

medical school, but to raise a wonderful family and enjoy a successful career practicing medicine, serving in our Nation's military, and, now, serving our Nation and my hometown and my home State in our Capitol. America is a country of opportunity, self-determination, and the freedom to choose your own path.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GROUP OF HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of heroes who went above and beyond to save the life of one of my district office staff. It is important to note that my district office is located at the Corona City Hall, a detail that was vital in the events that transpired.

On November 4, 2019, at 1:50 p.m., a member of my staff experienced a medical event that required immediate attention. Jackie Lansing noticed the event and brought it to the attention of the other district staff, who responded quickly and calmly.

While Jackie provided immediate assistance to the staffer, Kathleen McGravan called 911. Danielle Shade hurried to a number of offices in city hall to find on-site medical personal. At the same time, Shawna Rimke directed our intern, Noah Ritter, who had previously received CPR training, to administer chest compressions.

Shawna then ran to retrieve Cari Lee Smith, a volunteer at city hall who Shawna knew was also a Corona Fire Department volunteer. Cari assisted Noah in CPR compressions but quickly realized that she needed a defibrillator. She sprinted off to secure one of city hall's AEDs.

While this was taking place, Ryan Cortez, a Corona city employee and an off-duty EMT, was in a meeting with the City Manager's Office when he received an alert on the PulsePoint Respond app. This app notifies certified personnel of a medical emergency near them.

While Ryan rushed downstairs to respond, Cari and Noah administered the first AED shock. Upon revival, Ryan administered the second AED shock, which stabilized the staff member.

At 1:56 p.m. the firemen arrived. Ryan was able to explain to the firemen exactly what transpired as well as brief them on the AED readings.

I am very grateful to say that this member of my staff, who has been a dedicated and instrumental part of my team for many years, is recovering and doing well.

That day may have ended very differently if not for the quick actions of my staff and the lifesaving techniques administered by Noah Ritter, Cari Lee Smith, and Ryan Cortez. To those three individuals, the entire Calvert team sends their heartfelt gratitude.

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 18 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. SHALALA) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit of peace and calm, that all might have confidence in Your faithfulness to us, and that no matter what lies ahead, Your grace is abundantly available.

The issues of this day call upon all Americans to be mindful of the institutions of our government and their respective places in the experiment of constitutional democracy.

Bless the Members of this assembly that they would be mindful of the oath each has taken to uphold the Constitution and worthy of the call they have been given as Members of Congress. Their responsibilities are monumental; bless them with a surfeit of courage as their deliberations proceed.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

STOCKS AND JOBS SOAR

(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, the October jobs report was strong. The unemployment rate remains near a 50-year low, at 3.6

percent, and 128,000 jobs were added. Employment of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanics are at record highs.

I am grateful for President Donald Trump's actions to create jobs by reducing taxes and regulations. All Americans have benefited, with stocks achieving an all-time record high. The Dow Jones Average has risen to over 28,000, for the first time in history, on Friday.

With increased liquidity, jobs are created for small businesses and retirement accounts. The stock market, under President Donald Trump, has soared from 18,000 on election day to, now, over 28,000.

By creating jobs, lowering unemployment, and consistently working to promote opportunities, President Trump is continuing his record of keeping his promises. Baseless attacks on the President by Democrats and fake news try to conceal these successes, but President Trump is focused to work for American families and jobs.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2099.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3889.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1617

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 4 o'clock and 17 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.

REFORMING DISASTER RECOVERY ACT OF 2019

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3702) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide disaster assistance to States, Puerto Rico, units of general local government, and Indian tribes under a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3702

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 “Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 123. CDBG-DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.

“(a) AUTHORITY; USE.—The Secretary may provide assistance under this section to States, including Puerto Rico, units of general local government, and Indian tribes for necessary expenses for activities authorized under this title related to disaster relief, resiliency, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, mitigation, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas (as such term shall be defined by the Secretary by regulation) resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

“(b) ALLOCATION; COORDINATION.—

“(1) ALLOCATION FOR MITIGATION.—In determining the amount allocated under this section for any grantee, the Secretary shall include an additional amount for mitigation that is not less than 45 percent of the amount allocated for such grantee for unmet needs.

“(2) DEADLINES FOR ALLOCATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), after the enactment of an Act making funds available for assistance under this section, the Secretary shall allocate for grantees, based on the best available data all funds provided for assistance under this section within 60 days of the date of the enactment of such Act.

“(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF DEADLINES BASED ON INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION.—The deadlines under paragraph (2) for allocation of funds shall not apply in the case of funds made available for assistance under this section if Federal Emergency Management Agency has not made sufficient information available to the Secretary regarding relevant unmet recovery needs to make allocations in accordance with such deadlines. The Secretary shall notify the Congress of progress on or delay in receiving the necessary information within 60 days following declaration of such a major disaster and monthly thereafter until all necessary information is received.

“(4) OBLIGATION OF AMOUNTS BY THE SECRETARY.—Subject to subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall provide for the disbursement of the amounts allocated for a grantee, but shall require the grantee to be in substantial compliance with the requirements of this section before each such disbursement.

“(5) COORDINATION OF DISASTER BENEFITS AND DATA WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(A) COORDINATION OF DATA.—The Secretary shall coordinate with other agencies to obtain data on recovery needs, including the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and other agencies when necessary regarding disaster benefits.

“(B) COORDINATION WITH FEMA.—The Secretary shall share with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and make publicly available, all data collected, possessed, or analyzed during the course of a disaster recovery for which assistance is provided under this section including—

“(i) all data on damage caused by the disaster;

“(ii) information on how any Federal assistance provided in connection with the disaster is expended; and

“(iii) information regarding the effect of the disaster on education, transportation capabilities and dependence, housing needs, health care capacity, and displacement of persons.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—

“(i) COMPLIANCE.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be used in accordance with section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), as amended by section 1210 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Division D, Public Law 115-234), and such rules as may be prescribed under such section.

“(ii) PRIORITY.—Households having the lowest incomes shall be prioritized for assistance under this subsection until all unmet needs are satisfied for families having an income up to 120 percent of the median for the area.

“(D) TREATMENT OF DUPLICATIVE BENEFITS.—In any case in which a grantee provides assistance that duplicates benefits available to a person for the same purpose from another source, the grantee itself shall either (i) be subject to remedies for non-compliance under section 111, or (ii) bear responsibility for absorbing such cost of duplicative benefits and returning an amount equal to any duplicative benefits paid to the grantee’s funds available for use under this section or to the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Reserve Fund under section 124, unless the Secretary issues a public determination by publication in the Federal Register that it is not in the best interest of the Federal Government to pursue such remedies.

“(E) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary and the grantee shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that personally identifiable information regarding recipients of assistance provided from funds made available under this section is not made publicly available by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or any agency with which information is shared pursuant to this paragraph.

“(F) PLAN FOR USE OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the allocation pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of all of the funds made available by an appropriations Act for assistance under this section and before the Secretary obligates

any of such funds for a grantee, the grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for approval detailing the proposed use of all funds, which shall include, at a minimum—

“(A) criteria for eligibility for each proposed use of funds, including eligibility limits on income and geography, and a description of how each proposed use of such funds will comply with all civil rights and fair housing laws and will address unmet needs relating to disaster relief, resiliency, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, mitigation, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas, including assistance to impacted households experiencing homelessness as defined by section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302) or at risk of homelessness as defined by section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11360);

“(B) an agreement to share data, disaggregated by the smallest census tract, block group, or block possible for the data set, with Federal agencies and other providers of disaster relief, which shall include information the grantee has regarding the matters described in subsection (b)(4)(B);

“(C) identification of officials and offices responsible for administering such funds and processes and procedures for identifying and recovering duplicate benefits; and

“(D) a plan for ensuring compliance with the Fair Housing Act, which may include, at the election of the grantee, providing for partnerships with local fair housing organizations and funding set-aside for local fair housing organizations to handle complaints relating to assistance with amounts made available for use under this section.

“(2) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, specify criteria for approval of plans under paragraph (1), including approval of substantial amendments to such plans.

“(3) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall disapprove a plan or substantial amendment to a plan if—

“(A) the plan or substantial amendment does not meet the approval criteria;

“(B) based on damage and unmet needs assessments of the Secretary and the Federal Emergency Management Administration or such other information as may be available, the plan or amendment does not address equitable allocation of resources—

“(i) between infrastructure and housing activities; and

“(ii) between homeowners, renters, and persons experiencing homelessness;

“(C) the plan or amendment does not provide an adequate plan for ensuring that funding provided under this section is used in compliance with the Fair Housing Act;

“(D) the plan or amendment does not prioritize the one-for-one replacement, with cost adjustment where appropriate, of damaged dwelling units in public housing, in projects receiving tax credits pursuant to section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or in projects assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q), under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), under the HOME Investment Partnerships Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq), under the community development block grant program under this title, or by the Housing Trust Fund under section 1338 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568); or

“(E) the plan or amendment does not provide a process to provide applicants—

“(i) notice by grantee of applicant’s right to appeal any adverse action or inaction;

“(ii) right to full discovery of applicant’s entire application file; and