



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

No. 152

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 21, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY, 2022

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. While the path to full voting rights for all American citizens has been and still is long and challenging, this week we honor the heroes who fought to secure this right by encouraging and supporting all eligible Americans to register to vote.

This call to action would be incomplete if I did not mention the nearly 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories and those in the District of Columbia who still do not have equal voting representation in this Congress and in our country.

As such, Americans living in the territories and the District of Columbia are accustomed to being last in line or given short shrift for hurricane relief, Medicaid, and infrastructure funding.

We must remain committed to building an America where every vote matters and where every citizen has the ability and the right to participate freely in the democratic process.

That is why I stand with House Democrats to continue to work on securing the vote for all Americans. Our Nation depends on it.

BETTER-PAYING JOBS

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to affirm my commitment to expanding work opportunities to all corners of the country, including the often excluded territory of the Virgin Islands. That means forming better-paying jobs and economic opportunities so Americans can work and live with dignity and security.

The Democratic Caucus has remained committed to people over politics in this with safer communities, better-paying jobs, and opportunities for all Americans.

That is why they have supported and I support the three significant pieces of legislation that have been passed by House Democrats: the CHIPS and Science Act which provides billions of dollars in new funding to strengthen American research and development and rebuild our supply chain; the Inflation Reduction Act which has stimulated job growth through investments in clean, affordable, and secure American energy while simultaneously cutting families' energy bills and fighting the climate change; and, lastly, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,

let us not forget, which aims to rebuild our roads, bridges, and transit systems while bringing broadband and clean drinking water to more communities.

BLACK WOMEN'S EQUAL PAY DAY

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the disparities that exist for Black women due to the double-pronged existence of institutional racism and misogyny in our country. Black women bear the unique burden of experiencing both gender and racial discrimination. We have seen this in health, wealth, education, and work among all socioeconomic, geographic, and age groups.

Black women earn 58 cents to the dollar of a White man—the same job, the same position—58 cents to the dollar. Their earning gap is even more severe for mothers, with Black mothers only earning 46 cents for every dollar a White, non-Hispanic father earned nationally.

It is imperative that we demand pay equity for Black women. So today, I stand with all of my sisters and demand and implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Black Women's Equal Pay Day.

KANSAS CORN HARVEST REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver the 14th installment of my farm bill impact series during a time when the effects of a poor corn harvest in Kansas are only compounded by rising inflation.

Kansas farmers are laboring under the burden of skyrocketing input costs while they work hard to keep our country fed, fueled, and clothed, and they deserve workable solutions to this inflation crisis before the situation gets any worse. Farming is already a risky, volatile business without the added burden of inflation, and USDA estimates that input costs will continue to

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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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rise to astronomical rates throughout 2022 and beyond.

For an example of the risk of volatility in farming, the corn harvest is underway in some parts of Kansas, and the results are a fraction of the yield that farmers hope for and bank on during normal seasons. The farm bill which Congress will reauthorize in 2023 exists, in part, specifically for situations like this current corn crop to provide energy assistance to our ag producers even when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate.

The weather in Kansas can be extreme and unpredictable, which means that growing corn can be a very difficult prospect. Kansas is suffering from a major drought right now. According to the USDA, for the week ending September 11, only 14 percent of Kansas topsoil was rated as adequate. And USDA rated the corn condition 27 percent very poor, 27 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 20 percent good, and only 2 percent excellent. Meanwhile, according to Drought Monitor, 34 counties in my district alone are in extreme drought, and 16 are in exceptional drought.

The farther west you go in Kansas, Mr. Speaker, the worse it gets. Even irrigated fields are having issues, and far more corn crops than normal will be complete losses. Many Kansas producers are saying that this is the worst corn harvest in recent memory. This is a dire situation. Farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in producing this essential crop, and its failure means that farmers are left wondering how they are going to put food on the table and pay for gas to drive their kids to school. To make matters worse, consumers end up without access to many of the products that they have learned to enjoy and on which they depend.

This is where farm bill programs like crop insurance come in. Crop insurance serves producers and consumers alike because it helps prevent producers from going out of business and grocery store aisles from sitting empty. Farm bill programs like crop insurance have secured our national food supply and helped generations of producers avoid bankruptcy when times get tough. We are in one of those times right now. Inflation is skyrocketing in America, President Biden is trying to impose his farm killer tax and dismantle the stepped-up basis, and producers are going out of business. The need to reauthorize the farm bill for 2023 has come at a critical moment in time.

A bad harvest in Kansas isn't just about money. It is about morale and spirit. Missing harvest time in Kansas doesn't just mean missing out on the yield of a cash crop. It means missing out on a special Kansas tradition of celebrating the culmination of all of your family's hard work. It creates financial insecurity while leaving a void where a renewal of family camaraderie should be. Washington, D.C., unfortunately, doesn't understand this. This

city has never been crippled by something like a lost harvest.

D.C. moves right along through drought, heat, late winter snows, and torrential downpours unfazed. That is why I am standing here today, to remind Congress that 1 in 10 employed Americans—nearly 20 million people in this country—work in food and agriculture where weather creates a make-or-break situation for their livelihoods. And, most importantly, every American has to eat.

American agricultural producers are hurting not only from skyrocketing input costs that come from inflation, but also from lowered morale that comes from extreme heat, drought, thin margins, and a broken supply chain. In 2023, Congress must reauthorize the farm bill with American farm families at the front of their minds because they are in a crisis.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America. The people who feed, fuel, and clothe us all deserve our unwavering support. They also deserve a robust safety net in the farm bill and workable solutions to the inflation crisis before it is too late.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CARMEN LOUISE BOSSENBROCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lives of two outstanding Eighth District residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the legacy of Carmen Louise Bossenbrock who passed away on July 31, 2022, at the age of 94. Carmen was a pioneering figure in the fight against polio, a tireless community advocate, and a beloved lifelong Wenatchee Valley resident.

As the polio epidemic rampaged across Washington State, Carmen became a medical leader in the Wenatchee Valley. Working at Deaconess Hospital and later Central Washington Hospital as a physical therapist, Carmen was often the only thing standing between polio patients and debilitating paralysis.

For 2 years, in the thick of the epidemic, she was the only licensed physical therapist practicing in north central Washington. As patients flooded through her doors, Carmen devoted herself to the recovery of hundreds of patients. As a reflection of her tireless leadership, Carmen became the head of physical therapy at Central Washington Hospital until her retirement.

Carmen remained a tireless advocate against polio in her later career. She was an active member of the Wenatchee Rotary Club—one of the first women to join. There she passion-

ately led fundraising for global vaccine programs to ensure no family would have to experience the devastation of polio.

Friends remember Carmen as a pillar of the community, splitting her time between her beloved pear orchard in Dryden and her mission to eradicate polio.

We are deeply grateful for Carmen's service. Her legacy will forever be a part of the Wenatchee Valley and Washington State. I join Carmen's family and friends in mourning their loss of an extraordinary woman.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GUNNERY SERGEANT ARTHUR BRANSON SUMMERS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the story of Gunnery Sergeant Arthur Branson Summers, a U.S. marine killed in action in World War II. After 76 years, his body has returned home to his family members and has been laid to rest in East Wenatchee, Washington.

Gunnery Sergeant Summers of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was killed in the winter of 1943 in the Betio Island battle with Japanese forces. Sadly, Summers was 1 of 1,000 servicemembers who died that day and 1 of almost 500 whose remains were never found. Tragically for his family, friends, and loved ones, they were deemed nonrecoverable in 1949.

But this changed in 2009 thanks to the tireless work of the nonprofit organization History Flight. After a small piece of military rain poncho was found near the site, History Flight began excavations in 2009 and discovered the body of Gunnery Sergeant Summers along with several other lost servicemembers. His remains were brought home to his family, nephews David and Donald McCannel. He received an honorable burial in East Wenatchee, Washington.

Gunnery Sergeant Arthur Branson Summers answered our Nation's call at a time of great need, and for his service, valor, and sacrifice, we are forever thankful.

I would like to recognize History Flight for their work to return Summers to his home and to thank David and Donald McCannel and their families for providing Gunnery Sergeant Summers an honorable burial on American soil.

On behalf of a grateful Nation and the entire Eighth District, we are proud to have Gunnery Sergeant Summers in his final resting place in East Wenatchee, Washington.

HONORING THE ISSAQUAH ALL-STARS AND THE BONNEY LAKE/SUMNER LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor some tremendous young athletes. The Eighth District had not one but two teams representing our State at the Little League World Series. The Issaquah All-Stars represented the northwest region at the Little League Softball World Series, and the Bonney Lake/Sumner Little League team, at