

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RUTHERFORD 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.

COLD ZERO PREMIUM SPIRITS AND CEDAR RIDGE WINERY & DISTILLERY HONOR VETERANS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable collaboration between Cold Zero Premium Spirits and Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery that embodies the spirit of giving back and honoring our veterans.

Casey Maxted, a former Green Beret, brought together friends and colleagues from the military and co-founded Cold Zero in Swisher, Iowa.

This year, members of Cold Zero Premium Spirits and Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery spent the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks bottling whiskey. Over 2,000 bottles of this special whiskey will be available, and each bottle is signed by one of six Medal of Honor recipients, including Cedar Rapids native Sal Giunta.

As we approach Veterans Day, let us remember the profound impact we can have on the lives of our veterans by rallying around organizations and businesses who support them and are also veteran owned.

Thank you, Cold Zero Premium Spirits and Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery for your inspiring efforts to make a difference.

I would also like to wish a very happy birthday to the most special man in my life, my husband, Curt Meeks. Happy birthday, honey.

GAS PRICES HIT 10-YEAR SEASONAL HIGH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the irresponsible policies of Biden and the liberal Democrats have caused a 40-year high inflation, leaving American families in financial distress and jobs destroyed.

Bidenflation has affected the cost of everyday goods and services and lim-

ited the annual purchasing power of families by thousands of dollars. Worse, Biden does not seem to comprehend the reality of these decisions, proven when recently describing his economic policies. Biden said, I don't know what Bidenomics is, but it is working.

Among the most damaging effects on families is the highest seasonal gas price in more than a decade, with the national average at over \$3.80 a gallon.

Sadly, American autoworkers are being sacrificed to create dependency on Chinese batteries. The Republican House majority is working to correct this, having recently passed the Lower Energy Costs Act to streamline the permitting process and reduce energy costs to achieve energy independence, which President Donald Trump had achieved in his administration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON PYRUVATE DEHYDROGENASE COMPLEX DEFICIENCY

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on pyruvate dehydrogenase complex deficiency, commonly known as PDCD.

This incurable and extremely rare mitochondrial metabolic condition, which manifests at birth, prohibits patients from properly transforming carbohydrates into energy, and instead turning them into lactic acid that causes painful seizures and developmental delays.

I recently met with Rick and Kim Higbee, a family in Jacksonville, Florida, who have experienced the challenges of PDCD firsthand. Their daughter, Harlow, pictured beside me, began to show signs of PDCD as an infant. As any parent knows, when there is something wrong with your child, you will move Heaven and Earth to get answers and provide for their care.

Sadly, since PDCD does not currently appear on infant screening lists, the Higbee family waited 9 painstakingly long months before they had a name for Harlow's condition and were able to begin treatment.

Thanks to the doctors, nurses, and specialists at UF Health in Jacksonville and her own fighting spirit, 3-year-old Harlow has defied the odds.

This week, World Mitochondrial Disease Week, I am proud to join the Higbee family and thousands of others in advocating for PDCD to be added to the infant screening list and for additional research funding to go toward finding a cure. Early detection and diagnosis can mean the difference between life and death for more than 15 million children.

On behalf of Florida's Fifth Congressional District, I am committed to ensuring that families in our community like the Higbees are supported in their fight to eradicate this condition.

God bless Harlow and all of our children living with PDCD.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write to inform you that I am resigning my position as the Member of the United States Congress representing the Second Congressional District of Utah, effective at the close of the day of September 15, 2023.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the Second Congressional District of Utah in the United States House of Representatives, and I am eternally grateful for the trust and faith that the people of the Second District placed in me to serve as their Member of Congress for the past eleven years.

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter I have submitted to Utah Governor Spencer J. Cox.

Sincerely,

CHRIS STEWART,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2023.

Hon. SPENCER J. COX,
Governor, The Office of Gov. Spencer J. Cox,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

DEAR GOVERNOR COX: I write to inform you that I hereby irrevocably resign from the U.S. House of Representatives, effective at 11:59 PM Eastern Time on September 15, 2023. It has been one of the great honors of my life to serve the good people of Utah in Congress. My family and I have been very blessed by this experience. I thank you for your leadership as Governor and dedication to our great state.

Sincerely,

CHRIS STEWART,
Member of Congress,
Utah Second Congressional District.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California). Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), the whole number of the House is 433.

UNDERFUNDING THE WIC PROGRAM

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to appeal to the majority here

to not make draconian cuts to the Women, Infants, and Children program.

What is before us is a proposal to cut \$800 million out of the fruit and vegetables portion of the WIC program.

Study after study has shown that WIC improves birth outcomes, reduces the likelihood of preterm births and low birth weights, and helps lactating mothers. As of May, WIC has already served an average of 6.6 million monthly participants.

Mr. Speaker, this is our future workforce, and how we treat these babies is what shows us who is right to life and who is not. You want to be a right-to-life person? Feed the babies.

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 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1615

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. VAN DUYNE) at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes 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 a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

ISAKSON-ROE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT EXPANSION ACT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3981) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3981

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 "Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL.—Section 3675(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

"(5) The educational institution agrees to, not later than 30 days after any date on which such educational institution becomes subject to an

action or event described in section 3673(e)(3) of this title, submit to the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, a notification of such action or event in such form and containing such information as the Secretary determines appropriate."

(b) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF NONACCREDITED COURSES.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—Section 3676(c) of such title is amended—*

(A) *by redesignating paragraphs (14) through (16) as paragraphs (15) through (17), respectively; and*

(B) *by inserting after paragraph (13) the following new paragraph:*

"(14) The institution agrees to, not later than 30 days after any date on which such institution becomes subject to an action or event described in section 3673(e)(3) of this title, submit to the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, a notification of such action or event in such form and containing such information as the Secretary determines appropriate."

(2) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further amended—*

(A) *in section 3672(b)(2)(C), by striking "paragraph (14) or (15)" and inserting "paragraph (15) or (16)";*

(B) *in section 3675(b)(3), by striking "(14), (15), and (16)" and inserting "(15), (16), and (17)";*

(C) *in section 3679(d), by striking "described in paragraph (14) or (15)" and inserting "described in paragraph (15) or (16)"; and*

(D) *in section 3680A(a)(4)(C)(iii), by striking "section 3676(c)(14) and (15)" and inserting "section 3676(c)(15) and (16)".*

(c) *ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OF APPROVAL.—Section 3679(f)(1) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:*

"(I) Comply with the notification requirements under sections 3675(b)(5) and 3676(c)(14) of this title, when applicable."

(d) *DEADLINE FOR RISK-BASED SURVEYS DATABASE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the database required under section 3673A(c) of title 38, United States Code, by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3981, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3981, as amended. This bill makes improvements to protect veterans while they are using their GI Bill.

Specifically, this bill would require schools to self-report adverse actions to their State approving agency in addition to the VA within 30 days.

State approving agencies are required to approve and review schools and training programs for the GI Bill.

This bill would also require VA to create a risk-based survey database within 180 days.

Congress has been waiting for the VA to implement this database for a long time. This proposal would make it clear to the VA that Congress still intends for this database to be implemented.

I appreciate the bipartisan work that has been done at the committee level to ensure that this bill supports veterans while also not increasing government spending.

I thank Mr. MCGARVEY for his work in introducing this proposal, and I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3981, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3981, as amended, the Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act.

Madam Speaker, before I came to Congress, I was a teacher. When I was entrusted with the gavel as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in 2019, one of my primary focuses was helping student veterans. Now, I serve as ranking member. However, I am incredibly proud of what our committee did during our 4 years in the majority.

In 2021, we passed a significant student-veteran focused law: Representative MIKE LEVIN's Isakson-Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act, named for former House and Senate chairmen Phil Roe and Johnny Isakson. That law was a massive leap forward in education quality and oversight for student veterans.

Representative MCGARVEY's legislation, H.R. 3981, builds upon the Isakson-Roe Act and further improves the system of oversight we established in the 2021 law. Now, schools will join the process of reporting violations, no longer waiting for State approving agencies or VA to uncover errors before it is too late.

The legislation before us also improves transparency for the risk-based surveys created by Isakson-Roe. VA started conducting these surveys in late 2022, but schools need to know how these surveys work so they can better deliver for our student veterans. The legislation improves schools' access to the risk-based survey database.

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 3981, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY), my good friend, who is a member of our Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and also the sponsor of H.R. 3981.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3981, the Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act. I am proud to sponsor this legislation, which builds