry.

I rise today in solidarity with the thousands of workers with calloused hands and broken spirits working for no pay.

I rise today in support of the survivor fleeing violent hands, seeking safety, only to find the shelter door locked because of your shutdown.

I rise today in support of the American people who believe in the promise of this Nation and ask for honest pay for an honest day's work.

Today, I rise as one and I stand as thousands.

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

EXTENSION OF CHILD TAX CREDIT TO PUERTO RICO

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Child Tax Credit Equity for Puerto Rico Act of 2019.

Under current law, in Puerto Rico, the child tax credit only applies to families who are raising three or more children.

In comparison, families living in the mainland are able to use this credit for having even one or two children. Small families consisting of one or two children in Puerto Rico are excluded from receiving this necessary benefit.

The purpose of the child tax credit is to be a tool to help families offset the expenses of raising children and raise themselves out of poverty.

Mississippi has the highest poverty level of any State. Puerto Rico's poverty rate, now at 45 percent, is 178 percent higher than Mississippi.

According to the Census Bureau, the lowest household income of Puerto Rico is \$19,000 a year, compared to \$43,000 in the State of Mississippi and \$61,000, average, in the whole mainland.

This proposal will help Puerto Rico's economy and benefit about 355,000 families and more than 404,000 children in Puerto Rico.

I urge my colleagues to support and pass this bill, and I thank Congressmen JOSÉ SERRANO, FITZPATRICK, and DUFFY for being original cosponsors of this bill.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4 of the United States Semiquicentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-196), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Semiquicentennial Commission:

Mr. EVANS, Pennsylvania

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RASKIN) at 4 p.m.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 26

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 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.

MEDICAID EXTENDERS ACT OF 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 259) to extend the Medicaid Money Follows the Person Rebalancing demonstration, to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, and for other purposes, as amended.