

Mr. Speaker, 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 I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

THE UNITED STATES-CANADA BORDER NEEDS TO SAFELY RE-OPEN

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, for 34 years my community of Buffalo, New York, and our Canadian neighbors in Fort Erie, Ontario, would mark the first week of July with the Friendship Festival.

This event that invites citizens of both countries to cross our shared border and celebrate with music, culture, food, and festivities highlights the strong and lasting bond between the United States and Canada.

There will be no cross-border celebration this year on Canada Day and Independence Day. Not due to the pandemic, but due to the failure of both countries to plan for a safe reopening of the U.S.-Canadian border.

For friends and families living along the northern border, crossing isn't an annual event, it is a way of life.

Vaccines provide the bridge that allows people to come together again.

We need leadership to open those bridges and let us reunite.

THE ORIGIN OF COVID-19 MUST BE INVESTIGATED

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a matter that is incredibly important to our national security, our public health knowledge, and preparing for the next pandemic.

It has been well over a year since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our country has closed down in the face of a public health crisis the likes of which we have not seen in decades.

And to this day, we still do not have a definitive answer regarding the origins of COVID-19. Getting to the bottom of how this virus originated and how it spread across the globe should be one of our top priorities in Congress.

Today, the Republican members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis will hold a forum to discuss the origins of this virus. This is not a partisan issue, and every Member of this body should want to know

where this virus came from and every member of the select subcommittee should be in attendance.

As I said earlier, finding the origins is important to our national security, public health knowledge, and preparing for the next pandemic.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, 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, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD BE A PRIORITY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Joe Biden claimed a bipartisan agreement on infrastructure. On the surface this sounds like great news. Unfortunately, quickly following this new-found agreement, President Biden crushed the bipartisan bill by mandating wasteful Green New Deal borrowing, destroying jobs.

Improving America's infrastructure should be a priority and to delay it for partisan reasons is another insult to the American people. The President's voters are misled with an absurd interpretation of infrastructure.

This chaotic mentality has been exhibiting a reversal from the bipartisan President Biden promised when running for President. Dishonoring promises and undermining bipartisan negotiations, the administration should actually be focused on the needs of the American people instead of destroying jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we should never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, 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, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

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REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JEFFERY ROBERT HALTER

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Jeffery Robert Halter. Not only was he my neighbor and a family friend, but he

was also a devoted husband to Kim, and director of constituent services for my congressional office. Additionally, Jeff was a loving father to Katherine Chelsey and Laura Leigh and supportive father-in-law to Andrew Smith and Austin Lowe.

Jeff was a proud Bowling Green, Kentucky, native. He graduated from Bowling Green High School in 1983 and attended Samford University School of Pharmacy where he graduated in 1989. As a prominent pharmacist and owner of two community pharmacies, Jeff served many patients in the local community and was always happy to help his customers. He was also a member of Broadway United Methodist Church.

Jeff's contagious laugh and kindness will be remembered by all who knew him. He loved the outdoors, but above all, he loved his family. In addition to his wife and two daughters, Jeff is survived by his parents, Charles Robert and Scottie Ann Halter; brother, Timothy Alan Halter; and many other loving family members. Jeff left a positive impact on our community and is greatly missed.

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

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protect the sanctity of human life, especially the lives of the unborn.

The Hyde amendment has saved nearly 2½ million lives since its first inclusion in an appropriation bill in 1976.

This historically bipartisan amendment which prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars paying for abortion is supported by a majority of Americans.

H.R. 18, of which I am an original cosponsor, codifies the Hyde amendment and applies it to all government funding, cementing the protections for the most vulnerable Americans. This bill is called the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Mr. Speaker, 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 I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

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CONGRATULATING MIKE McINTYRE

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Honorable Mike McIntyre, former Member of the House from 1997 to 2015

for his induction into the University of North Carolina's Order of the Golden Fleece, the oldest and highest honor society at UNC, where Mike received both a bachelor of arts and a juris doctorate.

After graduating from UNC law, Mike practiced as an attorney in his hometown of Lumberton until he was elected to Congress in 1996. During his 18 years representing Robeson County and other parts of southeastern North Carolina, Congressman McIntyre acquired a reputation for excellent constituent service and advocacy for rural communities, including his work on the Agriculture Committee and his co-authoring the landmark Tobacco Buyout legislation, as well as fighting for full Federal recognition of the Lumbee.

For Mike, country over party was not just a slogan, it was his approach to leadership. I am honored not only to carry on his work serving the rural southern Piedmont of North Carolina, but also to strive to emulate his example as I do so.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mike on this appropriate recognition.

Mr. Speaker, 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 I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

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A BILL FOR BAD OPTICS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, after the 5-month deployment of the National Guard around our U.S. Capitol, after the fact of the January 6 break-in, the bill has come due now of over half a billion dollars—\$521 million—for the thousands of troops to guard this Capitol.

This was, again, after the big break-in of January 6. Of course, had the decisionmakers on hand here at the Capitol with their security intel used ahead of time decided to employ just a handful of those troops, we wouldn't have had the January 6 situation happen. But they did not want the bad optics of armed troops standing in front here at that time.

So, instead, we got 5 months' worth of it with two rows of fence, razor wire, and the inability for the people to come visit their Capitol. So now we have months of those optics and a half-a-billion-dollar bill instead.

Mr. Speaker, if that bill doesn't get paid, now our National Guard will not be able to do their training and have their other readiness needs met because Congress hasn't paid the bill for what they did not want ahead of time—bad optics.

Instead, the taxpayers get the bad optics of that bill and a possibly decimated National Guard.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, the Biden border crisis continues raging on our southern border. Cartels are getting rich, migrants are getting abused and assaulted, and Americans are becoming victims of crime.

With the record number of illegal aliens attempting to flood across our border, what has the Biden administration done?

Nothing.

For months now, the Biden administration has been denying this crisis exists; telling the American people there is no crisis; telling the American people the border is closed. But we all know better.

I saw it myself firsthand when I visited Del Rio, Texas, a place where every day, around 3:00 p.m., buses pulled up to the Mexican side of the border and unloaded hundreds of illegal aliens. They then waded through knee-high water of the Rio Grande and into our country. Once they arrive on the American side, they are promptly picked up by Border Patrol agents in air-conditioned vans, given a wristband, and away they go to a city near you.

This happens tens of thousands of times every single day and there is no end in sight, not until we revert to Trump's policies.

DEFUND ABORTION

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because, as a proud pro-life advocate, I cannot stay silent as I watch the Biden administration chip away at the rights of defenseless unborn.

Democrats have been working overtime with the Biden administration to roll back critical protections for the unborn so they can push radical pro-abortion policies, and their latest victim, it appears, is the Hyde amendment.

For over 40 years, the Hyde amendment has saved millions of lives by preventing the use of taxpayer dollars to fund abortions. A recent poll from the Knights of Columbus indicates that 58 percent of Americans oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to support abortions. That number also includes 65 percent of Independents and 31 percent of Democrats.

If millions of Americans are against the use of tax dollars being used to support abortion, then why is Congress considering legislation that does just exactly that?

If this legislation were for the people, wouldn't we listen to them instead of

forcing American taxpayers to subsidize something that the majority of them are against?

Taking the life of an unborn child is simply unconscionable. I believe that we, as a governing body, have a responsibility to protect life at every stage, especially the defenseless unborn who are unable to advocate for themselves. We have no business using taxpayer dollars to fund abortions.

LAMPETER-STRASBURG SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lampeter-Strasburg High School softball team for winning the PIAA 5A Softball Championship earlier this month, with a 10-7 victory over Armstrong. This is the Pioneers' second State championship in just 3 years. This victory capped off a dominant 30-win season.

Through the halfway mark, the Pioneers were down 1 run entering the 5th inning, but after putting 5 runs on the scoreboard, including a 2-run home run from senior Cam Byler, the game was over as the Pioneers closed out to claim the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I extend congratulations to the team members for their success this season. It is a great credit to the players, their hard work, Head Coach Gene Charles, the entire coaching staff, that, for the past 3 years, the Pioneers have played in the championship game, bringing home the trophy this year and previously in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, our community is really proud of this truly outstanding accomplishment. We wish the graduating seniors best of luck in their future endeavors.

DEFEND NOT DEFUND THE POLICE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, crime rates spike when you give in to leftist demands and defund the police. It is as simple as that. Sadly, we are seeing this play out in major cities across the country.

The New York Times reports a sample of 37 U.S. cities saw an 18 percent increase in murders in the first 3 months of this year when compared to last.

Mr. Speaker, this rhetoric and policy is dangerous and, worst of all, it is responsible for the dismantling and demoralization of police departments across the country.

We have also seen the dramatic increase on a tax against law enforcement this year. Tragically, two of my constituents are among those who have recently been killed in the line of duty. We must have law and order and support our heroes who place their lives on the line to keep our communities safe.