

Northeast. Relief was put out. It was sent out.

This is something that we need to come together as Americans. We send billions of dollars in foreign aid around the world. It is time for us to look internally, fix our problems here, because the expense of these storms, they accumulate. They don't go away from one year to the next, and we are going into the next season, the next fire season. This is something we need to work now, to correct these things.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of Dr. DUNN.

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, let me say that I am deeply indebted to Dr. YOHO. Our channel of communications went down after the storm in a way that America has never seen. We lost cellphones, landlines. We lost police radios. We were talking to each other by ham radios and runners.

When Dr. YOHO could not raise me or my office staff, he mounted a rescue operation complete with food and supplies and took care of the east end of my district. I will always be grateful to Dr. YOHO for that, and I thank him so much.

Madam Speaker, for my final guest, I would like to introduce the Representative from south Georgia, another good friend and a neighbor. We don't quite abut districts, but we come pretty close. I spend a lot of time in his neighborhood. He needs to spend more time down on my beaches.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. DUNN for the work that he has done, as well as my other colleagues, Representative AUSTIN SCOTT, Representative SANFORD BISHOP, and Representative MARTHA ROBY. All of these fine legislators have worked diligently on this, and I thank them for their efforts, as well as others.

Madam Speaker, I have the honor and the privilege of representing the First Congressional District of Georgia. The First Congressional District of Georgia includes the entire coast of Georgia, over 100 miles of coastline. We have a lot to be thankful for, a lot to be proud of. We have two major seaports and four military installations, Moody Air Force Base, Kings Bay Naval Base, Fort Stewart, and Hunter Army Airfield. We have the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. We have two Coast Guard stations, one in Savannah and one in Brunswick.

We have so much to be thankful for, but we also have a very strong agriculture community, particularly in the western portion of our district. It is very, very important.

Madam Speaker, much of the State of Georgia is in need right now, and they can't wait any longer.

In the First Congressional District of Georgia over the past few years, we have had hurricanes. We had Hurricane

Matthew, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Michael. We have had fires. We had the West Mims Fire. We have had freezes and harsh freezing conditions that impacted our agriculture community.

These disasters have been detrimental to agriculture in Georgia. By the way, agriculture in Georgia is our largest industry. That is very important and very important for the First District.

In fact, just to be specific, blueberries, which are the leading fruit now in the State of Georgia, blueberries alone make up a \$1 billion industry. That is "billion" with a B, a \$1 billion industry. Those farmers are the backbones of their communities.

Blueberry farmers, in some areas, their crops make up 30 percent of the portfolios of banks. That is significant to these communities, and we simply cannot allow these farmers to continue going without this assistance.

The banks are waiting for many of these farmers to repay their loans. It is putting them in jeopardy of not being able to farm next year and putting entire rural economies at risk. When you put 30 percent of your portfolio at risk, you are putting your community at risk.

Congressional inaction on this is absolutely unacceptable.

The Senate's failure to pass disaster aid last week was one of the worst moments that I have experienced in Washington since I have come to Congress.

These people need assistance, Madam Speaker. They need assistance. We need to help them. The American farmer feeds the world. Georgia farmers are an integral part of this. Blueberries are an important crop in our district. Agriculture is the number one industry in Georgia.

It is time for us to respond to this. This is what we are to do as Members of Congress. We cannot simply ignore this. It will not go away.

We need these farmers. They need our help, and we need to respond.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support disaster aid.

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, Representative CARTER, for his impassioned words. Obviously, he is echoing thoughts that we have heard from the other speakers.

Seldom has a Special Order been so well subscribed. So many people came to speak, so many people moved and hurt by the disaster.

It leaves me with very little time, but I want to say a couple things.

I want to reiterate that this is an unprecedented event for timber. Nobody has ever seen this much timber on the ground, 3 million acres of timber. Think about what that does to the foresters, the loggers, and the sawmills.

The military, we have lost an Air Force base, probably \$4 billion to \$6 billion worth of damage to that. We will rebuild it. We will rebuild it, and it will be great, but we need help from Congress to do that.

I have a Navy base in my district, \$288 million in damage.

I have a Coast Guard base in my district that is particularly sad. They have a single building standing. They were victims of the storm; they were first responders to the storm. They were not paid, because they are with the Department of Homeland Security, for a month. It is shameful. These are fine people in the Coast Guard.

We have housing problems right now. Thirty percent of the homes in my home county is uninhabitable. Fifty percent of the commercial real estate is not usable.

We have special geography. We are 100 miles away from the next place where there is multifamily housing. We need housing on the ground in the affected areas.

Madam Speaker, I thank all the people who took time to come and tell our story, which is a sad story, and I urge the Congress to come to our rescue.

That picture, by the way, is not 6 months old. It is 2 weeks old.

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

2019 DEMOCRATIC FRESHMAN CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), my friend.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS E. KUNKEL

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I thank the freshman class for giving me the opportunity to take a few seconds here.

Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Brigadier General Thomas Kunkel upon his departure as Chief, Air Force Legislative Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In this role, General Kunkel managed the Air Force interaction with Members of Congress and their staffs in support of the Air Force programs and congressional oversight and travel.

He served as the Air Force's senior escort for staff and congressional delegations, traveling to more than 20 countries, supporting leadership, Members, and committee offices.

□ 1830

Prior to his current position, he served as the 23rd Wing Commander,

which operates A-10Cs, HC-130Js, HH-60Gs, and Guardian Angel pararescuemen at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia; Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona; and Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; and oversight of Avon Park aerial gunnery range, Florida.

General Kunkel received his commission in 1994 from the University of Texas, Arlington. He has served in the Air Force Special Operations and the Combat Air Forces as an HH-60G special operations and rescue pilot, flight examiner, and weapons officer. He has deployed in support of operations Allied Force, Enduring Freedom-Philippines, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. During his time serving in operation Allied Force, then Captain Kunkel was the pilot in command who rescued the now Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General David Goldfein, whose aircraft had been downed by an enemy surface-to-air missile in Serbia. General Kunkel has also served on the Air Staff as Program Element Monitor for helicopter sustainment and acquisitions.

He is married to Jennifer and has three children—Avery, Noah, and Griff—who have supported him and his career.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Brigadier General Thomas E. Kunkel for his dedicated service to the U.S. House of Representatives and to our Nation. We wish him well as he moves on to his next role at the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon.

There is no question that the Air Force, the Department of Defense, the United States, and all of us have benefited greatly from his service.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, we are here today to recognize the accomplishments of the freshman class of the 116th Congress as we approach the 100th day since we were sworn into office. History is before us. Congress is 230 years old.

As co-president of the freshman class, alongside my colleague, Representative COLIN ALLRED of Texas, we ring with a dutiful pride, deeply humbled by this opportunity to serve in a legislative session that will mark the conclusion of a decade and the beginning of another. We take stock of new representation, new voices, people, that the likes of this body have never seen before, what the American people called for in their voting booth, and all that this great body represents.

This class of freshman Democrats, 67 Members strong, from every corner of our great Nation, is the largest in nearly 45 years. Our class represents several historic firsts. With 42 new women in Congress, the House of Representatives is more female than at any point in the Chamber's deep history.

Representative DAVIDS of Kansas and Representative HAALAND of New Mexico are the first Native American women to serve in this Chamber.

Representative OMAR of Minnesota and my fellow Michigander, Representative TLAIB, are the first Muslim women in Congress.

We now have more African American women and men serving in this body than ever before.

Nearly two-dozen new Members, from both sides of the aisle, have served our country as members of the military or Central Intelligence Agency.

Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ of New York is the youngest woman to ever serve in the House, and Representative FINKENAUER of Iowa is the second youngest.

Representative VAN DREW of New Jersey is a dentist.

Representative SCHRIER of Washington is a pediatrician.

Representative UNDERWOOD of Illinois is a nurse.

Representative HAYES of Connecticut was the Teacher of the Year.

And Representative SHALALA of Florida, the longest serving health and human services secretary in history. Representative MUCARSEL-POWELL, also of Florida, is the first South American immigrant Member of Congress.

This freshman class brings its brilliant diversity, experience, and unity, a broad array of skills and life experience, to the Halls of Congress, generating a commitment to address legacy issues and usher in opportunities for the common good to promote the general welfare for all American people.

President Lincoln's words bear down on us. He, who was once a Member of this very body, said: "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation."

The issues of today are complex, enormous, and often frustrating, but we do not bemoan. We bring a commitment to serve, to problem solve, and create opportunity. We are reminded that this very body saw us through western expansion to become a land of sea to shining sea, through pain, by the way. And we did reconstruction following a brutal Civil War.

And now, in the year 2019, in the first 100 days of the 116th Congress, we have been hard at work. We have passed the For the People Act, a historic bill to clean up corruption and restore ethics in Washington, putting voters at the center of elections.

We passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, to finally fulfill gender economic equality in the workplace and bring more people into the middle class.

We passed a universal background check bill, to keep firearms out of the hands of those who seek to do evil, and we will do more commonsense gun safety legislation to put the safety of all communities at the top of the priority list.

We have held hearings, long overdue, on climate change and outrageous prescription drug prices, on Government oversight on human rights abuses at our border, and we have led on matters of safety and security.

And we are evaluating all the ways to meet our country's infrastructure needs.

We, the people, for the people, a country in a new moment.

As a representative from the great State of Michigan, I have been privileged to introduce my first piece of legislation, the bipartisan Building Blocks of STEM Act, which promotes STEM education and pathways to education in the sciences, particularly for young girls.

As the chairwoman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to preside over hearings on bioengineering and advanced manufacturing, essential to regional economic development, particularly in places like southeastern Michigan.

I passed a bipartisan amendment to the Rebuilding America's Schools Act and led an effort to maintain funding for advanced technological educational training programs, an important initiative with active grants in my district.

This was all in the first 100 days: multiple townhalls, coffee hours, and Manufacturing Mondays.

The question before us, the Moon shot of 2015, what will usher in new scientific advancements in the workforce to help us achieve them? It is for those who dare to create a vision.

There are 18 freshmen currently serving as subcommittee chairs, holding informative hearings and driving important policy discussions on issues like veterans' healthcare, small business advocacy, trade assistance, and for justice and equality, for the individual hardworking Americans residing and fueling the energy in the towns throughout suburban metro Detroit, where I represent, and their young children dreaming of their future. They are eagerly, and sometimes quietly, counting on us to wage great discussion, to think deeply and penetratingly, to seize the duty at hand.

Congress often feels like being on a great ship, each side weighing side to side, sometimes in stormy weather, but we have all taken the oath to reside on this ship, to come together for the remainder of our service, to improve the outcomes for the next generation and for those to come, the whispers of time and time.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED).

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, this new freshman class has made history as the youngest and most diverse ever, and I am incredibly proud to be a Member of this class and of this Congress and to serve with my friend, Representative STEVENS, as freshman class co-president of the Democratic class.

We truly do represent our Nation's slogan of *E pluribus unum*—out of

many, one. And though we have much more work to do as the end of our first 100 days approaches, we have made real progress in fulfilling our efforts to make the lives of ordinary Americans a little bit better.

As freshman class co-president, I can tell you that this class came here with a mandate to end the sabotage of Americans' healthcare and to work to lower costs. I was proud to lead the effort, on our very first day in Congress, as we placed the United States House back on the side of the people by intervening to defend the Affordable Care Act in court and with it its protections for people with preexisting conditions.

This resolution, that I was proud to lead, passed with bipartisan support, sending a strong message that the United States House will not stand idly by while this administration tries to take us back to the bad old days when people were denied care because they had a preexisting condition or ran into lifetime caps on their coverage.

We have also introduced bold legislation that will stop the sabotage, stabilize healthcare markets, and lower costs for regular folks, that I hope will pass with bipartisan support. After all, that is what the American people want us to do, to work together.

We have also passed commonsense gun safety measures that will keep our communities safe by closing loopholes in the background check system.

We passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, which helps guarantee that, no matter who you are, everyone gets equal pay for equal work.

We passed the most historic anticorruption and pro-democracy bill in a generation, H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which will reduce the influence of big money and special interests in Washington and return power to the people by expanding voting rights and ending voter suppression.

From my post on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, we are laying the groundwork for a much-needed and long overdue infrastructure bill. In my district in north Texas, we are rapidly growing, and I know that I am not alone in hearing from folks who are stuck in traffic and tired of congestion on their commutes, and we can and must do more to repair our roads and bridges and to diversify the transportation options available to all Americans.

In closing, I issue this challenge to my colleagues in both parties, in the House and in the Senate. The American people are counting on us. Let's put aside partisan politics and let's work together. From prescription drugs to infrastructure, there is so much that we agree on. Let's deliver in the next 100 days for the American people.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND).

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, if we think back to the beginning of this Congress, we started the first 100 days under an unnecessary government

shutdown. I met with constituents, Federal workers, and businessowners in my district who were forced to suffer for the President's frivolous campaign promise.

At the end of the day, we funded the government and made sure Federal workers received back pay. All the while, we were setting up a path to work for the people, making our communities a priority, not just the wealthy and well connected, but people who suffer when they lose a paycheck and need to rely on accessible healthcare.

We are in a special moment in history, a moment when our freshman class of House Members look more like the people we represent, and our experiences reflect the experiences of everyday Americans. I am a single mother. I often had to piece together healthcare for my daughter and I, and I am still paying off my student loans. This class of freshman lawmakers know the struggles that many are going through, and, with our new majority, it is clear we are working for the people.

□ 1845

We passed the bill that would ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate in our democracy, while taking steps to end corruption.

The most significant land legislation of our time made it across the finish line, including provisions of my first bill, to designate land for everyone to have access to public lands in New Mexico.

It was a huge win for my State, because in New Mexico we value our natural heritage and resources, and we believe in protecting the places we hold dear for future generations to enjoy.

The public lands package makes all of those things possible. It is also a prime example of what our Democratic majority can get done because we are willing to work across the aisle and push legislation through.

Our progress includes things like fighting for equality with the Paycheck Fairness Act and a resolution condemning the President's transgender troops ban, fighting for prosperity for everyone by introducing a \$15 minimum wage and passing the Dream and Promise Act.

We are also tackling the challenges of our time with the Violence Against Women Act and forging a path to address climate change with an unprecedented number of committee hearings uncovering the climate change realities facing our communities, and we are working on legislation that will create a Green New Deal for everyone and for our country.

In 100 days, you can get a lot done, and we are looking forward to getting more done for the people in the next 100 days.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, we are so proud of our freshman class.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA),

someone whom her constituents know as "Senator SYLVIA" from her great service in her State's capitol, but whom we knew as the great Congresswoman from Texas.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the first 100 days of the 116th Congress. In this short amount of time, Madam Speaker, a lot has surely happened.

At our swearing in, the Congress became the most diverse on record, including 42 freshman women. And with one in five Members of Congress being people of color, we have come a long way, baby.

As our Representatives in Congress begin to look more like the communities we represent, our legislative priorities also more closely reflect the will of the people.

Our citizens have sent a message loud and clear that Congress should be giving a voice to our families on Main Street and not to the rich and the wealthy on Wall Street. As a result, we have been focused on passing groundbreaking legislation that protects our democracy, expands our civil liberties, provides for a stronger national security, and boosts our economy, all while staying true to our values.

Passage of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, is the largest, most sweeping election reform and campaign finance reform bill to pass the House in our Nation's history.

It also significantly protects access to the ballot box for every American; it will shed light on the corrupting influence of dark money in our campaign finance system; and, finally, it will return the voices of working-class Americans to our democracy. And the best part: election day would be a holiday.

We are upholding the promise of equal protection under the law for our citizens. With the Equality Act, we are finally providing explicit protections to the LGBTQ community, finally making them equal under the eyes of the law.

We are keeping our promise to women as well. With the introduction of the Paycheck Fairness Act, we are finally taking steps to close the wage gap, where women in Texas still make only 79 cents for every dollar a man makes, and 44 cents if you are Hispanic.

With the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, we are upholding our sacred duty to protect the millions of Texas women who experience violence and domestic abuse every year.

Perhaps most importantly for my district, we have finally introduced the Dream and Promise Act, which will provide protections for immigrants who, in their hearts, are often as American as myself and anyone else on this House floor.

These young men and women—about 113,100 in my district—whom we call

family, friends, and colleagues, will be able to continue working hard in their communities and contributing to our economy—nearly \$50 billion a year, by the way—without fear of being separated from their families.

Unfortunately, during our 100 days, the Trump administration's top priority has proven not to be for the people. The administration's recent budget proposal included deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and the SNAP assistance program, all of this to pay for the radical GOP tax cuts which they have made on the backs of working people, veterans, and seniors.

After the eventual passage of the bipartisan budget without funding for a border wall, this administration decided to create a completely avoidable but devastating government shutdown. The 26-day shutdown cost families real money and opportunity, maybe more than 800,000 workers without a paycheck during that time.

Since then, we have seen an illegal national emergency declaration that seeks to take funding from vital national security needs to build the President's border wall.

We are also now hearing threats of another shutdown, this time shutting down the border completely. This is wrong and downright reckless. Trade through our southern border accounts for \$1.7 billion per day and would hurt our Texas economy.

And, finally, the Trump administration is trying once again to take our healthcare system, this time through the courts. This move could leave up to 53 million non-elderly Americans with preexisting conditions without access to healthcare—320,000 in my district. This is cruel; it is immoral; and it is just plain wrong.

It should be clear that our work is not done.

I am proud to be a Member of the majority that will fight for the people, defend our democracy, protect access to quality, affordable healthcare, and do so with justice and decency.

Madam Speaker, we have accomplished so much in these first 100 days, but we must make sure that the American people know that we are resoundingly focused on real solutions that will actually keep our border safe, help our businesses, and uphold our American values.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD), my friend.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to rise today as part of this wonderful, diverse, strong, and vibrant freshman class.

As we mark the 100 first days of the 116th Congress, it has been a busy time, to say the least. In our first days of this 116th Congress, I have met with more than 150 constituents. I have held five townhalls and question-and-answer events and visited 17 local businesses and 10 local schools.

I have met with educators and labor leaders, health workers, business lead-

ers, manufacturers, students, and senior citizens.

I have heard the same messages from constituents of all backgrounds throughout Pennsylvania's Seventh District:

Build an economy that delivers for working and middle-class people;

Protect benefits like Medicare and Social Security that we have earned;

Defend the rights and dignity of all people;

Work across the aisle on urgent priorities, like protecting our communities from gun violence, combating the opioid epidemic, and protecting the environment; and

Fight to ensure that the next generation doesn't have a lower standard of living than its parents.

These messages have driven and shaped my work, particularly as a Member of the Education and Labor Committee, where we have been working on legislation to raise the minimum wage, make workplaces safer for working Pennsylvanians and all Americans, help students saddled with student loan debt, and make higher education more inclusive and affordable.

I am so proud of everything we are doing in the Education and Labor Committee to build an economy and education system that lifts all workers, all students, all Pennsylvanians, and all Americans. I am also proud that I am keeping my promises to my constituents.

My promise to work to improve our healthcare system, lower healthcare costs, and protect people with preexisting conditions led me to introduce my own bill as part of a larger effort to improve the Affordable Care Act—the Family Healthcare Affordability Act—to fix the ACA family glitch, an issue that has prevented some workers from being able to extend their employer-provided insurance to their families. My bill is a small fix to a big problem for many working families.

I also committed to my constituents that I would work to reform our government, reduce the influence of money in politics, and ensure that every American has a voice in our democracy. We kept that commitment when we passed H.R. 1, a landmark government reform package that included my bill to enact early voting across the country. In Pennsylvania, we don't have early voting, and that hurts working and lower income people who often have far less time and flexibility to get to the polls.

This has been a productive 100 days, but people in my community and across the country are counting on us to do so much more. They are also counting on the Senate and the White House to do their part so that the legislation we are passing gets signed into law.

In these next 100 days, I will continue working to bring about a more just, more equal future across our community, and I will continue doing everything I can to make the people of the Seventh District proud.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), my friend and fellow Michigander.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman STEVENS, and it is so great to go after Congresswoman WILD.

The first thing I want to say is what a great time I am having with you all, how much I am learning from you, how much fun we are having working on things together.

Congresswoman WILD and I are particularly concerned that any new replacement for NAFTA really protects the working people of our country, really protects our environment, and does not subject people to outrageously high prices for prescription drugs.

As I look about me and see the other Members here, I see others whom I am working with on different things, and I think that is the great thing about this new freshman class. I am really so proud to be a part of this freshman class of the 116th Congress, and I feel like we have really had an outstanding first 100 days fighting for the people.

Right out of the gate, we are delivering on our promises to pass bold, transformative legislation and conduct essential oversight that the Constitution demands of us.

Voting on final passage of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, was certainly one of my proudest days.

My Transparency and Corporate Political Spending Act is in the final version of the bill, and it will increase transparency for big corporations that dump dark money into our elections.

My amendment to Whip CLYBURN's gun violence prevention bill to close the Charleston loophole will require the Government Accountability Office to report on gun violence prevention methods so that we have the best information available while crafting policy. I think it is so important that we bring back research to this public health crisis of gun violence.

Just last week, so many colleagues joined me in calling on the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to halt the cruel and unjust detention and deportation of Iraqi nationals, many of whom are Chaldean Christians and other religious minorities.

My district, the Ninth District of Michigan, has the most Iraqi nationals of any district in the country, out of 435. But I think, Congresswoman STEVENS, 9 out of the 10 districts with the most Iraqi nationals, those Representatives join me—I think, 23 altogether—in calling on our government to respect the rights of these people to just have their day in court.

I came to Congress on a mission to raise the standard of living for working people, and the Democratic majority has delivered on that promise in several ways already, from passing legislation to reduce the cost of healthcare to passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, to guaranteeing women get equal pay for equal work.

□ 1900

I commend my colleagues in the majority and the leadership of our Caucus for their hard work, fearlessness, and dedication that has gotten us this far, and we have only just begun.

I yield back to my sister Michigander, the gentlewoman from Rochester Hills, Ms. STEVENS.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN), my dear friend.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman STEVENS for yielding to me.

I am honored to rise this evening to talk about our accomplishments in the first 100 days. As a Representative of Oklahoma and Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District, I talked to people all across my district about what is important to them, about what is paramount, and above and beyond everything else, the thing I heard from people across my district is that people need a voice. That is exactly what we have done in this first 100 days.

From day one, I have said and will continue to say and advocate for the people of Oklahoma in the Fifth Congressional District that their voice is number one.

Throughout this time, we have prioritized commonsense solutions for the people of Oklahoma, legislation and actions that help to improve the lives of everyday individuals. I have shown that with the time I have spent back in my district talking to and listening to the people there.

In order to hear from as many people as possible, we have held eight public events, or townhalls, ranging from coffee meetings to large townhall gatherings. From Seminole to Oklahoma City, from Oklahoma City Community College to diners, in both Oklahoma and Washington, D.C., I have met with more than 2,300 Oklahomans over the course of more than 200 meetings.

In response to inquiries from folks back home, I have replied to thousands of calls, letters, emails, and text messages about issues that are most important to them. Over and over I have heard: We need a voice.

So I have cosponsored 28 pieces of bipartisan legislation ranging from ensuring that the Indian Health Service is funded to increasing transparency in politics with the passage of H.R. 1, to ensuring that those individuals have that voice.

When we came in in the middle of a, sadly, historic shutdown, I spoke up for the members of the FAA and our Federal employees, including our air traffic controllers, because we should never play politics with people's lives. No family should have to endure the hardships caused by partisan political games.

I cosponsored legislation; that is the Shutdown to End All Shutdowns Act. And beyond that, we stood up for paycheck fairness and for wage equality, which is not just a women's issue. This

is an issue that impacts our families and our communities and our overall quality of life.

I have spoken up for education and ensuring that everyone has access to quality, available healthcare. That includes protecting people with pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps, and working, as we will continue to do, to make prescription drugs more affordable.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have been a vocal advocate for our servicemen and -women who have, sadly, had to deal with substandard housing.

I have spoken up for the security of our Nation, but also for respect for every single individual in our district.

And in an effort to stay in touch with all corners of the district, I have toured some of our most critical facilities, from Tinker Air Force Base to the Palomar Family Justice Center and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, and so many more.

I have spoken with some of our most vital organizations, like the VFW, the Black Chamber of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, education and healthcare advocates, as well as local elected leaders, about priorities in our communities.

I have even had the privilege of showing a sheep at the Oklahoma Youth Expo, the largest youth expo in the Nation.

I am proud of what we have accomplished so far, and I am especially proud to serve with this historic freshman class. I look forward to what we accomplish moving forward and to being an independent voice for Oklahomans.

We have only begun, and I look forward to what we can accomplish in the next 100 days and the next 100 days after that to put the people first.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman HORN for showing us what leadership looks like.

It should also be noted that our presiding Speaker this evening, Ms. XOCITL TORRES SMALL, the Congresswoman from the great State of New Mexico, is also a member of our freshman class.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), my friend.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I would like to engage in a colloquy of sorts with my fellow colleague in House leadership, a Representative of the freshman class, Representative HILL, and, of course, our co-class president, Representative STEVENS.

Representative HILL, what do you think about the freshman class?

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. NEGUSE, I am pretty excited to be here today because we get to brag a little, and I get a little tired with bragging about myself. I think that is something we do a lot as a Member of Congress, and today we get to brag about our friends.

Mr. NEGUSE. I couldn't agree more, Representative HILL.

Representative STEVENS, what do you think about the freshman class?

Ms. STEVENS. Well, I am delighted to be among the freshman class, and I am so proud of all of our accomplishments, particularly that we have 18 freshmen chairing subcommittees from all of the various great committees, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the Small Business Committee.

Mr. NEGUSE. Well, I couldn't agree more, and I want to associate myself with the remarks of Representative STEVENS and Representative HILL.

We have got an incredible freshman class in this 116th Congress. Not only is it the youngest and most diverse in history, but we got straight to work. We hit the ground running.

At the end of the day, this freshman class is making a lot of progress, so I would like to give the American people a sense of what the freshman class has been up to.

Over the last two recesses, the freshman class has held over 100 townhalls and over 400 events. That is a lot of events, Representative HILL.

Ms. HILL of California. That is a lot of events, and if you recall, the colleagues that many of us replaced, the former colleagues that many of us replaced, were criticized for not having townhalls. But, in fact, during the February recess alone, freshman Members made up 51 percent of the Members of Congress holding townhalls, even though we make up just 18 percent of Congress.

Mr. NEGUSE. That is right. Congressman ANDY KIM from the great State of New Jersey has held more townhalls in the last 3 months than his predecessor did over the last 4 years, and he has responded to over 5,000 letters from constituents—quite a feat.

Ms. HILL of California. Five thousand letters is a lot of letters.

Congressman DEAN PHILLIPS actually started holding townhalls before he was even sworn in.

Mr. NEGUSE. Well, let me tell you about my friend, Congressman ANTONIO DELGADO, who has held six townhalls over the first in-district work period.

Ms. HILL of California. At her first townhall in Virginia Beach, Congresswoman ELAINE LURIA, whom I am proud to sit on the Armed Services Committee with, brought the Beach's voter registrar and police chief, the head of its affordable housing efforts, and one of the State delegates with her and heard from more 250 people who were attending.

Mr. NEGUSE. Clearly, this freshman class is making townhalls the rule and not the exception. But the freshman class is also taking great care to talk about the issues that really matter to their constituents.

Ms. HILL of California. That is absolutely right. Congressman BRINDISI's Working for Rural New York plan focuses on solving problems rural communities face in his district.

Mr. NEGUSE. Let me tell you about my friend Congresswoman ANGIE CRAIG from the great State of Minnesota, who held a flood briefing to start discussions around different agencies working together in the case of major flooding.

Ms. HILL of California. Well, let me tell you about my friend JOSH HARDER from the great State of California, who is fighting for broadband in rural areas through the Save the Internet Act.

Mr. NEGUSE. I don't want to brag, but I will. Congressman JARED GOLDEN, from the great State of Maine, is advocating to lower the costs of prescription drugs for his constituents.

Ms. HILL of California. And Congresswoman JAHANA HAYES, who was Teacher of the Year before, is now fighting to keep guns out of our classrooms.

Mr. NEGUSE. This freshman class truly is legislating with aggressive momentum.

Ms. HILL of California. Oh, we are indeed. Eighteen freshmen are leading House subcommittees, as my colleague, Ms. STEVENS mentioned, including: Congresswoman KENDRA HORN, Congresswoman MIKIE SHERRILL, Congressman TJ COX, Congressman MIKE LEVIN, Congressman HARLEY ROUDA, Congresswoman SUSIE LEE, Congresswoman XOCHTL TORRES SMALL, and Congresswoman LIZZIE FLETCHER.

That is a lot of people. And what is so exciting about that is that there has never been a freshman class with this many people with the gavel.

Mr. NEGUSE. Eighteen freshmen, quite an incredible feat. But I will also say that freshman Members of Congress have had much success legislating.

Congressman MAX ROSE from the great State of New York has had three amendments pass this House, including an amendment to expand childcare services for veterans seeking additional treatment.

Ms. HILL of California. Congressman ANDY LEVIN, who we just heard from, has introduced six pieces of original legislation. That is a lot.

Mr. NEGUSE. Representative HILL, I know that you know my great friend and colleague ABIGAIL SPANBERGER, who was able to include an amendment as part of H.R. 1 that would prevent foreign interference in U.S. elections.

Ms. HILL of California. Well, we really want that foreign interference not happening in any future elections, so I am glad to hear that.

Just this week, Congresswoman KIM SCHRIER introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to help prevent child abuse.

Mr. NEGUSE. Congresswoman CRISSY HOULAHAN created a new bipartisan caucus to represent the interests of veterans.

Ms. HILL of California. Congresswoman ABBY FINKENAUER was the first freshman to have legislation pass the House, a bill to bring Federal investment to small businesses in rural America.

Mr. NEGUSE. I do know that Members of this House would be well familiar with Congressman CHRIS PAPPAS, who has introduced bipartisan legislation to increase protections for first responders on the front lines of our Nation's opioid epidemic.

Ms. HILL of California. My other friend, Congresswoman KATIE PORTER, a fellow member of the Katie Caucus, has introduced bipartisan legislation to make childcare more affordable.

Mr. NEGUSE. All of these accomplishments that Representative HILL and I have outlined that this freshman class has accomplished I think demonstrate that the freshman class is continuing to deliver for the people.

Nearly 100 days into our transformative majority, we have passed major legislation across issue areas.

Ms. HILL of California. A truly sweeping Democratic reform package.

Mr. NEGUSE. The first gun violence prevention legislation passed in nearly a decade.

Ms. HILL of California. The Paycheck Fairness Act and reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Mr. NEGUSE. So as we conclude and head into the next 100 days, I think it is important to stress that we are going to continue to work to lower the cost of healthcare.

Ms. HILL of California. End corruption in Washington.

Mr. NEGUSE. Raise workers' wages.

Ms. HILL of California. Invest in our Nation's infrastructure and public education system.

Mr. NEGUSE. And, of course, address the existential threat—climate change.

Ms. HILL of California. Above all, we are going to stand up for the people, again, with the full force of this freshman class; and I am so excited to do it with you, Mr. NEGUSE, and with all of my fellow freshman colleagues.

Mr. NEGUSE. As am I, Representative HILL.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman NEGUSE for sharing some of his time with Congresswoman HILL from California.

This Special Order hour has truly been special, and what a delight to reflect on these first 100 days with a historic freshman class in a new season here in the Nation's Capital.

Madam Speaker, I would like to conclude this Special Order hour of the freshman class of the 116th Congress, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to yield to each other in debate.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, a week from Tuesday will be what we

call Emancipation Day in the District of Columbia. We use that occasion to point out the continued inequality of the residents who live in our Nation's Capital.

Emancipation Day was the day when Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the District of Columbia. Yes, there were slaves working in the District of Columbia. It was considered a Southern State. He freed them 9 months before the Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves.

Yet the residents of the Nation's Capital remain less free than any other Americans. Even without statehood, however, the people of the Nation's Capital have, indeed, made progress.

Madam Speaker, I want to discuss the problems and the progress, especially as we come close to the point when we will bring our D.C. statehood bill to the floor and the House will vote whether to make the District the 51st State.

□ 1915

We recognize we were the last to be free because we are not free yet. We won't be free until the District of Columbia becomes the 51st State of the United States of America.

Now, I recognize, of course, there are no slaves living in the District of Columbia today. But there is not a single free and equal citizen resident of the District of Columbia.

I cannot help but think of the stories that were told me of my great-grandfather, a runaway slave from Virginia. I am a third-generation Washingtonian. He was in the District of Columbia when Lincoln freed the slaves in the District of Columbia, but he was a runaway slave, so he was not free from slavery until 9 months later.

His name was Richard Holmes. My family tells many stories about Richard Holmes. This runaway slave from the District of Columbia came here to work on the streets of the District of Columbia. Actually, he came to get away from slavery.

I don't tell any heroic stories of Richard Holmes. I tell it the way it was told me. When nobody was looking, Richard Holmes just walked off that plantation. He found his way to the District of Columbia. There were not enough workers to build the streets of the District of Columbia, so he was able to get work on the streets building this city.

I understand that slave owners went around the streets of the District of Columbia looking for their slaves. The man who owned Richard Holmes found him and went up to the straw boss and said: That is my slave. I have come to get him.

The straw boss said: You called out a name. That man never answered to that name. No, he is a good worker. He is not your slave.

That is how Richard Holmes, whose name was called out, by the slave