

Again, my amendment, which was part of the bill that passed last Friday night, would restore the full intent of the Congress in 2008 and reverse the Trump administration's decision to cut off that transferability, which was issued last July.

Again, we still have work to do. We have a conference to build with the Senate, and we, obviously, have to get it to the President for signature. We have done it for 57 straight years, and we should make it 58 this year by passing the 2020 NDAA bill.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, there are also things happening over at the U.S. Department of Education regarding higher education which are of great concern.

On Thursday, the American Federation of Teachers filed a lawsuit in the District Court of Washington, D.C., basically asking the court to rule that the Department's foot-dragging in terms of discharging student loan debt through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program has got to come to an end.

In 2007, we passed the College Class Reduction Act which set up a mechanism for those who serve in critical public service occupations, such as teaching, nurses, doctors, police, prosecutors, social workers, veterinarians, and people who work in nonprofit organizations. If they make their student loan payments consistently over a 10-year period, under the College Class Reduction Act, they could apply for a discharge of the balance of their student loan, recognizing that these are people who are going into occupations for which the payment of student loan debt can be too onerous.

□ 1215

So, 2007 was the year that this program was supposed to kick into effect. As the Government Accountability Office determined, since that period—and these are our figures from 2019—7,555 borrowers have submitted applications to have their loans discharged. Only 864 have been approved, and only 516 borrowers, less than 1 percent, have had their loans forgiven.

Again, the loan servicers working for the Department of Education, as determined by GAO, are giving bad information and are not crediting the monthly loan payments that teachers and nurses and others have been faithfully making, relying on this program. They built their employment history around the opportunity, knowing that that student loan debt could be discharged.

Again, what we are seeing are shocking figures from the Department of Education that have not followed through and implemented this law.

Not a great surprise to those of us on the Committee on Education and Labor because the Trump administration, for the last 3 years, has submitted budgets that would eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

We have to change this administration's policies toward higher education.

We did it on Friday, and we have to do it with public service loan forgiveness to reward the good guys, the people who are out there doing critical work for our Nation.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Armenian Apostolic Church of America, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Your children gathered here, in this sanctuary of democracy and freedom, thank Thee for Your providential care full of visible and invisible blessings.

Lead this august assembly in Your spirit to accomplish the mission vested upon her.

Grant Your wisdom and love upon the Members of this assembly to follow Thy will and fulfill their awesome responsibility toward the "land of the free" and the world at large.

May justice and peace be forthcoming from their decisions, as well as prosperity and joy to prevail among mankind.

Let this and every day be marked as a masterpiece in the lives of all those who serve the people for Your glory, so that they may be worthy of hearing Your calling: "Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

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.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRINDISI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLGATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join our community in celebrating the 200th anniversary of Colgate University's founding. Located in Madison County in upstate New York, Colgate was officially established by New York State in 1819.

For 200 years, the university has exemplified all the best American higher education has to offer. It has produced many graduates of national acclaim, including business professionals, community leaders, Members of Congress—including two current Members of Congress—and other government officials.

Colgate has taught some of the brightest minds in our country and now educates more than 2,900 students each year in 56 different majors. I am proud to represent this excellent institution in Congress, and I join the Colgate community in celebrating their bicentennial.

#### LET'S END THE WIDOW'S TAX

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week, House Democrats had the chance to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act on the floor to repeal the widow's tax.

Roll Call described, today, the bill as a "broadly supported bipartisan bill" with 365 cosponsors. This was the first legislation to achieve the Consensus Calendar and would have received a standalone vote, having 86 percent cosponsorship.

Roll Call said: "Wilson's bill, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, would end a disparity between government payments made to surviving spouses of servicemembers who die on Active Duty.

"The 'widow's tax' . . . requires the surviving spouses to forfeit much of their DOD Survivor Benefit Plan annuity when they receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA.

"The Rules Committee did not give Wilson a heads-up that they were going to put language in the NDAA rules to remove his bill from the Consensus Calendar."

This was a partisan political gimmick. It is not too late to bring it back up as a standalone bill to help the spouses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1447

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN) at 2 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

## UNITED STATES-NORTHERN TRIANGLE ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2615) to support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2615

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Report on drivers of migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.
- Sec. 3. Actions to promote inclusive economic growth and development in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 4. Actions to combat corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 5. Actions to strengthen democratic institutions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 6. Actions to improve security conditions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations for assistance to Central America.
- Sec. 8. Conditions on assistance to the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 9. Enhancing engagement with the Government of Mexico on the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 10. Targeting assistance to address migration from communities in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 11. Targeted sanctions to fight corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 12. Requirement to provide advance notification to Congress of security assistance to Northern Triangle countries.

Sec. 13. Definitions.

Sec. 14. Determination of budgetary effects.

**SEC. 2. REPORT ON DRIVERS OF MIGRATION FROM THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE TO THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the drivers of migration from each of the Northern Triangle countries and the progress United States foreign assistance is making in addressing such drivers.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements for each of the Northern Triangle countries, with data disaggregated by municipality, age, and gender, as necessary:

(1) Information and data on all criminal activities, including drug trafficking, extortion, trafficking in persons, and gender-based violence, with particular emphasis on such activities carried out by criminal gangs and transnational criminal organizations such as MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang.

(2) Data on the extent to which criminal activities referred to in paragraph (1) are reported to government authorities and the number of perpetrators investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted, versus the number of known perpetrators who are not so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted.

(3) Data on children and young adults forcibly recruited for criminal activities referred to in paragraph (1), including the extent to which government authorities received reports of forced recruitment.

(4) Data on internal displacement due to criminal activities referred to in paragraph (1), and services, including temporary shelters, provided to those displaced by violence.

(5) Data on gender-based violence by region and municipality and descriptions of gender-based violence and domestic violence trends, including gender-based violence against indigenous women, and correlation to outward migration.

(6) Descriptions of the obstacles (including capacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to resolving gender-based violence cases and deterring violence against women and children.

(7) Information on the availability of trauma-informed legal and social services, including in shelters, for victims of gender-based violence.

(8) Data on the number of police officers, prosecutors, court personnel, and specialized units trained in violence against women and children, including data on the number of female police officers in each of the Northern Triangle countries.

(9) Data on reported cases of abuse, including extrajudicial executions, torture, forced disappearance, and arbitrary detention, allegedly committed by members of the security forces, and collusion between members of such security forces and gangs and other criminal groups, including transnational criminal organizations, and the number of perpetrators investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted, versus the number of known perpetrators not so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted.

(10) Descriptions of the strategies being implemented to guarantee the rights of indigenous and rural communities.

(11) Descriptions of the strategies being implemented to address forced recruitment of children and youth by gangs, transnational criminal organizations, and other criminal groups, and how such strate-

gies are complemented by United States efforts.

(12) Descriptions of the strategies being implemented by the governments of each of the Northern Triangle countries to address corruption and organized crime and how such strategies are complemented by United States efforts.

(13) Data on the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies, including through bilateral and multilateral anti-corruption assistance.

(14) An assessment of the extent of corruption, including regarding narcotics trafficking and illicit campaign financing, a description of steps taken and to be taken to impose sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note), and a list of senior officials who are known or credibly alleged to have committed or facilitated such corruption, not including individuals who have already been sentenced to crimes in criminal courts.

(15) Descriptions of operating conditions for civil society organizations and independent media in each of the Northern Triangle countries, and data on harassment and attacks on civil society and independent media from political and criminal actors.

(16) An assessment of information sharing regarding known or suspected terrorists and other individuals and groups that pose a potential threat to United States national security that are crossing through or residing in the Northern Triangle.

(17) Descriptions of the obstacles (including capacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to resolving criminal cases and corruption and deterring violence.

(18) Data on the capacity of child welfare systems in each Northern Triangle country to protect unaccompanied children, including runaways and refugee returnees.

(19) Data on the governance capacity of Northern Triangle country governments at the local and national level, including ability to deliver basic citizen services, including tax collection and citizen security.

(20) Data on the rates of extortion, the impact of extortion on local businesses and economies, and the number of extortion cases investigated, prosecuted, or convicted.

(21) Data on the extent to which the Northern Triangle governments are promoting economic growth and educational opportunities, improving health outcomes, and addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality through public policies.

(22) Data on the activities of China and Russia, an assessment of the threat of such activities to United States interests, and the impact of such activities on irregular migration.

(23) An analysis of the manner and extent to which assistance made available to the Northern Triangle countries in fiscal years 2015 through 2017 were expended, particularly including—

(A) the extent to which funds made available to private and nongovernmental entities to provide such assistance were subsequently expended on activities conducted within such countries; and

(B) the manner in which such funds were expended on activities in other countries.

(24) Data on the geographic regions where highest incidence of violence occurs against women and children.

(25) An evaluation of the extent to which women and children who are victims of violence have access to protection and justice.

(26) An evaluation of the capacity of the justice system in each Northern Triangle country to respond to reports of femicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, or child abuse and neglect, and to