



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019

No. 87

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. LURIA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 23, 2019.

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

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Chaplain Major Thomas E. Fussell, U.S. Air Force, Cape Canaveral, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Good morning, Lord.

In a few days, our hearts will turn toward our Armed Forces as we observe Memorial Day. Many of America's sons and daughters have fought and died valiantly for the freedoms we now enjoy. We are grateful for the ultimate sacrifice they have made for us. May Your peace rest on their loved ones who continue to grieve.

Lord, as the many debates of great importance echo through this historic Chamber, I pray that You would give to these leaders a softness of heart and speech, that they may work to solve the problems at hand, together. Grant our congressional leaders wisdom and new ideas to solve the complex problems before them.

Bless the House of Representatives, O Lord. Imbue its leaders with Your righteousness. Remind them that to whom much is given, much is required.

Lord our creator, lover of our souls, hear my prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. McBATH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McBATH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ACTION ON HEALTHCARE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, the American people sent a clear message that they want action to lower the cost and improve the quality of healthcare. I am pleased that, over the past month, this House has done exactly that.

It is a stark contrast to the 8 years under the previous majority with one attempt after another to repeal the Affordable Care Act and deny coverage to Americans with preexisting conditions.

Last week, we passed legislation to help address the rising cost of prescription drugs by increasing the availability of generic drugs.

This bill also curbs the Trump administration's expansion of junk insurance plans and funds programs to help more Americans enroll in coverage.

Earlier, we voted to reverse the Trump administration's dangerous effort to allow States to waive lifesaving protections for people with preexisting conditions.

I urge the Senate to take up these bills that will have immediate, positive effects on our Nation's healthcare, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make even more, further progress.

HONORING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 45th annual National EMS Week. During this week, we celebrate emergency medical services personnel and the important work that they do in our Nation's communities.

The EMS professionals provide constant services to people in need. From illness to injury, whenever the world

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

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seems to be ending, society counts on EMS personnel to be there. They are expected to work hard and be strong, especially in times of trouble.

Madam Speaker, as a former EMT rescue technician and firefighter with more than three decades of experience being on the front lines with my fellow EMS professionals, I can personally attest to their dedication to saving lives.

The job of an EMS professional is not easy. It requires just as much compassion as it does courage. These men and women are committed to making the world better.

EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who are on the front line providing day-to-day lifesaving services.

A thank-you to the EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, and supervisors across the country. Every American is grateful for their service.

SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need, or HAVEN, Act, with my colleague GREG STEUBE of Florida.

Under current law, when a veteran files for bankruptcy, his or her disability benefits from the VA or DOD count as income that is subject to the reach of creditors; however, Social Security disability benefits are exempt.

The HAVEN Act would amend bankruptcy law to exclude disability benefit payments paid from the VA or DOD from that monthly income calculation, treating it the same as Social Security disability.

Our disabled veterans earned their benefits by serving our great Nation, and we must protect them and their families, especially during financial hardship.

I encourage my colleagues to support our Nation's veterans and cosponsor this bipartisan legislation.

HONORING LEE JERNIGAN

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and honor the passage of one of my great constituents, Lee Jernigan of Oroville, California.

During Lee's lifetime, he had joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 and served as an aerial gunner and airplane mechanic on a B-17 during World War II, where he flew 23 missions in the Asian Pacific.

Lee graduated from Chico State in 1950 and received his master's degree in 1959 in education. Lee was known spe-

cifically for his passion and commitment to God, his family, and for educating the young people of our community.

It should come as no surprise that Lee was a beloved elementary and middle school teacher and then went on to be my principal at Central Middle School in Oroville, California, for 54 years of career. Lee was known to be kind, with a sense of humor, and this was one principal I was never really in trouble with.

Lee was devoted to teaching, but also devoted to his loving wife, Hazel, whom he married in 1948 and remained with for 72 years until his passing.

Lee was a man of extreme dedication and commitment to his wife, to his country, and to learning for the children of his community. Of course, we can all learn from that, as well.

Madam Speaker, God bless Lee Jernigan and his family.

HELPING FAMILIES ACHIEVE LIFETIME FINANCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of the SECURE Act, a bill that gets to the heart of our retirement income crisis.

Unfortunately, too many of my constituents are in danger of not having enough money to put away for retirement. In fact, 86 percent of Nevadans do not feel financially prepared for retirement, and most older Nevadans wished they had saved more money.

Fortunately, the SECURE Act will make it easier for Nevadans to save for their retirement. It makes it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees, allows part-time workers to participate in 401(k) plans, and provides relief to pension plans, ranging from rural co-ops to organizations like the Jewish Federation of America.

I am also proud to share that this legislation includes my bill, H.R. 2806, which fixes a provision in the flawed Republican tax plan that raised the tax rate for scholarship and fellowship students up to 37 percent.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I would like to thank Chairman NEAL for his leadership in getting this bipartisan bill passed unanimously through our committee.

The SECURE Act will help families achieve lifetime financial security, a core of the American Dream. I urge every Member of this body to support its passage.

CONGRATULATING HAVERFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, we all know that elections matter, so I

would like to congratulate the students of Haverford High School for receiving the Governor's Civic Engagement Award. This award is given to Pennsylvania high schools that register over 85 percent of their eligible students to vote. Haverford High was 1 of 4 Philadelphia area schools and 1 of 23 schools in our Commonwealth to receive this noteworthy award.

At a time when some States are imposing restrictions on voting, we should all follow the lead set by the students at Haverford High. They worked to educate their peers and bring them into the electoral process. This Congress should do the same.

We need to ensure that our schools give students a thorough civics education so that they have the knowledge and tools necessary to fully participate in our democracy. We need to expand voting rights and access to the ballot, as we are doing with passage of bills like H.R. 1 and H.R. 4.

Again, Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the students of Haverford High School for their outstanding achievement and for being an example for all of us to follow.

SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 389, I call up the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 389, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, modified by the amendment printed in part B of House Report 116-79, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1994

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, ETC.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title, etc.

TITLE I—EXPANDING AND PRESERVING RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Sec. 101. Multiple employer plans; pooled employer plans.

Sec. 102. Increase in 10 percent cap for automatic enrollment safe harbor after 1st plan year.

Sec. 103. Rules relating to election of safe harbor 401(k) status.

Sec. 104. Increase in credit limitation for small employer pension plan startup costs.

Sec. 105. Small employer automatic enrollment credit.