

He is a familiar face at the museum, where he shares his stories of the brave men and women he fought beside and friends he lost during the war.

Mr. Nipps' bravery will never be forgotten, and I am grateful for the work he continues to do to serve this great country and share the stories of those who fought for justice and peace. I am honored to name him the First District's Veteran of the Month for June.

HONORING EDDIE JONES, II

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life and legacy of a selfless community servant, Eddie Jones, II, who passed away last week at the much-too-soon age of 69.

Eddie was truly remarkable and exemplified the best in us. He was a steady hand for anyone who needed it and a sturdy presence who dedicated himself to being a good steward of our Chicagoland community.

Born in Arkansas to Eddie and Rosie Jones, Eddie grew up in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, graduating from Wendell Phillips High School and Western Illinois University before embarking on a 30-year career with IBM and All Points Security.

Eddie was chairman of the Iota Delta Lambda Educational Foundation, the March of Dimes, and served as the president of the Chicago Urban League Metro Board. He was a proud brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and made sure we all knew it. He was even prouder to be a grandfather and a father.

I am thankful to have called Eddie my friend, and I am comforted and inspired by the fact that his life and legacy endure in the memory, smiles, and service of others.

On behalf of a thankful Second Congressional District I say: We will miss you, Eddie. Thank you for a life well lived.

ENSURING STUDENTS A SAFE COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCE

(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 to speak about a bill to eradicate hazing on college campuses.

This morning, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE will introduce the END ALL Hazing Act. I am proud to lead this bill with her to increase campuswide transparency and accountability for all student organizations.

For too long, hazing has threatened the health and the safety of students and undermined the educational mission of higher education institutions.

No student on any campus should have their well-being put in jeopardy

because of a dangerous and life-threatening situation as part of a sports team or a club ritual.

Parents who have lost children to incidents of hazing have been working with fraternities and sororities to engage in aggressive student education, outreach, and advocacy efforts to end tragic hazing incidents. Their work has included successfully pursuing legislation with transparency requirements in several States, including my home State of Pennsylvania.

A Federal solution will more quickly address the problem and ensure students across the country can enjoy a safe collegiate experience with involvement in extracurricular activities and student organizations without fear of being hazed.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN VETERANS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday was Women Veterans Day in my home State of California, also home to 145,000 women veterans.

Seventy-one years ago, President Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This law recognized women's enduring and critical service to the Nation and made them permanent members of the United States Armed Forces.

As chairwoman of the Women's Veterans Task Force, I am working with 66 of my colleagues in the House, as well as in the Senate, to increase visibility of women veterans. We are promoting inclusivity and equitable access to healthcare, benefits, education, and economic opportunity, particularly in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I ask all Americans to join me in recognizing the 2 million women who have served our country in uniform. To these women veterans I say: Thank you for your service to our great Nation.

STOPPING THE INVASION AT OUR BORDER

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this past week, we were privileged to have been invited by our Speaker, those of us who have been in the military, served our country in the military, to go with her to the 75th anniversary of Normandy. It was deeply moving. And to be on those beaches and to see and know the sacrifices that occurred there, we talked in terms of it being an invasion over and over.

Now I get back to Texas and I found out, last month, about the same number, about 144,000 invaded France, is what we had last month here in America—just right here, even, in Texas. We are being invaded by people who do not

know how to preserve a self-government.

Ben Franklin said: It is a Republic, madam, if you can keep it.

If we don't stop the invasion, we will not keep it.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I urge the immediate scheduling of that bill for a vote here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not been recognized for debate.

TAKING ACTION AGAINST OUR NATION'S GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday was the third anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting. Three years ago, 49 young people were senselessly murdered and 53 more were wounded.

In the 3 years since then, approximately 120,000 more Americans have died from our Nation's gun violence epidemic, and our Nation has failed to take any meaningful action. Just recently, we witnessed another mass shooting in Virginia Beach that killed 12 people—12 innocent people.

And yet Congress has yet to pass commonsense measures to save lives, measures that 90 percent of Americans support like universal background checks and bans on massacre-sized magazines and silencers.

H.R. 8, passed by the House more than 100 days ago, still awaits action in the Senate.

How many more tragic anniversaries must pass—how many must die—before we offer more than thoughts and prayers?

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois). Pursuant to House Resolution 431 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. 2740.

Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) kindly take the chair.

□ 0912

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. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, with Mrs. FLETCHER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 13, 2019, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 71 printed in House Report 116-109 offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) had been postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment Nos. 72 and 73 will not be offered.

□ 0915

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MS. SPANBERGER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 74 printed in part B of House Report 116-109.

Ms. SPANBERGER. 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 51, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 90, line 6, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 431, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Chair, my amendment to H.R. 2740 increases funding toward colorectal cancer screening and prevention.

Right now, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. This year alone, more than 50,000 people across the country are expected to die from this disease. One out of 20 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer during their lifetime.

When I hear these statistics, I think of more than just the numbers. I think of the families and the lives that are impacted. I think of my own mother-in-law who was diagnosed with colorectal cancer years ago and remains cancer-free to this day. I think of my dear friend Peg—a teacher, an advocate, and a fighter—who, when faced with her own devastating diagnosis, committed herself to educating others about this disease and the benefit of screenings.

With so many Americans like Peg and my mother-in-law diagnosed with

colorectal cancer each year, Congress needs to support prevention efforts. Over the last few years, funding for the groundbreaking Colorectal Cancer Control Program has remained the same.

This year, I thank the Appropriations Committee for recognizing this problem. By bringing attention to the increasing rate of colorectal cancer among younger adults, we are sharing the gift of research and promoting the spread of 21st-century prevention.

My amendment would strengthen the Appropriations Committee's efforts by providing \$3 million in additional funding for colorectal cancer research under the Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program.

In Virginia, the Virginia Department of Health significantly benefits from this program and uses these funds to provide early screenings across the Commonwealth.

If this critical amendment passes, the House would provide a major increase and much-needed funding for colorectal cancer screening and control under the CDC. This increased support means more necessary screenings, more evidence-based interventions, and a path toward more lives saved, especially among some of our country's most vulnerable patients.

Studies indicate that as many as 60 percent of colorectal cancer deaths could be prevented with screening, but the number of colorectal cancer screenings has remained level since 2010. Clearly, we are overdue for progress in this fight.

By making a vigorous effort to increase the numbers of screenings, we will be able to catch abnormal growths before they turn into cancer, and we can catch colorectal cancer early when treatment is more effective.

As we fight for additional vital funding for the CRCCP, we are allowing prevention and education initiatives to reach more Americans. That gives more families the opportunity to live cancer-free.

We have a rare opportunity to build a coalition in this battle. Across the country, more than 1,700 organizations have committed to defeating colorectal cancer as a public health crisis. Together, they have committed to the goal of 80 percent screened in the coming years.

Congress needs to join this effort, and my amendment can and should be part of that fight.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment.

I would note that the underlying bill that we are considering today includes a \$2 million increase for a total funding level of \$45 million for colorectal cancer prevention activities at the CDC. Given the increasing rate of colorectal cancer among younger adults, I am pleased to support further expansion of CDC's efforts.

As a survivor of ovarian cancer, I thank the gentlewoman for raising the issue of colorectal cancer and the importance of cancer screenings.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I know we will have a discussion here, Madam Chair, about where the dollars are coming from, but I would like to remind the gentleman from Maryland that, last evening, the minority voted overwhelmingly for a 14 percent cut across the board, which, in fact, would have cut the general departmental management by 14 percent, so I find this line of opposition to be somewhat disingenuous.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, here we go again. Obviously, we took a 5-hour break, but now we are back to not making priorities.

The bottom line is, now we are up to \$27 million out of this basket of money that the Secretary has to manage a Department that is actually increasing in size and increasing in complexity.

This is a very worthy cause, and there is no question in anyone's mind, I hope, that colon cancer screening, for instance, is essential. Every American who falls within the guidelines should be encouraged to undergo the screening, but we have to set priorities.

If we are going to increase further the funding into that program—because as we heard from the subcommittee chair, we have already increased the funding—if we are going to increase it further, we have to look somewhere to decrease funding. That is not a magical pot of money that is endless. Literally, it is true that, sooner or later, the Secretary is going to have to take out loans to pay salaries in his Department because we will have drained the entire amount.

Again, since the last vote series, which we had 1 a.m. eastern time—it is now 9:20 eastern time—since then, we have drained that fund by \$27 million. A lot of it transferred for good projects, but that is not the way we should be doing business here.

When families in my district have a priority, they set a new priority. They say this family needs this a lot right now. They look into their budget and ask what they are not going to spend on. That is what we ought to be doing.

If this is so essential, Madam Chair, I would suggest some other program, not a magical pot of money that some people believe has no bottom.

Again, the Secretary has to run an increasingly complex Department. The bottom line is that we have now drained, if all the amendments pass

that we have discussed since 1 a.m., \$27 million out of the fund. This is not the way we ought to do business.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Chair, I have trouble with that argument from my colleague across the aisle when, last night, he voted for a 14 percent cut across the board to this pot of money, which he refers to as a “magical” pot of money.

I think it is incredibly important that when we are looking at priorities, priorities such as prevention, priorities such as early detection related to such a disease that kills so many Americans, where prevention and early screenings are vital to survival levels, it is incredibly important that we prioritize screenings and invest. This amendment stipulates \$3 million toward this vital, vital effort.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, we are showing the American people right now that we live in fantasy land.

The bottom line is, the amendment that I and many of my colleagues voted for last night merely restores this bill to the current state of law. It makes it comply with the Budget Control Act. I didn't vote for the Budget Control Act, but it is the law of the land.

We can pretend it is not. That is the difference between us and the people in my district. They don't have Monopoly money to play with. They can't pretend that the law isn't the law. They can't pretend that they can invent money in their families. They have to follow the laws. They have to follow their budgets. But I guess that is just not true.

This is why Congress has a 9 percent approval rating. The people watching us today, the millions of people watching us—there are maybe several hundred thousand watching us today—are watching promises being made that can't be kept, promises being made that take money out of not this generation but the next generation and the generation following.

Again, this is a worthy cause. But the bottom line is, last year, when the majority was in the minority, every single member in the Appropriations Committee voted against funding this program when it left the committee, every single majority member when they were in the minority.

I get how this game is being played. I get it. We have to restore fiscal discipline, the same fiscal discipline every family in our districts has. If you set a priority and you decide this is necessary to spend on, you find something that is not necessary to spend on.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Chair, I would like to note, for the RECORD, that I am new to Congress, elected in November, so I was not here last year or last Congress during the tax bill cycle. Given that my colleague across

the aisle was, I find the lectures about fiscal discipline to be very challenging to take when we are discussing Monopoly money, fantasy land money, and taking money from the next generation.

I know a great deal about the challenges that ride on the fact that we have increased our debt year after year, and I find it very difficult to listen to lectures about this from a colleague who, in fact, voted to balloon the deficit.

This is about prevention and screening. This is about the health of Americans. This is about being proactive in our spending.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HARRIS. Is any time remaining on the other side because the gentlewoman moved to reserve her time?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland controls the only time remaining.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I am a physician. I have taken care of people for 35 years. I am not sure I should be lectured, Madam Chair, on the proper way to take care of people in this country with regard to their health.

I understand the attraction of maybe bringing a tax bill into this. I am not sure why the proponents can't leave this as a discussion of funding health.

The bottom line is, this is an important subject, no question about it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER).

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

Mr. BUDD. 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 Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MR. DELGADO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 75 printed in part B of House Report 116-109.

Mr. DELGADO. 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 90, line 6, after the dollar amount \$474,169,000, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 51, line 1, after the dollar amount \$592,622,000, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 431, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, upstate New York and communities across the country are experiencing an unprecedented increase in Lyme disease and tick-borne diseases. At all 14 of the townhalls that I have held in my district this term, folks asked me what Congress is doing about Lyme disease.

Today, I am offering an amendment to better understand and prevent this disease. The amendment adds \$1 million in critical CDC funding for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease.

This package of appropriations bills makes critical investments in our priorities. But as temperatures rise and families spend more time outside, we must invest more in treating and preventing Lyme.

Lyme disease is a devastating disease that can often go undetected as it travels through ticks, tiny bugs that reside in dense forests and rural areas, areas found all across my district in upstate New York.

While most Lyme disease patients who are diagnosed and treated early can fully recover, 10 to 20 percent of patients suffer from persistent symptoms, which, for some, are chronic and disabling.

These numbers are even more startling as we consider that, over the last 25 years, Lyme disease has increased by over 300 percent in the northeastern States. In 2017, there were 3,502 confirmed cases of tick-borne Lyme in New York State alone.

Madam Chair, I have 5-year-old twin boys. Whenever I do bath time, I have to check for ticks. There have been a few scary moments where I have actually had to pull ticks off my little boys. It is a frightening experience.

Parents, myself included, are sending their children into their backyard or local park with fears that they can return with a chronic lifelong and potentially disabling disease.

□ 0930

But this is just not a medical or moral issue. Lyme disease is costing our economy. How much money are the American people spending on this disease as we still know so little about it?

Studies indicate that Lyme disease costs approximately \$1.3 billion each year in direct medical costs alone in the United States. The American people are spending \$1.3 billion on the symptoms of a disease rather than investing in medical research to treat and prevent it.

This figure doesn't even address the opportunity cost of failing to act to address Lyme disease in our communities. How will our local economy attract tourists when people can get sick? What is the cost of keeping children cooped up inside rather than enjoying the outdoors for fear of tick-borne illnesses?

Upstate New Yorkers and communities struggling with tick populations need medical solutions now to stop this disease in its tracks. Prompt diagnosis and treatment of tick-borne diseases are crucial to prevent long-term complications.

Today, available diagnostic tests can be inaccurate and complex to interpret, especially during the earliest stage of infection when treatment is most effective. My amendment offers trying to better understand the disease and allowing for research to develop a more effective treatment of the disease.

Unlike in other infectious disease settings, tests to directly measure the presence of the infecting organism are not available for Lyme disease. This leaves physicians without the tools needed to diagnose; and without an accurate diagnosis, it is challenging for physicians to provide early treatment.

The disease requires specialized treatments, which requires real investments in research to better manage and prevent the disease. Madam Chair, the time to invest is now. Indeed, the National Science Foundation has declared that Lyme disease is an emerging global pandemic due to climate change.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of his amendment.

I commend the gentleman's efforts to highlight Lyme disease, which, unfortunately, has spread to many States due to climate change. The geographic area in which ticks can survive is increasing as milder winters result in fewer disease-carrying ticks dying during the winter.

I am proud that our bill includes a \$1 million increase, for a total funding level of \$13 million for the CDC to intensify efforts to develop better diagnostics and to bolster critical prevention and surveillance networks. This amendment would provide an additional \$1 million increase.

Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

I might also add that, last evening, the fiscal year 2020 House bill we spoke about provides \$193 million for the Secretary of HHS' administrative budget. Yet, last night, Republicans, including my colleague, voted to cut that budget by 14 percent, which would have cut the Secretary's budget by \$27 million.

So the argument that is being made is a fantasy and really somewhat disingenuous.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York's time is expired.

The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, what is disingenuous is trying to make an argument that somehow this bill falls within current statute.

The Budget Control Act is the controlling statutory authority, and this bill is 14 percent above the Budget Control Act.

Now, most people might think a move to restore the congressional action to lawfulness is actually a good thing. In fact, maybe Americans watching who have to live by a budget in their households actually wonder why we can't do it here. They look at a trillion-dollar deficit and they say: Wait a minute. I can't do that in my household. Why does Congress do it to the country?

The gentlewoman from Connecticut, the gentleman from New York, they share something in common with Maryland: We are where Lyme disease is endemic. No question about it, it is a problem.

My problem is not with CDC dealing with Lyme disease. With this amendment, we are now up to \$28 million taken from the same source. This pretend bottomless fund that all we have to do is we can draw all we need out of this fund is not the way budgeting works. It is not the way budgeting works in any family. It is not the way budgeting should work here on Capitol Hill.

And, again, I remind my colleagues, people look at how Congress operates in wonder—not awe, wonder. They figure: Why can't Congress run the country like I have to run my household?

It is because we don't choose priorities here. We say this is important, and it is, but we fail to do what all the families in America do when they decide something is more important. They choose something that is less important and forgo spending money on that.

So that is the deficit in this amendment. This amendment is a worthy cause. Lyme disease is a terrible disease, as the gentleman from New York knows. We are not even sure how to diagnose it. Chronic Lyme disease is an enigma to scientists and to medicine. It should be a priority. But coupled with that priority is finding something else that is of lower priority and deciding not to spend as much there and to spend more here.

So that is why, reluctantly, I urge the body, if they pass the other amendments that we have chosen—that is, considered since 1 a.m., the last time we met—this would make \$28 million out of that mythical bottomless fund that all these good ideas are funded from.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO).

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

Mr. BUDD. 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 gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MR. CROW

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 76 printed in part B of House Report 116–109.

Mr. CROW. 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 121, line 23, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 431, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. CROW. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment supporting an additional \$5 million appropriation for Project SERV.

Project SERV and programs like it provide mental health resources to students and extend critical support in the wake of tragedies, such as school shootings like the one that took place at STEM School in my district.

By increasing funding, we can increase our ability to address the mental health among our precious population: our children.

The underlying bill doubles the amount of funding for Project SERV to \$10 million. Moreover, additional funding was provided in the disaster supplemental that I was proud to vote for in May.

I thank the chairman, ranking member, and the members of the committee for their hard work to ensure that this program is properly funded.

With my amendment, I hope that we can continue to scale Project SERV and mental health programs like it so that we can ensure that every student gets the help that they deserve.

In the time since the STEM School shooting in my district, I have had the privilege to meet with several students and their families. Their courage and thoughtfulness is unparalleled.

We discussed and reflected on ways that we in this body can help students, in a bipartisan manner, to cope with crisis: What can we do? How do we restart the learning process? How do we prevent future tragedies?

The common denominators were expanding mental health curriculum in schools; grief counseling; helping students, teachers, administrators, and their families recover. It was something that we came together and found

some bipartisan consensus on in the discussions that I have had.

Experts can attest shootings and other school tragedies take a terrible toll on our students, causing sleep disorders, anxiety, and even PTS. We need programs like Project SERV. We need to ensure that our children have access to mental health services they need in order to recover, in order to focus on their studies, in order to make sure tragedies like this never happen again. And we need to scale this program and those like it to make sure that this happens at a much larger and national scale.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of this amendment and the Project School Emergency Response to Violence, Project SERV, program.

The program provides counseling and referral to mental health services, as well as other education-related services, to school districts, colleges, and universities in which the learning environment has been disrupted by a violent or traumatic crisis.

To strengthen this critical program, the underlying bill increases the set-aside within the School Safety National Activities program by \$5 million over the 2019 enacted level.

I appreciate that the amendment is drawing attention to this important program, and I am happy to support it.

Mr. CROW. Madam Chair, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, we have an obligation to take care of our students, teachers, and school administrators after horrific tragedies. We must ensure that they can grieve, heal, return to school, and focus on learning and moving forward with their lives, all the while feeling safe doing so.

I look forward to working with the distinguished chairwoman, appropriators, and members of the authorizing committee to support Project SERV and programs like it in the months and years ahead.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW).

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

Mr. BUDD. 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 gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 77 printed in part B of House Report 116-109.

Ms. HOULAHAN. 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 117, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 431, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2740, which advocates for funding for the Department of Education's comprehensive literacy development grants.

The LEARN Program provides competitive grants to States to help local educational agencies develop comprehensive literacy plans to ensure high-quality instruction and evidence-based intervention strategies for all students from birth through grade 12.

This program is the only Federal funding stream to support these statewide efforts. This funding allows local school districts to support high-quality professional development for teachers, teacher leaders, principals, and specialized instructional support personnel to improve literacy instruction for struggling readers and writers, including English language learners and students with disabilities.

The state of literacy in our country is alarming. Before coming to Congress, I taught high school chemistry, and what I found was that most of my high school students couldn't read above a third or fourth grade level.

How could my students learn chemistry if they couldn't read? How could they expect to, later in life, be able to pursue a quality and rewarding life?

It was a wake-up call for me, and I spent the next 4 years, as a consequence, building a nonprofit that focused on early childhood literacy in our most disadvantaged communities.

According to the National Institute of Literacy, approximately 32 million adults in the U.S. cannot read. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that half of U.S. adults cannot read a book written at an eighth grade level.

The fight for a more literate America is crucial, and we must acknowledge that low literacy more dramatically affects communities of color.

On the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress, in the 12th grade reading level assessments, 46 percent of White students scored at or above proficient, while only 25 percent of Latino and 17 percent of Black students scored proficient. In essence, the fight for literacy is a fight for a fairer country, for a more level playing field.

How can we expect young Americans from every race, gender, and socioeconomic background to be ready for our workforce?

□ 0945

How can we be living up to the notion that every American deserves a shot at the American Dream if we are not aggressively fighting to ensure that they have the most fundamental ability to read.

Our inaction is costing us all. The National Council for Adult Learning estimates that low literacy costs our country \$225 billion each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

The American Journal of Public Health found that in excess of \$230 billion a year in healthcare costs is linked to low adult literacy. Our inaction on literacy is costing us nearly \$500 billion a year. I believe, and I am sure that many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle believe, that every American child deserves his or her shot at the American Dream, at the ability to get a quality education, and to make a living wage to support themselves and their families.

We are denying millions of people their shot and their promise in this country by refusing to more aggressively advocate for and fund programs that do the critical work of increasing our literacy levels.

I am thankful that my amendment is being considered. I think it is an important first step in the long overdue fight for a more literate and, by extension, a more fair America. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in support of this amendment and of Comprehensive Literacy Development grants, which help States and school districts provide evidence-based literacy instruction for disadvantaged students from birth through grade 12.

Literacy is a mark of a civilized society, and it is one of the most important predictors of a student's success. To further advance literacy skills for students across the country, the underlying bill provides \$195 million for Comprehensive Literacy Development grants, a \$5 million increase over the fiscal year 2019 enacted level.

I might add that the Trump administration cut this program, literacy, and they also cut the innovative approaches to literacy, again, which we have increased by \$2 million. It may mean that they don't understand that literacy is a mark of a civilized society. I appreciate that the amendment is drawing attention to the importance of this program, and I am happy to support it.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chairwoman, the Trump administration followed the

law. I know that for Congress here, we don't really like to follow the law. We think we make it for everybody else, and we don't have to follow it. In fact, the bill we are discussing today doesn't follow the Budget Control Act. It pretends that the law doesn't exist.

Now, the Trump administration did the appropriate thing and said: You know what? The law does exist. The reason why we get into trouble, and why America looks at what Congress does, the profligate spending that we have, the trillion-dollar deficits, and the \$22 trillion debt is because in some cases like this, we just don't follow the law. The President says: No, we should return to the law.

If the Congress thinks we ought to spend more, then pass a bill that changes the Budget Control Act. But, Madam Chairwoman, I would suggest that if the President had not followed the law, the complaint would be: The President is not following the law. You are damned if you do. You are damned if you don't.

The President follows the Budget Control Act, submits a budget consistent with that, and then gets blamed by the majority for following the law, not playing make-believe budgets.

Madam Chairwoman, our families can't do make-believe budgets. They have a certain amount of money and they have to stay within that budget. But I guess we are Congress. We are different. We can make believe.

This is why we have a 9 percent approval rating, because Americans look at what we do here in Congress and say: This isn't the real world.

This education is important. There is no question about it, but we have to place priorities. I reluctantly oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Chairwoman, I am nearly speechless with the conversation that I have just heard where we are talking about the most fundamental of things that we need, the equipment that we need to be functioning in our society, that skill of literacy, that we are thinking somehow that this is a checkbook balance situation rather than an investment in a child, an investment in a family, an investment in a future.

If we are talking about the need to imagine, we have to give people the skills so that they may imagine. Imagine the life that they will be able to have when they are able to read a street sign; when they are able to read to their child; when they are able to read their driver's test. These are things that we should not deny anyone. These are fundamental things that we absolutely have to provide to every single citizen in our economy.

If we are not providing education and literacy, what good is this Nation? I will conclude by saying that I came here to Congress and I stand on this floor, the daughter of a refugee from Poland. He came here with nothing as a 5 year old. He came here with no lit-

eracy skills, and a generation later, I am standing here in front of you because my father had the opportunity to learn to read.

My father had the opportunity to pursue the American Dream, and 70 years later, I stand here in front of you because that is the promise that our Nation makes to all of us and the investment that our Nation makes in every one of us.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to speak about something that I am deeply passionate about. I am confident that the vast majority of our Nation is deeply passionate about this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chairwoman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chairwoman, I won't take 3 minutes. We obviously have a lot of work to do this morning and did a lot of work last night.

Part of the American Dream—and my parents as well came to this country—and it is amazing that the children of immigrants can sit on this floor, but they came to this country because there is a rule of law in this country.

The law right now says, under the Budget Control Act, that we should be spending much less than this bill suggests overall. The Trump administration proposed spending within the law. Now, that law is not a Trump administration law. That law was actually signed by the last President with the majority controlling the Senate. It was a bipartisan agreement, the Budget Control Act.

But again, we pretend that it just doesn't exist. This is part of the problem. Americans look at us and say: Wait a minute. You expect us to live by the law? In fact, you insist that we live by the law, and now talk about imagination, this is really imaginary because we are presenting a proposal here today that spends tens and tens of billions of dollars more than the law says we are authorized to spend. That is astounding.

No wonder we have a 9 percent approval rating. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

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

Mr. BUDD. 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASCRELL) having assumed the chair, Mrs. FLETCHER, 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. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 436 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. 2740.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0955

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, with Mrs. FLETCHER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today pursuant to House Resolution 431, further proceedings on amendment No. 77 printed in House Report 116-109 offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) had been postponed.

Pursuant to House Resolution 436, further amendments printed in part B of House Report 116-111 may be offered at any time during consideration of the bill for amendment, 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, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except amendment described in section 4 of House Resolution 431, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. POCAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116-111.

Mr. POCAN. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows: