

are preventing the sale of arms to Turkey for use in Syria.

As the House passes this legislation, we again call upon the President to support the Kurdish communities and work to ensure that the Turkish military acts with restraint, and we require the Trump administration to finally present a clear strategy to defeat ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, I know we have bipartisan support for this legislation. Again, I salute Ranking Member McCaul and Chairman Engel for bringing this legislation to the floor, which is a vote to support the sacrifice of our military and our allies and a vote to restore strength, strategy, and sanity to our national security policy.

I think that a very strong, bipartisan vote in the House, similar to the one we had on H.J. Res. 77, will send a very clear message that we can come together—and we will come together—in the interest of our national security; in the interest of Americans' values, which are part of our strength; and, again, to fight terrorism wherever it exists so that it does not reach our shores.

□ 1600

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

I want to echo Madam Speaker's comments. When we stand united on the floor of the Congress, as Americans, that is when we send the strongest message overseas to adversaries.

I want to thank Mr. Engel for his strong work in working with me to get to a positive place where we can actually get to a solution to what has been a challenging and very fluid situation. It is always an honor to work with the gentleman on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

In these times of crises we are, I believe, strongest on the world stage when the executive and legislative branch speak in one voice.

In his testimony before our committee, Ambassador Jeffrey, the Special Envoy to Syria said:

I saw firsthand the effect of congressional sanctions when we visited with the Turkish negotiating team; that these sanctions have been helpful in getting the Turks to agree to the cease-fire.

And I believe the resolution that we passed helped get Turkey to the cease-fire as well.

Finally, I want to thank our partners in the Syrian Democratic Forces for their ongoing dedication to countering ISIS. And I want to say to the SDF, from the Nation's Capitol, on the House floor, that the American people are grateful for everything you have done for us, for everything you have worked for, and everything you have sacrificed to keep the world safer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Engel. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

I would like to again thank Ranking Member McCaul for his partnership in

writing this important bipartisan bill. And it is even more than just a partnership. It is working together on both sides of the aisle to do good for the American people. That is really what this should all be about, particularly when we are talking about foreign affairs. So I want to thank Mr. McCaul for working closely with me and for really making this a real collaborative bill.

The measure before us represents what the Foreign Affairs Committee does best, bipartisan, commonsense legislation that advances American interests and American values on the global stage.

The PACT Act holds Turkey accountable for its bloodshed in Syria. It calls on Erdogan to immediately stop his campaign of ethnic cleansing to expel Syrian Kurds and other minority groups from their homeland, and to start living up to the democratic values that we expect from a NATO ally, values that, right now, are under constant attack in Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad coincidence. Today is the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey. For nearly a century, the Turkish people have fought hard to grow and preserve democracy in their country, and Erdogan has done such incredible damage to that legacy.

I call on all my colleagues to join me and Mr. McCaul in supporting this legislation and sending a strong message that the United States Congress will not condone Turkey's horrific atrocities against the Kurds. Not only will we not condone it, we oppose it; we will speak out about it; and we will try in every way we can to stop it.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Engel) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4695, 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. Engel. Mr. 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.

HELP AMERICA RUN ACT

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1623) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for childcare and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1623

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Help America Run Act".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Everyday Americans experience barriers to entry before they can consider running for office to serve their communities.

(2) Current law states that campaign funds cannot be spent on everyday expenses that would exist whether or not a candidate were running for office, like rent and food. While the law seems neutral, its actual effect is to privilege the independently wealthy who want to run, because given the demands of running for office, candidates who must work to pay for childcare or to afford health insurance are effectively being left out of the process, even if they have sufficient support to mount a viable campaign.

(3) Thus current practice favors those prospective candidates who do not need to rely on a regular paycheck to make ends meet. The consequence is that everyday Americans who have firsthand knowledge of the importance of stable childcare, a safety net, or great public schools are less likely to get a seat at the table. This governance by the few is antithetical to the democratic experiment, but most importantly, when lawmakers do not share the concerns of everyday Americans, their policies reflect that.

(4) These circumstances have contributed to a Congress that does not always reflect everyday Americans. The New York Times reported in 2019 that fewer than 5 percent of representatives cite blue-collar or service jobs in their biographies. A 2015 survey by the Center for Responsive Politics showed that the median net worth of lawmakers was just over \$1 million in 2013, or 18 times the wealth of the typical American household.

(5) These circumstances have also contributed to a governing body that does not reflect the nation it serves. For instance, women are 51% of the American population. Yet even with a record number of women serving in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, the Pew Research Center notes that more than three out of four Members of this Congress are male. The Center for American Women And Politics found that one third of women legislators surveyed had been actively discouraged from running for office, often by political professionals. This type of discouragement, combined with the prohibitions on using campaign funds for domestic needs like childcare, burdens that still fall disproportionately on American women, particularly disadvantages working mothers. These barriers may explain why only 10 women in history have given birth while serving in Congress, in spite of the prevalence of working parents in other professions. Yet working mothers and fathers are best positioned to create policy that reflects the lived experience of most Americans.

(6) Working mothers, those caring for their elderly parents, and young professionals who rely on their jobs for health insurance should have the freedom to run to serve the people of the United States. Their networks and net worth are simply not the best indicators of their strength as prospective public servants. In fact, helping ordinary Americans to run may create better policy for all Americans.

(c) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ensure that all Americans who are otherwise qualified to serve this Nation are able to run for office, regardless of their economic status. By expanding permissible uses of campaign funds and providing modest assurance that testing a run for office will not

cost one's livelihood, the Help America Run Act will facilitate the candidacy of representatives who more accurately reflect the experiences, challenges, and ideals of everyday Americans.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.

(a) PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.—Section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.—

“(1) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of subsection (a), the payment by an authorized committee of a candidate for any of the personal use services described in paragraph (3) shall be treated as an authorized expenditure if the services are necessary to enable the participation of the candidate in campaign-connected activities.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) LIMIT ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The total amount of payments made by an authorized committee of a candidate for personal use services described in paragraph (3) may not exceed the limit which is applicable under any law, rule, or regulation on the amount of payments which may be made by the committee for the salary of the candidate (without regard to whether or not the committee makes payments to the candidate for that purpose).

“(B) CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF SALARY PAID TO CANDIDATE.—To the extent that an authorized committee of a candidate makes payments for the salary of the candidate, any limit on the amount of such payments which is applicable under any law, rule, or regulation shall be reduced by the amount of any payments made to or on behalf of the candidate for personal use services described in paragraph (3), other than personal use services described in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph.

“(C) EXCLUSION OF CANDIDATES WHO ARE OFFICEHOLDERS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to an authorized committee of a candidate who is a holder of Federal office.

“(3) PERSONAL USE SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The personal use services described in this paragraph are as follows:

“(A) Child care services.

“(B) Elder care services.

“(C) Services similar to the services described in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B) which are provided on behalf of any dependent who is a qualifying relative under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(D) Health insurance premiums.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1623. This measure is important. The Help America Run Act will amend the Federal Election Campaign Act with common-sense reforms to help everyday Americans run for office.

Current law does not directly address whether people who choose to run for office can use their campaign funds to cover the cost of childcare. This has led several individuals to have to appeal to the Federal Election Commission for evaluations on a case-by-case basis and creates a burden for candidates with school-aged children.

This bill addresses that barrier and other family-related barriers for candidates who have experiences like most everyday Americans.

The Help American Run Act makes running for office easier for working mothers and fathers who need sitters for their small kids. It would support established professionals caring for an aging parent and help cover children's health insurance on the campaign trail.

I know it would help moms like KATIE PORTER, the sponsor of this bill. She is championing this cause today as the very first single mother of young children ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.

These Americans caring for their kids and their parents intimately know the dread of opening those envelopes full of prescription drug bills. They know what it is like to weigh the risk of running for office to serve the Nation against the risk of losing their children's health insurance coverage.

It is precisely those everyday Americans that I want to see join us at the decisionmaking table. Those who have firsthand knowledge of what it means to have stable childcare, good schools, and secure healthcare are exactly the people I want making decisions on both sides of this aisle. It makes our country profoundly richer to have those with the diversity of economic experiences in these Chambers. I know that firsthand.

As the daughter of a truck driver and a cafeteria cook, I worked on the night shift at the Eastman Kodak plant in Palo Alto to get ready for college. Those experiences shaped me into the person and Member I am today, and I believe coming from a family like mine shouldn't disqualify you. In fact, it makes you a better policy maker who understands what our constituents are really facing.

The fact is that diversity of experience leads to better policy. In 2019, the New York Times reported that fewer than 5 percent of Representatives cite blue-collar or service jobs in their biographies.

A 2015 survey by the Center for Responsive Politics showed that the median net worth for lawmakers was just over \$1 million in 2013, or 18 times the wealth of the typical American house-

hold. One could see how Americans feel Congress might be out of touch.

This bill is a step to building trust in Congress as by and for the people. The bill would help advance economic diversity and other types of diversity, too.

Even with the record number of women serving in the 116th Congress, only 1 in 4 Congresspeople are women. This isn't because women don't want to run.

The Center for American Women and Politics found that one-third of women legislators surveyed had been actively discouraged from running for office, often by political professionals. This type of discouragement, combined with the existing prohibitions on using campaign funds for domestic needs like childcare, burdens that still fall disproportionately on American women, particularly disadvantages working parents.

Running for office should not be limited to the wealthy or those who have no familial responsibilities. That is anathema to the democratic experiment, and it makes for bad policy.

This bill is a simple, cost-free, commonsense measure to make America's representatives look more like the everyday Americans we are here to represent. For that reason, I am proud to support it.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, rise in support of H.R. 1623, the Help America Run Act, a bill drafted by my colleague across the aisle, newly-elected Congresswoman from the great State of California, Ms. KATIE PORTER.

I want to commend Ms. PORTER for this important legislation that I believe will allow, as Chairperson LOFGREN said, more people of all socio-economic strata, to be able to run for office.

Strong candidates should not be limited by their circumstances to the point that it prevents them from representing their communities in Congress. Representatives of this body should and do come from all backgrounds to allow for equal representation of all who make up this institution and this great Nation.

I believe this bill will make that happen by allowing the candidate who is not currently a Member of Congress to pay for specific necessary services like childcare and dependent care, that will enable a congressional candidate to participate in all campaign-connected activities.

This is a decision between the candidates and the donors that give to their campaign. All we are asking to do with this piece of legislation is to allow candidates to publicly disclose childcare expenses on their FEC reports. Everyone is going to know what they paid. Everyone is going to know what it went for, and that is an issue

they can discuss with the people who are funding their campaigns.

What this bill does not do—let me repeat, Mr. Speaker. What this bill does not do is put more money in the pockets of current Members of Congress. Instead, it allows for an equal opportunity for new representation, providing more Americans who aspire to represent their communities in Congress the chance to do just that.

This is not a radical idea. We should absolutely want to give everyone an equal opportunity to run, to be able to serve, if elected, in this great institution; including single parents who want to run for Federal office but cannot afford the necessary childcare for the grueling campaign schedules that everyone in this institution knows exists.

Again, I want to thank Congresswoman PORTER for her hard work on this legislation. I look forward to seeing it implemented, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), the author of this bill.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am a single mom. When I ran for Congress last year, I spent thousands and thousands of dollars on childcare.

Running for Federal office requires 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100-hour workweeks, and I worked nearly every single day, including every single weekend. I also worked challenging hours, often starting at 5:30 a.m. and ending with campaign events stretching late into the evening. I juggled more than a dozen childcare providers for nearly 2 years, without whom I would have never made it to Congress.

I have three children. When I started my campaign, Betsy was 6, Paul was 9, and Luke was 11. Leaving them alone was not an option; and bringing them on the campaign trail was impossible or inappropriate.

For the past two centuries, Congress has written many, many laws about what women may or may not do. But until this year, women's representation in Congress was less than 20 percent. With the election of the historic class of 2018, we hit 23.4 percent, 102 women, and that number is still egregiously low.

□ 1615

There are even fewer moms in Congress and even fewer moms of young kids and even fewer single moms of young kids, as in just me.

A major barrier to women running for elected office is their inability to afford the amount or type of childcare needed in a campaign. That is why I introduced the Help America Run Act, which will explicitly allow candidates for Federal office to use campaign contributions to pay for childcare as well as other types of dependent care, such as eldercare.

Right now, candidates can use campaign funds for a whole gamut of expenses, from pizza for exhausted staff

to cybersecurity for digital devices. But the law does not make it clear that childcare is among those allowed expenses.

Like so many laws, there is an assumption of a female caregiver behind every male elected official. In part because of that, moms who continue to shoulder the majority of childcare responsibilities also struggle to run for Congress.

Until women are fully and equally present in Congress, women's perspectives will continue to be underrepresented. The result is a weaker democracy for the people.

I am proud that this bill previously passed the House as part of H.R. 1, the For the People Act. Now, with the support of my congressional colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the House is taking this additional step to support women and candidates with families by passing the Help America Run Act.

Access to childcare services was a problem I faced like so many other single parents long before I decided to run for office. Every parent, not just those running for Congress, deserves to have access to quality, affordable childcare. The Help America Run Act should be only the beginning.

Today isn't just about passing legislation to open up the Halls of Congress for single moms or single dads. It is about creating pathways for every parent and every American, regardless of socioeconomic status, to be able to achieve their goals. We all deserve a Congress that reflects the diversity of families and households in our country.

This bill will help America run and, in the process, will help America's Congress run better.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What an impassioned speech by our colleague.

This isn't just a problem for one gender running for Congress. It is a problem for all families. It is a problem that I faced when my kids were younger when I first ran for office a little over 6½ years ago. It is what to do with young children who can't go anywhere on their own at that time.

With twin boys aged 12, I don't necessarily know that I trusted them going somewhere on their own. I don't know if I trusted them at home alone, at the same time. It is, what do you do to make sure your family gets the supervision and the supervisory opportunities that you need?

This is an opportunity for us to show anybody who wants to follow in what our forefathers of this great Nation put forth in our Constitution creating the House of Representatives to be able to be a House for the people and by the people to represent this great United States. This is going to be an opportunity for anyone, no matter what their path is in life, if they have children at home, if they are a single mom, if they are a single dad, if they are a family with kids, if they are wondering

how they take on this challenge, how they get a chance to serve this great country, how they get a chance to join us, this is going to be their opportunity to say: I am going to go out and spend a lot of time raising money because many of these campaigns—I can tell you how much mine cost. It cost millions upon millions of dollars and a lot of time. When you are gone, you are raising more money to run because campaigns are too expensive. We understand that. We get that. We agree on that.

This is a chance to say: I am going to get out there and get on the dance floor and take that chance. Too many people who may want to run for office won't do it because they are afraid to lose. I think everyone has to have the chance to take away any excuse to be able to step out and put their name on the ballot to have a chance to do what we do.

If I, the son of a high school dropout and a guy who graduated high school who walked into a fast-food restaurant in 1959 and had a dream to own his own one day, if I, who had no family ever in politics or government, can come and stand on this floor and work with colleagues like Chairperson LOFGREN and Congresswoman PORTER to help put good legislation like this through, anybody in this great country can do it.

It is a great opportunity to show the next generation that we care enough about them to be able to show them how to do exactly what we do.

Let's all come together. Let's make this happen today. It is a great opportunity for us to stand here on the floor and show the American people the Republicans and Democrats do agree on issues, and we do work together. I mean, maybe the news will cover it, maybe they won't. We might be able to debate Nickelback or something and get them to cover it today.

But do you know what? We know what happens here. We know we have opportunities. We know that we are able to put good policies like this together. We know that friendships do exist on both sides of the aisle in this institution.

This is a great bill. This is an opportunity. I thank all of my colleagues who are supporting this.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Listening to my colleague, the ranking member, reminded me of when I ran for Congress the very first time. My children were in elementary school. Really, the high point of every day was going to the elementary school, Horace Mann Elementary in downtown San Jose, and standing with the other mothers while we said the Pledge of Allegiance, the flag outside.

I think, for parents, being a parent gives you a viewpoint that is helpful when you come to the Congress of the United States. You don't forget what regular people are going through at home when you are a parent.

I also remember my first day in Congress. My mother had passed away several years before, but my dad was still alive, a retired beer truck driver. He had never been on an airplane in his life. We got him on a plane, and we had a friend sit next to him. He was sitting in that gallery, watching his daughter become a Member of the United States Congress.

I think for those of us who came from humble roots, we never forget where we came from, and it informs our perspective on where the country should go.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), the author of the bill.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his bipartisanship and his cooperation on this because democracy is not a partisan value. Democracy is about letting every voice in this country be heard. Those voices should reflect the diversity of this country, both socioeconomically and geographically, but also in terms of family status.

I think everyone in America should be grateful that my children were well supervised during the campaign, and I am grateful that I was able to piece together the childcare that I needed to run. But this bill is not about any one of us. It is about the benefits that every one of us here and every American will get from having a more diverse Congress, from having voices heard that sometimes are not heard.

There are millions and millions and millions of single parents, men and women, in this country, and there is one in the United States Congress. Whether that will change next year or in 10 years, I don't know, but I want every American who wants to serve in this body, who wants to come together to work for the good of the American people, to have the opportunity to make that happen and not to have to choose between being a parent and being a good parent and caring about your kids, and being a good American and being a good Congress Member.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PORTER. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask Ms. PORTER this: Your legislation doesn't tell candidates they have to spend money on this, right?

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the legislation provides an opportunity and a choice for each candidate to decide, in their own campaign and from their own donors, whether or not they want to use these funds for childcare.

Many people will choose not to, just like many of us choose as candidates not to seek reimbursement for pizza or not to seek reimbursement for any number of allowable FEC expenses. But this bill is also going to stop the FEC from having to again and again and again—every time a parent of young children wants to run, from having to make that expensive and time-consuming appeal to the FEC and waste

its resources when this simply should be a clear, straightforward policy.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think the gentlewoman has made a very good point that this is discretionary on the part of the candidate, but it is a point that we also need to make: This has nothing to do with taxpayers funds. This is no money from the government, no money from the taxpayers. This is a candidate, where a candidate has raised funds and how they spend their campaign funds.

I know that there had been some confusion among some earlier in the day that was unfortunate and has now been corrected. This is only a matter of a campaign expenditure. Really, childcare has to be as important as pizza, to me, at least more important, but that is up for a candidate to decide.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire how much time we have remaining on debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 14 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I love debate like this. It is an opportunity for us, again, to show how we can work together, both sides of the aisle, and put good policies forward that are going to affect the ability for people to serve in this institution.

Hearing the talk about kids when running for Congress, it actually takes me back. Many folks may see me walking around the Capitol tunnels with earbuds in, in the early mornings about 5:30 our time, 4:30 back home, because my wife is a nurse. They work on a different schedule. That is my time that I get to talk to her. She was a nurse and left for work very early in the morning when our kids were growing up. And my job as a congressional staffer, I had a great boss who made sure that he told me every day to put my kids first.

I cannot thank our colleague JOHN SHIMKUS, who I worked for, for 16 years, enough for telling me to put my family first. It is a guy like that who not only makes me a better Member of Congress being around him, but he helped me learn how to be a better dad.

Until I got elected, my job each day was to get my kids ready, sometimes a little more labor intensive when they were a little bit younger than they were when they were older. Although it was kind of easier when I was holding twin boys in seats rather than chasing them, but dropping them off at childcare, before we dropped them off at school. During the summer, if we didn't have childcare opportunities, if I didn't have the opportunity to take them and drop them off, neither my wife nor I could have gotten to the jobs that we enjoyed pursuing so much.

In today's day and age, with so many two-parent working families, this is

only a commonsense provision that is going to be a choice, a choice for candidates to use if they choose. That is something that we ought to all come together and make happen.

Look, there are great people on both sides of the aisle in this institution. I want more of them. I want more people who want to be able to do what we do. This is going to be an opportunity to show them, too, that this institution isn't nearly as dysfunctional as the news media says it is. Most of what we do here is actually done on a pretty bipartisan basis, but it doesn't make the news.

Hopefully, today, maybe one of the folks covering us is going to talk about what we did together, maybe. I am going to cross my fingers. Maybe they will understand that this is what we need to highlight instead of the nonsense that happens when the two parties and the extremes scream at each other.

A good bill, again, from Congresswoman PORTER, and it is great to work with her, and a great bill from Chairperson LOFGREN. I appreciate the opportunity to serve with each and every one of my colleagues.

I will ask, again, for every Member to support this today loudly on the floor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that we neglected to point out is that, in addition to a childcare option, if a candidate, and it is generally a female candidate, is caring for elderly parents, this could also be used for eldercare while going to a campaign event. That is also both son's and daughter's care for aging parents, but, oftentimes, it is the daughters who end up providing the eldercare.

If someone is running for Congress and is providing for that eldercare, they obviously can't go to the campaign event with someone who is bedridden or in need of constant attention. This would allow for that very important possibility, just as childcare is.

Unless the author wishes a further comment, I would urge adoption of this amendment with bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1623, 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.

SFC SEAN COOLEY AND SPC CHRISTOPHER HORTON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD STAR FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ACT

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 107) establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Members of the House of Representatives of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 107

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the “SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act”.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD STAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the House of Representatives the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the “Program”) under which, under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, an eligible individual may serve a 12-month fellowship in the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

(b) EXCLUSION OF APPOINTEES FOR PURPOSES OF LIMIT ON NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN MEMBER OFFICES.—Any individual serving a fellowship under the Program in the office of a Member shall not be included in the determination of the number of employees employed by the Member under section 104(a) of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 5321(a)).

(c) PLACEMENT IN MEMBER OFFICES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MEMBER.—An individual may serve a fellowship under the Program at the Member’s office in the District of Columbia or the Member’s office in the congressional district the Member represents.

(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “eligible individual” means the child (including a stepchild), spouse, or sibling of—

(1) a person who dies in the line of duty while serving as a member of the Armed Forces (including the reserve components and the National Guard), regardless of the duty status of the member while serving, unless such death was the result of the willful misconduct of the member; or

(2) a veteran who dies from a service-connected disability (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) during the 4-year period beginning on the date of the last discharge or release of the veteran from the Armed Forces.

(e) REGULATIONS.—The Program shall be carried out in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Committee on House Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution establishes the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program, which will provide fellowships in congressional offices for immediate family members of the Armed Forces who have given their lives in service to this country.

Members of the Armed Forces do not serve by themselves. They are supported by children, spouses, siblings, and others who often go months or longer without seeing their loved one while that loved one is deployed.

It is incumbent on all Americans, but particularly those of us who have the privilege of serving in Congress, to support military families, and none more so than our Gold Star families.

Gold Star families have experienced the worst type of heartbreak, sacrifice, and loss, and they deserve our unwavering recognition, compassion, and support. The Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program is one small way for us in Congress to provide that support.

This program will offer an opportunity for members of Gold Star families to gain firsthand experience in Congress through a yearlong fellowship in a congressional office. These fellowships can take place either here in Washington or back home in a district office and will allow Gold Star families to both participate in and learn about the democracy their loved one gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect.

Nothing can ever fill the void left by the loss of a loved one who was killed serving the Nation, but we in Congress should be doing everything we can to help lift up those who have suffered this unfathomable loss.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the establishment of this program. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairperson LOFGREN for, again, working with me on this issue—it is such a very important piece of legislation—because I am proud to rise with her today in support of H. Res. 107, the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act.

Since being elected to Congress in 2013, my team has worked over 1,000 cases on behalf of veteran constituents in central-southwestern Illinois, including when the USS John McCain

collided with a merchant ship off the coast of Singapore in 2017, killing 10 sailors, including Petty Officer Logan Palmer from my district. My office was able to help this Gold Star family navigate the confusing Department of Defense policies relating to next-of-kin travel for noncombat-related deaths and other important procedures that follow a tragedy like this.

Over the years since that tragedy, I have become friends with Petty Officer Palmer’s parents, Theresa and Sid, and deeply value our friendship, which is one of the reasons why I am so honored to be on the floor advocating for the passage of this bill.

I have also worked to change the next-of-kin family travel policies at the DOD and am currently working in a bipartisan way with Members across the aisle to codify those changes that are already in existence. Let’s codify them into law so they don’t change again when administrations change.

I will continue to use my office to assist those who have given so much. That is why I believe in this program that will allow Gold Star spouses, children, and siblings the opportunity to work for a congressional office in D.C. or a district office.

We already have a model for success in Congress to shape this program after. It is the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program that lies within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer and has provided many opportunities over the years for veterans to serve in the House of Representatives.

Currently, there is a Wounded Warrior fellow who works in my Maryville, Illinois, office, Peter Arsenault. He is doing a great job. Peter helps veterans in my district every day and understands the assistance and the help that they need to navigate the bureaucracy within the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to give a special thank-you and a shout-out to our colleague and my very good close friend, TRENT KELLY, the gentleman from Mississippi, for his work on taking this fellowship program from an idea into a reality. TRENT did everything to make sure that this became law, that this bill passed the House and made it on its way to become law.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Gold Star families for their participation in making this process a reality, too, and for those family members who could be here in the gallery to see this important program come to fruition.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the ranking member has mentioned the Wounded Warrior Program that, I believe, has been enormously successful.

Practically every week, I am signing little termination letters. And why? Because these wounded warriors have gotten jobs, promotions, permanent positions, exactly what we wanted.

So not only will this help the families, Gold Star families, gain insight