

It is proven that milk is the number one provider of 13 essential nutrients, as well as a great deal of long-term health benefits, including better bone health, lower blood pressure, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. These benefits are crucial for the healthy development of our Nation's youth.

Over the years, milk has been unfairly demonized, leading to the loss of nearly an entire generation of milk drinkers. This bill will give children a wide variety of milk options and bolster milk consumption, a win-win for growing children and America's dairy farmers.

Mr. Speaker, farmers feed, nutrition matters, and whole milk heals. It is time to follow the science and allow whole milk back into school cafeterias. I call on my Senate colleagues to bring this bill to the floor and pass this critical legislation.

WATER IS LIFE

(Ms. TLAI B asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAI B. Mr. Speaker, we know that oil and water don't mix. Right now, there is a dirty pipeline called Line 5 running through the most critical part of the Great Lakes. It is operated by a company called Enbridge, which has a disturbing history of faulty infrastructure and environmental destruction.

A Line 5 spill would be devastating for the Great Lakes region and the entire country. The Great Lakes hold 21 percent of the world's fresh surface water and are home to precious ecosystems and wildlife. Tens of millions of people rely on them for water, jobs, and recreation.

We cannot allow the water we rely on to live, the water that helps make Michigan such a special place for so many, to be sacrificed for corporate greed.

The good news is that President Biden could end this threat today by revoking Line 5's Presidential permit and committing to the truth that water is life.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Biden administration to stand with the people of the Great Lakes and shut down Line 5 once and for all.

CONGRATULATING LIBERTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. GOOD of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Liberty Christian Academy Bulldogs for their monumental victory in the VHSL 3A State championship football game.

On December 9, the Lynchburg-based LCA Bulldogs defeated the Lafayette Rams 28-14 to finish their season with a perfect 14-0 record and earn their first VHSL State football title.

This was a history-making moment, coming 9 years after LCA filed an anti-trust complaint against the VHSL, seeking to permit themselves and other private schools to join the league. The VHSL ultimately settled and agreed to allow any private school to apply for membership, providing a major victory for all student athletes in private schools across the Commonwealth.

Now, just 8 years after they began competing in the predominantly public school league, LCA reached the pinnacle with their State championship.

The LCA Bulldogs and Coach Frank Rocco have made their school, the Lynchburg community, and Virginia's Fifth District exceptionally proud.

I am honored to represent such a phenomenal group of student athletes in Congress, and I congratulate them on this incredible achievement.

EXECUTION OF AUKUS AGREEMENT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes, the House is going to vote on the National Defense Authorization Act, which I strongly support.

It is the product of bipartisan, bicameral compromise, which is exactly what the American people crave, and I congratulate Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member SMITH for their outstanding work.

Among its many positive provisions, this bill in particular will execute the new AUKUS agreement between the U.S., U.K., and Australia. For the first time since 1958, the U.S. will share nuclear propulsion technology with another nation, our great ally, Australia. It also allows for the first time ever the sale to Australia of U.S.-built nuclear submarines—three, to be exact.

This effort will rebalance the strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific in favor of free, democratic nations that today are being constantly pressurized by the aggressive actions of the world's largest navy, namely, the Chinese PLAN.

To be clear, the intent of AUKUS is to guarantee deterrence, peace, and freedom of navigation that has prevailed across the globe for the last 78 years.

Mr. Speaker, this year's NDAA will be long remembered for this effort, and I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" for this bill.

CONGRATULATING CLEMSON MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I get to say once again from the House floor, "Go Tigers," as I rise to celebrate the 2023 NCAA men's soccer national champions, the Clemson Tigers.

On Monday night, the Clemson men's soccer team took to the pitch to beat Notre Dame and close out the season. This is Clemson's fourth national championship in soccer. They claimed victory in 1984, 1987, 2021, and 2023. With this victory, the soccer program has surpassed football with the most national championships. I am proud to say that Clemson is one of just seven schools with four or more men's soccer national championships.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Head Coach Mike Noonan and each of the players on the team for representing my alma mater and the State of South Carolina so well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the 2023 NCAA men's soccer national champions, and I congratulate President Clements on the success of this team and the program there at Clemson.

Merry Christmas to all. May God bless America.

And once again, go Tigers.

AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE MILITARY

(Mr. KIM of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this effort to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. It is a strong bipartisan, bicameral compromise to address many of the quality-of-life needs of our servicemembers and their families.

The conference report that I signed reiterates America's commitment to supporting a diverse force that reflects our Nation and protects the reproductive rights of servicemembers by keeping DoD's travel policy for noncovered medical care intact.

The bill includes a well-deserved pay raise for our servicemembers and expands eligibility for the basic needs allowance program so our military families can have more money in their pockets. These and several other provisions, like improvements to barracks and housing facilities and other issues, will address recruitment and retention of our military, which is vital.

Our servicemembers and their families make incredible sacrifices for us. By passing this bill, we are reinforcing our commitment to them.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in both parties to support and pass this important piece of legislation.

WHOLE MILK IS A GOOD THING

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's proposal to federally limit milk options to the unpopular fat-free and low-fat types and prohibit students from drinking flavored milk only starts our children off on the wrong foot.

Whole milk contains 3.25 percent fat, making it 96.75 percent fat-free as compared to the common 2 percent or 1 percent or skim that we see. This is not an incredibly great amount of fat for what the perception would be out there.

Whole milk is nutritious and simple. Whole milk doesn't contain any more sugar or carbs than skim or low-fat milk, but it does contain essential nutrients that children need to grow.

Mr. Speaker, 8 ounces of whole milk provides 8 grams of protein. That is 16 percent of the daily recommended value. This high-quality protein builds and repairs muscle, keeps us fuller longer, provides energy and focus, and helps maintain bone health and a healthy weight while supporting a healthy immune system.

An 8-ounce serving of milk, flavored or not, gives children the same amount of calcium as 10 cups of spinach, the same amount of potassium as in one small banana, the same amount of vitamin A as in three-quarters of a cup of broccoli, and the same amount of vitamin D as in three-quarters of an ounce of cooked salmon. Parents of picky eaters know how hard it is to convince their kids to eat that every day.

Whole milk is a good thing.

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STRENGTHENING CIVIL RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY AT USDA

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss why this body needs to pass the JUST Act of 2023. This bill will strengthen civil rights accountability at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Some may question why this bill is necessary. The USDA has a long and checkered history of racial policies and discrimination against Black and other minority farmers.

In the 20th century, the USDA farm lending programs undermined African-American farmers' ability to continue their operations, and the numbers don't lie.

At the beginning of the 1900s, there were more than 925,000 Black farm operators who owned more than 16 million acres of land.

The most recent numbers from 2017 paint a bleak picture. There are only 48,000 Black family farm operators left. So let's strengthen civil rights accountability at the USDA by passing the JUST Act.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I note the next order of business is the conference

report on H.R. 2670, and I wish to ask several points of parliamentary inquiry and maybe points of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PERRY. The rules of the House require that every bill must have a stated single purpose to be filed. Was such a statement filed, and if so, what is the single purpose of H.R. 2670?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not respond to hypothetical questions on measures not pending at this time.

Mr. PERRY. The body can't ask a question as to what the stated single purpose of this conference report is?

It is not a hypothetical.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will respond to parliamentary inquiries relating to a pending measure.

Mr. PERRY. The pending measure is on the suspension of the rules for H.R. 2670.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no measure pending at this time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman cannot be recognized for H.R. 2670 at this point, how does one comply with the section in rule XXII that says a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may raise a point of order against a nongermane matter as specified in subparagraph 2 before the commencement of debate?

We have to do it before the debate starts or we have waited too long; is that not correct, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. No Member has yet been recognized to even call up a measure.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 6, 2023, at Book II, page H6213.)

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would ask if now is the appropriate time to make points of parliamentary inquiry and motions related to the properness of H.R. 2670, the conference report, being before this House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state an inquiry at this time, if he has one about the pending measure.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire as to whether or not when originally filed, H.R. 2670 complied with the requirements of the rules of the House to have a single purpose stated, and if so, what was that single purpose?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not provide an advisory opinion. The Chair would advise the gentleman that consistent with prior clarifications by the Chair, including on December 19, 2007, a motion to suspend the rules waives all points of order that would have otherwise applied to this measure.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, that is why we tried to do it before the motion was made. I am questioning how can a Member exercise his rights under the rules to raise objections when the rule clearly says it must be done before the commencement of debate. Now we are told that once a measure has been called up and the motion has been made, we can't make the inquiries or challenge the properness of the conference report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama has made a motion to suspend the rules. The effect of such motion is that all points of order are waived.

Mr. GRIFFITH. That is if the resolution passes. I am trying to establish whether or not this is even properly before the body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to suspend the rules was properly offered.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, is the Chair confirming that there was, in fact, a single purpose declaration made at the time of the filing of the bill, because otherwise it is not properly before the House at all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is confirming that the gentleman has offered a motion to suspend the rules to adopt a conference report, and that is what is pending right now.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, is the Chair indicating that the mere motion to suspend the rules, therefore, suspends the rules until such time as that motion is defeated?