

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, as the Republican leader of the House Budget Committee, I led a group of 12 Members of Congress last week to the Rio Grande Valley to see firsthand the real cost of President Biden's disastrous immigration agenda.

There were major gaps in border wall and open areas that make it easier for the Mexican cartels to make millions of dollars trafficking humans and illegal drugs over the border. And yet, we saw \$350 million worth of rusted border wall materials sitting unused because of President Biden's illegal decision to freeze border wall funding.

Border Patrol agents told me they are seeing 10,000 encounters each week in the Rio Grande Valley sector alone, including 174 different nationalities who have been apprehended on the southern border. The rest of the world has figured out that our border is not secure, whether the Biden administration realizes it or not.

I will continue fighting to secure the border and protect families from President Biden's disastrous agenda.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ALBERT EARL KLEIN, SR.

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Albert Earl Klein, Sr., known as Al, a veteran, a fellow pharmacist, and a small business owner.

Born in Mt. Pleasant in 1925, Al acquired a love for the outdoors, playing multiple sports, and spending his free time boating, becoming an accomplished fisherman at the young age of 18.

Al went on to serve in the Army, training at Fort Bragg and eventually traveling to Guam as a rescue boat operator. He was honorably discharged after receiving multiple citations and decorations.

Upon returning home, Al earned his doctorate degree in pharmacy at the College of Charleston and obtained his Georgia pharmacy license shortly thereafter.

Al opened several drug stores, one of them in my beautiful hometown of Pooler, Georgia, and he enjoyed a successful career of over 60 years.

After retirement, Al and his wife, Ethel, enjoyed traveling, gardening, and visiting their four children and 12 grandchildren.

Al was a veteran, an honorable business owner, and a family man whose love for the outdoors made sure he lived life to the fullest. He will surely be missed.

#### NEW YORK'S 22ND DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants of this year's Congressional Art Competition in New York's 22nd Congressional District.

Each year, dozens of high school students from across the 22nd District submit pieces of art that they have spent countless hours and put tremendous effort into perfecting; although every work of art is abandoned, it is never perfect.

Last year's winner, Gavin Schiavi from New Hartford, submitted a beautiful piece done completely with colored pencil, and our judges were thoroughly impressed with the attention to detail and the amazing work done by Gavin.

This year, we made a few additions to the competition. During the last week of April, we held two community art shows where the students' artwork was on display for the public. Over 100 people attended these viewings, voting on two pieces as their favorite; those from Gianna Yacobucci of New Hartford, and Salwa Nadeem of Vestal.

Following these events, our independent judges voted on the winners. The first-place winner was Nadja Wall, with her painting "The Aquarium." In second was Anita Grant from New Hartford; third, Olivia Muse from Vestal; and fourth, Emily Carlson from Holland Patent. Our judges agreed this is one of the best years we have seen in terms of competition and the quality of work submitted.

I thank all of the teachers and students for their work, and the parents as well, for their support of these remarkable students and their fantastic work.

I look forward to viewing everyone's work from all Members of Congress in the hallways of Congress.

#### POLITICIZING THE UVALDE TRAGEDY

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I noticed my colleague from Texas down here a little bit earlier talking about the tragedy in Uvalde. And I can tell you, as someone who represents central Texas and the district and the county that shares a border with Uvalde County, it hits close to home.

But I would note that the President of the United States and my colleagues have suddenly found Uvalde and south Texas on a map. When we have got 15,000 people in a caravan coming to Texas; we have 700-some people, migrants, who have died along the border; we have mobile morgues being used in south Texas along the Rio Grande; and now suddenly, to go exploit a tragedy for political purposes, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can find Uvalde on a map. Because they sure as hell haven't been able to find Uvalde on

a map over the last year and a half of this administration.

We will have more to talk this week about the politicization of this tragedy in Uvalde, and targeting the pretext and the false use by my colleague from Texas of "automatic weapons" as opposed to semi-automatic weapons.

But let's be clear: Our borders remain wide open, and Americans are dying in droves; hundreds and thousands of people across this country who are dying because of open borders. We will talk about it this week.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore Brown on Friday, June 3, 2022:

H.R. 1298, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1233 North Cedar Street in Owasso, Oklahoma, as the "Technical Sergeant Marshall Roberts Post Office Building";

H.R. 3579, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 East Main Street in Maroa, Illinois, as the Jeremy L. Ridlen Post Office";

H.R. 3613, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 Trumbell Street in Saint Clair, Michigan, as the "Corporal Jeffery Robert Standfest Post Office Building";

H.R. 4168, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6223 Maple Street, in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Jackson French Post Office".

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1501

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE) at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

# IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL WORKERS ACT OF 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6087) to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6087

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act of 2022".

## SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ACT.

(a) INCLUSION.—Section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting ", other eligible providers," after "osteopathic practitioners";

(2) by striking "and" at the end of paragraphs (18) and (19);

(3) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (20) and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(21) 'other eligible provider' means a nurse practitioner or physician assistant within the scope of their practice as defined by State law."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 8103(a)—

(A) by inserting "or other eligible provider" after "physician" in each instance; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting "or other eligible providers" after "physicians";

(2) in section 8121(6), by inserting "or other eligible provider" after "physician"; and

(3) in section 8123(a)—

(A) by inserting "or other eligible provider" after "The employee may have a physician"; and

(B) by inserting "or other eligible provider" after "United States and the physician".

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize rules to carry out the amendments made by this Act.

## SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 6087, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, we are considering a straightforward bipartisan bill that will alleviate some of the barriers Federal workers face seeking treatment and care after they have been injured on the job.

Right now, whether we represent urban districts or rural districts, we are all hearing about the very real shortage of physicians, whether it is in general practice or specialty practices. That is why it is important for Congress to surgically and intelligently reform outdated, antiquated policies in place that prevent qualified providers from treating patients who need their care.

This bill achieves that goal for Federal employees who need treatment for workplace injuries or illness and will allow qualified, licensed nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat these patients safely and competently and be reimbursed under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

The bill explicitly states, in section 2, that such treatment must adhere to the scope of practice for nurse practitioners and physician assistants, as defined by State law. I repeat: The bill was carefully crafted so that it does not encroach on the authority of State health licensing boards to determine the scope of practice. That is one of the reasons why the Committee on Education and Labor came together on a bipartisan basis to unanimously endorse passage of this bill.

Right now, injured Federal workers who serve our Nation at agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Postal Service, and our National Parks, to name a few, can only receive the care they are entitled to under the Federal workers' compensation law if it is provided by a physician, and only a physician can certify a claim regardless of whether the State the worker resides in allows nurse practitioners and PAs to practice independently.

As any healthcare patient in America knows, nurse practitioners and physician assistants are a growing portion of primary care and healthcare workforce nationwide, especially in rural areas. Patients are ably and safely treated by NPs and PAs in these settings every day and having the capability to be treated by a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant increases access to more timely treatment, particularly in parts of the country experiencing physician shortages.

The benefit of increased access was confirmed by the Congressional Budget

Office in their analysis of this bill, which found that it would have no impact on direct spending by the government.

Given the challenges some Federal workers have in accessing their Federal workers' comp benefits, allowing these providers to be reimbursed for the care they provide within the scope of their practice is an extremely commonsense improvement. CBO has even stated that this legislation would help injured Federal workers return to the job faster. In this labor market, anything we can do to improve workers' healthy recovery and job retention is worthwhile.

This bill has been endorsed by the National Rural Health Association, the American Nursing Association, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, as well as a diverse coalition of unions representing Federal employees, such as the National Treasury Employees Union and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union.

Further, the Department of Labor's Office of the Workers' Compensation Programs which administers the Federal Employees' Compensation Act for Federal workers in agencies as diverse as the Pentagon, Department of Homeland Security, Interior, and Veterans Affairs, has confirmed this legislation will help alleviate barriers that create delays for FECA claimants and would expand injured workers access to medical treatment.

Madam Speaker, I have the honor to represent the largest military installation in New England, Naval Submarine Base New London, which employs over 1,000 civilian Federal workers who perform outstanding work to support 16 attack submarines that deploy from that base.

Some of that work is physically demanding, such as firefighters, police, and crane operators, and injuries do happen. This bill will create healthcare parity for those patriots by ensuring that they will have their claims handled and treated the same as any other workers who reside in Connecticut and Rhode Island. This is an overdue and important, but commonsense, way to bring this program in line with the reality of 21st century healthcare delivery.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Republican counterpart, Mr. WALBERG, for his great support and work to bring this issue forward. I also thank Chairman SCOTT and Ranking Member FOXX for their bipartisan work supporting this bill and getting it through committee.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge a "yes" vote on this bipartisan and commonsense measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6087, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act,