

and connect New York and New Jersey. It is a critical project to truly build a better America. After all, Gateway is the linchpin of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, which supports 30 percent of the Nation's jobs and produces 20 percent of our GDP.

The Gateway project isn't just about connecting New York and New Jersey. It is about ensuring the stability of the national economy and the free flow of workers from North Carolina to Maine.

Trump can't be the Builder President if he doesn't build anything.

□ 1215

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last week, on the floor of this Chamber, I released a transcript of the interview of Bruce Ohr from our investigation into apparent wrongdoing at the FBI and DOJ. At that time I said I would make additional transcripts from the committee's investigation public, and I am here today to keep that promise.

As I stated then, our interview transcripts were pertinent to a congressional investigation, but the 115th Congress ended, the investigation was closed, and copies were shared with certain Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link www.dougcollins.house.gov/page so the American people can review the transcript of Lisa Page.

The American people deserve to know what transpired in the highest echelons of the FBI during that tumultuous time for the Bureau.

Out of an abundance of caution, the transcript has a limited number of narrowly tailored redactions, relating only to confidential sources and methods, nonpublic information about ongoing investigations, and nonmaterial personal information.

I will continue to work to release as many transcripts as possible. The American people deserve transparency.

VENEZUELA

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, last weekend, I traveled to the Colombia-Venezuela border to see firsthand the catastrophic humanitarian and public health crisis caused by the criminal Maduro regime.

I met with refugees at a hospital in Colombia and heard their harrowing stories of being on the verge of death due to malnutrition, treatable diseases, and a lack of medical care for high-risk pregnancies.

People with HIV cannot access antiretroviral drugs, as the govern-

ment supplies dwindle and the Maduro regime continues to reject humanitarian aid. And now this crisis is spreading.

I met with Colombian officials who are doing everything they can to support 1.5 million refugees crossing the border. They can't do it alone. We must increase aid to countries like Colombia for public health.

Madam Speaker, our response to the crisis must include supporting the Venezuelan community that has already contributed to the richness of south Florida and the United States. Thousands of Venezuelans claiming political asylum in this country are stuck in limbo because of unnecessary delays in the adjudication of their claims. Granting TPS is necessary and humane for those Venezuelans now here.

HONORING LOUISE WILLIAMS

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and I am proud to honor some remarkable women in my district this month.

Today, I would like to honor Judge Louise Williams, who was elected in 1973 as the first female district judge in Lancaster County. She served for 26 years, and also was the first female Black district judge in Pennsylvania. But she did so much more than that.

She was a member of the Lancaster City Council for three terms, served as council president during two of those terms, and she was also appointed to the State Board of Pardons, where she became the first victims advocate, serving 18 years there. She was involved in many other community organizations, including terms as president of the Lancaster NAACP, and of Girls, Inc. of Lancaster County.

Ms. Williams was a trailblazer for women in our community and always found ways to give back to our community and encourage others. She is one of the most respected civic figures in our district. It is an honor to recognize her today.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

(Ms. HILL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Equality Act.

As the first LGBTQ woman in Congress from the State of California and the second openly bisexual woman to serve in Congress overall, I could not be prouder to support this landmark legislation.

Throughout my run, I got so many questions about why I chose to be honest about my sexuality. I am married to a man, I am from a purple, histori-

cally Republican, district, and everyone said it would be easier for me to hide who I am. But the reality is that representation matters, especially for the LGBTQ community, when so many of our basic rights are still at risk.

Through my work on the issue of homelessness, I have seen how disproportionately our community is affected by discrimination still. The Equality Act will provide basic protections in terms of employment, housing, education, and more. Everyone should have a fair chance to earn a living and provide a home for their families without fear of harassment or discrimination.

I could not be prouder to be part of a new generation of leaders who will be the ones to finally pass the Equality Act and fight for true freedom and equality for all.

AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as we work to strengthen America's roads, bridges, and highways, it is important that our workforce keeps pace with our infrastructure improvements.

Seventy percent of the Nation's freight is carried by commercial trucks, yet, as our economy strengthens, motor carriers are having difficulty finding the drivers they need to handle the growing capacity.

While most States, including Indiana, allow drivers to obtain a commercial driver's license at 18, they are prohibited from driving in interstate commerce until they are 21 by Federal law.

To address this issue, I cosponsored legislation to alleviate the shortage of commercial drivers back home, helping our farmers, manufacturers, retailers, and small businesses to keep Hoosiers working, eating, building, selling, and growing.

The DRIVE-Safe Act will help Indiana's freight continue to move, while preserving the safety of our highway system.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to help fill these desperately needed jobs and provide young Hoosiers with the opportunity to enter the industry.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the budget proposed by the President of the United States.

A budget is a statement of our values as a Nation—a moral document—what we prioritize and what we hope to accomplish. The President released his budget proposal yesterday and, while I

cannot say I am surprised, President Trump's budget, once again, shows his disregard for the values of the health and well-being of families across America.

Just 3 months after signing the farm bill, President Trump proposes a 14.8 percent cut to USDA's—agriculture's—annual budget. This would hinder the Department's ability to implement the bipartisan farm bill Congress just passed overwhelmingly.

With sharp cuts to the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and elimination of the Value Added Producer Grants, these cuts will hurt farmers in the Virgin Islands, as well as other places in our country.

Far from building a stronger Nation, the President's budget would devastate the pillars of economic security for farmers, seniors, and families across America. I wholeheartedly reject this destructive budget request.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, early this year, I made the decision to hang the transgender flag in front of my office. It was meant to be a small and simple gesture of solidarity.

Overnight, my office was flooded with messages of gratitude. The flag outside of my office had gone viral. Folks from all over called, emailed, wrote, and DM'd my office to thank me for doing it.

But today, we all have an historic opportunity to support substantive legislation that will be transformative for millions of Americans.

The Equality Act is a bipartisan bill that will provide comprehensive, Federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ individuals in employment, housing, credit, education, and much more, because today our LGBTQ brothers and sisters can marry the person they love on Sunday and, for that reason alone, be evicted from their housing or fired from their jobs on Monday. That isn't right, but the Equality Act can fix it.

To my colleagues, let's extend the full promise of this Nation to every LGBTQ American. Let's pass the Equality Act.

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Girl Scouts of the United States.

On this day in 1912, the Girl Scouts of America was officially launched in Savannah, Georgia, with a meeting of just 18 girls. Now, 107 years later, the Girl Scouts have engaged and inspired

generations of young women and empowered millions to serve their communities.

More than 50 million women are alumni of the Girl Scouts: 58 percent of the women who serve in Congress were Girl Scouts, and 72 percent of the women who serve in the Senate were Girl Scouts as young women.

My daughters and I have been lucky enough to be a small part of this rich history, and, for the past 5 years, I have served as a Girl Scout leader for my daughter's troop. Two-and-a-half million girls and adults nationwide participate in this tremendous program.

In my time as a Girl Scout leader, I have gotten to know so many bright and talented young women, to learn from them and with them, and to use the tools and lessons of the Girl Scouts to instill within these future leaders a fundamental belief in the power of service, the value of character, and the importance in our community.

As storied as this organization's past is, it will always be focused on the future. That is the purpose of Girl Scouts.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-20)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2019.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2019.

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.

□ 1230

CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 156) calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 156

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a Russian statesman who, over 25 years of public service, served as a Member of Parliament, Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod Region, and First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia;

Whereas throughout his life, Boris Nemtsov showed an unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law, and to upholding the rights and dignity of Russian citizens;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a powerful voice in opposition to the authoritarianism and corruption of Vladimir Putin's government, publicizing its abuses, leading street protests against election fraud and the war on Ukraine, and successfully advocating for international sanctions on human rights violators;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was co-chairman of a leading opposition party, won election to the Yaroslavl Regional Duma in 2013, and was planning to run for the Russian Parliament in 2016 and challenge Vladimir Putin for the Presidency in 2018;

Whereas, on the evening of February 27, 2015, Boris Nemtsov was shot in the back and killed as he walked across Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge near the Kremlin in Moscow;

Whereas, on March 7 and 8, 2015, Russian authorities arrested five individuals, all of them natives of the Chechen Republic, on suspicion of carrying out the assassination, while a sixth suspect allegedly blew himself up during the attempted arrest;

Whereas the defendants were tried at the Moscow District Military Court, which on June 29, 2017, found them guilty of carrying out the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, and on July 13, 2017, sentenced them to different prison terms;

Whereas at the time of the assassination, the now-convicted gunman, Zaur Dadayev, was serving as a Lieutenant in the Internal Troops of the Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation and as Deputy Battalion Commander in the "Sever" ("North") Regiment stationed in the Chechen Republic, under the command of the Internal Troops Commander, General Viktor Zolotov, and the Kremlin-backed head of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov;

Whereas Ramzan Kadyrov has called Lieutenant Zaur Dadayev a "true patriot" and has publicly referred to Boris Nemtsov as an "enemy of Russia";