

confident that our educators are providing essential support to their students.

That feeling stayed with me the next day as I visited Cambria Heights High School. There, I met with students representing music, athletics, student council, and vocational programs at the school. Students showed me the ongoing renovations to the high school building as part of a major renovation of the classrooms and the cafeteria.

They also shared with me their many accomplishments that included earning top scores in the county on the State's Keystone Exams for literature and biology.

Earlier this week I participated in an assembly at the Purchase Line High School in Indiana County. The students asked great questions about civic engagement, and we had an open dialogue about the challenges and the opportunities that are facing our Nation.

Meeting with all these students gives me great hope for the future, and I know these students will become our next generation of leaders, regardless of what fields they enter after graduation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Richland School District, Cambria Heights High School, and the Purchase Line High School for inviting me into their schools and sharing with me the ways they are transforming education to help students not only graduate, but go on to earn a higher degree or a certification or, quite frankly, go successfully into the workforce.

A good education opens so many doors in life. I am tremendously proud of the students, faculty, and staff of each of these outstanding institutions.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

During these days on the Hill, there are many Americans walking the halls, speaking to their Representatives about interests of great concern to them. The American Osteopathic Society, the National Kidney Foundation, the VFW, the National Down Syndrome Society, the Lupus Foundation, the Boy and Girl Scouts of America,

among others, have been advocates for so many who are in need.

We thank You that we live in a nation blessed by the rights and opportunities for Americans to petition their government.

Bless the Members of this assembly, who know best how to respond to such entreaties, with the ability to meet so many needs.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam 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. 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. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CLEANING UP OUR DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERING POWER BACK TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the efforts in Congress to clean up our democracy and deliver power back to the American people.

I never thought that I would run for Congress. I never thought that I would have the chance to stand right here on

the floor of the House of Representatives.

I am here today because I was tired of watching corporations and special interests cutting to the front of the line ahead of the people. I was tired of watching dark money grow, gerrymandering polarize our politics, and the American people pushed aside.

Now we have a precious chance to fix this and to build the kind of government the American people deserve. As we make up our minds and cast our votes, I ask us not to think of this as a partisan issue. I assure you that the people in my district on both sides believe that the system isn't working for them.

I call on my colleagues to vote to pass H.R. 1 and deliver the change our constituents demand and deserve.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Ambassador Bulgaria Caucus, I appreciate Ambassador Tihomir Stoytchev and Mrs. Lubka Stoytchev for their hosting a reception yesterday in recognition of National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria at the Library of Congress, celebrating 141 years of liberation.

Bulgaria is a close strategic ally and partner of the United States. This month, we celebrate 15 years since Bulgaria joined the NATO alliance.

During his time recently in Sofia, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg noted: "Bulgaria has contributed to strengthening the Alliance." He also thanked Prime Minister Boyko Borissov for his government's commitment to reach the NATO defense spending goal of 2 percent.

I am confident the partnership between the United States and Bulgaria will continue to grow in the years ahead. It will be mutually beneficial to promote peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CONSTITUENTS SHOULD BE THE TOP PRIORITY

(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, our constituents sent us here to represent them, to be a voice for their families, to fight for their values, to vote in their best interest. I am here for the residents of Arizona's Second Congressional District. I am here to work for them.

We must reject the culture of corruption here and put the power back in the hands of the people we represent. Our government works best when it is focused on people and American families,

not some special interest group or large corporation.

We can clean up the muddy swamp behaviors by passing H.R. 1. We need to reduce the role of dark special interest money and to make it easier to vote. We need to have some accountability here.

I will be voting for H.R. 1 so that our constituents become the top priority for all of us, not special interest groups.

FAIRNESS IN DISCIPLINE

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, there is no room for anti-Semitism anywhere in this Chamber.

This past January, the House voted nearly unanimously to condemn white supremacy, and it named a Republican Member as we did that. I voted for that.

Back in January, around the same exact time, we had a Member apologize for remarks about how Israel had hypnotized the world, an anti-Semitic trope; a month later, apologizing for an allegation that if you support Israel, then you have been bought off by Jews; and now, claiming that if you support Israel, then that means that you have allegiance to a foreign government.

But this time there will be no apology. I commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have spoken out against it. This Chamber today should be taking action to condemn anti-Semitism, to be naming names; and where that Member in January was removed from his committees, including the Small Business Committee, the Member who has been putting out all those anti-Semitic tropes should not be serving on her committees, especially the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for many reasons.

I encourage a vote today and to remove Congresswoman OMAR from the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to support H.R. 1.

It is no coincidence that the largest freshman class since Watergate will also be the one to pass H.R. 1 this week. We are a class that is born of voters' frustrations with a broken system.

Americans have seen this Chamber pass bills that hurt the middle class, raise prescription drug prices, gut consumer protections, and fail to act on climate change. Why? Because the special interests have more power than the American people. It is the exact opposite of what should happen in the people's House.

In the Army, I was taught the values of servant leadership. As a captain, that meant leading by example. I jumped out of the plane first, and only then would my soldiers follow.

As a Member of Congress, it means we hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethics, accountability, and transparency. Servant leaders don't hold a tight grip on power; they empower those around them. The first step to doing that is to pass H.R. 1 and return power to the people who sent us here.

Let's show America that we are their Representatives, and that we are elected to serve them, not the mega-donors and not the special interests.

WE THE PEOPLE

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, my favorite three words in our Constitution are the first three words, "We the people."

The will of the people is the basis of our entire democracy. But for far too long, special interests and big money have rigged that system against everyday Americans.

This week, we take a major step to change that. We are voting on H.R. 1, transformational legislation that will finally put the power back in the hands of the American people, by toughening Federal ethics laws, fixing the broken campaign finance system, and strengthening voting rights, including two bills that I have worked on with my colleagues to end partisan gerrymandering and requiring same-day voter registration.

I encourage everyone to support H.R. 1 this week, because it is long past time we return our government to one that is of the people, by the people, and for the people once again.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

(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, amidst the tragedies of the Iraq war, I witnessed one of the proudest demonstrations of democracy in modern times. When Iraqis voted for the first time, they dipped their fingers in ink and, rather than hiding those fingers for fear of reprisal, they held them high walking through the streets.

What they were saying was that, for the first time in their lives, their opinion mattered. Their vote counted. It is the most fundamental requirement of a democracy. Yet, today, we know that this basic right has never been truly guaranteed here at home.

Our elections are not free when Americans must choose between providing for their families and casting a vote; our elections are not fair when gerrymandering predetermines them or

dark money makes some votes count more than others; and our people do not have a voice when they are turned away by voter ID laws that make it easier to buy a gun than cast a vote.

H.R. 1 changes that, taking a stand against Citizens United, resolving to end gerrymandering, and making it far easier for Americans to vote.

I believe that America, however imperfect, is the greatest democracy on Earth. H.R. 1 finally makes us act that way.

WE CAN AND WE MUST DO BETTER

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my full-hearted support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

As I spend time with parents and business owners, retirees and millennials, Republicans and Democrats back home in Minnesota, one thing is clear: People are losing faith in the integrity and fairness of our political system, and for good reason.

When I arrived in Washington, I witnessed firsthand the corrupting influence of money and politics: envelopes with PAC checks offered after handshakes and a culture in which votes often seem to have price tags attached.

We can do better, and we must do better. That is why I say, no matter your number one issue, please make campaign finance reform your number two because we cannot address our country's greatest challenges when we place special interests over our common interests.

So let's pass H.R. 1 and begin the hard and principled work of restoring our democracy for the people.

AMERICANS ARE LOSING FAITH IN THEIR GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1.

When I was running for Congress, I heard again and again that Americans are losing faith in their government, asking why the votes they cast don't lead to the outcomes they want.

At a time when we are so divided, I can think of nothing more unifying than a bill that addresses the source of their discontent.

To those who have raised concerns about H.R. 1 here, let me say that, in my district, I have not met a single person, Republican or Democrat, who thinks it is a good idea to let non-donors spend millions of untraceable dollars on political attack ads or to have a campaign finance system so opaque that Russian oligarchs can easily channel money into it.

I haven't met a single person, Republican or Democrat, who thinks it is