

affected are our heroes who protect our great Nation. This change is necessary, this change is bipartisan, and this change is long overdue. I want to thank everybody again for working on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to just add that I hear an equal number of names mentioned from both sides of the aisle who have contributed to the content of this bill. This is what bipartisanship looks like. I am very proud that we have brought this bill out of committee on a unanimous basis and that I have heard each side mention multiple names of Members who have contributed language to this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

This is a great bill named after a great American hero. We need to pass this bill. I want to thank the leadership of the chairman and the ranking member for bringing it to the floor.

Again, we have got to get this done for our heroes. We have got to get it to the Senate and pass it as soon as possible because it is so badly needed. I appreciate it very much. I thank the staff for their support.

Madam Speaker, I encourage Members to vote positive on this particular bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of this moment that we have chosen as Members of the House to move forward legislation that addresses adaptive housing for veterans who have truly been heroic. I can't think of a single American who would stand in the way or would criticize Members of our body for addressing such an urgent need.

I want to congratulate all the Members who have done an even greater honor to the person for whom this bill is named by addressing issues related to the workstudy program, by increasing the availability of benefits to our veterans in their educational process.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3504, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3504, which includes my bipartisan bill, the GI Bill Access to Career Credentials Act. The GI Bill Access to Career Credentials Act allow veterans to use their GI Bill benefits to cover the cost of approved preparatory courses for professional license and certification exams.

Covering these courses under the GI Bill will give veterans and their eligible family members greater ability to enter careers that require government-recognized licenses and certifications, such as in-demand careers in health and technology.

This is not the first time Congress has expanded GI bill benefit to cover non-tuition expenses. Over the last 75 years, we have broadened the GI bill to cover college admissions test fees, admissions test preparatory courses, and the exam fees for licenses and certifications.

And, while more than 5,700 GI Bill students over the last year and a half used their license and certification exam fees reimbursement benefit, the courses designed to help them pass these tests were not reimbursable. That makes no sense. Not all students pass these exams on the first attempt. If we really want to help our veterans become licensed and certified for demanding careers, let us help them prepare to pass the necessary tests.

Let us help them join the more than 25 million veterans and veteran family members who the GI Bill has helped achieve their educational and career goals.

My GI Bill Access to Career Credentials Act is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Guard Association, Enlisted Association of the National Guard, AMVETS, National Military Family Association, Association of the U.S. Army, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Fleet Reserve Association, Reserve Officers Association and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

I ask my colleagues to support this measure, as well, and H.R. 3504 of which it is a part.

H.R. 3504 expands the VA's Specially Adapted Housing grant program to reach more veterans who need assistance and improves the Fry Scholarship program to cover more spouses and children of fallen servicemembers.

Again, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3504.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3504, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 549) to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 549

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Venezuela TPS Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), Venezuela shall be treated as if it had been designated under subsection (b)(1)(C) of that section, subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial period of the designation referred to in paragraph (1) shall be for the 18-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—As a result of the designation made under subsection (a), an alien who is a national of Venezuela is deemed to satisfy the requirements under paragraph (1) of section 244(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)), subject to paragraph (3) of such section, if the alien—

(1) has been continuously physically present in the United States since the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) is admissible as an immigrant, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(A) of such section, and is not ineligible for temporary protected status under paragraph (2)(B) of such section; and

(3) registers for temporary protected status in a manner established by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall give prior consent to travel abroad, in accordance with section 244(f)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(3)), to an alien who is granted temporary protected status pursuant to the designation made under subsection (a) if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security that emergency and extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the alien require the alien to depart for a brief, temporary trip abroad.

(2) TREATMENT UPON RETURN.—An alien returning to the United States in accordance with an authorization described in paragraph (1) shall be treated as any other returning alien provided temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a).

(d) FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other fee authorized by law, the Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to charge and collect a fee of \$360 for each application for temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act by a person who is only eligible for such status by reason of subsection (a).

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall permit aliens to apply for a waiver of any fees associated with filing an application referred to in paragraph (1).

#### SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019. This vitally important bill will provide help and support to those who cannot return to their home country of Venezuela.

Years-long political and economic turmoil in Venezuela has resulted in the world's fastest growing migration, staggering poverty, and chronic shortages of medicine. Millions of Venezuelans are malnourished, and the United Nations estimates that 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Four million Venezuelans have been forced from their home. Most have remained in the region in neighboring countries, but tens of thousands are here in the United States seeking refuge. It is long past time to grant temporary protected status for Venezuelans currently living in the United States.

My district has one of the largest Venezuelan populations in the Nation, and I understand very well the crisis in Venezuela.

I came to this country from Ecuador when I was 14 years old, having seen firsthand the damage that authoritarian and corrupt leaders in South America have caused their countries. I have good friends and family who are still there suffering in Maracaibo and in Caracas. They are desperate. I can hear it in their voices every time they update me on the crisis.

In Miami I have met with reporters who have had to flee their home because a free press does not exist in Venezuela. Just yesterday, more rolling blackouts hit the country jeopardizing the lives of hospital patients and sending the country into pure darkness.

Even if Nicolas Maduro, the leader of this brutal narco-regime, were to leave today and the legitimate President, Juan Guaido, were to be sworn in, extraordinary and temporary conditions exist that would prevent Venezuelans from returning safely. Maduro's regime has plunged Venezuela into catastrophe.

The poverty rate in Venezuela is soaring, and the nation's health system is near collapse. Just imagine, nearly one-third of Venezuelan physicians have fled the country, and an astounding 79 percent of hospitals are experiencing shortages in supplies to assist the country's mounting medical needs. This dire situation is only exacerbated by massive food and water shortages. Malnutrition is widespread, especially among children and pregnant women. Frequent nationwide blackouts con-

tribute to the deterioration of already impoverished communities. This is one of the worst humanitarian crises that we have seen in the Western Hemisphere.

One thing is clear: we have to help our Venezuelan brothers and sisters in the United States. These conditions in Venezuela warrant a designation of TPS, and through H.R. 549, Congress will take this necessary action.

I commend my colleagues, Representatives DARREN SOTO and MARIO DIAZ-BALART for introducing this bill. I thank Representatives DONNA SHALALA and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Chairwoman LOFGREN of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship and Chairman NADLER of the Judiciary Committee for their support and hard work in helping move this bill forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we stand in solidarity with the people of Venezuela, and I share many of the comments of the gentlewoman from Florida, but I must rise in opposition to H.R. 549.

H.R. 549 statutorily designates Venezuela for inclusion in the broken program known as Temporary Protective Status. Pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary of DHS can designate a country for TPS if there are circumstances that would prevent the safe return of aliens to that country or if a country is temporarily unable to adequately handle the return of its nationals.

When DHS does so, nationals of the designated country who are inside the United States on the date of the designation, whether legally or illegally, may apply to stay here and receive employment authorization. DHS has estimated there are 270,000 such Venezuelan nationals currently in the United States, over 100,000 of whom are here illegally.

TPS is usually initially designated for a period of 18 months and then re-designated in 18-month increments after the Secretary reviews the conditions in the country to determine whether the conditions for the initial TPS designation continue. If the Secretary determines the country no longer meets the conditions for the TPS designation, the Secretary is required by law to terminate the designation. There are currently over 415,000 TPS recipients from 10 different countries in the United States.

Despite the fact Congress intended TPS to be a temporary protection, over time it has become a permanent, automatically renewed status with some countries being designated for TPS for decades.

For instance, Honduras was initially designated for TPS back in 1999 due to Hurricane Mitch which struck the country in October of 1998. Somalia

was initially designated in September of 1991 based on armed conflict.

The current administration applied the law under section 244 of the INA regarding mandatory termination of TPS designation if the conditions no longer exist, and terminated TPS for Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador. The DHS Secretary gave those populations at least 12 months to wind down and prepare for departure, but a lawsuit was filed, and activist Federal courts issued an injunction.

I oppose H.R. 549, but do not do so lightly. There is no doubt that the people of Venezuela are suffering. They are in a dire situation as a result of the socialist policies of long-time President Hugo Chavez and his successor Nicolas Maduro.

□ 1745

But I hold out hope for a regime change in Venezuela, and I know the administration is watching this situation closely.

If Congress is, nevertheless, inclined to statutorily designate Venezuela for TPS, we should not do so without reforming the process to ensure renewal is not a rubber stamp; otherwise, we risk being in the same position we are currently in regarding other TPS designations. No other administration will terminate it, and 25 years from now, Members of Congress will call for green cards for Venezuelans here on TPS.

Another concern is two Federal circuits, the sixth and the ninth, have held the mere grant of TPS is an admission for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The effect of those rulings is that TPS holders who were meant to be here temporarily can now get a green card pursuant to family or employment-based petition even if they entered the country illegally. Also problematic is the fact that the fee for a TPS application is statutorily capped at \$50.

Last week, the Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee held a hearing regarding the long wait times for processing immigration benefits applications. Large volume is the biggest driver of longer processing times, but there is also not enough money to hire additional staff. Since it is a fee-funded agency, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services should be allowed to set the fee commensurate with the cost of application adjudication, which is obviously more than the mere \$50.

Lastly, I must point out the glaring hypocrisy of designating a country for temporary protective status after the majority recently passed H.R. 6, which created a green card path for 417,000 aliens in the country on temporary protected status. If the majority had its way, Congress would amend the INA to remove the word "temporary" from the TPS statute and just start handing over green cards immediately.

Madam Speaker, I oppose H.R. 549. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the concerns Mr.

CLINE has brought up, but I would like to remind him that the Immigration and Nationality Act and this bill provide the authority to terminate TPS for Venezuelans, and Venezuelans, right now, are clearly eligible.

TPS was created specifically for the situations that we are seeing. TPS was created to address situations where extraordinary and temporary conditions in a country prevent its nationals from returning safely.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), my colleague.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida.

In 2016, Olyn Itriago escaped the evil Maduro tyranny in Venezuela. She received death threats, including a failed attempt on her life. Her brother, however, was captured and tortured by the Venezuelan National Guard. The crime? Supporting the opposition party.

Olyn is now one of my constituents in Orlando, with her daughters and her husband. She is active with our local groups, advocating for freedom in Venezuela. She holds on to hope of returning home one day soon.

Another one of my newest constituents, Selene Vargas, was diagnosed with cancer in 2017. Due to the shortages of medicine, food, and lack of functioning quality hospitals in Venezuela, all caused by Nicolas Maduro's destruction of the economy, she moved to Orlando to continue her cancer treatment. Selene hopes to beat cancer, return to Venezuela, and see her family again.

Like Olyn and Selene, hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans in the United States fear for their lives. They ask for our compassion until the horror ends. Our bipartisan Venezuela TPS Act would protect all eligible Venezuelan nationals from deportation. It allows them to contribute to our American economy, all while they continue to work to fix Venezuela.

The world is now witness to the ruthless oppression, starvation, and human rights abuses of Maduro's rule. The administration has been a loud voice condemning Maduro.

Vice President MIKE PENCE said, during a visit to Florida recently, that the White House is discussing TPS. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also mentioned TPS protections could be decided "in the near future."

Today, the House has a chance to fulfill those promises. Senators MARCO RUBIO and BOB MENENDEZ are leading this bipartisan effort in the Senate as well.

Granting Venezuelans TPS is one of the most bipartisan immigration acts each of us as a Member of Congress can take right now. I plead with Members on both sides of the aisle to take this opportunity to come together to do the right thing.

It is our moral responsibility to support these brave Venezuelans and their families who are already citizens here

in the United States. This is the next step to helping the people and to restoring freedom and the rule of law in Venezuela.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues in the House to vote for the bill.

"For a free Venezuela," "Por una Venezuela libre."

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I first commend my colleague from central Florida (Mr. SOTO), for his leadership and his perseverance.

I want to also thank my colleagues from south Florida, many of whom are here today in support of this important piece of legislation.

Look, I know that there are concerns about an immigration system that is absolutely broken in this country, and it is. I know that there are concerns about even the TPS system. I get that. But we have to take a step back.

What we are dealing with here is a very specific, unique situation, which is why Congress today will have this opportunity to vote on it.

You know the situation. You have heard the situation about the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Over 3 million people have fled Venezuela because what was the wealthiest country in South America, because of the radical socialist policies of the two last dictatorships, now has become among the poorest, where people don't have access to any basic issues of—whether it is healthcare or even food, medicine.

You know all that, but, you see, there is something else: The extreme repression that is taking place in Venezuela, that is the real reason people are fleeing. That is the reason that Venezuelans are dying. That is the reason that the heroes in Venezuela have hit the streets. That is the reason why this young leader, President Guaido, has come to the forefront leading these heroic people.

And this administration has recognized that fact. This administration—and I am so grateful—has applied tough sanctions against the dictatorship, has shown great solidarity with the people of Venezuela.

So I ask you, let's not confuse this with all of the issues of immigration and the broken immigration system. Really, with what is going on in Venezuela, should we be sending Venezuelans back to that dictatorship, or could Congress act in a very specific circumstance to give them the ability to stay here, at least while this dictatorship, this horrific situation is taking place in Venezuela?

That is what we are dealing with. Not the horrors of complications or the messed up parts of the immigration system which has got issues, obviously. It is this very specific issue.

Again, thanking, particularly, my colleague, Mr. SOTO, I would just urge my colleagues in the House to take a step back. These are specific cir-

cumstances dealing with this dictatorship in Venezuela. The administration has shown solidarity, Congress now has the opportunity to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I ask for a "yes" vote.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my colleague.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to pass the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019, which would grant Venezuelan nationals urgently needed temporary protective status in the United States of America.

The Maduro regime has perpetrated egregious human rights abuses, inflicting an economic and humanitarian crisis on the people of Venezuela. Venezuelans fleeing starvation, violence, and political persecution have sought refuge in the United States.

My district has the largest Venezuelan population in the U.S. So many of my south Florida neighbors know the brutality of the Maduro regime firsthand and fled here seeking safety.

The stories are heartbreaking: children kidnapped from playgrounds; family members dying of hunger, violence, and lack of medicine; individuals who were jailed for speaking out against the government; businesses confiscated.

Extending TPS will ensure Venezuelans are shielded from the imminent danger of deportation and can obtain work permits.

President Trump has called the Maduro regime a "nightmare of poverty, hunger, and death." He said in June that he was looking "very seriously at extending TPS to Venezuela."

But a recent letter from the USCIS stated the administration is simply "monitoring" the situation in Venezuela, something it has done for months.

There was no commitment to extend TPS to Venezuela, and in the meantime, this administration continues to deport Venezuelan nationals, sending them back to the nightmare of the Maduro regime.

This cannot wait any longer. It is past time we support the Venezuelan community and recognize the urgency of extending them TPS.

President Trump could grant TPS to Venezuelans today. He doesn't need congressional action. So amidst his inaction, the House of Representatives will take action today to protect our neighbors and friends, because their lives are on the line.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation to ensure that Venezuelans are granted this essential protection, and I say "Vive Venezuela."

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her remarks and for her sharing the concerns of the president for the socialist regime of Maduro.

I would note that there are very few detained noncriminal Venezuelans with removal orders, and there is no mechanism currently in place for directly removing aliens to Venezuela.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), my friend.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of this bill, essentially allowing Venezuelan nationals living in the United States to be eligible for temporary protected status. This status will extend travel authorization, allow lawful employment, and, ultimately, prevent their removal from the United States.

The crisis in Venezuela is dire.

In April, I had the opportunity to travel to Colombia with other Members of Congress to visit a humanitarian aid center on the border with Venezuela. I saw firsthand the appalling conditions that our Latin American brothers and sisters are enduring, and believe me, it is worse than anyone can imagine.

The hunger and the need experienced in the country are unprecedented and heartbreaking. Over 90 percent of the population is living in poverty; 7 million people need humanitarian assistance; and diseases that have been previously eradicated have, unfortunately, returned.

To make matters worse, there is a shortage of 85 percent of necessary medicines to treat those diseases on the ground, while infant mortality rates have increased by 30 percent and maternal mortality rates have increased by an alarming 60 percent.

This is unacceptable, Madam Speaker.

The main obstacle at hand lies in the hands of Nicolas Maduro and his ruthless dictatorship. He is holding the people of Venezuela hostage, depriving them of basic human rights.

Additionally, the number of Venezuelans migrating to Puerto Rico has doubled since the crisis began and can be expected to continue increasing as long as Maduro remains in power.

I will continue working to move this bill so that Venezuelans can have a temporary safe haven in our country, where they can live freely.

Madam Speaker, I do understand that the House needs to do something about this, and I urge my colleagues to do the same and support this bill.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA), my colleague.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this lifesaving bipartisan legislation to designate temporary protective status for Venezuelans.

Maduro's evil regime has plunged Venezuela into catastrophe. The once-thriving country is in free fall, with

Venezuelans now suffering from the largest economic, political, and humanitarian crisis in the entire hemisphere.

Just in 2018, nearly 30,000 Venezuelans applied for asylum in the United States, becoming the number one country of origin for asylum claimants.

□ 1800

Many Venezuelans have come to south Florida, where they have contributed so much to our diverse community. In my district, there are approximately 17,000 Venezuelan-born residents.

My constituents cannot safely return. A recent U.N. report detailed the shocking government abuses, including extrajudicial killings at the hands of Maduro's death squads.

Simply stated, granting TPS for Venezuelans is the right thing to do.

TPS has bipartisan support in the House and in the Senate. We now have an opportunity to take real action to support those who have fled the crisis caused by the illegitimate, inhumane Maduro regime.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Florida colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as well as our colleague from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), for their work on this important legislation. I strongly urge a "yes" vote.

Vive Venezuela.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks against the socialist regime of Maduro as well.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS).

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, let's be clear: Venezuela is one of the most natural-resources-rich nations on the planet, and for oil, in the top five in reserves in the world.

The problem with Venezuela is not its people, other than that they made mistakes in whom they elected. The problem is not the lack of resources, which should empower those people to be wealthy. Rather, the problem in Venezuela is the self-inflicted adoption of socialism.

Let's be clear about the economic havoc that is now occurring in Venezuela. We have starvation. In one recent study, the average adult over a year's period of time had a weight loss in excess of 20 pounds because they could not get the calories needed to sustain their body weight. Riots have resulted.

Inflation a few years ago was over 1,000 percent. Today, we have estimates that inflation in Venezuela is as high as 10 million percent. Of course, the currency is worthless and becoming more so.

Venezuela, as a country, has been brought to its knees by the adoption of socialism. I find it ironic that so many in America now advocate the suppression of free enterprise and the liberty on which it is based, and the replace-

ment of free enterprise and liberty with socialism and the dictatorial nature that is inherent in the adoption of socialist practices. Venezuela is an excellent example of why America must never go socialist.

I want to emphasize one thing: While Maduro has been in charge of Venezuela, Maduro is not the cause of the economic hardship that is now being faced in Venezuela. Rather, it is the people's adoption of socialism.

Let's go to H.R. 549 and how it relates to what I have just said.

This bill proposes a tsunami of people coming to our country who are ill-equipped to support themselves.

Let's put that into the perspective of where we are as a nation. We just blew through the \$22 trillion debt mark earlier this year. This year, we are looking at a roughly \$900 billion deficit.

A deal has been reached that will only increase our deficit by \$2 trillion over the next 2 years, pushing our debt up to \$22 trillion. This is money we do not have, have to borrow to get, and can't afford to pay back.

How does that relate to H.R. 549? Well, let me share some numbers with you: Sixty percent of households with a lawful immigrant in them are on welfare, living off the hard work of others. Seventy percent of illegal alien households are on welfare, living off the hard work of others here in the United States of America.

Quite frankly, Madam Speaker, the United States of America can no longer afford to be the world's orphanage for children and adults alike. We have to get our own house in order, and this legislation helps to increase that disorder by increasing our deficit and debt, making it less manageable and further risking debilitating insolvency and the bankruptcy of a great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask for opposing H.R. 549, and that is how I will vote.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, just a couple of quick responses to my colleague, Mr. BROOKS.

The only thing that I do agree with is, yes, we do have to put our own house in order. We have an executive in disarray at this moment.

I think that maybe the gentleman is ill-informed. The people of Venezuela did not elect the narco-regime, the authoritarian, dictatorial leader who is Nicolas Maduro. They had fraudulent elections in May 2018.

Please do not insult the people in Venezuela, who are suffering, who have no food, who have no access to medicine. We have seen the worst humanitarian crisis in this hemisphere, and it was not because Venezuelans elected him. Actually, he held fraudulent elections. The interim, legitimate President is Juan Guaidó.

But we are not going to see a tsunami of Venezuelans coming to this country. This bill applies only and specifically to the Venezuelans who are already residing in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), my colleague.

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act.

The situation in Venezuela is dire. It is outrageous, Madam Speaker, that some in this Chamber would blame the horrific situation in Venezuela on the people of Venezuela. It is the Maduro regime that is committing horrific human rights abuses.

People are being killed and tortured. The media has been censored. Opponents of the regime have been imprisoned. The economy is failing. Food is scarce. Essential medicines cannot be found.

The mass corruption and poverty have forced more than 4 million people to flee the country for their lives.

I have witnessed desperate Venezuelans crossing the border into Colombia in need of food. I spoke with families who traveled hours and hours to Cucuta for one meal for their children. I saw warehouses filled with food and humanitarian assistance that Maduro refuses to allow in to help his people.

The dreadful living conditions, extreme violence, and persecution warrant extending TPS to Venezuelans living in the United States.

We must stand with the Venezuelan people, the legitimate government of President Juan Guaido, and the return of freedom and democracy. For right now, passing this bill will ensure Venezuelans in the U.S. are protected from being deported to life-threatening conditions.

Madam Speaker, this bill will save lives. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY), my colleague.

Mrs. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I support this bipartisan bill to extend temporary protected status to Venezuela.

There are over 400,000 Venezuelans living in the United States, and more than half live in Florida. About 200,000 of these men and women would receive TPS if this bill becomes law. They could work legally, pay taxes, and contribute to our economy for a period of time, without living in fear of deportation.

Venezuela is in absolute crisis, and making Venezuelans in the U.S. go home right now is immoral. In many cases, it could be a death sentence.

Requiring people who have sought refuge in America to return to a failed state violates our core values as a nation.

Let me be clear: Passing TPS is a critical step, but it seeks to treat the

symptom of a disease rather than trying to cure the disease itself. The disease is the cruel, undemocratic, and incompetent regime of Nicolas Maduro.

For Venezuela to prosper and for the U.S. to protect its national security, the Maduro regime must go. America should work with its allies in the region and use all elements of our national power to support the Venezuelan patriots who are fighting to reclaim their country from the regime that has destroyed it.

Then, and only then, will Venezuela be sufficiently stable and safe so these proud Venezuelans can return to the country they love.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As was said earlier, there are very few detained noncriminal Venezuelans with removal orders, and there is no mechanism currently in place for directly removing aliens to Venezuela.

Madam Speaker, we stand with the people of Venezuela in their fight against the socialist regime of Nicolas Maduro.

We recognize that only through change in leadership and a change in direction will Venezuela change course and begin to rebound, in terms of adopting economic reforms and abandoning the socialist policies of the Maduro regime.

We stand with the people, and we stand ready to embrace the newly elected President, should he take control of the country.

But this bill, H.R. 549, is a bill that is simply not appropriate for the circumstances right now. This broken TPS system that we have would not be sufficient to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who would seek to use it.

Suffice it to say, it is similar to helping people by throwing them a raft full of holes.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 549, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In response to Mr. CLINE's concern, once again, TPS is the law of the land. It is under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. All we are asking is to place Venezuela as a country that is designated under TPS in this bill.

We are talking about people who are suffering. We cannot send them back to a humanitarian emergency.

We wrote a letter to the Trump administration, asking them to grant TPS for Venezuelans. They have the ability to do so at the administrative level right now, but they have refused. They say they are supportive of Venezuelans, but I seriously question that when they disagree with the importance of granting TPS for the thousands of Venezuelans living in this country today. We cannot send them back to a brutal regime, to a regime that is actually killing its own citizens.

I would like to express my support for H.R. 549. There is, as I mentioned, widespread poverty and shortages of food and water. The government is in disarray, and we can't wait any longer. We have to help our Venezuelan brothers and sisters in the United States, and this bill accomplishes just that.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 549. We must do it, "lo tenemos que hacer." This is the moment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 549, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1815

#### HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS IN EXTREME NEED ACT OF 2019

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2938) to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2938

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need Act of 2019" or the "HAVEN Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF CURRENT MONTHLY INCOME.

Section 101(10A) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B)(i) includes any amount paid by any entity other than the debtor (or in a joint case the debtor and the debtor's spouse), on a regular basis for the household expenses of the debtor or the debtor's dependents (and in a joint case the debtor's spouse if not otherwise a dependent); and

"(ii) excludes—

"(I) benefits received under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

"(II) payments to victims of war crimes or crimes against humanity on account of their status as victims of such crimes;

"(III) payments to victims of international terrorism or domestic terrorism, as those terms are defined in section 2331 of title 18, on account of their status as victims of such terrorism; and

"(IV) any monthly compensation, pension, pay, annuity, or allowance paid under title