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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 29, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO BUILD ON HEALTHCARE PROGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act.

From skyrocketing prescription drug prices to rising premiums, too many Kansans are struggling to afford the basic costs of healthcare and access to coverage, a problem that has only grown during this public health crisis.

And just last week, in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, this administration asked the Supreme Court to strike down every last protection and benefit afforded by the Affordable Care Act.

A new report found that a number of Americans would lose health coverage if this lawsuit succeeded. Twenty-three million people, including 94,000 Kansans, would lose their health insurance.

We need to build on the progress of the Affordable Care Act to lower the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, not rip away people's healthcare at such an important time during this global pandemic. And that is exactly what the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act would do.

This essential legislation would help lower the cost of healthcare, bring down the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs, crack down on junk insurance plans, and strengthen protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Importantly, it would also help States like Kansas expand Medicaid, providing an estimated 150,000 Kansans with affordable, quality healthcare.

I have long been pushing for Kansas to join the 36 other States that have already expanded Medicaid so we can lower the costs of healthcare and increase access to health coverage, meaning more people are protected during emergencies like the coronavirus pandemic.

I am proud to have helped secure vital provisions in this legislation that would give Kansas more urgently needed money to expand Medicaid.

By renewing the ACA's original expanded Federal match, we could both incentivize States to expand their Medicaid programs and ensure a smooth transition for those that do so.

While this administration works to tear down the ACA in court, I am working alongside my House colleagues to strengthen the ACA and help ensure

that everyone can receive affordable, quality healthcare.

Because during this time of uncertainty, no Kansan should have to worry about whether she will receive the care that they need and that their families need to stay healthy.

THE HOUSE HAS ACTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was excited to see the House take action to promote racial justice this last week. Under the leadership of KAREN BASS, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Democratic leadership, we put forth a comprehensive effort to deal with the crying need that we are hearing demands in the street for more racial justice in America.

The House has acted. There are many provisions there that are going to make a big difference in terms of being able to balance the scale and protect the interests particularly of minority Americans.

Unfortunately, there is one area that remains unaddressed. Perhaps one of the darkest hours in the assault on people of color is Richard Nixon's war on drugs. Nixon's cronies have cynically admitted that it was targeted directly towards people of color and young people. The phony war on drugs contradicted the advice that President Nixon got from his own Blue Ribbon Commission on how to handle cannabis in our country.

Instead, the goal was to criminalize, to amp up enforcement, and was specifically targeted toward people of color and young Americans. This has been admitted by John Ehrlichman, who was assistant to President Nixon for domestic policy. They calculated this would be a way to curry favor from the voters, be able to demonize

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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and target the young and people of color.

Unfortunately, that war on drugs continues to this day. Last year, there were tens of thousands of young people of color, particularly Black Americans, who were caught in the net of law enforcement with citations or arrests for something that the majority of Americans now think should be legal.

Indeed, the majority of Republicans think marijuana should be legal. And action has been taken in State after State, usually with a vote of the people; that is the case in my State of Oregon, California, Arizona, and Nevada, where the decision has been made by voters that this mindless prohibition against marijuana makes no sense. Ten States have completely legalized adult use. Over 33 have legalized medical cannabis. And then you take some of the specialized legislation that deals with children with extreme seizure disorders for whom an extract of cannabis is the only thing that gives these children relief from that torture of dozens, sometimes hundreds of seizures a day. Overall 47 States have acted to legalize cannabis in some form.

With the House leadership in Democratic control, we have taken key steps. We passed the Safe Banking Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. 321 Members voted for the legislation that would extend banking services to this large and growing sector of our economy. It is one of the other elements that is languishing in the Senate, but it demonstrates that broad bipartisan support.

In the House Judiciary Committee, the MORE Act, under the leadership of Chairman JERRY NADLER working with the Cannabis Caucus, has produced legislation that has been approved by the Judiciary Committee with a bipartisan vote. I am pleased to note that it incorporates many of the provisions of BARBARA LEE's Marijuana Justice Act, which was endorsed by the CBC with over 60 percent majority.

It is time for us to take the next step. These needless traffic stops sometimes start with looking for a broken taillight, as law enforcement are involved with fishing expeditions looking for marijuana. Too often it catches young people, especially young people of color in the net. Indeed, they don't target White Americans who use cannabis at the same rate. It is targeted specifically against people of color. Too often those interactions with law enforcement lead to tragic results.

It is time for the House to act to end this failed policy of prohibition, protect young Black lives and be able to fully legalize cannabis by passing the MORE Act. We can do this quickly and easily, and I hope we do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, thank You for giving us another day. Bless and comfort those who suffer from coronavirus; give them healing. Bless and comfort those who mourn the loss of loved ones in the wake of COVID-19.

With the Psalmist, we turn to You:

Have mercy upon us, O God, for we are treated harshly;

Our foes treat us harshly all the day;

Yes, many are our attackers.

O Most High, when we are afraid, in You we place our trust. We praise the word of God; we trust in God and do not fear.

All the day, our enemies foil our plans; Their every thought is of evil against us. They . . . lie in wait for our lives.

Our issues, our threats are many, O God. Pandemic, civil unrest and police reform, aggressive Russian and Chinese policies, a struggling economy. Help us in our time of need.

Bless the people's House, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ROUDA 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.

HELPING BUSINESSES TO REOPEN SAFELY

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

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, small businesses in Orange County and across

the United States are struggling. States and local governments have given shops and restaurants the green light for reopening but have failed to provide businesses with the resources they need to open safely.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the bipartisan Helping Businesses Reopen Safely Act of 2020 with Congressman BRIAN MAST of Florida. This bill will provide a tax credit to small businesses, nonprofits, and local governments of up to \$25,000 annually to purchase personal protective equipment and other supplies that are essential to mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Madam Speaker, the science is clear. PPE, like face masks, is our most effective tool to keep Americans safe and keep our economy running. My bill would ensure businesses aren't financially penalized for providing safe and clean service.

Madam Speaker, the Helping Businesses Reopen Safely Act of 2020 would help businesses open while protecting the public health of workers, customers, and communities. I urge my colleagues to support and pass this crucial legislation.

RECOGNIZING SMITH REYNOLDS AIRPORT

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, Smith Reynolds Airport, located in North Carolina's Fifth District, is set to be designated as North Carolina's first legacy airport.

Originally named Miller Municipal Field in 1927, the airport was soon renamed in 1942 after the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation made a donation to the airport.

Madam Speaker, since its inception, the airport has served as an Army Corps facility and was the birthplace for Piedmont Airlines, the legacy carrier that merged with US Airways.

Madam Speaker, with this designation on the horizon, I am confident that the airport will continue to be a vital component of the community and that North Carolina's aviation sector will continue to grow and contribute to our State's vibrant economy.

ASSISTING INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud of the rapid action that the House took—\$3 trillion approved on a bipartisan basis with the Senate. And we have moved forward with the HEROES Act, another \$3 trillion that is pending action. We fixed the PPP to better meet the needs of small businesses, but one area needs special attention.