

mothers and adopting families, but it will also provide more pricing stability to the overall fees that families pay during an adoption. Adoptions often cost tens of thousands of dollars, which is a financial impediment to families making this life-affirming choice. Injecting more price predictability into the adoption system may be the help that families need when making the decision to adopt.

Last Congress, bipartisan legislation that I introduced to reduce known barriers for foster placement was signed into law. This bill builds on that effort to improve adoption outcomes, and we all will remain committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving home.

RECOGNIZING ANN LETORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Ann LeTort Elementary School in the Penn Manor School District on being recognized as the 2019–2020 National Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. Speaker, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program was founded nearly 40 years ago to recognize outstanding public and private schools, who are making a difference and exemplify excellence. LeTort Elementary was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School.

I would like to thank Penn Manor superintendent Dr. Michael Leichliter, the Penn Manor School Board, and the leadership and teachers at Ann LeTort Elementary for working very hard for this achievement. We know how a quality education prepares students for success throughout the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, in their application for recognition, school principal Mrs. Carly McPherson notes that, “it is evident how individuals throughout the community are vested in the education of every LeTort student.”

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate that community for making a difference in the lives of their students and for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important time in Alabama's history.

I am proud to lead the efforts joined by my colleagues from Alabama in introducing a resolution today, which honors the 200th anniversary of Alabama's statehood.

On December 14, 1819, Alabama was incorporated into the Union as the 22nd State. December 14, 2019, will mark 200 years since the historical day of our State's incorporation. This is a monumental occasion in our State's history, and we are looking forward to joining Alabamians in a year full of memo-

rable celebration and commemoration of the bicentennial.

It is my greatest honor to represent and serve the people of Alabama's Second Congressional District, which includes Montgomery, our State's capital city. Alabama is currently experiencing extreme economic development and job growth across the State, which makes this special time even more exciting for us all.

I join my colleagues in recognizing this milestone in our State's history. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the people of Alabama as we celebrate the birthday and history of the beloved State we all call home.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless all Members with wisdom in good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—that the legacy of great legislators of our history might be carried on with integrity for the benefit of all.

In the proceedings this day, may all Members be impelled by the spirit to perform as their best selves, mindful of the great responsibility they have to remain faithful to the Constitution which guarantees all of our security as Americans.

May all that is done in the people's House 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CRAIG 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RESPONDING TO RAIL-BASED INCIDENTS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, a train derailed in Niagara Falls, New York, tossing several cars filled with butane on their side within yards of neighborhoods, residences, and local restaurants.

The Niagara Falls Fire Department and Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station responded quickly and, fortunately, this time, the emergency didn't rise to the level of placing the community in great danger.

According to the United States Department of Transportation, over 1,300 train derailments took place in 2018 alone, leaving no doubt that situations like this will occur again.

That is why I have introduced, along with Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER, the Fire Department Proper Response and Equipment Prioritization Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that our brave first responders have access to Federal grants that support the specialized training and equipment necessary to respond to rail-based incidents, making the safety of our communities a priority.

THE TIME TO PASS THE USMCA IS NOW

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the critical need to pass the USMCA, a trade agreement for the 21st century. The USMCA would expand our markets, add \$63 billion to the economy, and create 176,000 new jobs, with thousands of those jobs coming to Minnesota.

When I am back in Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District meeting farmers, workers, and businessmen and -women alike, I am often asked why Congress has not yet passed the USMCA, even though it was signed by the President nearly a year ago. And my answer is this: If we voted on the USMCA today, it would pass the House with strong bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, Democratic leadership's refusal to bring this critical trade agreement to the House floor for a vote continues, and uncertainty remains for millions of Americans.

Pursuing partisan impeachment rather than clinching bipartisan wins for the American worker, is not what a majority of the American people sent us here to do. Enough is enough. I urge Democratic leadership to stop playing politics and join the rest of us in working for the American people.

The time to pass the USMCA is now.

LOWERING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

(Ms. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, the number one issue that my constituents have asked me to address is the price of healthcare and, especially, the cost of prescription drugs. It is long past time for commonsense legislation to end the ban on price negotiation for drugs for our Nation's Medicare patients.

This one action will hold Big Pharma accountable and encourage more competition. That is why the special interests have opposed H.R. 3, because it forces them to lower their prices for U.S. patients.

We can use the money saved to lower premiums, cap out-of-pocket costs for our Nation's seniors, and invest in the National Institutes of Health's life-saving research and innovation.

These are decisions that impact real people. Take my constituent from Rosemount. He has Crohn's disease and takes a medication called Canasa. When he started taking the drug, it was \$100 for a 30-day supply. Over the past 10 years, that has skyrocketed to \$1,500 a month. In Canada, that same drug costs \$75 a month.

It is time to stop talking and take action.

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION ONE WALK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I walked in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation One Walk at Segra Park, home of the famous Columbia Fireflies. I am grateful to have been able to support such an important cause and walk in support of eradicating type 1 diabetes.

The money raised at the JDRF One Walk in Columbia supports life-changing research that gives hope to those impacted by type 1 diabetes. It is an autoimmune disease that strikes suddenly and is serious and stressful to families, challenging families across our district.

Currently, there is nothing that can be done to prevent type 1 diabetes and there is no cure. JDRF is a leader in funding diabetes research, motivated by their vision of a world without type 1 diabetes. This organization works tirelessly to improve the lives of those affected by this disease by accelerating life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent, and treat diabetes.

I appreciate JDRF Palmetto Chapter Development Director Beth McCrary for her hard work and success in co-ordinating the JDRF Walk in Columbia and for her advocacy for ending type 1 diabetes.

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

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH DECEMBER 20, 2019

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the continuing resolution to fund our government.

Unfortunately, it breaks my heart that we have not been able to do our job and reach a consensus on a budget, but we will not be shutting down our government. The bill ensures that the Federal Government does not shut down a week before Americans celebrate Thanksgiving with their families, preventing countless Federal employees from being forced to work without a paycheck.

For my home State of Michigan, this continuing resolution repeals section 1438 of the FAST Act, which would rescind over \$7 billion in highway funding from the States. This repeal would protect over \$300 million in critical funding for Michigan, which is needed for our highways.

I am also thrilled that the continuing resolution provides a 3 percent pay increase for our Nation's servicemembers who devote their lives to protecting our Nation.

While the House and Senate use this additional month to continue negotiating complete fiscal year funding, I urge the Senate to include House language that would include increased

funding for maternal mortality, environmental protection, and programs that give women and families a better chance.

DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER ADVERTISING COSTS IN THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring awareness today to a challenge that most Americans face every day with the high cost of their prescribed medications.

Since 2010, the practicing cost of drugs in the United States has risen by close to 10 percent per year. As a physician, I see patients who forgo their medications because they simply cannot afford them.

In 1996, the United States' use of direct-to-consumer advertising began a skyrocketing climb such that, today, 8 out of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. spend more on advertising than they do on research, personnel, or manufacturing. In fact, we are only one of two countries in the world that allow this practice, and this is a major reason why we have the highest cost of medications in the world.

As a physician, I am often put in the unenviable position of explaining to a patient why the drug they see on TV is not the right drug for them and why. Patients ask their doctor about this medication, only for them to receive entirely different advice from their physician who diagnoses their illness.

Yes, I am an ardent supporter of free speech, yet I would ask the American public: Is it worth it to you to pay up to 25 percent more for your medications just to see them advertised on television?

So rather than investing billions of dollars in advertising, pharmaceutical companies could be decreasing the cost of medications or using that money for cure research.

I ask for bipartisan support of this measure.

LEGAL IMMIGRATION MAKES OUR COUNTRY GREAT

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to showcase why legal immigration makes our country great.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to give a keynote address at a naturalization ceremony for new U.S. citizens. I awarded 68 new Americans with their citizenship certificates and spoke with their families and their loved ones. Being a part of that ceremony reinforced my patriotism and my belief in our country.

We want the best and the brightest from around the world to come to our