

As we transition to a new administration, I implore all to consider the sources of information you receive, to fact-check diligently and to recognize that many bad actors who spread spurious and fantastical conspiracy theories under banners like QAnon, Kraken, Stop the Steal, Scamdemic, and many other emotive terms and coded language are not disseminating information rooted in knowledge, but with questionable motives. They are rooted in misunderstanding or fraud or, in some cases, ignorance.

□ 1400

To all those on the end of the disinformation firehose, please know that I am you and you are me.

Unbiased, fact-based information sustains our republic. My objective in serving my district was never to judge others, because all of us are only human. None of us has a special dispensation to rule over another.

We are common in our belief that the Constitution stops the tyrannical encroachment of a man, woman, or group claiming to have some extraordinary knowledge that allows them insights that we as individuals cannot attain.

Disinformation hinders our free exchange of ideas and creates super-spreader digital viruses that create a fever of nonsense.

Disinformation operations can attack specific pillars of democracy at strategic moments: from belief in democratic elections, to trust in public health and public institutions. In technical terms, sophisticated influence operations using combinations of bot-like-networks and synchronous mass posting behavior, termed “coordinated inauthentic behavior,” is a tactic, a tactic which disinformation peddlers such as QAnon community members use with great success to hijack the national conversation.

My 2 decades of intelligence, warfighting, and counterintelligence experience coupled with serving in the 116th Congress is why I will not allow conspiracy peddlers to hijack our ability to conduct reasonable policy discussions for the betterment of all Americans.

Just like creating a vaccine to eradicate COVID-19, we must work together to inoculate against the social contagion of disinformation, conspiracies, anti-Semitism, dehumanization, racism, deep state cabal nonsense, cults, and those grifters posing as servants of the people.

Big data, machine learning, and facts-based analysis are the ingredients for our digital vaccine. If we build that vaccine, we can encourage facts over fantasy, people over politics, love over hate, and unity over division.

I am now serving on the board of a nonpartisan organization that will utilize advanced analysis, data methodologies, and network modeling to track disinformation over social media.

If you are in the grifting and propaganda business, know that I am not going anywhere.

As I go back to my incredible life on 50 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains, I can reflect on how I conducted myself in Congress.

My dear friend, Congressman KEVIN BRADY from Texas, told me he appreciated that I “called balls and strikes” even when it was not advantageous to me. To be clear, KEVIN BRADY is an example of that service and what calling balls and strikes looks like. So let me call three pitches right now.

First, I will always fight disinformation wherever I see it, hear it, or watch it. For those who spread disinformation, know that I will not stop in tracking those who push falsehoods onto decent Americans. Radicalization through disinformation has no place in the United States, and in this fight, I will not relent.

Second, working together for the betterment of the American people in a bipartisan way is not a bug, it is a feature.

Third, people are more important than party. Pandering is a political sickness.

As I reflect on the accomplishments we have made for the Fifth District, I am moved to recognize some of the many people who have made these accomplishments possible.

Esther Page and Denise Van Valkenburg are dedicated public servants who served the Fifth District from before my time in office. Regardless of the party affiliation of the Representative, they served the people of the Fifth District of Virginia exceptionally, and they should be lauded for their efforts.

To Jim Pomeroy, Steve Harvey, and Josiah Leonard, your service has not gone unnoticed.

It was never my plan to be a politician, so I should thank my staff for helping me to learn this process and do my best to serve the Fifth District.

Dave Natonski, who served as my chief of staff through good times and bad, was an invaluable asset and friend.

My current chief of staff, Haley Brady, is as competent as she is great.

A big thank you to my legislative team, without whom the legislative accomplishments could not have happened: Borden Hoskins, a financial services savant with as devastating a wit as a pen; Eli Woerpel, my right hand on everything broadband and agricultural; Jason Eagleburger, my friend and confidante, who spearheaded the China Task Force and helped with complex policy issues; Nicole Nentwich, who was my go-to for healthcare policy; and Lexi Klein, who my Fifth District constituents love and appreciate.

To my communications team, thank you for your sound advice and constant guidance.

Joe Chelak has been with me since I started my run for Congress, and his strategic leadership has been invaluable to my success.

Kate Currie has made the most of her time in my office and exhibited incredible talent.

And to Ben Mullany, without whom I would not have gotten this far, thank you.

Jimmy Keady, thank you for talking me into this craziness, and your leadership and guiding me through this beautiful and treacherous passage.

Chris Woodfin, thank you. Your counsel has been invaluable.

To the Cloakroom, thank you for putting up with me these last 2 years.

And to my congressional colleagues, where there are far too many to name and thank, know that I am not far away. I am always available for a snort of bourbon, a tippie of irreverence, and a nod to Bigfoot.

In January of next year, the Fifth District of Virginia will be represented by a new Member, who I hope will heed these lessons: that service to your district should be your priority; courage in the face of disagreement should be lauded, not ignored; and to always remember the strength of holding to your principles will last far longer than any allegiance to a position or a party.

There is an incredible dart game scene in the show “Ted Lasso” where Ted is vastly underestimated in a darts competition and ends up besting an arrogant opponent, a former owner of the soccer team that Ted coaches. Please watch that scene. In that scene, Ted quotes Walt Whitman: “Be curious, not judgmental.”

Let’s not throw hyperbolic darts at each other. Let’s rely on facts and compassion. Let’s listen together and move this country forward together.

May God bless the Commonwealth of Virginia, may God bless this Congress, and may God bless the United States of America.

And for the last time, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Thereupon (at 2 o’clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 14, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5001. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to clarify that the definition of a debt collector includes, in all cases, a person in a business the principal purpose of which is the enforcement of security interests; with an amendment (Rept. 116-638). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. Supplemental report on H.R. 5828. A bill to support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-471, Pt. 2).

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 8931. A bill to impose additional sanctions with respect to Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8932. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be determined on the basis of biological sex as determined at birth by a physician; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 8933. A bill to modernize the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Incentive program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 8934. A bill to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have the opportunity to receive care in a home and community-based setting; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 8935. A bill to improve dam and hydropower safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 8936. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide enhanced Federal matching payments for homecare worker training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 8937. A bill to amend requirements for awarding the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Arts, and the National Technology and Innovation Medal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8938. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish a standardized procedure for all States to submit weekly reports on hospital policies and metrics related to the response to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8939. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODEN:

H.R. 8940. A bill to prohibit offices of Congress from appointing interns who are citizens of certain countries which exert malign foreign influences in the United States; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 8941. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 8942. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to schools and school-based health centers to increase the number of behavioral health care providers in such schools and health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 8943. A bill to direct the President to use authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to ensure an adequate supply equipment necessary for limiting the spread of COVID-19, to elevate the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency as the head of the COVID-19 Joint Acquisition Task Force, to require the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency to establish a system for States and localities to access covered items during a covered emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 8944. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act to include leave for employees who are unable to work due to minor children in optional virtual or hybrid learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 8945. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide flexibility with the cost share for fire management assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 8946. A bill to provide emergency relief assistance under a modified Community Development Block Grant program for communities facing economic damage from civil and social crises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM):

H.R. 8947. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the "Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 8948. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to enter into cooperative agreements with States to carry out grant programs to assist in remediation and relocation efforts relating to hazardous air pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 8949. A bill to authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and

Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. DEAN):

H.R. 8950. A bill to expand the permissible uses of amounts provided under the Coronavirus Relief Fund; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 8951. A bill to empower federally recognized Indian Tribes with the option to designate restricted fee Tribal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. BIGGS):

H. Res. 1256. A resolution supporting President Trump's efforts to ensure that every legal vote is counted in the November 2020 Presidential election and to investigate and bring to justice those who perpetrate election fraud; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H. Res. 1257. A resolution recognizing International Human Rights Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GARCIA of Illinois (for himself,

Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. NADLER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SIREN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Res. 1258. A resolution declaring that public transit is a national priority which requires funding equal to the level of highway funding; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr.

POCAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. HIMES, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CASE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SIREN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. BERA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. COSTA):

H. Res. 1259. A resolution recognizing the 72d anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of "Human Rights Day"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr.

BEYER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SIREN, Ms. PINGREE,