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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 2, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable G.K. BUTTERFIELD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

BROKEN PROMISES FOR HURRICANE MICHAEL RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2018, a Category 3 storm, Hurricane Michael, entered my State of Georgia with a devastating force.

It was harvest time for the 2018 crop, and it was the best yield, especially for cotton, that we had seen in years. Farmers who had been suffering in the

midst of low commodity prices, unfair trade prices, labor shortages, and consecutive years of storms now had relief in sight. Then entered Hurricane Michael, and it was all gone in a matter of hours. Not just the commodity crops like cotton, but the orchards, too.

Since day one post-Hurricane Michael, I have worked side by side with my friend and my colleague, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP. Hurricane Michael didn't discriminate between our district lines. I want to thank him for his help and his support of our State and our agricultural producers in Georgia.

Soon after the storm, the President, Vice President PENCE, and Secretary Perdue met with the two of us, our farmers, and our community leaders and promised to help them rebuild. Members of both parties, in both Chambers of Congress, echoed the same support. Six months later, and those promises of support have been broken. Never before have we seen communities that were wrecked with catastrophes neglected like this.

Those votes in the Senate yesterday showed a lack of honor and dignity and how truly ugly and partisan politics have become. The truth is, if Hurricane Michael had hit Americans who weren't farmers or farmers who aren't Americans, the stories of yesterday's cowardice would be the front page of every paper.

Whether the press likes it or not and whether the Senators from New York or Vermont like it or not, we are Americans, too. And what happened yesterday was cowardly, partisan politics and truly un-American.

IMMIGRANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW JERSEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the hard work and dedication of

immigrant communities across New Jersey and across this country.

Earlier this month, the New Jersey Policy Perspective issued a report confirming something we have known for a long time in my district and in New Jersey: immigrants continue to serve as the backbone of Main Street.

Immigrants make up 22 percent of the total State population, and immigrants own 47 percent of Main Street businesses. Immigrant communities own 81 percent of household maintenance services, 79 percent of laundry businesses, and nearly 50 percent of child care centers and clothing stores. According to the study, immigrants contribute \$4.4 billion a year to just the New Jersey economy, employing thousands and driving economic growth.

This study is just another reminder that toxic rhetoric against immigration is a misguided attack against our neighbors, our teachers, our firefighters, and local shop owners. As a first generation American, I can attest firsthand to the grit and determination needed to succeed in this country. These brave families sacrifice everything to work hard in America and provide opportunities for their loved ones.

Supporting immigrant communities is the right thing to do to advance American values and boost job growth across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to the immigrants working hard across the State of New Jersey and across this country.

FULL PROTECTION FOR BABIES BORN ALIVE

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House on an important issue, and maybe the most important issue, Mr. Speaker, and that is the issue of life.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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We brought a bill forward, H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This is a bill, Mr. Speaker, that many wonder why is it even necessary that we need a law to say that if a baby is born alive, outside of the womb, we need to give it the full protections under law.

Many people ask, Mr. Speaker, why isn't that already protected? If a baby is born alive, it should have the full protections of anybody else. And yet, as we see in States like New York and other States around the country, they allow, in those States, the baby, even after it is born alive, to be killed. To me, Mr. Speaker, that is murder, and yet, in many States, they don't have the full protection that all of us enjoy. How could that be, in the United States of America, that a baby born alive can still be killed after it is born outside of the womb?

This issue transcends the abortion debate. In fact, people across every spectrum—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, even people who align themselves as pro-choice—believe it is wrong to murder the baby after it is born alive, and yet it is still allowed. There should be no reason that this is a gray issue.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I will be joining my colleague, ANN WAGNER, the lead author of this bill, to start a discharge petition: an opportunity for every Member of Congress to make their voices heard loud and clear that this bill ought to come to this floor for a full debate and, ultimately, for a vote.

We ought to pass this law, Mr. Speaker. There should be no doubt. It shouldn't be a partisan issue. It shouldn't be an issue that we have disagreement over, and yet we do. For whatever reason, the Speaker will not allow this bill, though, to come up for a vote. We have tried time after time to move unanimous consent to bring this bill to the floor and, for months, that motion has been denied.

The most vulnerable among us should no longer be denied that protection under the law. Mr. Speaker, this bill has to come up for a vote. This bill has to be debated by the people's House.

Why not allow people all across the country to participate in this debate? As they find out about it, the reaction I get is not a debate on political lines, it is shock that this isn't already law.

Every baby born alive, Mr. Speaker, ought to have the full protection under law that is currently provided to all of us. H.R. 962 should be one of the easiest things that we pass through this House, yet, unfortunately, it has become one of the most difficult. But that is okay, Mr. Speaker. We know that it is the difficult things that we come here to do, not the easy, because it would have already been done.

So we are going to be leading the charge today, standing with people all across the country. And, in fact, we are actually bringing in people, Mr. Speaker, who survived an attempted abor-

tion. It happens all across this country. And when that baby is born alive, that baby ought to have the full protection under the law. We will start the process today to ensure that that full debate happens and, ultimately, that the vote happens to pass the Born Alive Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to sign on to this discharge petition.

AMERICANS DEPEND ON CLEAN WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I rise to celebrate Clean Water Week. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of water for our communities, not only in my home State of California, but across the country. Americans depend on clean water for their health, the health of their communities, and the health of the economy.

Our water resources are precious, and every drop matters, which is why we need significant Federal investment in our Nation's infrastructure and strong Federal protections for our Nation's water resources.

We need to protect our waterways, large and small, from pollution; ensure we conserve our water resources; recycle water where we can; and protect our groundwater resources for long-term reliance.

There are tremendous clean water infrastructure needs facing our country. Our communities, large and small, urban and rural, and tribal, as well as our American families are facing great challenges in meeting these needs.

Today, our Nation's network of sewers, stormwater conveyances, and treatment facilities are aging, often very outdated, and, in many places all over the country, not meeting the needs of our communities or water quality standards.

We, in Congress, need to do more, not only to renew the Federal financial commitment to repair, replace, and upgrade our water-related infrastructure, but also to ensure that this work remains affordable to all of our communities.

Today, too many Americans are uncertain whether their drinking water is safe for themselves and for their families. Now is not the time to cut back on the protections of our Nation's clean water. Yet, this administration is proposing to do just that.

For more than 45 years, the Clean Water Act has helped to protect our streams, our rivers, our wetlands, and our lakes, and provided States with the tools to keep our waters clean. This administration has proposed eliminating longstanding protections for small

streams and wetlands, which play a very important role in feeding our drinking water resources. They also help store water during storms and alleviate flooding, which, in turn, protects communities. These small streams and wetlands help recharge our groundwater supplies. They also filter pollution and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Clean and safe water is a very basic human need. Unfortunately, this administration has made it a priority to dismantle the Clean Water Act, regardless of what the science or the law provides. The President's #DirtyWaterRule puts our water and health at risk and must be stopped.

Our drought cycle in southern California continues, even though we have had repeated rain in March. We must continue to conserve. This must be the new norm for us in the West.

□ 1015

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERSEALS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Easterseals on its 100th anniversary.

Easterseals is a network of more than 70 leading nonprofit organizations that provide local services and support to children and adults with disabilities, veterans, and older adults.

Founded in 1919 in Ohio, Easterseals works nationwide, in almost every State, to help Americans achieve milestones, live independently, and be active members of their communities.

Easterseals employs more than 30,000 professional staff across the country, including therapists, nurses, employment specialists, and direct support professionals who deliver high-quality services.

Over the past century, Easterseals has helped millions of individuals and families by assisting children who have disabilities; helping them access early intervention, including physical and speech therapies, to help prepare them for successful learning; providing in-home and community adult day services for seniors and people with disabilities; helping individuals with disabilities, veterans, and seniors find meaningful employment; and providing camping and recreational opportunities to youth and adults with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Easterseals provides autistic individuals early education, employment, camping, caregiving, transportation, and other services to support Americans of all ages.

The number of children in the U.S. with developmental delays is on the rise. A recent study found that approximately 13 percent of infants and toddlers have a developmental delay. Research has also shown that one in