

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL EDWARD IRWIN WEXLER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Colonel Edward Wexler, of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on June 30 at the age of 75.

Colonel Wexler was a Savannah native who lived a truly remarkable life. After graduating from The Citadel, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Colonel Wexler traveled the world with the United States Air Force, serving in many different countries. He retired from the Air National Guard in 2006, having over 35 years of service.

Following retirement, Colonel Wexler continued to serve his community. He became director of the Combined Federal Campaign for Coastal Georgia, president of the Savannah Military Officers Association, and junior vice commander of the Veterans Council of Chatham County.

Colonel Wexler's dedication to improving the lives of others will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with Colonel Wexler's family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

RESTORING COMMUNITIES LEFT BEHIND

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to thank Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS for including the Restoring Communities Left Behind Act in her Housing is Infrastructure bill.

This legislation, led by Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB and myself, would direct \$5 billion toward programs for homeowner rehabilitation assistance, weatherization, improved accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities, refinancing, and property tax relief.

It will restore quality housing in the cities I represent, such as Toledo, Lorain, Sandusky, and Cleveland, which have suffered from decades of job losses, recessions, the foreclosure crisis of 2008, and chronic housing underinvestment.

Congress must serve as a partner to our on-the-ground organizations and local leaders who know what resources are needed where and how best to deploy them to revive their neighborhoods.

These investments will repair homes, stimulate economic growth, and revitalize communities. I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage, and I send my thanks to all who have helped us along this really vital road.

RETURN OF DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, the return of the debt ceiling on July 31 should flash fiscal warning signs for every elected official in Congress.

The debt ceiling was suspended for 2 years back in 2019. Since then, Congress has kept up its reckless spending habits like a teenage shopaholic at the mall with a credit card.

Now, government debt is over 100 percent of our domestic product—100 percent, Madam Speaker.

We clearly ignored the spending problems that got us into this mess in the first place. There needs to be a limit on how much debt elected officials can put on the taxpayers' shoulders.

My legislation, the Reforming America's Fiscal Toolkit Act, would amend Congress' budget process to keep government debt lower than our gross domestic product. This would limit how much financial trouble Congress can get the country into.

You know what they say, Madam Speaker: The first step to solving a problem is recognizing you have a problem, and dadgummit, Congress has a problem.

Congress needs to put a spending check on itself, or our country is going to end up like that out-of-control teenage shopaholic: bad credit, high interest rates, broke, and living in their parents' basement.

200 DAYS OF DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, last week, we celebrated the 200th day of the 117th Congress and 200 days of getting shots in arms, students in classrooms, money in pockets, and Americans back to work.

Thanks to House Democrats and President Biden, we passed the American Rescue Plan, delivering funding and relief to the Commonwealth and to Americans across the country.

In Massachusetts, nearly 74 percent of adults are fully vaccinated, allowing them to reunite with friends and loved ones, and we have sent over 500,000 stimulus checks to Bay Staters.

When I came to Congress, I promised our students and families that they would return to in-person learning. The American Rescue Plan delivered on my pledge, providing Massachusetts schools with \$1.8 billion in Federal relief to support their students and staff as they re-entered the classroom.

We lifted up our care economy, securing over \$1 billion to reduce the cost of childcare and pay our care workers a fair wage.

As a parent, I worked hard to provide our working families with the historic

tax relief that they deserve. The child tax credit we passed will cut child poverty in half and help nearly 60 percent of children in my district, from Brookline to Fall River.

We passed the INVEST Act, a transformational bill that will reimagine transportation while delivering clean energy and spurring job creation. Now, the Senate has the legislative framework it needs to make our infrastructure plan a reality.

From the depths of the crisis, House Democrats delivered needed recovery for Americans in just 200 days.

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

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, in Pasco County, one of the counties in my district, we have seen a huge spike in overdoses, including 25 fatalities in the month of June alone. Very, very sad.

During January through June 2021, we have seen more overdoses than any other similar period on record.

Fentanyl continues to be a significant factor. We must do everything we can to prevent fentanyl from flooding our streets, including stopping the free flow at our Nation's southern border.

I have been to the border, Madam Speaker, and I have seen how easy it is to move drugs into our country. We must secure our border.

Additionally, we must implement commonsense safeguards to prevent opioid abuse and improve access to quality treatment options. I will continue to work on these priorities.

Separately, Madam 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 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.

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RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As someone who spent their career before Congress as a healthcare rehabilitation professional, I experienced

firsthand how with the right tools and accessibility, disabled Americans can live a life of independence, economic self-sufficiency, and pride.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a monumental piece of legislation, opening the doors of opportunity to the millions of Americans who have a disability, whether it be physical, learning, cognitive, or any other.

Whether it is protection from discrimination in the workplace, additional support in school, or added accommodations in our public venues, the ADA provides the support to better empower those individuals living with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, while we saw this landmark legislation signed into law 31 years ago today, we must continue to advocate for the rights of Americans who are living with disabilities. The ADA is an incredible milestone for Americans living with disabilities, but there is still more work to be done. We can all continue to do more for those living with disabilities, from defying prejudice to empowering those with disabilities in everyday lives.

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

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hyde amendment. For more than 40 years, Hyde enjoyed strong bipartisan support, with both Republicans and Democrats agreeing that Americans should never be forced to fund abortions with their hard-earned tax dollars.

However, President Biden and my Democrat colleagues have now decided to abolish this crucial protection. By eliminating the Hyde amendment from their budget, they have disregarded the conscience rights of all Americans and blatantly attacked the lives of the unborn.

As the father of five children and the grandfather of 17, I know just how precious life is, and I will never stop fighting to protect the Hyde amendment.

Madam 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. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, two weeks ago, I spent additional time

at the U.S. border, which I think, by a mile, is the biggest crisis this country has.

It has recently been brought to my attention that the Rio Grande Valley sector, where I was at, recently had 20,000 people a week processed. They had never seen such a thing.

What difference does this make? The more people come across, first of all, it probably means more illegal drugs crossing the border, which means more fentanyl, which is the reason why we have 90,000 deaths a year in this country. Since they're processing more people, it means less Border Patrol agents to guard the more rural areas of the border, which means more people coming across.

Finally, we are in a situation, we found out, down there, when they turn people over with COVID to the non-governmental entities, those entities do not have secure facilities, and it means people are flowing into this country who we already know have COVID.

Please, during this appropriations season, please add more money to our Border Patrol so we can get a handle on these ridiculously high numbers.

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

(Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, for more than 40 years, the Hyde amendment has prevented taxpayers from funding abortions through government programs. Historically, it has been included in annual spending bills by both parties. But recently, Democrats voted to eliminate Hyde amendment protections. Even President Biden previously said: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them," but it would appear he and his Democrat colleagues have abandoned this critical position.

With nearly 60 percent of Americans agreeing that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortion, we must stand for life. Accordingly, I support H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Madam 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. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

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

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021.

Earlier this month, President Biden released his budget, which does not include the Hyde amendment, an amendment that prohibits Federal taxpayer dollars from funding abortions through Medicaid. Hyde has been included in every appropriations package since 1976 and is a longstanding, bipartisan common ground bill between Republicans and Democrats to protect the conscience of taxpayers.

President Biden has consistently expressed support for the Hyde amendment throughout his career, and I am disappointed that his recent shift signals to the American people that he will cave to the political pressures of his left wing and force our tax dollars to pay for the eugenics of our Nation's poorest individuals who are on Medicaid. We cannot stand for this and must codify Hyde's restrictions on taxpayer-funded abortions.

Madam 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. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

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

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I stand today to voice my support for H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which would protect the American people from a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars.

I cosponsored H.R. 18 during my first few days in Congress, because I, along with the majority of American voters, believe that no person should be required to pay for abortions or abortion services. President Biden himself pledged never to force taxpayers to pay for abortions, and yet he has broken that promise by failing to include the Hyde amendment in his new budget proposal.

Devaluing the life of unborn children has desensitized America. We should never use taxpayer dollars to fund abortion services. Instead, we should focus on lifesaving resources that focus on both the mother and the child.

Madam 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