

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 VAValue FFAAmily 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 VAValue FFAAmily 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 service-member. 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

more are being monitored. Across the globe, more than 90,000 are sick and 3,000 have died.

Rhode Islanders and all Americans deserve a strong, effective, and fully funded response to this health crisis. That is why the House will vote this week on an emergency appropriations bill that addresses the scale and seriousness of the coronavirus epidemic. This bill will ensure public health officials have the resources they need right now.

It is critical that the Senate send it to the President's desk as soon as the House acts, and, for his part, the President needs to stop calling this situation a hoax. This isn't about him; it is about protecting the American people. When the bill gets to his desk, he should sign it and then step aside and let the scientists, the doctors, and the public health experts do their jobs.

This is no time for politics. It is about keeping the American people safe. The House will do our job. The President should start doing his.

AMERICA WILL ADAPT TO MEET CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as compared to other historic viruses and outbreaks in recent years, the coronavirus, so far, is a lesser threat.

Let's compare it to H1N1, also known as the swine flu of 2009. The CDC has estimated that approximately 60 million people in the U.S. contracted H1N1 during that 2009 outbreak, leading to the death of around 12,000 Americans.

Even more alarming, during this current 2019–2020 flu season, approximately 18,000 people, unfortunately, have died as a result of the more conventional flu. Currently, in the U.S., there are 105 confirmed cases of coronavirus, resulting in the unfortunate death of six people so far. We expect these numbers will go up.

While this outbreak is, indeed, a problem, the CDC, not politicians, continue to claim that the American public are unlikely to be exposed to coronavirus.

During the Republican majority in Congress, we made several strategic investments in key health resources to prevent the spread of a virus like this one, including a 24 percent increase in CDC funding and a 70 percent increase in infectious disease response.

So, instead of sounding an alarm, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue to remind Americans that our country will adapt to the challenges coming.

For people, individually: Work on limiting your own risk by washing your hands frequently.

HONORING KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, with Easter around the corner, I rise to heap praise on an icon in Katy, Texas, in Fort Bend County. Her name is Deysi Crespo. She is the CEO of Katy Christian Ministries, otherwise known as KCM.

KCM has one holy mission: transforming life through God's grace and generosity of the community.

KCM has 52 member churches, partners. Deysi started there as a volunteer in the resale shop in 2007.

Deysi is a living, breathing example that the American Dream comes through faith. At 7 years old, she left rampant poverty in Central America for Katy, Texas. After a few months, she no longer hungered for food.

Deysi had a building hunger inside of her body to end poverty for others and intervene in crisis with God's love. The rest is history. Under Deysi's leadership, KCM earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and the Hurricane Harvey Response Award from the Houston Food Bank.

If you are in Katy this March, say hola, or hello, to Deysi. She will be at the Katy Charity Bubble Run. That is set on March 28 in Katy, Texas, and Deysi guarantees the love of Christ will be waiting for all who come to the Bubble Run.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 3, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
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 March 3, 2020, at 9:21 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5671.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

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.

CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS BY ARMED GROUPS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 387) condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 387

Whereas the overthrow of the Government of the Central African Republic in March 2013 and subsequent violence has led to the proliferation of multiple armed groups, which have been responsible for widespread atrocities based on perceived or actual religious or ethnic identities;

Whereas the United Nations (UN) concluded in 2014 that the Central African Republic's minority Muslim community had been the target of ethnic cleansing, and multiple UN officials have warned of a risk of genocide;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, an estimated 2,900,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, over 590,000 Central Africans are refugees in neighboring countries, and over 640,000 people are displaced, most of whom are women and children;

Whereas armed groups continue to engage in gross human rights abuses, violence, pillaging, and the illicit trafficking of natural resources such as ivory, gold, cattle, and diamonds;

Whereas armed groups have intentionally targeted personnel from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), aid workers, and journalists, making the Central African Republic one of the world's most dangerous operating environments for humanitarian actors;

Whereas the Central African Republic has made significant progress toward democracy by conducting democratic elections despite the lack of security around electoral polling stations and some irregularities, and inaugurated President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in March 2016;

Whereas the establishment of the Special Criminal Court in June 2017 and the creation of more than 1,000 peace committees across the country demonstrate a genuine commitment to justice and accountability on the part of the people of the Central African Republic; and

Whereas, since 2013, the United States has been the largest single donor to the humanitarian response in the Central African Republic, promoted peace and social cohesion, supported the deployment of MINUSCA, enacted sanctions against senior leaders of armed groups, and provided life-saving assistance to communities in the Central African Republic affected by the crisis; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that strong United States leadership and support for the stability of the Central African Republic is necessary for the security and future stability of the region;

(2) condemns violence against civilians, humanitarian workers, journalists, faith leaders, and United Nations peacekeepers by all armed actors operating within the Central African Republic;