



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

No. 149

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

The House met at 5 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend William Gurnee, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, this day we come humbly before You and ask Your blessing upon our country and this Congress. In Your goodness, be present to our citizens and allies who are far from home and seeking safety.

May our elected leaders make it their aim to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Finally, Dear Lord, give the Members of this body passion for their cause, eloquence in debate, and respect for those with whom they disagree.

Most especially, grant them, at the end of the day, the certain knowledge that they have served their country well.

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 gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FEENSTRA 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GET THE VACCINE

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the coronavirus has gotten to levels in Memphis not known since last January; it is dangerous. Fortunately, today, the Pfizer vaccine was given final full approval by the FDA for all people 16 and over.

This weekend, Phil Valentine, a conservative radio host in Nashville, passed away. Also, one of the greatest football players in Memphis, Danton Barto, 50 years of age, passed away. Both passed because they got COVID; neither had the vaccine. Both said toward the end of their life they wished they would have encouraged everyone to get the vaccine.

I ask you, please get the vaccine. Let America continue its activities and culture and lifestyle as we have known it in the past.

NANCY PELOSI'S SPENDING SPREE

(Mr. STEIL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm of BERNIE SANDERS' and Speaker PELOSI's spending spree. Let's not forget that earlier this year Biden and Pelosi have already spent trillions of dollars. Speaker PELOSI has brought us back to Washington late in August, but not to address the crisis in Afghanistan.

No, she brought us back to push through another \$4.5 trillion in new spending. If we printed that amount of money in bills, it would fill 50,000 semi-trailers. 50,000 semi-trailers of cash, that is what is before us. Who is ultimately going to pay for this? American families, American workers, American farmers, through higher taxes.

And as the cost of everything from school supplies to food to gas continue to go up, all of us will feel the pain of this wasteful spending spree through higher prices.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this wasteful spending plan.

RESTORE THE PROMISE AND POWER OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 4. I stand in support of democracy. Earlier this month, the House Administration Subcommittee on Elections, on which I

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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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serve, released a report documenting voter suppression following the Shelby decision. We detailed the ongoing onslaught on our freedom to vote.

To those that claim that voting is already accessible to all, read the report, open your eyes to the experience of minority communities who face endless barriers to the ballot box.

After Latinos, Native Americans, and Black Americans voted in historic numbers, State legislators moved to restrict voting in State after State. We have a constitutional duty to act. We must pass H.R. 4 to restore the promise and power of the Voting Rights Act.

Madam Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to join us. Taking away equal access to the polls and denying voter suppression is not partisan, it is un-American.

HONORING MARY SUE MIXON

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding woman of God, Mrs. Mary Sue Mixon. Mrs. Mixon will celebrate her retirement as a distinguished Sunday school teacher at the Mountain Gap Church in The Rock, Georgia.

Mary Sue Mixon is a native of Pike County, Georgia, and has taught Sunday school classes for adults, preteens, and primary classes for over 40 years. Beyond simply reading her weekly lessons to the fourth through sixth grade students, she has dedicated herself to sharing the full knowledge, love, and relationship she has with Christ, and has enabled countless others to walk with Him.

Mary Sue is a revered teacher and a humble community leader, but above all, she is a faithful servant of God. She has achieved so much in her life, but none of it would be possible without the grace of the Lord, and the love and support of her family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today, along with the congregation of Mountain Gap Church, and the residents of Georgia's Third Congressional District, in extending our sincerest congratulations to Mary Sue Mixon on this joyous occasion.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, the Build Back Better agenda is simple, it tackles the biggest challenges facing working families by investing in what Americans need, from physical infrastructure to education and child care.

The feedback from my constituents has been clear, they need a hard infrastructure bill, but we can't stop there. Pennsylvania has more than 3,000 bridges and 7,500 miles of highway in

poor condition. The infrastructure bill includes \$11 billion for our highways and the largest bridge investment since we built the interstate highway system. It will provide good jobs and lower costs to businesses.

But we can't stop with roads and bridges if we want America to succeed in the 21st century. Most Pennsylvanians can't afford quality child care. The budget resolution would provide access to safe, reliable, high-quality care. We need to rebuild our public schools and construct affordable housing. We need to lower prescription drug costs and expand Medicare to include dental, hearing, and vision.

Each of these investments will help working families and allow everyone, not just the rich, to participate in the 21st century economy.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to passing this historic legislation.

RECOGNIZING COLTON GRIFFIN

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colton Griffin, a third grader from Merville, Iowa. After his classmate and friend, Hope, passed away in a tragic accident, Colton wanted to make sure her bucket calf still made it to the fair.

That is when he came up with this great idea to have his whole class help show her calf, Taffy. I had the pleasure of meeting Colton, and his dad, Cody, at the Iowa State Fair last week, and they truly embody "Iowa Nice."

Supporting our friends and neighbors in tough times is one of the things that makes Iowa so special. With a heart that big, I know Colton is going to do great things.

Madam Speaker, may God bless Colton and his friend, Hope, and her family. May God bless.

SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in gratitude for the service and sacrifice of the brave troops, diplomats, aid workers, and others who served in Afghanistan over the last 20 years, and for those who are still there on the ground working heroically to defend and evacuate American civilians and our Afghan partners.

Madam Speaker, I remain deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, and I am calling on the administration to use every available tool to ensure that we not only protect and evacuate American personnel, but as many of our Afghan partners as possible.

I applaud the administration for picking up the pace of evacuations over the weekend and for expanding the pe-

rimeter around the airport in Kabul in order to increase access for evacuees and to avoid the developing humanitarian crisis.

But we cannot stop there. Thousands more are at risk, including journalists, women's rights activists, and NGO employees. I am calling on President Biden to establish a special humanitarian program specifically for these groups and other highly visible activists in Afghanistan; to increase processing capacity at USCIS; and to immediately ensure the safe exit from Afghanistan of all priority 1 and 2 visa holders to third countries.

Getting citizens out of harm's way must remain our top priority, but we also cannot abandon our Afghan allies.

DO NOT FORGET WHAT IS HAPPENING ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, obviously a lot is going on in America right now, and with all the focus on what is going on in Afghanistan, as well as the latest spending bills going through Congress, we are perhaps losing track of the thing that I think will have the biggest impact on America over the next few years.

I beg the American public and the American media not to lose sight of what is going on at our southern border. In the last couple of weeks, it has become apparent that, by an estimate, 105,000 people crossed over the border into that country as opposed to 80,000 in June; over a 30 percent increase in 1 month, almost entirely unremarked; of that is an estimated 15,000 unaccompanied minors, which is a human relations tragedy.

It is going to further increase the amount of illegal drugs in this country. Right now, 90,000 people a year are dying of illegal drugs. It is hard to believe that this time last year only an estimated 8,000 people were coming in the country, whereas, this July, again, we are at 105,000.

It should be banner headlines in any newspaper in this country when we go from about 10,000 people to 105,000 people per month.

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INVESTING IN CLIMATE RESILIENCY

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, the bipartisan infrastructure package makes important investments in our country's roads, bridges, high-speed internet, and clean water. But to fully deliver on our Democratic agenda, we must also pass a budget reconciliation bill that invests in a top priority for my district: climate resiliency.