



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

No. 164

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,
September 22, 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 10:50 a.m.

INEQUALITIES IN COVID-19 ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the inequalities that persist in COVID-19 assistance distribution.

Back in March, House Democrats recognized the global health crisis was causing an economic crisis. As Americans struggled, we provided them with stimulus checks to help them make ends meet during these uncertain times.

However, not everyone who was entitled to these checks received them. The Senate wrongfully included a provision in the CARES Act that prevented families with only one American citizen parent and another who is a tax-paying immigrant with an ITIN from receiving this financial assistance.

Let me repeat this. Citizens of the United States are being prevented from receiving stimulus checks because of whom they love.

This blatant discrimination must be corrected. We need to help people like Lacey, an amazing, hardworking citizen who works for the State government and isn't able to receive a stimulus check. Lacey and her spouse have been together for 14 years and were married in 2010. They have raised six beautiful children, all of whom are U.S. citizens.

For the past 7 years, Lacey has worked at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, Illinois. She works long hours to make sure her veteran residents are safe, healthy, and happy, and in March, this job made her an essential, frontline worker.

Lacey loves her job and loves her residents like they are her own family. Since the onset of COVID, she has continued her hard work and dedication to her job. Lacey has picked up overtime shifts to cover for coworkers who are sick and has worked hard to ensure the standards of care at the facility remain high. She is a United States citizen who works every day to care for our Nation's veterans.

Despite her service to our country and the fact that she and her children are American citizens, her family did not receive a check, all because her spouse is an immigrant using an ITIN and they file their taxes jointly.

She has done everything in her power to speak out and advocate for herself and has connected with others like her in the Facebook group Mixed-Status Families United.

She told me: "I am being punished for who I married. My husband and I work and we pay our taxes. Why are we being treated like second-class citizens?"

Her words resonate, because she is right. She is being treated like a second-class citizen.

I ask you, during a period of unprecedented challenges, when Americans are facing more than one crisis, when we are depending on essential workers more than ever, is it right for our country to treat people differently based on the immigration status of their loved ones?

As a country, I believe we can and should do better. There is no scenario in which citizens should be denied the help they are entitled to. Likewise, tax-paying immigrants who are paying their fair share should not be denied assistance, left out on their own.

I am pleased that the HEROES Act, which the House passed more than 100 days ago, rectifies this issue and makes all tax-paying individuals eligible for a check.

While I believe all taxpayers should receive a stimulus check regardless of their citizenship status, at the very least, we need to ensure that all U.S. citizens receive a check regardless of who their spouses are, and underscore the necessity of including a fix that corrects this provision retroactively and for any additional stimulus checks provided moving forward.

We must stand with mixed-status families and continue to fight for them and their rights. Now, more than ever, we need to provide for people who are suffering due to this pandemic.

I urge my colleagues to join me in taking swift action to resolve this issue.

FINDINGS OF THE CHINA TASK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H4643

Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, after too long, Americans are waking up to the dangers of the Chinese Communist Party. As we combat the economic and the health ramifications of the coronavirus, it has never been more important that we take on this hostile regime.

It has been my honor to serve on the China Task Force and help expose the threats that the Chinese Communist Party poses to our national security and to the American people.

Just yesterday, Congressman MICHAEL MCCAUL released the House Foreign Affairs Committee's report into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. Their evidence clearly confirms that the Chinese Communists covered up the coronavirus, enabling a local outbreak to become a pandemic.

The Chinese Communist Party knew that the coronavirus could be spread by human-to-human transmission, and yet this regime hid findings from global leaders, public health experts, and even the World Health Organization.

Leaders in the Chinese Communist Party knew that this virus could be catastrophic, and yet they deliberately chose to cover up their missteps rather than sound an alarm and warn the world that this virus was being unleashed.

Their lies cost American livelihoods. Their lies cost American lives. This pandemic's destruction could have been prevented. This didn't have to happen.

Now Americans are facing a choice. If we do not act now, who will stop the Chinese Communist Party from simply repeating this coverup?

Inaction is not an option. America must prevent another pandemic from reaching our shores.

And our work cannot stop there. Sadly, the Chinese Government's malicious acts extend far beyond the coronavirus pandemic. From cyberattacks on American citizens and blatant overreach into our virtual networks, to espionage in our academic institutions and illicit fentanyl that kills on American streets, we cannot ignore the Chinese Government's pervasive threats to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is no distraction; this is reality. For the safety of the American people, for the future of our Nation, the Chinese Communist Party must be held accountable.

For months, the China Task Force has focused on researching these issues and exploring legislative solutions. We are currently working on a final report that will detail our findings and recommend a pragmatic path forward. While our work on this report is coming to a close, our commitment to the cause will continue.

During these busy days, I recognize that many issues are competing for America's time; but to be fair, these threats require our action. The Chinese Government's coverup of the

coronavirus pandemic requires action. The Chinese Government's persecution of Uighurs requires action. The Chinese Government's monopoly of the medical supply chain requires action. The Chinese Government's attempts to control the world's network requires action.

Despite the challenges that we are facing at home, the American people must stand together against the Chinese Communist Party. Our national security should never be a partisan issue. The health of the American people should never be a partisan issue. By working together, we can strengthen our defenses, defend human rights, spur innovation, and equip Americans to lead the way in global innovation.

Moving forward, it is imperative that America continues to strengthen our supply chain, to pursue fair trade deals with China, and, ultimately, to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for its actions.

Once again, it has been my privilege to serve the American people as a member of the China Task Force. I thank Leader MCCARTHY for the opportunity to serve, and I am grateful to Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL for his leadership.

This is a long road, but it is worth the fight. And as I always believe, America will win that fight.

ALOPECIA AREATA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with my fellow Americans with alopecia in recognition of September as Alopecia Areata Awareness Month.

Today, like nearly 7 million Americans, I live with alopecia, an autoimmune disease that attacks the hair follicles. This common condition is highly unpredictable and cyclical. Hair can grow back in or fall out again at any time, and the course is different for each person.

Alopecia areata disproportionately affects children and Black Americans, and particularly Black women.

Some people may say that it is just hair, but for me and for many people living with alopecia, hair is intrinsically linked to our identity and our cultural expression.

We all have our own unique stories with our alopecia diagnosis. Mine began nearly a year ago as my braider noticed a small patch of baldness. Very soon after, I was waking up to sinks full of hair. What started as a few small patches quickly spread.

I remember the moment vividly. I was alone in my D.C. apartment, separated from my family, on the same day that would have been my mother's 72nd birthday and on the eve of an impeachment vote. I was standing in the bathroom, staring at my reflection in the mirror, and for the first time I was completely bald.

For months, I had dreaded the moment when it would be all gone; but looking at myself in the mirror that night, I felt relief, peace, and acceptance. It was a moment of grace, and I thank God for that.

In a matter of weeks, I would lose my eyelashes, eyebrows, and the rest of my hair and be diagnosed with alopecia universalis, one of three forms of alopecia.

I am still coming to terms with my new alopecia reality and the impact of my traumatic hair loss. Every day, thanks to the support of my family, my staff, the broader alopecia community, and others who have experienced hair loss, I am making progress.

I am making progress despite the hateful comments, the cruel and constant online harassment about my baldness, the intrusive and ignorant questions on the elevators, the unsolicited advice, and the stares, lots of stares.

No doubt about it, a bald woman entering a room or entering the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives makes people uncomfortable. Visually, it challenges every antiquated cultural norm about what is professional, what is pretty, what is feminine.

But in the loss, the hurt, and the ache of it all, I have never lost sight of the following: I am Sandy and Martin's daughter; I am Conan's wife; I am Cora's stepmom; and I am the Congresswoman for the Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I am now bald, but I am in good health and in incredible company. I have received an outpouring of love from people across the globe who are living with alopecia.

Early on, I received a note from an elementary school-aged girl with alopecia. She wanted to give me some tips in navigating this new normal. She told me about the first time she walked into school after her diagnosis, "Just walk right up to your friends and tell them, 'I'm still me,'" she wrote.

Who couldn't use a reminder like that as they navigate the world? Those little acts of kindness and solidarity have defined this experience, too.

I am proud to be in the good company of those fighting for people living with alopecia. There is an entire community that has been working tirelessly to share their stories and to educate the public on the impact of alopecia areata.

For three decades, the National Alopecia Areata Foundation has been working to garner congressional support for research and treatment development. My longtime friend and partner in good, Congressman MCGOVERN, introduced legislation to allow medical wigs to be covered under the Medicare program so that every senior living with alopecia can afford wigs and other head coverings.

This year, the House passed my amendment to provide an additional \$5 million in next year's funding for the National Institutes of Health, which