

and sent a letter to Congress asking us to fully fund the second submarine it wanted to cut just last February. Thankfully, the House had already acted responsibly to do just that earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, who foot-stomped the second submarine as the Navy's top unfunded priority this year and also wrote a powerful support letter to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD that support letter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. JOE COURTNEY,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to follow up on our phone call of November 12, 2020. As I detailed in the Navy's February 19, 2020 Unfunded Priorities List, the second Virginia Class Submarine in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 remains my top unfunded priority. The FY 2021 shipbuilding budget reflected a balance between requirements, capability, affordability, and the need to sustain the industrial base while maintaining a reasonable degree of risk.

Increased funding to enable the Navy to procure a second Virginia Class Submarine in FY 2021, the 10th under the current contract of the Block V submarine build is critical for a number of important reasons: it supports stability within the industrial base and the workload ramp up for COLUMBIA Class construction and helps mitigate the SSN trough in the late 2020s. Additionally, recent DoD studies highlighted the need to increase the number of submarines to counter the threat.

The Navy supports the President's FY 2021 budget request and will consider the potential for restoring the submarine in future budget submissions, ensuring the proper balance of resources between investing in tomorrow's fleet and sustaining today's fleet. However, if Congress has the opportunity to add one ship to the FY 2021 budget, my recommendation would be an attack submarine. Thank you for your continued support for the United States Navy and its submarine force. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

M.M. GILDAY,
Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Navy League and the AFL-CIO metal trades unions, whose members do such amazing work at our Nation's shipyards, also provided critical advocacy throughout this fight.

Seapower's professional staff Phil MacNaughton, Dave Sienicki, Kelly Goggin, and Navy fellow Lieutenant Commander Cam Massey rose to the challenge and did the hard work to make this plus-up fit within the overall bill.

In my 14 years on Seapower, this act of bipartisan congressional independence and leadership to pass a shipbuilding plan that faithfully addresses our Navy's needs stands out as its finest hour.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the NDAA today.

EN MASSE VOTING BY MAIL IS ILLEGAL

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is my fifth speech in a series on voter fraud, election theft, and the Presidential election.

For emphasis, Congress is the judge, jury, and final arbiter of the 2020 Presidential election contest. Further, America's election system is plagued by systemic flaws that promote voter fraud and election theft.

Joe Biden exploited one such flaw when he brazenly promised more than 10 million illegal aliens that he will give them amnesty and citizenship if they help elect Joe Biden President.

The Constitution's Election Clause, Article I, Section 4, is very clear. Congress has absolute authority over the "times, places, and manner of holding elections" for Federal offices.

Pursuant to the Election Clause, and title 2, United States Code, section 7, Congress set November 3 as the 2020 "day for the election."

For emphasis, Congress set a "day for the election" on which citizens vote. Congress did not set an election week, an election month, or an election season during which citizens can cast votes. Also, pursuant to the Election Clause, Congress created limited exceptions to its "vote within a 24-hour window" mandate, to wit:

Alternative voting means for persons with disabilities;

Overseas persons may vote by absentee ballot;

Persons to be absent from their voting location or State on election day may vote by absentee ballot.

Any voting schemes that allow voting outside of congressionally mandated times and means are illegal under the Constitution and Federal statute.

Congress' reasons for limiting voting to one 24-hour period are described by the 2005 bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform, co-chaired by Democrat President Jimmy Carter and former Republican White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of State James Baker. They strongly cautioned against overly broad absentee ballot and vote-by-mail schemes because they "increase the risk of fraud."

The bipartisan commission found that absentee voting has been one of the major sources of fraud in American elections and that vote by mail "is vulnerable to abuse in several ways: Blank ballots mailed to the wrong address or to large residential buildings might get intercepted. Citizens who vote at home, at nursing homes, at the workplace, or in church are more susceptible to pressure, overt and subtle, or to intimidation. Vote-buying schemes are far more difficult to detect when citizens vote by mail."

Mr. Speaker, Congress passed laws to prevent voter fraud and election theft by establishing, with minor exceptions,

a 24-hour window in which to vote. In contrast, socialist Democrats use bureaucratic allies or engaged in rigged lawsuits involving conspiratorial parties and inattentive judges to obtain sham settlement agreements that blatantly violate the Constitution and Federal law to promote voter fraud and election theft with the singular goal of stealing the United States Presidency.

In particular, all en masse vote-by-mail schemes promote voter fraud and election theft and are illegal because they violate Congress' election procedures and 24-hour voting mandate.

As such, all votes cast pursuant to these vote-by-mail schemes are illegal, void, and should not be counted.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence is overwhelming, compelling, and irrefutable. If only lawful votes cast by eligible American citizens are counted, President Trump won the electoral college and a second term as President. Congress can either support illegal voting, voter fraud, and election theft or not.

Because I believe in the rule of law and our Republic, it is my duty as a Member of Congress to, on January 6, object to and vote to reject the electoral college submissions of all States whose election systems are so badly flawed as to render their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I intend to do.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BRIAN JOHNSON, FOUNDER OF WARRIORNOW

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Brian Johnson of Aurora, Colorado, founder of the nonprofit organization, WarriorNOW. Brian is an Army veteran who served in Iraq and personally grappled with suicide after leaving the service.

He founded the nonprofit organization, WarriorNOW, to help veterans get through the same struggles that he faced after coming home. His approach to combating veteran suicide is to connect at-risk veterans with peer mentors. Brian has developed a mentor certification program to ensure that every veteran receives quality mentorship and to ensure that the mentors are supported as well.

In the wake of COVID-19, Brian saw how the pandemic led to worsening PTSD anxiety, depression, and substance abuse throughout the entire veteran community. As a result, he created Daniel's Room, a virtual nightly check-in that began with Daniel, a veteran who Brian was working with who was struggling with substance abuse.

Thus far, WarriorNOW has served over 800 veterans in Daniel's Room.

I would like to thank Brian Johnson and his organization, WarriorNOW, for

their tireless support of Colorado's veterans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIKAELA LAKIN

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mikaela Lakin, an Aurora Police Department officer who lost her life in an off-duty motorcycle accident on September 18, 2020.

Mikaela was a dedicated officer with the Aurora Police Department when she died at the age of 24. A proud Coloradan, Mikaela loved all the outdoor activities our State has to offer, including camping, hiking, and snowboarding.

She will be deeply missed by her mother, Stephanie Renken; her brother, Alexander Lakin; her father, Michael Lakin; her grandparents, Connie and Steve Ostroha; and her beloved dog, Quentin.

She impacted the lives of so many with her outgoing and welcoming spirit and positive outlook. Officer Lakin should be remembered for her commitment to those in need and for the unwavering support she provided to her friends, family, and community.

May she rest in peace.

HONORING NATURAL HELPERS

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of the Aurora Natural Helpers program and its steadfast commitment to the community.

Aurora is an increasingly international and diverse city in Colorado's Sixth District. With the creation of the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs and the launching of the second phase of their Immigrant Integration Plan, Aurora is quickly becoming a national leader in the field of immigrant integration.

Launched by the city of Aurora in collaboration with local nonprofits in 2016, the Aurora Natural Helpers program trains leaders from immigrant refugee communities so they can help integrate their community members.

Trained Natural Helpers are equipped to provide information and resources to newly arriving immigrants and refugees on topics including city services and private assistance.

With the support of local partner organizations, more than 150 people from 25 countries have been trained, and crucial immigrant and refugee leadership has been fostered and empowered.

I would like to thank all of those involved in the Aurora Natural Helpers program for their dedication to our community. Their hard work connecting communities in Aurora to crucial resources not only ensures that immigrants and refugees in the Sixth District have the opportunity to thrive but that their leadership also comes from within.

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RECOGNIZING TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the Tri-County Health Department as a recipient of the National Association of County and City Health Officials 2020 Model Prac-

tice Award. The Tri-County Health Department serves the three counties in my district: Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas.

As we work to address the COVID-19 crisis, this recognition is a reminder of the many ongoing public health initiatives led by our city and county health departments, achievements they make despite challenging and adverse conditions. This award recognizes programs demonstrating excellence in response to a critical local public health need.

As part of this year's public health award series, Tri-County Health Department received one Model Practice Award and two Promising Practice Awards. The Model Practice Award was awarded to Tri-County's project on partnering with local businesses on workplace health and well-being.

I would like to thank the professionals of Tri-County Health Department for their many contributions to public health. Both before and during the pandemic, their programs and services have been instrumental in protecting the public health and well-being of our community.

PENNSYLVANIA'S DRUG CRISIS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a public health crisis that is taking a tangible toll on every facet of our society.

In Pennsylvania, drug abuse and addiction are not abstract concerns. The drug crisis is a reality that plays out across our community every single day. Sadly, Pennsylvanians are not alone. Each day, more than 130 Americans die from an overdose.

As a nation, we cannot allow illicit drugs to continue tearing apart families, destroying our workforce, and claiming lives. From law enforcement officials to healthcare providers to educators to community leaders and lawmakers, all of us have an individual part to play. We must combat this crisis, keep drugs off our streets, protect families, safeguard our economy, and, most importantly, save lives.

Ending this scourge requires a team effort. In Congress, it has been my privilege to work with leaders at the Federal, State, and local levels to identify and implement commonsense solutions for the drug crisis.

Mr. Speaker, today I thank my fellow members of the freshman Bipartisan Working Group on Addiction for their collaboration and partnership during the 116th Congress. Together we worked toward our shared fight against drug abuse and addiction. I am proud of the legislative achievements that we forged, and I am looking forward to continuing this work in the upcoming 117th Congress.

In the White House, President Donald Trump and his administration are incredible leaders in this fight. From day

one, President Trump prioritized realistic and achievable solutions to tackle this problem, equip those on the front lines, and support Americans in recovery.

I am grateful to President Trump's drug czar, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director James Carroll, for his steadfast commitment to this issue. This fall, it was an honor to host Director Carroll in my district to meet directly with remarkable leaders on the front lines of the drug crisis. He is a true partner for Pennsylvanians, and I am thankful for Director Carroll's service in this key role.

As a nation, Americans have made significant strides in defeating the drug crisis, and now, today, our work must continue.

On the China Task Force we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is not the only public health crisis that was created by the Chinese Communist Party. All too often illicit drugs originating in China end up on the streets in Pennsylvania, spurring addiction, harming families, and killing too many of my patients, my friends, and my neighbors. These drugs are trafficked through porous borders, and even through the U.S. Postal Service.

As a direct solution to this problem, I have cosponsored legislation to hold the Chinese Communist regime—and any other foreign government—accountable if the government fails to stop deadly drugs from leaving their borders, and I will continue to push forward with commonsense legislation.

Tragically, the drug crisis has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and aggressive mitigation tactics in Pennsylvania and around the country. As we Americans battle this pandemic, we must not ignore rising rates of addiction and overdoses. I continue to call on Federal and State leaders to ensure that individuals and families facing addiction and those in recovery have the resources and support that they need, whether virtual or in person.

We cannot afford inaction. The ramifications of the drug crisis transcend all divides. Together—not as Republicans or Democrats, but together as Americans—we are in a shared fight to save lives, and together we must win.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand here humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to serve the people of California's 39th District in the 116th Congress.

When I was 18, I wanted to serve my country, so I joined the United States Navy, and that is what I have done for most of my adult life: I have served to help both my country and others.

As a Representative of the 39th District, I am proud of the high level of