

more mental health services; and we need everyone with a preexisting condition to have coverage.

Each and every one of us in this Chamber has a loved one or a neighbor who would be hurt by this effort. This includes my friend Vicky, from Modesto.

She was healthy her whole life until she had her first seizure. She was hospitalized and was having four to five seizures a day until her doctor was able to find a medication that worked. She has to pay \$400 a month even now for this medicine, and she has insurance.

Imagine if this lawsuit goes through. Vicky will completely lose her insurance. There are 100,000 other people in my community with a story just like hers. These are real people who would be hurt.

Folks in my community have been crystal clear on this issue: We need more healthcare for more people.

My community needs us to move this discussion forward, not backwards.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDER of California). Pursuant to House Resolution 281 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1585.

Will the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 0919

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, with Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, amendment No. 38 printed in part B of House Report 116-32 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) had been disposed of.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MRS. AXNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 116-32.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 29, strike lines 3 through 7 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 201. SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM.

Section 41601(f)(1) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12511(f)(1)) is amended by striking “\$40,000,000 to remain available until expended for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$60,000,000 to remain available until expended for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 281, the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, the Violence Against Women Act expired on September 30, 2018. It is incredibly disappointing that we ever let this landmark bill expire in the first place, but we now have an opportunity to provide additional resources and address gaps in the expired law to better protect women in Iowa and across the land from violence. My amendment will help do that.

I have introduced an amendment that will increase STOP grants to help local law enforcement agencies and community organizations better combat and prosecute violence against women. This funding will help law enforcement agencies develop and strengthen strategies to end domestic and sexual violence.

I have met with local police officers and sheriffs throughout my district, and they all tell me they are underresourced and they are understaffed. I promised them I would do anything in my power to make sure they get what they need to protect our communities.

STOP grants also provide prosecutors with the proper tools and resources they need to get justice for survivors and prosecute those who commit violence against women.

While we must do everything in our power to stop violence against women, the sad reality is domestic and sexual violence is prevalent in this country. It is prevalent across all socioeconomic backgrounds, and it is something that is not exclusive to any one part of this country. We have it in our own backyard.

For many victims of domestic and sexual violence, recovery can be a lifelong process. We need to make sure that we are providing organizations that provide victim services, like the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, with the resources they need to develop and strengthen programs to help as many survivors as possible.

When I worked at the State of Iowa, I helped the Crime Victims Assistance Unit in the AG’s office improve their processes, so I know that in Iowa—I have seen it firsthand—we don’t have enough resources to address the needs that we have.

There are simple steps that we can take that have a major impact on the amount of people that we can help, and that is what these grants do. They will help our local law enforcement agencies, our local prosecutors, and local community organizations stop more crimes, prosecute more perpetrators, and provide services to more survivors.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, which increases the authorization of STOP grants from \$40 million to \$60 million. The amendment does not have an offset from any other account.

We had a hearing on this important legislation in committee. The gentlewoman is correct in stating that domestic violence is a problem and we must take action to confront it. It was disappointing that the legislation was taken from what was a bipartisan consensus and turned into a partisan document that went far beyond the underlying legislation which was allowed to expire.

We had a hearing, and no witness that I recall advocated, during committee, for increasing the authorization level for STOP grants.

STOP grants do perform a vital service. In fact, one of my first jobs out of law school was prosecuting under a STOP grant, prosecuting domestic violence cases in Rockingham County in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

In the markup in committee, not a single Democrat offered any amendment to increase the authorization level by an additional \$20 million. There has been no reason given to add an additional 50 percent to this specific program as opposed to any program. So I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), my colleague.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I support this amendment which would increase the sexual assault services program authorization from \$40 million to \$60 million.

This program assists States, Tribes, and territories to provide intervention, advocacy support, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault.

Experts in the field have indicated that this program is underfunded for the depth and the breadth of the work it covers, despite the remarks of the gentleman from Virginia.

It is underfunded. We need more money here. I support the amendment of the gentlewoman.

Now, the gentleman from Virginia says there is no offset. That is true. We do not need an offset.

Of course, we could take it away from President Trump’s personal part of the tax, of the \$1.8 trillion tax break that the Republicans voted for for the rich.

But the fact is we don’t need an offset. Under the rules, the appropriations bill has to deal with that. This simply makes funds available, and for a very worthy purpose.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I would state to the esteemed chairman of the committee that we have proceeded without offsets for many, many years

on many, many things, and that is one of the reasons why we are over \$20 trillion in debt right now.

This House must exercise fiscal restraint and bring its budget back into some semblance of order and exercise responsibility. And so an offset is responsible, is appropriate, does not exist, and was never discussed.

The chairman talks about experts. We heard from no expert at the committee level as to the need for the additional \$20 million in STOP grants.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I appreciate what my colleague across the aisle is saying; however, our debt can be looked at in many ways to amend. However, our local police officers, our local communities, and our organizations that support victims with assistance are in dire need of the additional funding.

I would argue that this administration is the cause of this major debt that we have, and we should not take that out on our local communities that I know are supported across the aisle.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE).

The amendment was agreed to.

0930

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MS. TORRES  
SMALL OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in part B of House Report 116-32.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 171, insert after line 2 the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

**SEC. 1408. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH IMMIGRATION LAWS.**

Nothing in this Act, or in any amendments made by this Act, shall affect the obligation to fully comply with the immigration laws.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 281, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairwoman, I rise to offer amendment No. 40 to H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

My amendment is simple. It will ensure that everything in this bill complies with current immigration law. One in three women in the United

States will experience domestic violence. That is unacceptable. It doesn't matter who you are. Domestic violence is unacceptable. This law protects all survivors.

It ensures that our Nation recognizes domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes. It provides crucial protections against domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It provides survivors with the support they deserve.

It provides our law enforcement with everything they need to provide justice to these survivors, and it sends a clear message nationwide that our Federal Government will protect all survivors and condemn all domestic and sexual assault offenders.

That is why the reauthorization of VAWA should not be impacted by the current debate on our immigration system. That debate is for another day and it is a debate we should have soon in this Chamber. But I felt it was necessary to offer this amendment to acknowledge that as the House passes this legislation, it is also in accordance with the laws already enacted.

Again, this is all this amendment attempts to do. It is important that funding goes where it is intended. And the eligibility for VAWA grant funding is clear in this bill. VAWA is the cornerstone for safety and justice to survivors of violence and abuse. Our sole focus today should be to keep that cornerstone strong.

All of us know a survivor. She may be our mother, he may be our best friend. It may be ourselves. We, as a country, know what to do and we should do it together. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this essential legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chairwoman, I would answer the gentlewoman by saying that we are in agreement that domestic violence is a problem, and regardless of who you are in this country, you deserve protection if you are a victim of domestic violence. No matter, woman, man, gay, straight, you deserve protection if you are a victim of domestic violence, and we need to provide adequate protection.

Unfortunately, this bill does not provide that protection when you are allowing environments to be created where victims are at risk of being revictimized, whether it is through the legal process, or through the shelter process. We have problems with this bill overall. But I commend the gentlewoman for her amendment, because it does ensure that the laws regarding immigration in this country are complied with.

I wish that we had gone further. I offered an amendment on another bill at

committee to ensure that ICE was notified whenever an illegal immigrant committed a crime involving a firearm so that they could be deported quicker. I wish that that had been attempted in this legislation as well. ICE deserves to be notified when someone is convicted of a crime of domestic violence if that defendant is illegal.

So while we could not go further, I thank the gentlewoman for offering the amendment. I do not oppose it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in presenting the important amendment to the Violence Against Women Act. I thank the distinguished chairman of the committee for his leadership in bringing this VAWA reauthorization to the floor. I commend KAREN BASS, the author of the legislation, the chair of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, and I want to recognize and acknowledge the work of Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE over the years in terms of ending violence against women.

Again, we take an oath to protect the American people. Nearly 25 years ago, Congress honored that oath when we enacted the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act. It united our communities and our country in a fight against domestic violence in America.

Today, we honor that oath once more by passing strong, bipartisan, long-term VAWA reauthorization that will save lives.

Again, I want to salute KAREN BASS, a champion for women's safety and security as chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and the many champions of VAWA in the Congress who have made today possible. Again, I acknowledge Congresswoman JACKSON LEE.

We thank all of the survivors, victims, and advocates who have shown the generosity of spirit to tell their stories. Nothing is more eloquent or effective than the stories which show that this is not a legislative fight or an issues fight. It is a personal fight about America's families.

I commend Congresswoman TORRES SMALL for this important amendment that recognizes and ensures that all provisions of the bill comply with current immigration law. This isn't a bill about immigration, but I wanted to make that assertion, and I thank the gentlewoman, Congresswoman TORRES SMALL for this amendment.

We are pleased that the bill is bipartisan. There should be nothing partisan or political about ending the scourge of domestic violence and sexual assault, which one in three women faces today.

Madam Chairwoman, with this bill, we are reinforcing what we did 25 years ago, and what we did in 2013. We are making it stronger with the legislation

today, with lifesaving updates that reflect the voices of victims and survivors and the input of experts.

With this bill, we are empowering law enforcement and making new investments in prevention. We are improving lifesaving services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We are supporting survivors with protections against discrimination in the workplace and supporting their financial security.

We are closing dangerous loopholes in our laws that right now allow those who have been convicted of stalking or dating violence to obtain firearms. These are commonsense reforms that will save lives and that no one should object to.

We are strengthening protections for Native American women because every woman everywhere has the right to live free from abuse. We thank the Indian Country and the Native American women for their input on this. And aren't we blessed now to have for the first time in American history, two Native American women serving in the Congress of the United States: Congresswoman SHARICE DAVIDS from Kansas, and Congresswoman DEB HAALAND from New Mexico, and they have already made their presence felt.

This bill has historically been bipartisan. We urge all Members to join us in a strong bipartisan vote for this bill, which honors our oath, upholds our values, and saves lives. Again, I urge a "yes" vote.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in support of the gentlewoman's amendment. Representative TORRES SMALL's amendment makes it clear that nothing in this bill impacts or changes any obligations or requirements to comply with our immigration laws.

This amendment alleviates any potential concern or confusion about the intent of this legislation. It makes clear that the bill does not change any immigration law, nor does it affect any of the immigration obligations and requirements under current law. It is that simple, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman, the authors of this bill, Representative BASS and Representative FITZPATRICK; and the tireless advocates who have worked to bring this bill to the floor today for the safety and justice of all survivors of violence and abuse.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, please support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL).

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico will be postponed.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico) having assumed the chair, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 0945

**DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS**

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 274, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 7) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN). Pursuant to House Resolution 274, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

**S.J. RES. 7**

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Congress has the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution.

(2) Congress has not declared war with respect to, or provided a specific statutory authorization for, the conflict between military forces led by Saudi Arabia, including forces from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan (the Saudi-led coalition), against the Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, in the Republic of Yemen.

(3) Since March 2015, members of the United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, including providing to the Saudi-led coalition aerial targeting assistance, intelligence sharing, and mid-flight aerial refueling.

(4) The United States has established a Joint Combined Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia, in which members of the United States Armed Forces assist in aerial targeting and help to coordinate military and intelligence activities.

(5) In December 2017, Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis stated, "We have gone in to be very—to be helpful where we can in identifying how you do target analysis and how you make certain you hit the right thing".

(6) The conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis constitutes, within the meaning of section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.

(7) Section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)) states that "at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization, such forces shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs".

(8) Section 8(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(c)) defines the introduction of United States Armed Forces to include "the assignment of members of such armed forces to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such military forces are engaged, or there exists an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged, in hostilities," and activities that the United States is conducting in support of the Saudi-led coalition, including aerial refueling and targeting assistance, fall within this definition.

(9) Section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or bill to require the removal of United States Armed Forces engaged in hostilities without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization shall be considered in accordance with the expedited procedures of section 601(b) of the International Security and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-329; 90 Stat. 765).

(10) No specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen has been enacted, and no provision of law explicitly authorizes the provision of targeting assistance or of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict.

**SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.**

Pursuant to section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) and in accordance with the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-329; 90 Stat. 765), Congress hereby directs the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at al Qaeda or associated forces, by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution (unless the President requests and Congress authorizes a later date), and unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted. For purposes of this resolution, in this section, the term "hostilities" includes in-flight refueling of non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.