

HONORING LARRY HANLEY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I note the passing of Larry Hanley, the international president of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

He was a big man with a big heart and a passion for transportation—not just for what it meant for his members; although, he was their tireless champion. He had a bold vision for what his union meant, to enrich tens of millions of lives every day for people who use transit and another hundred million who benefit, even if they don't ride.

He started as a bus driver and rose through the ranks to become not just the Amalgamated Transit Union president, but one of the finest of American labor leaders.

We are sad for the loss for Larry's wife, Thelma; his daughter, Monica; son, Larry, Jr.; and almost 200,000 of his members.

We are grateful for the enormous contributions he made to enrich the lives of us all.

LEGISLATION TO KEEP AMERICA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY MOVING

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2460, the first piece of legislation I have introduced as a Member of Congress and one that reduces the regulatory burden on the hardworking men and women of Indiana and America's transportation and agriculture community.

The Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act of 2019 will ensure our truckers, farmers, and producers have the flexibility needed to keep America's agriculture industry moving.

The bill ensures that transportation and agriculture stakeholders are included in the rulemaking process so that relevant stakeholders can share their experiences and knowledge.

I am proud to lead this bipartisan effort with House Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON of Minnesota.

Improving our infrastructure is not a partisan issue, and it is time that we act. Sixth District Hoosiers sent me to Washington to get things done, and that is exactly what I am doing.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2460.

□ 1215

DELIVERING BETTER HEALTH-CARE ACCESS TO CONSTITUENTS

(Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise to call atten-

tion to the challenges rural communities face to access basic healthcare.

In New Mexico, I have seen, firsthand, health challenges these areas face. They include expectant mothers who have to drive for hours, often across State lines, for every single prenatal appointment.

They include veterans who have to get on the bus in the middle of the night for a doctor's appointment in Albuquerque the next day.

It includes teenagers in crisis facing a long waiting list for a much-needed mental health appointment.

And it includes rural and community hospitals on the verge of closing their doors. This is what rural America faces.

Even with these hardships, we are often the first to be forgotten when legislators and healthcare experts discuss healthcare quality, access, and affordability.

So as Congress begins discussing how to decrease the cost of healthcare insurance, to lower the cost of prescription drugs, to provide mental healthcare, and protect millions of Americans with preexisting conditions, I urge consideration of the pressure points that rural communities face. That is how we deliver better healthcare access to all our constituents.

ACCESS TO QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, May 4 marked 2 years since House Republicans passed their TrumpCare legislation to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. If passed, this reckless bill would have ripped away healthcare from millions. Thanks to Americans' tireless activism, this bill did not become law. But that wasn't the end of the crusade to protect our care.

This administration continues to sabotage the Affordable Care Act, implementing rules and gutting programs in a very cruel conspiracy to undermine it; and people with preexisting conditions are some of the most vulnerable in a very dangerous game.

Madam Speaker, the Affordable Care Act, with its strong protections, helped many of these Americans obtain health insurance for the very first time. But now, this administration is using a back-door guidance to allow junk insurance plans the ability to deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions.

That is why I am glad the House plans to vote on H.R. 986, which will stop this move and protect Americans living with preexisting conditions.

I will proudly vote for this bill.

GREAT LAKES RESILIENCY

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge that any long-term infrastructure agreement reached between Congress and the President must invest in the resiliency of coastal communities.

Lake Ontario is already over 11 inches higher than average, and as rain falls and water levels continue to climb, my community and others like it are bracing for yet another season of devastating flooding.

We must take proactive steps to adjust to changing weather patterns, the impacts of Plan 2014, and improve our community's ability to withstand, recover, and adapt to weather-related events.

The Army Corps of Engineers will soon be conducting a study to develop a coastal resiliency plan, and it is imperative that any long-term infrastructure agreement include significant investments in these findings.

I look forward to working with my colleagues towards a comprehensive infrastructure package that makes these investments a reality and better protects my district and the Great Lakes coastline.

QUESTIONS OF THE RULE OF LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this week the Nation has seen this Congress deal with the questions of the rule of law and the Constitution. But this Congress believes that our work is for the people and, at the same time, our oversight on issues of national security are immense and important.

Yesterday, I raised a question of military presence off the shores of Iran; for no explanation has been given to the United States Congress on the need for that presence.

And having been a Member of Congress during the Iraq war and, certainly, during the war in Afghanistan, committed to the men and women of the United States military, only Congress can declare war. This administration must advise and seek consent of Congress. But those of us who are concerned about national security, with the jurisdictional committees, must be briefed, and must be made aware to protect the American people.

So I stand here today to say the rule of law is important, but the national security of this country is important. No war without the involvement and engagement of the United States Congress.

We believe in peace and diplomacy.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 986, PROTECTING AMERICANS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS ACT OF 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2157, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 357 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 357

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 986) to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-12, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute

rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. Clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 357, providing for consideration of H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act, under a structured rule.

The rule makes in order 12 amendments. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment and makes in order 10 amendments to H.R. 2157.

Finally, the rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the two bills in this rule, H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019, and H.R. 2157, the Supplemental Appropriations Act.

H.R. 986 will ensure that the patient protections and benefits of the Affordable Care Act are protected. It will pre-

vent this administration from doing administratively what they failed to do legislatively, make health insurance inaccessible for the, at least, 52 million Americans who live with preexisting conditions.

The administration is trying to coax States, through misuse of the 1332 innovation waivers, to make available plans that don't cover all of the essential health benefits that the ACA requires, or don't cover preexisting conditions, possibly with tax credits. This is consumer fraud. It is a misuse of taxpayer money.

The administration would make it possible for plans to deny coverage or charge higher premiums based on health status. Under their guidance, plans could have lifetime or annual limits. They would be able to charge higher rates to older people than the ACA allows and are not required to cover essential health benefits.

It will hurt consumers who think they are buying comprehensive health insurance and then find out that their plan doesn't cover whatever health crisis they may be facing.

The guidance from the administration is a back door to destroying the Affordable Care Act. H.R. 986 makes sure that that will not happen.

□ 1230

I also rise to support H.R. 2157. The disaster supplemental will provide \$17.2 billion in disaster relief to communities across America, including my own State of Florida.

The House passed a similar bill in January, which the Senate failed to take up. Since January, there have been floods in the Midwest and tornadoes in Alabama, and we have included additional money to fund those disasters.

No American should wait for assistance while Congress squabbles. Seven months have passed since Hurricane Michael devastated the panhandle in Florida, including completely leveling Tyndall Air Force Base. It is time to pass both of these bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, we are considering a bill that appropriates a little over \$17 billion for disasters affecting all parts of the United States.

As Members of Congress, we are elected to serve the people, and part of that duty is providing emergency aid when disaster strikes. I am supportive of disaster relief, and we certainly could have provided this crucial aid months ago. At this time, our communities are still in need.

This is the third time that the House will consider a relief bill to address the same set of disasters.

On 20 December 2018, the House of Representatives passed a continuing