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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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 whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

SPEAKER JOHNSON IS READY TO LEAD

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at the Constitutional Convention in my home State in Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin called upon his fellow delegates to begin each day in prayer. He said: I know that my redeemer lives. And if a sparrow cannot fall without His notice, surely a nation cannot rise without His aid.

Since coming to Congress, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON has embodied Benjamin Franklin's words, turning to prayer and to faith in God as he serves in the U.S. Congress.

Since first being elected, Speaker JOHNSON has been a tireless champion for conservative values, fighting for life, protecting our Constitution, and standing for the rule of law.

Now, as we move forward, it is clear that Speaker JOHNSON is the right choice to lead the House of Representatives at this critical time.

In the days before he was elected as Speaker, I had the opportunity to talk

with Speaker JOHNSON about the challenges that we face in Pennsylvania. We discussed the fentanyl poisonings that have become the leading cause of death for young Americans. We discussed how energy prices are soaring and how families are worried about how they are going to be able to afford gas and food for their families. We discussed how so many Pennsylvanians are feeling the effects of President Biden's failed leadership. As we confront these issues, Speaker JOHNSON is ready to lead.

Together, let's work to defend our allies from Hamas terrorism, let's address the skyrocketing inflation that we face, and let's pass a budget that is worthy of the American people.

RETURNING TO THE ENERGY UNDER OUR FEET

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the leaves begin to fall from the trees, American families, businesses, and churches are confronted once again with the soaring prices of energy that will make it difficult to heat their homes, their businesses, and their places of worship this winter.

Instead of addressing this crisis and opening new oil and natural gas leases, which would help to address OPEC's cuts to oil production, President Biden has chosen to cut permits, create new bureaucracy, and enact policies that will only drive energy costs higher.

Simply, this is unacceptable. By working to impose Green New Deal tax incentives, the President has chosen to put his wealthy donors ahead of Pennsylvania families.

With energy prices now costing Americans over \$3,000 more each year than when Joe Biden took office, it is clear that the President's failed policies are to blame for the skyrocketing price of gas, oil, and electricity.

It is time to rein in these runaway prices by returning to the energy that is underneath the feet of the constituents in central and western Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING ELECTRIC BOAT SHIPYARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a recent event in my district, which I think is good for the local economy but also good for our Nation.

I have the privilege of representing Electric Boat shipyard, which for 120 years has been the primary general contractor for submarine construction for the U.S. Navy.

On October 6, the Metal Trades Council, which is the confederation of metal trades workers that have individual unions—the boilermakers, electricians, plumbers, and pipefitters, all the folks that bend steel and do the amazing work every day in terms of protecting our Nation—reached a 5-year labor contract with General Dynamics, which I think is a real testament in terms of showing the value that our country and Congress actually place on their work, because ultimately they have one customer, and that is the U.S. Navy, which is funded by the United States Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 of the Constitution which states very clearly that Congress shall provide and maintain a Navy.

This contract, which was ratified by a 2-1 margin, starting next year basically takes the starting wage for a semiskilled worker, someone who has done preapprenticeship training but is kind of entry level, from roughly \$21 an hour, and over the course of the 5-year term, that is going to grow to \$43 an hour. There is a package of health benefits and retirement that are included in this.

It couldn't happen at a better time right now, because the demand signal, in terms of submarine construction, has grown by leaps and bounds, given the challenges that are happening all

□ 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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across the world, particularly in the Indo-Pacific with China's increase in its navy.

I have a picture next to me which shows the next submarine that is in the queue. That is the USS *Iowa* SSN 797, which went through a christening recently and is going to be commissioned and deployed in the near future. There are about 13 more *Virginia*-class submarines that are in the production queue, again, to meet this demand signal.

That has actually been even more amplified with the AUKUS agreement, the new security agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom, which is going to allow us to help Australia recapitalize its own submarine fleet, which is diesel-electric today, into nuclear-powered submarines.

Australian shipyard workers and policymakers are going to be coming to my district in terms of what I think is going to be one of the smartest strategic moves our country has made in recent years, bringing in a great ally that has been with us in every conflict going back to World War I, is part of Five Eyes, and can definitely be trusted in terms of critical information like nuclear propulsion technology. This is something which we have not shared with another country since 1958 when we did it with the British Navy.

I congratulate Peter Baker, who is the head of the Metal Trades Council, who led the way in terms of negotiating this agreement, as well as Shawn Coyne from the H.R. department at Electric Boat. This is going to create an attractive signal to young people, who are being hiring by leaps and bounds. Just this year alone they have hired 4,400. In terms of coming into the yard, they are not entering just a job but actually a career with a very strong, secure economic future for themselves and their families.

That is good news not only for them and for the region, but also for our Nation because of the incredibly important work that they do every day for which we are so grateful.

PROTECTING WOMEN'S SPORTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, a year and a half ago, Riley Gaines bravely spoke out when she was forced to compete against a biological male, Lia Thomas, at the 2022 NCAA swimming championships.

It is still an issue. Riley and Lia at the time tied for fifth place in the 200-yard freestyle after Lia had won the 500-yard freestyle the previous night.

On the podium, the NCAA handed Lia the fifth place trophy for the tie that Lia and Riley had and gave Riley the sixth place trophy, telling Riley she would receive her correct trophy in the mail later, not even deciding by a coin flip or some other tiebreaker.

I remember hearing this story and being completely appalled. I was sympathetic for Riley and for the heartbreak and disrespect she and all of the other women and girls had who worked their whole lives to compete at the highest level in collegiate swimming or even in high school and lower levels.

I also remember hearing calls and rebuttals from those who sympathized with Lia Thomas and transgender kids across the country: Just let Lia compete. She deserves it. Transgender kids have the highest rates of suicide. Let them play sports and they will be happy. It is not happening often. Don't worry about it. This is just a one-time thing. This won't open the floodgates.

Unfortunately, this is not a one-time thing. This is happening often, and the floodgates have been opened at all age ranges. In the last year and a half, we have seen countless stories of opportunities being taken away from young women by biological males competing in their sports, whether it is being bumped from first place to second place or top two or males in running events where the girls are losing out on Olympic spots, endorsement deals, college scholarships, or even whether they are going to make the varsity team or not. All of these tragedies for women and girls in sports deserve outrage from all Americans.

In addition, the left has silenced young women who have stated that they feel uncomfortable sharing locker rooms with biological males. Instead, for the case of Lia Thomas' teammates, these young women have been outrageously—get this—told to get counseling.

Just a few years ago, we had the #MeToo movement in which we were told to believe all women, yet a few years later we are being told not to believe women or even see what their feelings and thoughts are but rather believe the biological male who believes he is a woman.

Speaking of believe all women, last week, up in Canada, a 50-year-old biological male was allowed to participate in a swim meet with 13- to 14-year old girls because he identified as a 13-year-old girl. You cannot make this stuff up. This 50-year-old man was able to use the girls' locker room to change with underage young women. I cannot express how angry this makes me and many sensible Americans and Canadians.

Where are the adults in the room? How can any responsible adults allow this to happen, to just blindly stand by and say: Oh, this is no big deal?

The safety, fair competition, and happiness of these young girls should be prioritized over this deranged 50-year-old man who somehow believes he has the right to violate everyone else's rights for his pathetic interest in competing against girls.

We see this other sports as well, in ring fighting and others, where a biological male can actually do very devastating damage to a woman.

What can we do about all this? In the House, we passed H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, back in April. It passed, unfortunately, on a party-line vote. Sadly, not one Democrat could find the way to support and vote in keeping girls' sports for biological females.

I am proud of the Republican Conference for making the safety, privacy, and opportunity of women and girls in sports, and in general, a top priority.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the Senate to bring this bill up for a vote, to put your name on the line as to what you think about the sanctity of women's sports and women's and girls' place in society in general.

In addition, many State legislatures have since passed bills to protect women's sports in their State. Some of their Governors even felt the need to pass a bill titled: the Women's Bill of Rights, which defines the word "woman" because of increasing numbers of challenges as to what the words "man" and "woman" mean. Unfortunately, this is necessary because if we do not codify the definition of sex-based terms, laws that prohibit sex discrimination don't mean anything.

It is amazing that the media figure Matt Walsh has a film titled: "What is a Woman?" that many on the left cannot even answer the question, or they give such contorted answers in their nonanswer that it is just pathetic. Even a Supreme Court Justice nominee had to avoid the language. Lord, help us.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Veterans and Military Families Month.

National Veterans and Military Families Month honors the service and sacrifices of veterans and the crucial role of their families in fostering community support and awareness of their unique challenges.

As a 24-year Army veteran, and also the daughter of a career military man, I will continue to work tirelessly to support legislation that supports our VA healthcare system, reduces the barriers to healthcare for our veterans, and provides support for our military spouses and families.

This month is an opportunity for individuals and communities to come together and show their appreciation for the service and sacrifices made by veterans and military families and to support their successful reentry into civilian life.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING IOWA PBS FOR RECEIVING PUBLIC MEDIA AWARDS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa PBS,