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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLEAVER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 29, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Lord, Father of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the stresses of the pandemic and its economic and educational effects stubbornly continue, we ask You once again to send Your spirit of peace and healing upon our Nation. Bless those who labor to bring healing and teaching during these difficult times.

Comfort all who are ill with coronavirus, and those who mourn the loss of loved ones because of it.

As the Members return to the Capitol, keep them safe. Fill them with Your spirit of wisdom, and strengthen their resolve to remain faithful to their oath to promote the common welfare of our Nation.

During these trying times, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELLIOTT DUCHON ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a constituent, who is a dear friend of mine, Elliott Duchon, on a well-earned retirement from the Jurupa Unified School District.

Mr. Duchon has served as the superintendent of JUSD for 16 years and a public school teacher for 43 years. He has dedicated his career to ensuring that our students receive a well-rounded, quality education.

During Mr. Duchon's tenure, he oversaw the expansion of dual-immersion programs to develop bilingualism and biliteracy in English and Spanish, the creation of makerspaces and innovation centers to introduce students to career technical education and STEM education, and the growth of the Jurupa Adult School to open up learning opportunities to all.

Mr. Duchon once said his greatest dream is for each and every student to

have an equal opportunity to pursue higher education. It is safe to say that JUSD schools are better positioned to deliver on that dream because of the inspiring leadership of Mr. Duchon.

He is also an active community member and volunteer, and a dedicated husband and father of three.

I feel fortunate to have known him, and I am grateful for his commitment to our community. I am wishing him a very happy retirement.

IMPORTANCE OF 2020 CENSUS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge all American citizens to complete the 2020 Census. The Census is an incredibly important tool that impacts our daily lives more than many people realize.

Many important decisions impacting Federal support for education, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, and more will depend upon data the Census provides. The more people who participate, the more accurate the Census will reflect the needs of our communities.

Census takers have been working hard, going door-to-door to ensure everyone is counted. If you haven't been visited by a Census taker, it is easy to complete online. Go to my2020census.gov to make sure you and your family are counted. Completing the Census is easy, quick, secure, and very important. You can also respond by phone by calling 844-330-2020.

The last day to complete the 2020 Census is tomorrow, Wednesday, September 30. I can't stress the importance of the Census enough, and I encourage every American household to ensure they are counted.

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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HONORING ZETA PHI BETA ON 100 YEARS

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zeta Phi Beta sorority on a century of nurturing leaders and improving communities.

Founded on Howard University's campus 100 years ago, Zeta has chartered hundreds of chapters worldwide and has a membership of 150,000. Its list of esteemed alumni is a who's who of Black excellence, including trailblazers in business, law, advocacy, public service, and more.

I am incredibly proud that my grandmother, Julia Carson, is a part of this amazing legacy of women.

As the sorority moves on to its next 100 years, I have no doubt that it will maintain and strengthen its zeal for excellence.

Once again, congratulations to Zeta Phi Beta on your first century of success.

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 the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

ENERGY EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 362) to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 362

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Energy Emergency Leadership Act".

SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 203 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7133(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) Energy emergency and energy security functions, including—

“(A) responsibilities with respect to infrastructure, cybersecurity, emerging threats, supply, and emergency planning, coordination, response, and restoration; and

“(B) upon request of a State, local, or tribal government or energy sector entity, and in consultation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, provision of technical assistance, support, and response capabilities with respect to energy security threats, risks, and incidents.”.

(b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall ensure that the functions of the Secretary described in section 203(a)(12) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (as added by this Act) are performed in coordination with relevant Federal agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 362.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation and the two bills that will follow it are bipartisan bills that will help protect our energy grid from cyberattacks.

In hearings before our Energy Subcommittee last year, we heard from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, from the members of FERC, that our energy grid is being attacked each and every single day by state actors or their entities.

Former Energy Secretary Perry started to address this important issue by creating the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, or CESER. He further enhanced its stature by making its leader an Assistant Secretary.

We agree with those decisions, and this legislation would help elevate the importance of this issue while putting Congress' bipartisan stamp of approval on these executive actions.

H.R. 362 would simply amend section 203(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act by establishing a new assistant secretary position responsible for cybersecurity and emergency response issues.

The Department of Energy is the lead agency for ensuring the cybersecurity of the electric grid, and the newly created assistant secretary would have jurisdiction over all energy emergency and security functions related to energy supply, infrastructure, and cybersecurity.

This bill would also authorize the new assistant secretary to provide DOE technical assistance, as well as support and response capabilities with respect to energy security risks to State, local, or Tribal governments upon request.

The bill would also require the assistant secretary and the Department of Energy to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Federal agencies in carrying out the bill's provisions.

This bill would go a long way, in my opinion, in helping to protect the Nation's electric infrastructure from hackers who would attempt to disrupt

our energy grid and cause untold harm to our economy, our daily lives, and our overall national security.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Representatives WALBERG and Energy Subcommittee Ranking Member UPTON for their leadership and for working with Chairman RUSH and me on the Energy Emergency Leadership Act. I also want to thank Ranking Member UPTON and full Committee Ranking Member WALDEN for their ongoing partnership with us over the years on cybersecurity matters. That partnership was essential in getting these three critical bills to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 362, Energy Emergency Leadership Act.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, sponsored by Representatives RUSH and WALBERG, strengthens the Department of Energy's important energy emergency mission. It does so by requiring the well-established energy emergency and cybersecurity functions at DOE to be organized under the leadership of an assistant secretary confirmed by the United States Senate.

Just over 2½ years ago, then-Secretary of the Department of Energy Rick Perry recognized the importance of elevating this mission within the Department, and he established an Assistant Secretary-led office, the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response. This office has proven its worth in various situations over the past 2 years, Mr. Speaker, including assistance relating to hurricanes and wildfires.

This bill would amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to establish in law and, therefore, maintain that a Senate-confirmed assistant secretary would lead the Department of Energy's emergency response and cybersecurity functions.

This legislation will ensure the Department has the focused and accountable leadership to more fully protect the public from fuel and electricity supply disruptions against all the hazards, natural or man-made, including emerging threats from our foreign adversaries to the Nation's electric grid.

The bill has been drafted to ensure the Department carries out its responsibilities in coordination with other agencies by improving coordination across the Department, ensuring more effective interagency collaborations, and increasing accountability to the Congress.

A vote for H.R. 362 is a vote for ensuring high-level leadership over energy emergencies at the Department of Energy for the benefit of public safety and welfare, and for stronger cybersecurity protections in the electricity systems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.