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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 12, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, 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.

### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I stand before this room to hold this Supreme Court in contempt; this Supreme Court that is wildly out of step with both precedent and public opinion.

This Supreme Court which, through its terrible lack of judgment, both in chambers and on luxury vacations, has lost the faith of the American people.

This extremist Supreme Court, through its affirmative action decision, has reaffirmed the entrenched power of the wealthy elite who pay for their luxury vacations while, at the same time, pulling the rug out from under millions of minority students who have excelled despite adversity, who strive to attain the American Dream, and who seek to help their communities.

I will talk about the real life-and-death consequences of this decision, the collateral damage these Justices have inflicted, because in this country Black women have a maternal and infant mortality rate three times that of their White peers, while the rate of African-American medical residents entering OB/GYN programs has been declining.

The mortality rates for Black mothers and their babies in the United States rivals those of many Third World countries. What happens to our Nation's shameful infant and maternal mortality rate when fewer Black doctors are entering the field able to recognize and combat the biases that lead to such misery?

How many mothers will bear the burden of burying their newborn because some faceless organization engaged the Supreme Court in its radical politics to uphold white supremacy?

How many young mothers will be ripped away from their children and their husbands due to the perceived slights of fragile men in black robes?

These decisions have consequences.

Right now, just 4 percent of psychologists are Black. At a time when suicide rates are climbing among Black children, what is the consequence for a generation of Black children when a generation of culturally competent Black therapists and counselors disappears?

How many American families will be destroyed because the help their children needed was not available due to the extreme decisions of unaccountable, reckless political actors?

Something tells me these questions were not top of mind for Justice Samuel Alito or Clarence Thomas. They are making decisions not based on honest interpretation of the Constitution, but on their own radical ideology.

They are a captured, unelected arm of the extreme rightwing of the Republican Party. The American people recognize this and have lost faith in their ability to pass judgment impartially.

This decision is not just about who gets to go to school. It is about who lives and dies and who is left to pick up the pieces.

We must reform the Supreme Court and balancing it through expansion is a critical response to the crisis we experience.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF AARON SMITH

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fallen Indiana State Trooper, Aaron Smith. He was tragically killed in the line of duty just last month.

Trooper Smith, of Whiteland, Indiana, served his fellow Hoosiers as both a State Trooper and a sergeant in the Indiana National Guard.

We will never forget Trooper Smith's service and sacrifice to our Indiana community and our entire Nation, and I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends. He was a hero.

May Trooper Smith, as well as all our fallen officers, rest in peace.

### CONGRATULATING ELISABETH COON

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elisabeth Coon, Indiana's Sixth District Congressional Gold Medalist.

Elisabeth resides in Bargersville, Indiana, and is currently a student at Cardinal Christian Academy Home School.

□ 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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She earned the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal for completing over 400 hours of community service, dedicating 200 hours to learning how to run a small business, improving her fitness by running 5Ks, and attending an expedition in Colorado.

Congratulations to Elisabeth on her achievements, and I wish her the best of luck on her future endeavors.

#### CONDOLENCES TO VICTIMS IMPACTED BY RECENT STORMS AND THANKING FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, on June 25, numerous thunderstorms in central Indiana developed into tornadoes with damaging wind and large hail.

I offer my sincerest condolences and prayers to those impacted by the storms, as well as thank our brave first responders who have never failed to respond and put their lives on the line for us.

God bless our first responders.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SIXTH DISTRICT AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Sixth District Agriculture Advisory Board.

Indiana's ag industry is essential to America's ag success, and Hoosier farmers are at the backbone of America. Therefore, I will always make sure to consult my ag advisory board on all issues affecting the agriculture industry, especially as Congress looks toward the 2023 Farm Bill Reauthorization.

I thank this fine group of 15 Hoosier farmers for all their insight, and it was great to see them again in June.

#### THANKING FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about my recent visit to the Columbus, Indiana Fire Department. During the visit, I spoke with Fire Chief Lay and was able to see the department's training operations taking place right there in the Sixth District.

Thank you to all our first responders for the work they do, and may we never forget that they are putting their lives on the line every single day.

God bless everyone at the Columbus Fire Department, and God bless all the fire departments in the Indiana Sixth District.

#### THANKING CENTERSTONE HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere thanks to Centerstone Health Services. I recently had the opportunity to visit Centerstone in Columbus, Indiana, and learn about their great work providing behavioral and mental health care, addiction treatment, and crisis services.

Centerstone operates 25 clinics and over 500 residential or supportive housing units, serving about 30,000 patients in my district. Still, more needs to be done to expand access to care to those suffering from mental illness.

Medicaid's outdated IMD exclusion serves as a barrier preventing most access to care for the most vulnerable in our communities. Unfortunately, with-

out treatment, these individuals find themselves on the streets, in jails, or, of course, worse.

I urge my colleagues to work together and remove the IMD exclusion.

#### SKYROCKETING CRIME IN INDIANAPOLIS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise my concerns about skyrocketing crime in Indianapolis, Indiana. In just the past 2 years, 497 people were killed in homicides in that city. This is the city's deadliest number on record.

This is the direct result of the Democrats' soft-on-crime policies, reckless bail reform efforts, and, of course, their "defund-the-police" rhetoric. Hoosiers and the American people deserve better.

It is long past time for the Biden administration, the Indianapolis mayor's office, and Congressional Democrats to join us in cracking down on crime to help make our streets safe again.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RICHARD RAVITCH

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the amazing life and, as The New York Times put it, the outsized career of Richard Ravitch, who passed away 2 weeks ago.

A lawyer, a builder, a public servant extraordinaire, Lieutenant Governor of New York, he ran the subway system. The Times' obituary labeled Dick "the rescuer of New York." As someone who had a chance to work with him, I can attest he was that and much, much more.

He was a tireless student of government. He sought to understand its inner workings, and he would be quick to share his insights with others. His was a strong voice for thoughtful, sound, creative policy.

Those skills are what enabled him to work to rescue the subway in a dire time in New York, to improve municipal finance in that city, unscramble New York State finances, and help Detroit and Puerto Rico navigate bankruptcy.

He was a respected, successful businessman; pioneered integrated public housing. He was an adviser to organized labor, involved with Major League Baseball, and, along with his friend, Paul Volcker, an outspoken advocate for public finance and sound State and local budgeting.

Well into his eighties, he was still teaching at Yale Law School. He seemed to know everyone and have a story or two that involved each. He displayed a vast memory and boundless energy.

He was a practitioner of the political arts at the highest level. He spent his final months keenly focused on the upcoming election for Congress. He invested untold hours and significant resources helping men and women make

their way politically. Dick was a proud member of the governing wing of the Democratic Party.

He never ceased to amaze me with the breadth of his interest, expertise, and skill. He was a master woodworker, and his Central Park apartment was filled with amazing pieces that he had crafted.

Dick took great pride in his family, his sons, Michael and Joey. His marriage to Kathy Doyle brought three stepdaughters into the family. There were 13 grandchildren, a tremendous source of pride and joy to Dick.

I was lucky to call him a friend and mentor. His biography, "So Much to Do" should be required reading for everyone who would be a public servant, an elected official, indeed, anyone who takes their citizenship seriously.

Even though it was written a decade ago, anyone who cares about government and the civic fabric has much to learn from Dick's life story and his many accomplishments.

I, along with countless others, benefited immensely from Dick's friendship, mentorship, and wisdom. His passing is a significant loss to New York City, New York State, and, I would say, for the country.

But his life, indeed, was a blessing. The lessons he left us and the leaders he helped shape will carry on his legacy for generations to come.

#### IMMIGRATION OVERSIGHT

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, since taking the majority in the House in January, Republicans have been consistently holding hearings to conduct oversight and demand accountability of the Biden administration when it comes to the humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

For years now, sensible Republicans have done everything they can to offer solutions to this humanitarian crisis in an effort to halt illegal immigration but have been met with opposition by those on the other side of the aisle that prefer the open-border policies of this President and his administration.

Unfortunately, despite these repeated attempts to bring this administration to the table to enact sensible immigration reform, which the American people support, President Biden has done the opposite.

In fact, in President Biden's first 100 days in office, he took 94 executive actions on immigration, perhaps none as costly as halting the construction of the southern border wall. He also ended the remain in Mexico program, which had proven to be a successful deterrent at the border.

Now, the good people at the Customs and Border Protection, who are working hard under strenuous circumstances to protect our borders, have seized over 17,000 pounds of fentanyl in fiscal year 2023, including a