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No. 39

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Search us, O Lord, and examine us; test our minds and our hearts. Analyze our commitment to Your righteousness in the work we set out to do and to Your direction in the decisions we will make. Judge our faithfulness to Your desire for the living of our lives this day.

Test our minds that they would prove wise enough to understand the scope of our responsibility that You have laid on us as well as its limits. Enable us to discern wisely what is the faithful stewardship of resources You have charged us to manage. As war rages in Ukraine, as Türkiye and Syria emerge from earthquake devastation, and all the while our own enemies seek to exploit our vulnerabilities, the weight of our duty to speak, to act, and to wait is heavy on the shoulders of this body.

Test our hearts, that as we weigh the costs of our involvement with the many areas in dire need around the world, that we would not be found callous to the toll these atrocities have had on tens of thousands of innocents, and the inestimable damage that has been inflicted on the integrity of peace in our lifetime.

May our righteous inclination to devote ourselves to these tragedies not cause us to ignore equally urgent needs at home.

To whom much is given, much is required. May we prove faithful to the many requirements Your gracious gifts demand of us.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING RICHARD AND JONI MAPLES

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard and Joni Maples, two Beardon High School graduates—my mama had them in math class—who have received this year's Helen Ross McNabb Spirit Award. This award recognizes folks who have done great work to support the McNabb Center and the east Tennessee community.

Richard and Joni were both raised by parents who taught them the values of faith, family, and hard work. They keep these values close to their hearts, and they make a constant effort to serve folks around them whenever they can.

This includes supporting the McNabb Center, which is a nonprofit that provides mental health services to east Tennesseans who need it. Richard has continuously served the McNabb Center in various board positions and campaigns since 2012 and stayed involved in a bunch of other east Tennessee organizations that serve our community.

Of course, this was all done with the unwavering help and support of his wonderful wife Joni. They are about to celebrate their 50th anniversary. I can't imagine any woman who could tolerate Richard for 50 years, but she has managed to do that.

They have raised two wonderful children, Matthew and Andrea, and now they have four wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Richard and Joni so much for serving our community with selfless dedication. I am proud to congratulate them on receiving the Spirit Award this year. They certainly deserve it. It is good to see a couple of West Knoxvilleans who have done well.

STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, I know that education can be and should be a pathway to financial freedom. For over 45 million Americans facing crippling student debt, education has become an unsustainable economic burden.

Student debt is keeping Americans from buying homes, starting families, and saving for their futures. It is holding back a generation from getting the education that they need, that they want, and that they deserve. This impacts all of us. Our education suffers because of this debt. Our economy suffers, our families suffer, and our children suffer.

□ 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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H975

President Biden's student debt relief plan will change lives and open doors for so many working families.

It is urgent that the Supreme Court uphold this critical program that will free millions of Americans from this heavy financial burden. So today I call on the Supreme Court to support President Biden's plan and make the historic step in making higher education attainable for everyone in this country.

INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION MUST COUNSEL STUDENTS REGARDING STUDENT LOAN DEBT

(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 address the growing student loan debt in our Nation. Despite efforts by President Biden and the Democrats to forgive student loans, they are still a major financial commitment and should be treated as such.

Before taking out Federal student loans, proper counseling for students should be required. We must ensure that our students are equipped with the guidance needed to make an informed decision and that they understand the process through which they pay these loans back.

This week I reintroduced the Know Before You Owe Federal Student Loan Act with Representatives Feenstra, Hinson, Nunn, and Guest to require institutes of higher education to counsel students before any Federal loans are disbursed. This counseling would also require students to manually enter the exact dollar amount of funding requested and require that students receive regular loan statements throughout their undergraduate career.

If we can help our students understand the process by which they receive Federal student loans and the interest, we will be one step closer to helping to relieve them of their debt through their career choices—unlike President Biden's loan which claims to erase these loans.

Unfortunately, we can't just erase loans taken out. They must be paid back, just like a car loan or a mortgage. Erasing would only transfer the debt to other hardworking taxpayers.

HOLDING RAILROAD CARRIERS ACCOUNTABLE

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we feel the pain of the people of East Palestine. We stand with them in demands for change in safety in the railroad industry.

It is not just what trains carry. It is their weight, it is their length, it is their mechanics, it is the number of

people on the train, and it is about damage to the neighborhoods and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, my district has the most reported roads blocked by trains of any district in the Nation. This means that the trains disrupt a lot of activity in our neighborhoods, and we get many complaints about blocked crossings blocking kids getting to school, fire trucks and ambulances not being able to get to buildings and to homes, and just a lot of damage done to our neighborhoods.

So the trains are not just about the derailment of East Palestine, but it is also about the damage they do every day particularly, again, in my district that has so many railroads.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that you know about this.

What we will be doing today and the following weeks is to focus more on rail safety. I had the FRA administrator in the district last week, and I am pleased to say that today we will be filing a bill called Don't Block Our Communities Act to address some of these issues.

HONORING BEYONCE KNOWLES CARTER

(Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the end of Black History Month and the beginning of Women's History Month by honoring an individual who represents both so well.

She is an icon, she is a legend, and she is now—and forever—the moment.

I want to celebrate none other than who I believe is the undisputed queen of pop and R&B, Beyonce Knowles Carter.

A few weeks ago, this Brown skin girl out of H-Town won her 32nd Grammy, giving her the most Grammy wins of all time.

But Beyonce is so much more than a performer and a singer. She is a creator and an artist. When the radio said to speed it up, she went slower.

I will never forget the time I saw Destiny's Child perform for the very first time. It was life changing for me and for the way I experience music. I became an instant fan then and have been a huge fan ever since.

Beyonce is also a role model for millions across the country. She stood up for voting rights, for feminism, for women and girls, and for my community—the LGBTQ+ community. For my generation and so many others, she simply is the greatest of all time.

Her story is history.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mrs. Carter on her achievements and for winning the most Grammys ever in the history of our country. You are irreplaceable.

REDUCE EXACERBATED INFLATION NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE NATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRY). Pursuant to House Resolution 166 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill, H.R. 347.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) kindly take the chair.

□ 0911

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes, with Mr. BABIN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 118-4 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. OMAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 118-4.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 14, after the period, insert the following: "In estimating the inflationary effects of any major Executive order under this subsection, the President, Director, and Chair shall consider the factors described in subsection (d).".

Page 3, after line 2, insert the following:

(d) FACTORS.—The factors described in this subsection are the following:

(1) BENEFITS.—With respect to benefits provided by the applicable major Executive order, the total annual economic value of—

(A) personal consumption expenditures, net of investments, and defensive spending;

(B) the purchase of consumer durables and other household durables used for home improvement, including appliances, vehicles, and solar panels;

(C) publicly provided goods and services;

(D) higher education;

(E) job skills that are essential to an economy that—

(i) is self-sufficient; and

(ii) addresses ecological scarcities and directs resources to sustainable development without degrading the environment;

(F) time spent toward leisure activities;

(G) unpaid labor, including—

(i) parenting;

(ii) volunteering; and

(iii) time spent on household duties;

(H) infrastructure, including—

(i) transportation systems;

(ii) communication networks; and

(iii) sewage, water, and electric systems; and

(I) ecosystem services with respect to protected natural areas, including—