

into a blessed future. Remove any shadowy cloud so that they might follow the patterns of Your inspirations.

O Lord of the ages, ever faithful to Your promises, be with us during these most contentious days, and 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

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.

PROTECTING PATIENTS FROM UNAFFORDABLE DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, drug prices in the United States have been rising at rates significantly faster than anywhere else in the world for the past 25 years, according to the Commonwealth Fund.

Investments by the Federal Government and research form the foundation of advances in new treatments and cures. The Federal Government does all the costly basic research; the pharmaceutical industry does all the profitable distribution and marketing.

Now, the Federal Government should use its considerable leverage to negotiate fair drug prices so the American people can truly benefit from their taxpayer investments. I am pleased to see the House moving forward this week with H.R. 3 that will do just that.

We must create leverage whenever we can. Despite promises from President Trump last year that drugmakers would announce massive voluntary price decreases on their products, patients continue to face enormous year-over-year drug price increases on the drugs they need. In the first half of 2018, for every drug that saw a price decrease, 96 drugs saw a price increase.

We also know that drug price hikes are almost never connected to any evi-

dence of innovation and improved benefit.

Why do drug companies raise the price of existing drugs? Because they can.

It is imperative that we protect patients from unaffordable drug prices and unjustified price increases on those drugs.

HIGHLIGHTING CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF USMCA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was pleased to join 158 of my colleagues in sending a letter to Speaker PELOSI highlighting the critical importance of the USMCA trade agreement.

It has been nearly 400 days since President Trump signed the agreement with our two closest trading partners, and at long last, it seems a vote may finally be in our near future. With less than 2 weeks left in the legislative calendar, a vote is long overdue.

Farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and everyone in between will benefit from the passing of USMCA. USMCA will help increase market opportunities, keeping trade free and fair, and the projected impact on our Nation's agricultural industry is staggering.

Under this new, revamped agreement, U.S. agriculture exports are expected to increase by more than \$2 billion, annually, leading to an estimated 325,000 additional jobs here at home. That is good news, not just for our local rural communities, but for each and every American.

USMCA will help bring U.S. trade policy into the 21st century. Each day that passes without a vote is leaving money and opportunity on the table.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in 2017, the Gulf region experienced one of the greatest catastrophic floods and hurricanes in our history: Mr. Speaker, 51 trillion gallons of water. Neighborhoods that have never flooded, flooded. People in desperate conditions, reservoirs breaking, dams breaking.

And I knew that we had to rescue them. I introduced the first Hurricane Harvey legislation: \$174 billion.

But, Mr. Speaker, there was a group that I did not want to forget because I know that they are entrepreneurs, and that is why I established the small business grant program, modeled after 9/11, that now has come into fruition with \$100 million. I will go home and announce this to my local community.

The grants are grants and not loans—unique. They are not like the SBA. They are grants. We fought for that

from the Federal Government all the way down to the State government.

I am asking my constituents to meet me in Houston at 2 p.m. for a grand announcement in order for the small businesses still impacted by Hurricane Harvey to get grant relief, money that is not a loan, and I am fighting for those loans to be small enough to help all of our small entrepreneurs.

IMPEACHMENT SHAM

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, this week Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats are continuing their 3-year-old quest to overturn the 2016 election and tear down President Donald Trump.

Recently, Speaker PELOSI said the current impeachment farce is not rushed because it has been going on for 2½ years. That seems to me to be admission of what we have known for a long time: that the Democrats do not care how or why they impeach the President, so long as they do so.

This impeachment sham is a result of a quest that began the moment President Trump descended the escalator at Trump Tower in 2015 to announce that he was running for President.

It is also the result of career bureaucrats, some in the intelligence community, and House Democrats trying to prevent or stop President Trump from taking power out of their hands and returning it to the people.

Just this week we have seen evidence that the FBI has been weaponized against the Presidential candidate; Chairman SCHIFF abusing his power by releasing phone records of Members of Congress and reporters, and his refusal to defend a one-sided report crafted by him and his staff.

Again, enough is enough. Let's stop this sham and get back to the work of the American people.

LOWERING DRUG COSTS NOW

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

Across America, seniors and families are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy.

One of my constituents from the rural part of my district, Christie Baldock from Yerington, Nevada, was receiving tele-healthcare through her Senior Care Plus coverage before her health plan cut its rural coverage. Until she enrolls in another coverage, she will have to pay out of pocket for her prescriptions. Her insulin alone will be \$500 each month.

Under H.R. 3, some commonly used insulins can cost as little as \$400 per

year. For Christie and for the 30.3 million Americans who live with diabetes, we must pass H.R. 3 and lower drug costs now.

ADDRESSING PFAS CONTAMINATION AND ITS DEVASTATING EFFECTS

(Mr. DELGADO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, in September, I was named to the National Defense Authorization Act conference committee, which is tasked with reconciling differences between the House and Senate-passed defense authorization bills.

In this role, I believe I would have the chance to advocate for provisions for PFAS contamination and its devastating effects, which include thyroid disease, autoimmune disorders, and cancer. The contaminant has wreaked havoc in my district, from Hoosick Falls to Petersburg.

Unfortunately, leaders in both parties ultimately opted to hijack negotiations at the eleventh hour behind closed doors and in a disturbingly undemocratic fashion. In the end, nearly every PFAS provision was stripped from the agreement.

While I am pleased that my bipartisan legislation requiring PFAS chemicals to be listed on the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory was ultimately included, I am, nonetheless, deeply frustrated by an incredibly flawed process completely void of transparency.

For this reason, I decided not to sign the final conference report. I expected more from this process, and I am quite certain the American people expect more from this body.

ENSURING MEDICATION IS ACCESSIBLE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation faces an alarming crisis: The cost of prescription drugs continues to rise, placing a dangerous burden on American families, especially our older citizens. That is why, this week, the House is taking action to lower the cost of lifesaving medication individuals need to survive by passing H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

I am especially proud this landmark legislation will include a provision I authored with my colleagues, Congressman ROSE and Congressman VEASEY, to help reduce Medicare part D costs for low-income seniors.

H.R. 3 will finally allow Medicare to negotiate drug costs, and our provision will ensure the cost savings go right back to supporting Medicare recipients by expanding access to programs that lower out-of-pocket expenses for vulnerable adults and individuals with disabilities.

We must continue working to improve our healthcare system, and this marks an important step forward in ensuring medication is accessible and affordable for everyday Americans.

REMEMBERING CARLOS GREGORIO HERNANDEZ VASQUEZ

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, his name was Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez. He was 16. He was sick with the flu, so sick with the flu that he passed out. He was being detained by U.S. Border Patrol. He laid out on the floor of his cell for hours without a single person coming to help him. He spent hours, until he died, on the floor alone.

When CBP detained him, they were responsible for his well-being. We were responsible for his well-being, and we failed him.

Some say we must create a deterrent from children fleeing their home country. I ask, Mr. President, is this deterrent enough for you?

Our country was founded on the principle that human rights are universal rights. It is at the very core of our Constitution, our democracy, and it is why this democratic experiment endures. Without it, we are nothing.

12 DAYS OF SALT

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, on the fifth day of SALT, my constituents have said to me that the SALT cap has hit the values of their homes and forced them to even sometimes sell their property.

A constituent recently shared that, when he bought his home, his father-in-law patted him on the back and told him he had done a great job, but last year he had to sell that home where he had raised his three children because he could no longer afford it.

Not only did my constituent have to move, but he had to sell his home for less than it was worth. He drew a direct link to the 2017 tax bill's SALT deduction cap.

This constituent is not alone. A Moody's economist found that the SALT cap has taken a trillion-dollar hit to home values. And nowhere is that felt more than in my district.

Mr. Speaker, Essex County is the most impacted county in the entire country, with an average 11.3 percent drop in home values. But counties in Texas, New York, Illinois, and Connecticut all rank in the top 30.

Homeownership is the pillar of the American Dream. The Federal Government should not be putting up barriers to owning a home. We need to get rid of this SALT cap and stop punishing homeowners.

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 729, TRIBAL COASTAL RESILIENCY ACT

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 748 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 748

Resolved, That any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 729) to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-40 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against the further amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Natural Resources or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be