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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021, at 9 a.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the Earth. Your glory fills the Earth and is exalted above the heavens.

All we need do is look around us: at the intricate details and the artistry of nature, at the handiwork that has woven the tapestry of the stars arranged above us at night, at the perfect order of the rising and setting of the Sun and the orbit of the Moon.

To ponder the complexity of Your creation is overwhelming. Who are we, O God, that You should even take notice of us?

Why, when there is so much to tend to on this Earth, would You seek so passionately to care for us?

And yet, You have given us dominion over all of this. You have entrusted us with the stewardship of all these wonderful resources.

O Lord, our Lord, how abundant is Your grace. How boundless is Your love. How excellent is Your name in all the Earth.

May we take the opportunity to enjoy all your blessings, and may we be worthy of the responsibility You have laid on us.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NEED FOR AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE

(Ms. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the crisis caused by the lack of childcare in my district and across the country. Access to affordable childcare is critical for working families across the country and in my district.

We all have heard of places without grocery stores referred to as food

deserts. Well, half of American families live in areas lacking childcare facilities. They are living in childcare deserts.

The situation is even worse in Latino communities, as 78 percent live in childcare deserts.

As you can see on this chart by my side, this is my district. The orange and the dark colors represent areas that have no access to childcare. Eighty-two percent of the children in my district have no access to childcare. This is a childcare desert. This impacts disproportionately communities of color. This is unacceptable.

As a Nation, we must invest in childcare. High-quality childcare improves outcomes for children, parents, and neighborhoods. We must act and we must act now.

NEED FOR AN ORIGIN OF COVID-19 INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues across the aisle appear eager to investigate and hold hearings on just about anything, but when 200 Republicans and I urged the Speaker to investigate the origins of COVID-19 a month ago, the Speaker did nothing.

Evidence is now mounting that COVID-19 may have escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, and the Chinese Communist Party worked to cover it up.

Pointblank, this coverup by the CCP cost American lives, shuttered tens of

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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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thousands of businesses, and altered life as we know it.

Yet, here we stand, almost a month later, and we are still no closer to a House investigation, not even a hearing to get to the bottom of what happened.

The simple fact of the matter is that the Chinese Communist Party is an adversary, and they have not been truthful or honest about anything, especially not their role in covering up the origins of COVID-19.

Since the very beginning, the Chinese Communist Party has blocked American scientists from participating in a full-scope investigation, refused access to reporters from Wuhan, manipulated the World Health Organization's report on the origins of the virus, and strong-armed anyone who disagreed with the narrative they invented.

It is infuriating that Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats are willing to cover for the Chinese Communist Party and let them off the hook for this disaster, simply to achieve a political end.

We cannot and should not accept anything less than absolute certainty about the origins of COVID-19. We must investigate, hold China accountable, and ensure nothing like this ever happens again.

OUR NUCLEAR LEGACY IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, July marks the 75th anniversary of the first U.S. nuclear test in the Marshall Islands, a tragedy that continues today.

Orange County is proud to be home to one of the oldest Marshallese-American communities. But why the Marshallese came to the United States is a disgraceful chapter in our Nation's history. From 1946 to 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands.

We deceived the Marshallese, using them as guinea pigs to study the effects of radiation. We turned ancestral lands into dumping grounds for nuclear waste.

We still haven't done the bare minimum to make this right. We established a tribunal for compensation but provided less than 10 percent of the money owed. We don't even translate environmental studies into Marshallese.

Our nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands is at the nexus of President Biden's top priorities: racial justice, healthcare, climate change, U.S. global reputation, and countering China through diplomacy. We must commit across party lines to make this right.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the 2 million lives saved by the Hyde amendment.

For decades, Presidents of both parties, including Presidents Clinton and Obama, have worked across the aisle to include the Hyde amendment in the Federal budget, which is a temporary protection barring the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions.

However, this year, while calling for unity, the President is pushing for a \$6 trillion budget with no protections for the unborn or for the taxpayer who will foot the bill. This is an action where everyone loses.

Instead of callously endangering the lives of millions of women and children at taxpayer expense, we should be fighting tooth and nail for their protections.

By making the Hyde amendment permanent, that is exactly what H.R. 18 will do.

That is why I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEGUSE). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

173 DAYS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, today is day 173 of this Congress and the 150th of the Biden administration. These days have been spent governing to repair our global standing, to accelerate our vaccination program, and to boost a struggling economy.

With the American Rescue Plan, we have governed to build back better for red districts, for blue districts, for all districts.

In my district alone, here are some of the ways we have begun to build back better: with over \$87 million for our school districts, \$137 million for local governments, \$1.5 million for Head Start programs, and the child tax credit will send an average of \$2,400 to 37,000 families.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has received \$7.3 billion, a transformative amount, that must address educational and opportunity inequities.

In these 100 days, we have proven we can live up to a responsibility to govern. As we begin to emerge from this pandemic, we are at a turning point where we can build on the success of the American Rescue Plan, find infrastructure investments, and look toward a stronger, more compassionate future.

ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

(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 recognize June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

With more than 6 million Americans living with Alzheimer's and nearly 50 million people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias worldwide, it is important to raise awareness. The more we know about Alzheimer's, the more action we can inspire.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and it is the only one of the top ten causes of death without any methods for preventing, curing, or slowing it down. Alzheimer's related deaths increased by 16 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The diagnosis of Alzheimer's is not only devastating to those who are diagnosed, but also to their caregivers and loved ones. My own mom lived with Alzheimer's for 10 years. It stole her memories and finally stole her life.

In 2021, Alzheimer's care will cost our Nation \$355 billion, and by 2050, costs are expected to rise to more than \$1.1 trillion.

Currently, over 11 million Americans provide unpaid care to family and friends living with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. Let's join the fight. Let's take the pledge to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and to never stop searching for a cure.

URGENT NEED TO CURB METHANE EMISSIONS

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, methane emissions are accelerating climate change and harming our communities, and we are moving in the wrong direction.

After the Trump administration repealed limitations on emissions of methane, we saw the largest yearly increase of methane emissions on record in 2020. We must get back on track.

It is urgent that we restore regulations to limit methane emissions. Methane is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. We cannot move quickly enough. We have to act now.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the legislation that we will be considering today, to curb these dangerous emissions and protect our communities.

NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the