

the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions."

Again, from the Democratic Party Platform of those years.

Whereas, the Democrat Party Platform of 1856 further declares that new States to the Union should be admitted "with or without domestic slavery, as the State may elect."

Whereas, the Democratic Party Platform of 1856 also resolves that "we recognize the right of the people of all the territories . . . to form a Constitution, with or without domestic slavery."

Whereas, the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 penalized officials who did not arrest an alleged runaway slave and made them liable for a fine of \$1,000, which is about \$28,000 in present-day value. Law enforcement officials everywhere were required to arrest people suspected of being a runaway slave on as little as a claimant's sworn testimony of ownership. The Democratic Party Platform of 1860 directly, in seeking to uphold to Fugitive Slave Act, states that "the enactments of the State legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Law are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect."

The Democratic Party Platform again.

Whereas, the 14th Amendment, giving full citizenship to freed slaves, passed in 1868 with 94 percent Republican support, 0 percent Democratic support in Congress; the 15th Amendment, giving freed slaves the right to vote, passed in 1870 with 100 percent Republican support and 0 percent Democratic support in Congress.

Whereas, Democrats systematically suppressed African Americans' right to vote, and by specific example in the 1902 constitution of the State of Virginia actually disenfranchised about 90 percent of the Black men who still voted at the beginning of the 20th century and nearly half of the White men.

So they suppressed Republican voters as well.

The number of eligible African-American voters were thereby forcibly reduced from about 147,000 in 1901 to about 10,000 by 1905; that measure was supported almost exclusively by Virginia Democrats.

Whereas, Virginia's 1902 constitution was engineered by Carter Glass, the future Democratic U.S. Representative, Senator, and Secretary of the Treasury under Democrat President Woodrow Wilson, who proclaimed the goal of the constitutional convention as follows: This Democrat exclaimed: "Discrimination! Why, that is precisely what we propose. That, exactly, is what this Convention was elected for—to discriminate to the very extremity of permissible action under the limits of the Federal Constitution, with a view to the elimination of every," and I won't use his word, but African-American "voter who can be gotten rid of legally," which was said by a Democrat and applauded by his fellow Democrats.

Whereas, in 1912, Democratic President Woodrow Wilson's administration began a racial segregation policy for U.S. Government employees, and by 1914, the Wilson administration's civil service instituted the requirement that a photograph be submitted with each employment application.

Whereas, the 1924 Democratic National Convention convened in New York City at Madison Square Garden; the convention commonly was known as the "Klan-Bake" due to the overwhelming influence of the Ku Klux Klan in the Democratic Party.

Whereas, in 1964, the Democratic Party led a 75-calendar-day filibuster against the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Whereas, leading the Democrats in their opposition to civil rights for African Americans was a member of the Democratic Party, Senator Robert Byrd from West Virginia, who was a known recruiter for the Ku Klux Klan.

Whereas, Democrats enacted and enforced Jim Crow laws and civil codes that forced segregation and restricted freedoms of Black Americans in the United States.

Whereas, on June 18, 2020, House Speaker NANCY PELOSI ordered the removal from the Capitol portraits of four previous Speakers of the House who served in the Confederacy, saying this these portraits "set back our Nation's work to confront and combat bigotry"; the men depicted in the portraits were Democrat Robert M.T. Hunter, Democrat Howell Cobb, Democrat James L. Orr, and Democrat Charles F. Crisp.

Resolved,

One, that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall remove any item that names, symbolizes, or mentions any political organization or party that has ever held a public position that supported slavery or the Confederacy, from any area within the House wing of the Capitol or any House office building, and shall donate such item or symbol to the Library of Congress.

Two, that any political organization or party that has ever held a public position that supported slavery or the Confederacy shall either change its name or be barred from participation in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Texas will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

STOP THE CANCEL CULTURE TRAIN

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, the cancel culture train, a/k/a/ H.R. 7573 that passed yesterday, was wrong on a deep level.

I am not going to get on that cancel culture train that says we have to do away with any mention or remembrance of everybody or everything that we don't agree with; or that might have said something that we don't like, didn't like; or that might have stood for something that we don't stand for, didn't stand for.

The First Amendment was put in the Constitution to prevent exactly this. I am not going to get on the cancel culture train because the next thing you know, I will get thrown off for saying something that somebody didn't like or didn't agree with or, Lord forbid, that I would do something that somebody didn't like or didn't agree with.

Madam Speaker, if we are going to do this, what happened yesterday, then the building names, street names, plaques, and all remembrances of Democrats that Judge Gohmert just read about need to be removed from every street, every building, anything that honors them.

Madam Speaker, that is a dangerous slope to be on, the cancel culture train. People better sit up and take notice.

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I seek recognition for a question of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has been made aware of a valid basis for the gentlewoman's point of personal privilege.

The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank many of my colleagues for the opportunity to not only speak today but for the many Members from both sides of the aisle who have reached out to me in support following an incident earlier this week.

About 2 days ago, I was walking up the steps of the Capitol when Representative YOHO suddenly turned a corner, and he was accompanied by Representative ROGER WILLIAMS, and accosted me on the steps right here in front of our Nation's Capitol.

I was minding my own business, walking up the steps, and Representative YOHO put his finger in my face. He called me disgusting; he called me crazy; he called me out of my mind; and he called me dangerous.

And then he took a few more steps, and after I had recognized his comments as rude, he walked away, and said: I'm rude? You are calling me rude?

I took a few steps ahead, and I walked inside and cast my vote because my constituents send me here each and every day to fight for them and to make sure that they are able to keep a roof over their head, that they are able to feed their families, and that they are able to carry their lives with dignity.

I walked back out, and there were reporters in the front of the Capitol. And in front of reporters, Representative YOHO called me, and I quote, “a fucking bitch.”

These are the words that Representative YOHO levied against a Congresswoman, a Congresswoman that not only represents New York’s 14th Congressional District but every Congresswoman and every woman in this country because all of us have had to deal with this in some form, some way, some shape, at some point in our lives.

And I want to be clear that Representative YOHO’s comments were not deeply hurtful or piercing to me because I have worked a working-class job; I have waited tables in restaurants; I have ridden the subway; I have walked the streets in New York City, and this kind of language is not new.

I have encountered words uttered by Mr. YOHO and men uttering the same words as Mr. YOHO while I was being harassed in restaurants. I have tossed men out of bars that have used language like Mr. YOHO’s, and I have encountered this type of harassment riding the subway in New York City.

This is not new, and that is the problem.

Mr. YOHO was not alone. He was walking shoulder-to-shoulder with Representative ROGER WILLIAMS.

□ 1030

And that is when we start to see that this issue is not about one incident. It is cultural. It is a culture of lack of impunity, of accepting of violence and violent language against women and an entire structure of power that supports that.

Because not only have I been spoken to disrespectfully, particularly by Members of the Republican Party and elected officials in the Republican Party—not just here, but the President of the United States last year told me to “go home” to another country, was the implication, that I don’t even belong in America. The Governor of Florida, Governor DeSantis, before I even was sworn in, called me a “whatever that is.”

Dehumanizing language is not new, and what we are seeing is that incidents like these are happening in a pattern. This is a pattern of an attitude towards women and dehumanization of others.

So while I was not deeply hurt or offended by little comments that are made, when I was reflecting on this, I honestly thought that I was just going to pack it up and go home. It is just another day, right?

But then, yesterday, Representative YOHO decided to come to the floor of the House of Representatives and make excuses for his behavior, and that I could not let go. I could not allow my nieces, I could not allow the little girls that I go home to, I could not allow victims of verbal abuse and worse to see that, to see that excuse and to see our Congress accept it as legitimate and accept it as an apology and to accept silence as a form of acceptance. I could not allow that to stand, which is why I am rising today to raise this point of personal privilege.

And I do not need Representative YOHO to apologize to me. Clearly, he does not want to. Clearly, when given the opportunity, he will not. And I will not stay up late at night waiting for an apology from a man who has no remorse over calling women and using abusive language towards women. But what I do have issue with is using women, our wives and daughters, as shields and excuses for poor behavior.

Mr. YOHO mentioned that he has a wife and two daughters. I am 2 years younger than Mr. YOHO’s youngest daughter. I am someone’s daughter, too.

My father, thankfully, is not alive to see how Mr. YOHO treated his daughter. My mother got to see Mr. YOHO’s disrespect on the floor of this House towards me on television. And I am here because I have to show my parents that I am their daughter and that they did not raise me to accept abuse from men.

Now, what I am here to say is that this harm that Mr. YOHO tried to levy against me was not just an incident directed at me, but when you do that to any woman, what Mr. YOHO did was give permission to other men to do that to their daughters.

In using that language in front of the press, he gave permission to use that language against his wife, his daughters, women in his community, and I am here to stand up to say that is not acceptable.

I do not care what your views are. It does not matter how much I disagree or how much it incenses me or how much I feel that people are dehumanizing others, I will not do that myself. I will not allow people to change and create hatred in our hearts.

And so what I believe is that having a daughter does not make a man decent. Having a wife does not make a decent man. Treating people with dignity and respect makes a decent man. And when a decent man messes up, as we all are bound to do, he tries his best and does apologize—not to save face, not to win a vote. He apologizes genuinely to repair and acknowledge the harm done so that we can all move on.

Lastly, what I want to express to Mr. YOHO is gratitude. I want to thank him for showing the world that you can be a powerful man and accost women. You can have daughters and accost women without remorse. You can be married and accost women. You can take photos and project an image to the

world of being a family man and accost women without remorse and with a sense of impunity.

It happens every day in this country. It happened here on the steps of our Nation’s Capitol. It happens when individuals who hold the highest office in this land admit to hurting women and using this language against all of us.

Once again, I thank my colleagues for joining us today.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, that was brilliance, grace, intelligence, and complete dedication to what justice, equality, and dignity in the United States looks like. That is our colleague, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, and we are so grateful to her for her voice.

What my colleague from Florida did was unacceptable. It was violent. It was sexist. And I do believe he needs to apologize, not because it is going to make our colleague, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, feel any better, but because he, too, needs to learn what unacceptable behavior looks like and rise to the level of the office that he has been elected to. It does not dignify just him, but the 750,000 people that he represents.

And I thought, Madam Speaker, that it would be good to review for my colleagues a little bit of the history of the word that was used, the word that begins with a b that is five letters and that rhymes with “witch,” that word.

From 1915 to 1930, Madam Speaker, that word suddenly took off in usage in newspaper reports and articles. And do you know why? Because, in 1920, this body gave women the right to vote, and that was just a little too much power for too many men across the country.

And so all of a sudden, that word rose in prominence because, God forbid, that women would have the right to vote, that we would have power in this body, that we would have power anywhere in this country. God forbid, that women would actually have a voice to speak out on issues that matter and be the arbiters of what is fair and right and spoken with dignity and truism. And so that is when that word started to take off.

Now, I want to be clear that this violent language is about power. It is about power. It is about exerting power. It is about wielding power over people. It is about fear of people who may well be smarter than you, harder working than you, and more dedicated to achieving justice than you. It just may be that. It may be that fear. It is about diminishing and disrespecting when you have no other tools to do so.

And it is not new. Madam Speaker, you were right here managing time on this floor when I, as a new Member of Congress, was told by one of my Republican colleagues that I was a young lady, and I didn’t know a damn thing about what I was talking about. You

were right here managing the time for our side, and you helped me through that moment. Thank you. And I did get an apology on this floor from my colleague across the aisle.

I was also told in Judiciary Committee to learn how to read by another one of my Members across the aisle. These are the things that happen to us all the time. These are not jokes. They are not little things, not because they hurt us—we are way too strong for that—but because they say something about the caliber of person that is here in the United States Congress.

Do you know, Madam Speaker, out of the 11,000 people who have ever served in the United States Congress, there are only 79 of us women of color who have ever served in this body. And, yes, we bring a new voice.

And so I say to my colleague, Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ, thank you for your grace and for your brilliance and for your dignity.

And to everybody who is out there watching us and to our colleagues across the aisle, let me say this: We are not going away. There are going to be more of us here. There is going to be more power in the hands of women across this country. And we are going to continue to speak up. We are going to continue to say, “Madam Speaker.” We are going to continue to have a voice for people so that everyday working people, our daughters and our mothers and our wives across the country, understand that somebody is standing up for them.

So, Madam Speaker, I believe Mr. YOHIO should apologize. I have been on a trip with him across the globe. I never thought I would hear this kind of language from him. I really didn’t. And I am stunned, and yet, at the same time, it is a pattern, and it is an old pattern.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative JAYAPAL for giving context of how these words and this language have always been levied towards the ascent of women and women who are ascending in power.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), another phenomenal leader from my own home State.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

My friends, at times like this, it will benefit us all to remember what the word “Congress” actually means. “Congress” means a coming together. That is the entire point of this institution.

People from different regions of the country, with varying political views, individuals of different backgrounds, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and, yes, genders come together to solve problems on behalf of the American people who elect us.

That is where the word “Congress” originates from. A coming together.

We will frequently disagree heatedly. We argue on this floor and in com-

mittee hearings and meetings. We may even disagree on the steps of the Capitol. However, let us disagree agreeably.

The words being discussed today did not live up to those ideals, and the gentleman must say that he is sorry. He must apologize. It is not to apologize to ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ. He must apologize to his wife, to his daughters, to women in this country.

Today, our political discourse is too often infected with an anger and a malice unbecoming of our democratic traditions. As elected officials, we are expected to do better, to act as an example of how we can debate passionately but treat one another with compassion, dignity, and respect.

It saddens me that the words that we are discussing today failed to live up to that standard.

For those reasons, Madam Speaker, I stand with my friend from New York in condemning the remarks that were made.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of us to do better. We must do better.

□ 1045

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I would take a moment to thank Representative VELÁZQUEZ for her precedent and her leadership as well. Before I was a young Puerto Rican woman upending an incumbent, VELÁZQUEZ was as well.

Every single one of us, as women, have to stand on the shoulders and the efforts made by other women who had to fight—fight hatred, fight patriarchy, fight hateful men—in order to simply exist in bodies like this.

So, Madam Speaker, I also thank not only Representative VELÁZQUEZ, but Representative LAWRENCE, who is a leader in the Women’s Caucus, ensuring that others and other women who will walk through these doors not just today but in generations to come, continue to be protected and amplified.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in support of women.

I stand here today condemning the words of, unfortunately, a colleague of mine.

I want to reflect on history.

The first African-American woman was elected in 1968, the first Hispanic woman in 1989. Madam Speaker, we are here to stay. This year is the 100th year that women have had the right to vote.

For far too long, women and people of color have been subjected to being mistreated, humiliated, and trying desperately with words to minimize us.

Women of color have traditionally been excluded from the Halls of Congress, but I am here today saying, in a Congress where we have the largest number of diversity in women in the history of this Congress, our diversity is our strength and our unity is our power.

We will see, today, speakers coming to this mike. Yes, we are standing up

because of the words of one Member, but I am standing here today after generations of assault, generations of abuse, and I stand here proud, as a survivor.

Our constituents expect leadership, not schoolyard bullying, from their elected colleagues.

Almost 100 years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and now, at a time when this body is the most diverse it has ever been, this is the time we should be celebrating each other, thanking God that we have opportunities to serve with legends like John Lewis; but, instead, we are trying to roll back the clock with behavior that is unacceptable.

I am the little Black girl from the east side of Detroit who was raised by a woman who is the grandchild of an emancipated slave. I am not scared of you. I will call you out. I demand respect, and I will respect you.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Michigan (Representative LAWRENCE) for her comments.

As I had indicated earlier, having a daughter does not make a decent man, having a wife does not make a decent man, but treating people with dignity and respect makes a decent man. I am incredibly thankful to have the honor and privilege to serve with decent men in this body each and every day.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and I am thankful to serve with Representative AL GREEN, who is a sterling example of such a decent man.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for this opportunity, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

Madam Speaker, I am 72 years old. I have no children. But if I had a daughter, I would name her Alexandria, because my name is Alexander.

If I had a daughter, I would want her to be bold; I would want her to be courageous; I would want her to speak truth to power; I would want her to be just like ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ. The name means helper of humankind, and that is what she is about the business of doing.

Madam Speaker, I salute Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ for the positions that she has taken.

Madam Speaker, this is not the first time we have heard this “b” word used by people in positions of authority. A higher office in this country has corrupted the discourse. It came from a higher office, and we all took it for granted. We just assumed, well, that is just a person saying something.

“SOB”: You are talking about the mother. This is unacceptable. It is absolutely unacceptable.

I believe that we must change the tide of discourse in the country, and I believe that what Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ has said is something that all of us should take notice of.

She spoke from her heart, as she usually does, by the way—a brilliant head with a compassionate heart.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. I will stand with her not only today, but in the future. I don't have to agree with everything she says to respect her dignity, to respect her humanity.

And finally this. I grew up in a home where scatology was commonplace. I don't think "scatologist" is a word, but if such a word existed, there were many scatologists in my home. "Scatology" is a word.

I learned early on how that impacts the psyche of people. We cannot allow what happened to go unnoticed, which is why I am here today.

Madam Speaker, this scatology with the "b" word is something that demeans every woman when it is used. I will stand against it, and I will stand with the Honorable ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative GREEN for his comments. His words brought tears to my eyes.

I think that the relationship particularly between fathers and daughters is a very sacred one, and it is a very special one. But I also know, if my father were publicly using that language to another woman, particularly my age, but any woman, I would tell him that he needed to apologize and that his behavior was reprehensible and embarrassing.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I want to compliment her on a profound, articulate, and accurate statement of what is wrong with what is going on in this country and what is going on wrong in this body.

As one of the co-chairs of the Democratic Women's Caucus, I stand here as the author of the letter, along with my colleagues, calling on Mr. YOHO to apologize, demanding an apology from him to Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. He didn't give an apology yesterday, as Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ indicated.

We really are at a watershed moment in this body. We have mourned the loss of two great leaders of this body. John Lewis, we sat on this floor last night for hours on both sides of the aisle talking about his greatness. And what did he call us? He called us a family. A family does not talk to each other as Mr. YOHO had talked to Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

We mourn the loss of Congressman Elijah Cummings, who said, "We are better than this."

We are better than this. We are the most diverse Congress ever in the history of this country. Twenty-four percent of us are women; 8 percent of us are women of color.

Now, where does this all come from? It comes from the top. It comes from the White House, who calls women "crazy Nancy" or "such a nasty woman" or "a low-IQ person" of a colleague of ours who serves as the chair of a committee, a "crazed, crying lowlife."

Our colleague, Mr. YOHO, conducted himself like a hit-and-run driver, and he does not want to take responsibility for his conduct. I believe he must take responsibility for his conduct.

We are not, as women in this House, going anywhere. We are here to stay. We belong here, and we will demand respect for Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and every other woman in this House who has been demeaned by a colleague, whether a Democrat or a Republican. It is not right, and we can do better.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), who is also the co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and another wonderful champion for all people.

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Earlier this week, a Member of this body attacked another Member over their viewpoint, but it wasn't the ordinary debate over ideology. It turned personal and misogynistic all too quickly.

What was the egregious offense? She said what we all know to be true: that poverty is a leading path to crime; that if you can't pay your rent or feed your family, you will do whatever you have to do to survive, and you could turn to crime so you aren't homeless or so your family doesn't starve. That is called survival.

Thanks to our Nation's disastrous response to COVID-19, more people aren't working, and that will cause poverty—pretty simple, honest logic.

Well, one Member not only took offense to that truism, but they also took offense to the person who said it, in the most frightening manner. They started to attack a person not just for their values, but for who they are, with the most antiquated view and response I have seen in this body.

By swearing at someone and calling them an f-ing b, you don't denigrate the person you are attacking as much as you denigrate yourself and, honestly, this institution.

By not properly apologizing for that incident, you further dig yourself into a dinosaur-sized misogynistic hole.

For the Republican Party to not deal with that Member swiftly and strongly, they show a greater problem with their party.

It is likely not a coincidence that half of this body looks more like a "Mad Men" episode than a representative governing body for the greatest Nation on the planet.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud to serve with ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ and every other woman and woman of color in this body. This country is not just made up of older, White, wealthy men alone. We are a rich tapestry of genders, races, sexual orientations, economic backgrounds, and more.

We can't be afraid to look like the very country we represent, and smart women, smart women of color, shouldn't make anybody afraid. They should make everyone proud of our Na-

tion and proud that we finally—finally—are starting to look more like it.

If our actions in this body on issues like COVID if done improperly can lead to joblessness and poverty and could lead to more hunger and homelessness and, potentially, crime, if that truth, combined with the truth teller who looks like the Nation as a whole as opposed to this Congress, if that scares anyone, well, then they should learn how not to be scared or figure out their next career, because we have got more of this coming: truth telling and representative democracy. It couldn't be coming quickly enough.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative POCAN for his brilliance.

Madam Speaker, I think the gentleman brings up such an excellent point, something we had all seen, that what we are seeing here is a resounding rejection of abuse and accosting of women.

But why is this only happening from one party?

□ 1100

This should not be a partisan issue. Yet, when Mr. YOHO walked down those steps and accosted me, and used these words, he was next to a Republican colleague, and that Republican colleague did nothing. Not only did that colleague do nothing, he pretended he didn't even hear it, when he had, in fact, jumped in. So not only did a person do it, but a bystander did nothing.

And I have yet to hear from the leader of the Republican Party personally. I have yet to have gotten a call from Representative MCCARTHY addressing his Member's behavior. I have yet to see Republican colleagues standing up for their daughters and saying that this behavior was unacceptable.

So, in the resounding standing and loud calls for justice, equally loud is the silence and the pin drop from the Republican Party about this type of misconduct.

No matter because, with that, we have an incredible champion for women, for men, for gender nonconforming people, and for justice, and I am proud to call her my sister.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest form the vulgar language and blatant disrespect a colleague directed at Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ.

As the Congresswoman stated, we are not on the House floor today because of just one callous incident. Unfortunately, what brings us to this moment are the structural and cultural conditions, and, yes, the very men that have normalized the marginalization of women and, specifically, women of color, since this Nation's very inception.

Madam Speaker, patriarchy, is a tool of oppression that is very much at home in the halls of this powerful institution; not unlike the hostile working environments and harassment experienced by countless women across the Nation who dare to speak truth to power.

Today, we rise for every woman that has dealt with these dynamics as a conflated part of their walk in life; every woman that has repressed the painful rhetoric inflicted on our bodies and our lives.

So, suffice it to say that these tired tactics to debase and marginalize are familiar. And, yet, still, we rise.

Our foremothers, the trailblazing women elected to Congress before us, equipped us to take on a world that was built on contradictions and injustice. Because of them, we have learned how to walk with our heads held high; our legacy defined by the laws we write and the good we do on behalf of those we serve.

I first set foot in this institution at the age of 19. My mother poured into me a sense of reverence for this institution, of the awesome power that it held. I walked through hallways, and still do, flanked by the statues of men that enslaved my ancestors, in a building built by my enslaved ancestors.

Madam Speaker, while there may still be some specters in this hallway set on upholding oppression and misogyny, I know that when my 12-year old daughter walks through these hallways today, she sees my name embossed on a plaque outside the door and lit up on the voting board above this House floor. And she sees TLAIB, and OMAR, and CHU, and JAYAPAL, and ESCOBAR, and TRAHAN, and UNDERWOOD. Our very existence is proof that progress has been made.

And yet, although in some instances we are better than we used to be, we are still not who we can be. And so, with my eyes fixed clear on the challenges of the moment, but clearer still on the promise of the future, I speak to our daughters, for they are watching and carefully taking note of how we respond in this moment.

So, in this moment, I say to my Cora, and all our daughters, you are powerful. You are limitless. Your contributions to this world are brilliant, needed, and uniquely yours. Your ideas are substantive. Your lived experiences, your kind heart, and your critical eye belong at every single table where decisions are being made.

You deserve a life free from fear and filled with dignity and love. You are not defined by your productivity or your chosen work.

We affirm these truths to be self-evident that women are the backbone of every family, of our communities, and we are nation builders. We believe in you fully, without reservation. You have a right to show up in the world exactly as you are. And who you are is always enough. Cora, you belong everywhere.

And I will close with the words of Reverend William Barber who aptly points out that we find ourselves, as a Nation, in a moment of reckoning, a reckoning which calls for reconstruction. Old fights, but this is a new day.

Let's build the world that Cora and all girls and women deserve and let us begin with this very institution.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my friend and colleague, Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ, but most of all, I rise in support of basic human decency.

I condemn remarks that are disrespectful and offensive; and recent remarks reflected a hostility that should alarm my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

It is not expected that everyone in this Chamber agrees with each other. It is expected, however, that we treat each other with dignity and respect. There should never be a reason that anyone fails to meet this low bar.

Turning policy disputes into personal disputes is dangerous. As leaders, we risk inciting violence in others. As Congress Members, it indicates a focus more on fighting than governing.

We should never utter comments that are misogynistic and hateful to any Congress Member. This week, it was Congress Member OCASIO-CORTEZ, but if we don't speak out against this, tomorrow it could be any Congress Member who is a woman or person of color; and that is why this must end now.

If any such ugly curse words are uttered, decorum dictates that there should be an apology, a real apology, a sincere apology, not words that simply deflect and blame others.

On the great seal of the United States, it says, "e pluribus unum;" out of many, one. Disagreement and different perspectives were baked into this country, and it is our ability to work with others that we do not always agree with that has allowed America to be the beacon of hope. We should never betray these values of unity, despite disagreement.

Congress Member ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ deserves respect. Congress Member ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ deserves a real apology now.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, once again, I am so thankful to all of our colleagues who are coming and standing up today, again, not just for one incident, but for all of us in this country.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I stand here in support of her courage.

I rise to remind every man and woman on this floor that we were sent to Washington to destroy hostile work environments, not build them.

Few women here, or watching, have not felt a man's bullying breath or

menacing finger in our face as we were told exactly what our place was at work. I certainly saw and felt it as a 20-something lawmaker and had a highly public, similar experience here in the Halls of Congress as a 30-something Member, once again, from a then-Florida Member of Congress. That former Member was just elected as the Chair of the Republican Party of Texas, by the way; so bullies continue advancing unchecked.

Today, we take a stand for my colleague and friend, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and all women who endure this archaic behavior. Today, we take a stand and say enough is enough.

Sadly, most capitols, including this one, endure this archaic behavior, and we must stand shoulder to shoulder to say that today is the last day that we will tolerate it.

Sadly, most capitols, including this one, are still undeniably boys' clubs, but women have critical numbers now, my friends, and all of us, women and men, have had it with bullies.

The Halls of Congress are not middle school playgrounds. We have serious business to do. People across the country are sick, dying, unemployed, and facing eviction; yet, misogyny was this Member's highest priority messaging. Unbelievable. I guess really not unbelievable.

It is a new day, gentlemen, and I use that term loosely with some cases. So just to remind for those who still want to wield the workplace tool of intimidation, your time is up.

To my sisters on this floor, and listening at home, to my daughters, listening at home, we must not let those who may be intimidated by our strength scare us away.

I am proud of and proud to stand by my colleague and friend, Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ today.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, we can disagree on issues that we face as a Nation, and we can disagree on the policies and the prescriptions that we develop to fix them. In fact, this very body was built on the belief that productive tension and spirited debate would force legislators to do the hard work of creating laws that will benefit all Americans.

For centuries, the House of Representatives has rejected personal attacks like those hurled at Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ on the steps of the U.S. Capitol earlier this week. This institution has maintained rules that hold us, as Members of Congress, to a higher standard because that is what the hardworking people we represent expect from us, and that is what we owe to them.

Madam Speaker, when we learn of the kind of personal attack levied against Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ, we cannot sit idly by. We cannot

let it go unaddressed, as many of us women have long been expected to do. We must call it out. We must demand accountability, like we are here today. That is what we owe to all women, especially to our daughters.

We have to send the message loud and clear because, apparently, people still aren't getting it. The days of bullying women you disagree with, whether it is in a boardroom, in a newsroom, or a military base, or in these hallowed Halls of Congress, are over.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't believe me, watch as we continue winning in districts across America. Watch as women band together to say enough to being publicly humiliated simply because they disagree. And watch as we make up for lost time by course-correcting the behaviors that women like us have had to endure so that our daughters, and yours, will never have to.

I want to thank my fearless colleague for the grace, the courage, and the intellect that she brings to this Chamber every day.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our majority leader, who has stood up for every Member in this body, and for decency across parties.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this is an issue of who we are as a people. Many women have spoken on this floor, but this is an issue for fathers. This is an issue for sons. This is an issue for brothers.

I have three daughters, two granddaughters, and three great granddaughters. They must not be confronted with this kind of attack, and that is what it was.

Some have tried to demonize the gentlewoman from New York who does, in fact, bring the intellect, the passion, and the focus on issues surprisingly that the gentleman mentioned yesterday in his non-apology. All the men on this side of the aisle are supportive of ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ and all of her sisters and all of her mothers as well.

□ 1115

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the 116th Congress has the largest number of women serving in this body's history: 101 women serving in the House and 26 women in the Senate. This historic class of women represents the broad and diverse America that we live in.

We are all public servants. We all came here to serve our country and our communities. I frequently disagree with colleagues, but policy differences are no excuse for personal attacks, and we know that some of the harshest personal attacks are often reserved for women of color. Furthermore, telling a

woman, "I am sorry you heard it that way," is a cliché as old as time to belittle and dismiss women after attacking them.

We have got to do better. We are role models for our children. I am standing here not just for my two daughters but for my two sons. We have got to do better.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me just say, I rise today to support not only my colleague, Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, but I rise in strong support of this privileged resolution.

As an African-American woman, first let me just say that I personally have experienced a lifetime of insults, racism, and sexism. And believe you me, Madam Speaker, this did not stop after being elected to public office.

It is past time that this body understands that women of color are here to stay. Congresswoman AOC is here to stay. It is past time that this House recognizes that women will not tolerate these personal attacks and insist that we be treated with the respect due to anyone in this House representing over 700,000 people.

The impact of using this language against any woman dehumanizes women and girls and sends the message to other men that women are valued less than a human being.

Now, my mentor, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm from Brooklyn, New York, was the first Black woman elected to Congress. As a member of the late Congressman Ron Dellums' staff, I spent many years on Capitol Hill and witnessed the personal attacks and curse words against her as a Black female Member of Congress.

But do you know what, Madam Speaker? Just like the gentlewoman, she would not tolerate such behavior, and she had to fight, oftentimes alone, against such despicable language and behavior.

Well, we are here today with the Congresswoman. We are here supporting her right to speak out, to represent her constituents, and to be who she is: a brave and bold Member of Congress, which we know her to be.

Now, the gentleman from Florida, yes, he must apologize to the Congresswoman. He must apologize, though, to all the little girls who aspire to be who they are without being called disgusting names and without barriers to keep their voices silent.

Madam Speaker, I close with reading you just one verse of our beloved Dr. Maya Angelou's poem, "Still I Rise." I am reminded of the gentlewoman today.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

So, yes, the Congresswoman has risen once again.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative LEE

not just for her comments but for her leadership.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), who is another incredible, resilient, and passionate leader.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I am here not only to defend my friend and colleague, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ; I am here on behalf of women around the world. This is not just about one woman, one incident, or one verbal assaulter. This is about respect and fundamental equality.

Like ALEXANDRIA, I was raised by a dignified man who told me that I deserved equality because I was an equal human being to my brothers. I am appalled often, like ALEX was, when we hear men say: I would never do this because I have a wife, I have a daughter, I have sisters.

Madam Speaker, you don't only respect women because they could be your mother, they could be your wife, and they could be your sister. No. You respect women because they are equal human beings to you. That is how my father raised me, and that is how ALEXANDRIA's father raised her.

Nearly every woman in the world has experienced verbal abuse, not just once, but since they were little girls. We experience it on playgrounds; we experience it in workplaces; and we experience it in our social media feeds. We see it coming regularly from the President of the United States, and now we see it coming from his partisan lackeys. From birth, little girls are sent the message that they don't matter.

In this body, we have seen men who are afraid of Muslim women like me and RASHIDA TLAIB because we say proudly that you cannot ban us from this country because we pray differently than you. They are afraid of women everywhere fighting systems of repression and sexual harassment through the Me Too movement. They are afraid not just of us but of losing their own power.

It is no accident that ALEX was verbally abused for speaking up for poverty in her district and its relation to unrest because when you push power, power pushes back. When we speak for people from marginalized communities, we understand, as people who come from those marginalized communities, that is a threat to those who wield power against marginalized communities.

So, we are here to say that we will not allow sexism, misogyny, and patriarchy to hold us back. We will not apologize for advocating for women everywhere. We will not apologize for claiming the power that women deserved for centuries. And we will send a message to our daughters and their daughters that they deserve fundamental equality.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank so many Members who have shown up today in support. Although not everyone has been able to

speak, Representatives CASTRO, DELAUNO, and BARRAGÁN have also risen, along with many, many others, and I appreciate everyone's presence.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, as we all know, sexism isn't new to Congress, and it is not new to America. It happens in homes, in schools, and in all places of work.

The behavior, the language, and the assault wielded against my colleague was disgusting, inappropriate, and endemic of the toxic masculinity that permeates our culture and our country.

Slurs like the one used by Representative YOHO are meant to degrade, objectify, and belittle women. It was an attempt to dismiss her, her role in this body, and her position altogether.

All women have experienced this to some degree, but so often, it is women of color who are singled out. When we hear comments like this, men and boys think it is appropriate. Women and girls expect it.

Today, we stand with our colleague. We will not accept this behavior anymore. We will not be made to feel less than. This is our House, and we are claiming our space.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud Member of this body, as a woman of color, and as a sister in service to my colleague, Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, who was verbally assaulted by a Member of this same Chamber.

Gaslighting my colleague in our country won't work here. I rise to tell my sister in service: I believe you. I believe you not just because reporters happened to be standing there to hear the sexist attack, but because I believe women across our country when they tell us of the violence they experience at the workplace.

Violence against women in politics specifically is a global problem. I know. I would invite any of my colleagues across the aisle to answer the calls into my office for just 1 day to hear the vile sexist remarks made about me and other women serving in this Chamber.

When my colleague from Florida made the remark in question, he echoed and perpetuated those sexist and violent calls.

Madam Speaker, we must condemn in the strongest terms possible this kind of violent sexism so that women and girls across the country know that there is no room for it in any workplace, not in Congress, not anywhere.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

icated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

□ 1130

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7608, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1060 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1060

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7608) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-59 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. Clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; (2) the further amendments described in section 2 of this resolution; (3) the amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution; and (4) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, each further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of this resolution 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, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time after debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further 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 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 4. 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. 5. During consideration of the amendments described in sections 2 and 3 of this resolution, it shall not be in order to con-

sider an amendment proposing both a decrease in an appropriation designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and an increase in an appropriation not so designated, or vice versa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 1060, providing for consideration of H.R. 7608, the State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021, under a structured rule.

The rule makes in order 132 amendments. The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee may offer amendments en bloc, which will be debatable for 30 minutes.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bill in this rule. This appropriations package provides urgent and essential resources not only for the American people, but particularly for my fellow Floridians.

Among its provisions, the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill provides emergency funding for coronavirus preparedness, response, and relief.

There is much we do not know about this virus. The one thing we do know is that it respects no border. South Florida, which is now the epicenter of this pandemic, and as the capital of the Americas, knows all too well how diseases can spread. This emergency funding will save lives both at home and abroad.

The SFOPS bill provides robust funding to advance our global priorities and strengthens the international partnerships that are critical to supporting American influence and effectiveness across the globe. This includes specifically restoring funding for the World Health Organization, which this administration has threatened and is trying to cut off.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was commu-