

those who have been deported to come back to the United States legally and on the taxpayer's dime—essentially allowing for the importation of violent and dangerous illegal immigrants into our country. I have yet to meet a single person who supports that idea.

The bill would also decriminalize illegal entry into the country, including for criminals who have already been deported.

This measure is a dream for those who seek to abolish ICE, throw open our national borders, and gut the rule of law in America.

I have heard from constituents who are outraged about this proposal—and rightfully so. While sponsored by nearly a fifth of the House Democratic Caucus, the legislation stands little chance of advancing past President Trump or a Republican Senate. But it is, nonetheless, important for the American people to know the priorities of some Members of this body.

I will continue to stand strong against policies like the New Way Forward Act and any other legislation which would encourage illegal immigration and cripple the safety of American citizens.

HONORING BAM CARNEY

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage the body to keep my dear friend, Bam Carney, of Campbellsville, Kentucky, in their thoughts and prayers as he continues to battle a serious illness.

Bam has been hospitalized for over 2 months and has a long journey ahead. However, anyone who knows Bam knows that he is the ultimate fighter.

As a father, educator, State representative, and Kentucky's house majority leader, he has always fought strongly for what he believes in. But, more importantly, he has always fought for his family and friends above all else.

Bam's community has organized "A Day of Prayer and Encouragement for Bam," where people across Kentucky are joining together to lift him up in prayer.

I ask for this body to join me in keeping my friend and golf buddy in their thoughts and prayers. He means so much to so many people. I ask everyone for their prayers as Bam continues his fight.

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 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

God of mercy, thank You for giving us another day.

Quicken our spirits so that we will know the blessings of living together in unity and peace. Grant that we might know the satisfaction of sharing our common concerns and experiencing the joy of mutual accomplishment.

Bless the Members of this people's House with success in bringing fruition to all efforts to work toward common solutions to the issues facing our Nation, solutions which often seem so distant.

On a day of major electoral impact, and as our Nation faces the possible effects of the coronavirus, grace us with the assurance that You are with us in difficult times.

May we all understand that a unified nation is equally the work of each of us where we live.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COOPER 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

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

TENNESSEE NEEDS EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, very early this morning, my hometown of Nashville, Tennessee, was terribly hard hit by a tornado.

At least 19 lives have been lost. Buildings were destroyed. Many, many homes were destroyed, and countless lives have been disrupted. At least 34,000 people lost electricity.

I have been in contact with our Governor, our mayor, our entire congressional delegation, including my good friend JOHN ROSE, to do all that we can

to bring emergency relief to the area as fast as possible.

This is a genuine tragedy, and we need to praise our neighbors, friends, residents, first responders, firefighters, police, and EMTs who worked all through the night, despite fierce rains, to provide first aid.

Nashville is strong. We recovered so well after the terrible 2010 flood that many parts of America didn't even know we had been suffering.

Now is the time to beat this disaster.

PLEDGE FOR AID IN RESPONSE TO TENNESSEE TORNADOES

(Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with my colleague from Tennessee, Mr. COOPER. As he has already indicated, earlier today, a devastating tornado tore through Middle Tennessee, including much of the area that I represent and call home.

While rescue workers are still in the critical phase of sorting through debris and accounting for those who are still missing, we know already that many lives have been lost and dozens of people were rushed to emergency rooms.

I, along with countless Tennesseans, are lifting those people up in prayer, and we hope that everybody will join us.

I am working diligently alongside my fellow Representatives, the administration, Governor Lee, Senators ALEXANDER and BLACKBURN, and emergency officials to get much-needed Federal aid to the affected areas.

Homes, schools, businesses, churches, farms, and other buildings and numerous communities have suffered serious and, in some cases, overwhelming damage.

I stand today with those affected by this disaster and pledge every effort will be made to give shelter to those who need it, give care to those who are hurt, and give assistance in the critical effort to recover and rebuild.

FUND CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this week, the House should consider legislation responding to the threat of COVID-19, called the coronavirus, that poses a significant threat to our Nation.

Since the end of December, over 3,000 people worldwide have died from the virus, and there are over 91,000 confirmed cases. Without a specific treatment protocol or vaccine, the virus is dangerous and will likely reach the level of a pandemic.

We need to fund scientific research that can quickly diagnose and provide therapies to prevent and treat the virus.

We need to give our first responders, doctors, nurses, and public health workers who are on the front lines fighting this virus the resources and support that they need.

We need to all look after each other.

Madam Speaker, I hope to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

CONGRATULATING MIDWAY ELEMENTARY

(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. Mr. Speaker, this year, Midway Elementary School in Lexington, South Carolina, commemorated its 25th anniversary and celebrated international recognition of its French immersion program.

Midway Elementary is the only recipient in South Carolina, one of just five in the Southeast.

I appreciate Midway Elementary Principal Jan Fickling, Lexington County District One Superintendent Dr. Greg Little, Lexington One School Board Chair Cindy Smith, State Superintendent Molly Spearman, and all the dedicated teachers and administrators who work tirelessly to ensure student success and opportunity.

As co-chair of the French Caucus, I am grateful for our State's French heritage, our first ally.

Lexington County hosts the largest manufacturing facilities in the world for Michelin Tire Corporation, with over 2,000 appreciated employees.

We look forward to welcoming Ambassador of France Philippe Etienne to visit South Carolina next month.

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

"Je parle Francais, un tres peu." "I speak French very little."

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY

(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, I rise today in honor of National Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Day, which is recognized around the country on March 3 each year.

This day is especially meaningful for me, as my daughter, Lauren, battled triple negative breast cancer for nearly 2 years before her death in August 2017.

Between 10 and 20 percent of breast cancer patients are triple negative, meaning they don't respond to traditional hormone therapies. They are considered more aggressive cancers, and the prognosis is poor.

My daughter was very public in her fight against breast cancer, and I know that she would want me to use today to

raise awareness and to encourage those at risk to be screened.

I am humbled to have reintroduced a resolution officially designating this day in the hopes that, together, we can bring greater awareness of triple negative breast cancer and encourage early detection and treatment.

May we resolve to fight together with the strength and courage that Lauren demonstrated each and every day to finally find a cure for this awful and dreaded disease.

EXTEND PAID FAMILY LEAVE TO MORE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that touches the lives of countless Ohioans because it affects everyone with loved ones and family members.

When a hardworking Federal employee gives birth to a child, has a parent in the hospital, or needs to take leave for any medical or family-related reason, they are able to do so through paid family leave.

Sadly, thousands of Federal employees, many of whom live and work in Ohio's 12th Congressional District, were left out of the most recent reauthorization of paid family leave for Federal employees.

These TSA agents; FAA workers, including air traffic controllers at John Glenn Airport; and VA healthcare providers, such as doctors, dentists, and nurses, work hard. They deserve to take time off for medical and family reasons without affecting their pay. That is why I introduced the Value FAamily Act, which would correct this oversight and extend 12 weeks of paid family leave to these forgotten employees.

FMLA, and the lives of Federal employees, should not be compromised.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5993, the Value FAamily Act.

ST. CROIX NEEDS PERMANENT DIALYSIS FACILITY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, in 2017, due to natural disaster and lack of electricity, 200 dialysis patients were forced to evacuate the Virgin Islands.

Some never returned; some are still hoping to; and some who did may once again have to leave. Patients on St. Croix are still receiving treatment in a mobile unit that faces an uncertain future.

FEMA has slow-walked the release of funding and guidelines that will allow our hospital to build a permanent and comfortable facility on the island for lifesaving dialysis treatment.

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, CMS, has refused to re-

certify the temporary mobile unit, instead giving the unit month-to-month extensions, citing that, by now, there should have been a more permanent structure.

Stuck between FEMA's slow-walk and CMS' decision are people, people who need stability and empathy. If these Americans are forced to make the hard decision as to whether to leave home again, these Federal agencies would have failed them.

At least 15 of the dialysis patients who were forced to leave the first time are no longer with us. They passed away before they were able to come home.

This National Kidney Month, let's work to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

□ 1215

SERVICEMEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE HARASSED BY DEBT COLLECTORS

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

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5003, the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act, sponsored by Representative DEAN, which passed the House unanimously. I am a proud cosponsor of this bill and was glad to vote for it.

As a former Army infantry officer, I have seen debt collectors harass servicemembers. This is made worse by collectors who contact servicemembers' superiors.

The U.S. military does not owe these debts; they are the debt of the servicemember. So why should debt collectors be in contact with someone who does not owe the debt?

From a readiness perspective, our commanding officers and noncommissioned officers should be focused on training our soldiers to fight and win our Nation's wars, not on keeping track of who owes what money to what debt collector.

Just as debt collectors cannot humiliate civilians by calling their bosses, neither should they be allowed to use such practices on our fighting men and women. I am glad to see that we can all agree that collection companies should abide by the same rules and restrictions for enlisted servicemembers as they do when collecting debts from private citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Senate to take up this bill immediately.

KEEP AMERICAN PEOPLE SAFE FROM CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, two Rhode Islanders have already tested positive for coronavirus, and dozens