

My House colleagues and I have passed 400 bills this Congress—400. Unfortunately, more than 300 are stuck on MCCONNELL's desk, including 275 bipartisan bills.

These bills include things like raising the minimum wage, protecting retirees, protecting consumers when they sign contracts, and support for our veterans. These are not partisan issues. These are American issues.

Every day, we are trying to do the will of the American people; every day, we fight to make their lives better; yet, every day, our public opinion drops because the people do not see any results.

The time to act is now. The betterment of every American depends on it.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE DAVID TAUNTON

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

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge David Taunton, who passed away peacefully at the age of 80 on November 8.

As the longest serving judge in Gulf County, Florida, Judge Taunton will be remembered by many for his unending dedication to children and providing them with a second chance.

Judge Taunton and his wife, Abigail, dedicated their lives to opening a shelter for homeless children. In 1978, the Taunton Family Children's Home welcomed its first child, and since then, over 400 children have called the Taunton Family Children's Home their own. Abigail and the judge made sure that each child was raised as if they were their own child.

Judge Taunton has impacted so many lives through his optimism, unconditional love, and mentorship. In addition to serving as a judge for 20 years, David Taunton served as a logger, a school principal, a church pastor, and an editor of his newspaper.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy and life of Judge David Taunton. He will be missed by many.

#### ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 725

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM:  
Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Chair.

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous con-

sent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TOGETHER WE FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 5041, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act.

Too many Americans have been injured and too many families have been torn apart by domestic violence. One in four women and one in nine men will experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime. Victims and survivors span all races, backgrounds, genders, and income levels.

Domestic violence is not just a women's issue. That is why I am proud to have introduced FVPSA, with Representatives GWEN MOORE, TOM COLE, and JOHN KATKO.

Though there are centers around the country doing incredible work, too many people still are turned away each day due to lack of resources. Our bill will provide adequate resources for prevention and treatment services.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital bill. Together, we fight for the people, help survivors of domestic violence, and prevent such tragedies in the future.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF FLOYD "BUTCH" VANDIVER

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a dear friend and local leader in my district, former Bailey County Commissioner Floyd "Butch" Vandiver, who is currently battling cancer back home in Muleshoe, Texas.

Butch is the epitome of a servant leader, and he personifies the spirit of west Texas through his honesty, humility, and hard work.

Having operated the family farm for more than 35 years, Butch understands the trials of tilling the soil, the blessings of a bountiful harvest, and the faith and freedom it requires.

During his two decades as a Bailey County commissioner, Butch served with excellence, always putting the interests of the people he served over himself.

I first met Butch on a flight back to Lubbock. He was returning home from treatment at MD Anderson. Clearly fa-

tigued from his fight against cancer, he never once complained. Instead, he encouraged me.

Butch, you inspire me with your authenticity, your humility, and your unwavering faith. I want you to know we love you, we are praying for you and your family, and we know you are in God's loving and capable hands.

God bless, and go west Texas.

#### LATINA EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday, we observed Latina Equal Pay Day. Latinas across the country made our voices heard, demanding an end to the gender pay gap that affects Latinas the most.

We Latinas are "luchadoras"—fighters. Yet, on average, Latinas make 53 cents to the dollar earned by White, non-Hispanic men. We are talking about our "madres, our abuelitas, our hijas, y tias"—mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and aunts.

Hardworking Latinas deserve better. We should not have to work 23 months to make what White, non-Hispanic men make in 12 months.

We must level the playing field. It is not only the right thing to do, but America works best when women are empowered and treated equally.

I won't stop fighting until Latinas and all women receive equal pay for equal work.

#### CELEBRATING GEORGE HYAK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise to today to wish Mr. George Hyak of Victoria, Texas, a heartfelt happy 100th birthday and to thank him for his service to our country.

George is an example of a life well lived. He and his precious bride, Sarah, have been married for 71 years, and their family has flourished.

George served our Nation heroically during World War II, storming the beaches of Normandy on D-day, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, and liberating a Nazi concentration camp.

After the war, he returned home and continued operating the Dick's Food Stores in Victoria, which he cofounded. The longevity of the store earned it the Texas Treasure Business Award.

As we look to celebrate Thanksgiving, we as a nation do have a lot to be thankful for, including veterans like George. May Mr. Hyak's life serve as a reminder of the price that he and others like him paid for our freedom.

#### OUR FEDERAL FISCAL HOUSE IS OUT OF ORDER

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, can anyone seriously dispute that our Federal fiscal house is seriously out of order?

Our national debt stands at \$23 trillion, doubling in just the last decade alone. No end is in sight, as we just registered \$1 trillion annual deficit in the last fiscal year, and this fiscal year looks the same or worse. Interest payments alone will exceed defense spending by 2025.

We need look no further than into the mirror for the root cause. It is our collective inability to face the music of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. We clearly need help.

H.R. 5211, the Sustainable Budget Act, reintroduced today with my colleague from Arkansas, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Mr. WOMACK, would follow the models of Simpson-Bowles and other such independent commissions charged with focusing on our debt and recommending a sustainable path forward for an up-or-down vote by Congress.

In that, our bill is similar to other measures I have also reintroduced: H.R. 4907, the TRUST Act, with Representatives GALLAGHER and MCADAMS; and H.R. 5178, the RAFT Act, with Representative BURCHETT. Together, they offer a far better way forward to tackling our debt crisis, and I urge their prompt consideration and passage.

#### FUNDING FOR PUERTO RICO'S MEDICAID PROGRAM

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, today I rise, and I am pleased to say that the continuing resolution to keep our government open until December 20 extends, once again, the provision of the 2018 BBA to provide Puerto Rico a 100 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage in the Medicaid program.

However, the time available for an extension is quickly coming to an end. Unless Congress acts quickly to adequately fund this vital program, Puerto Rico will face a \$1 billion shortfall as early as March of 2020, putting in grave jeopardy the 1.1 million American citizens in my district who rely on this program.

This insecurity in funding also makes it impossible to negotiate long-term provider contracts, and it disrupts the ongoing implementation of important transparency and integrity measures.

Without decisive and long-term funding, the progress into stabilizing Puerto Rico's Medicaid program could be reversed as payments to providers would once again fall close to 40 percent Medicare fee schedule and accelerate provider exodus.

Puerto Rico will also not be able to pay for lifesaving hepatitis C medicines

that positively impact the quality of life, while decreasing long-term health costs.

Puerto Rico will also not be able to subsidize dual Medicare B premiums and shift those healthcare costs to Medicare, where they belong.

The lack of a solution for Puerto Rico's Medicaid program, such as the one proposed by the House, could have a ripple effect on our healthcare system.

I urge my colleagues to act on Medicaid provisions.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF VERNA CAMPBELL

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn memory of Ms. Verna Campbell, a constituent, beloved mother, grandmother, and eternal fighter for the working class.

Ms. Campbell left us on October 22 but leaves behind a powerful legacy in my community. She was a loving mother to 10 children and step-children, and always worked to support her second family, 1199 SEIU.

Ms. Verna was a long-time delegate for 1199, where she fought for labor rights, fair pay, and dignity for all workers.

She devoted herself to the Staten Island Democratic Association, the Staten Island NAACP, the Staten Island Women's Political Caucus, and the 120th Precinct Council.

Ms. Verna was a founder of the Staten Island African American Political Association and, over the years, has worked to bring African Americans into Staten Island politics.

Ms. Verna also played key roles in electing numerous African Americans to public office throughout her life.

Staten Island and all of New York City will deeply miss Ms. Verna Campbell, but we are all blessed for her membership in our community throughout her lifetime.

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#### HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives this year has had one of the most productive sessions in U.S. history. We have passed over 275 bipartisan bills to the United States Senate. Let me just say that again: We have passed over 275 bipartisan bills to the United States Senate.

Unfortunately, the Republican-led Senate has not gotten around to letting these bills go for a vote.

Some of these bills include common-sense legislation such as the Violence

Against Women Act reauthorization, the Save the Internet Act, Securing America's Federal Elections Act, the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act, the Climate Action Now Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and the Raise the Wage Act. It is time for the do-nothing Republicans to start doing their jobs.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, today is National Rural Health Day.

More than 60 million Americans live in rural areas. Unfortunately, these individuals tend to be in poorer health than those who live in urban and suburban areas. They experience greater rates of chronic disease than the rest of the U.S. population.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is one of these rural areas. Like most rural America, the VI has high rates of chronic disease, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and experience unique challenges in accessing healthcare.

The Virgin Islands, however, due to geographic distance from the contiguous United States and our territorial status, face even further challenges, including inequitable Federal funding. Our health providers and families have to make difficult decisions, not based on care but on distance and funding.

All Americans deserve easy accessibility to high quality healthcare. I want to take this time to recognize the healthcare providers in the Virgin Islands for their tireless work and commitment to the health and well-being of our people.

#### RECOGNIZING LINDA LAURIA FOR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-term public servant and New York-14 constituent, Linda Lauria.

On November 30, 2019, Linda Lauria, public affairs specialist, will retire from the Social Security Administration. Linda's retirement will mark the close of a phenomenal 34-year career that spans multiple decades of public service.

Linda began her career with the Social Security Administration in August 1973 as a claims development clerk in the east Bronx Social Security office as a GS-2, as she proudly notes. Linda was subsequently promoted to positions in the field, including service representative and claims representative.

Linda has been instrumental in the timely resolution of several thousand cases, eliminating barriers between our