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No. 16

## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 3 p.m.

## House of Representatives

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 29, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLIFF BENTZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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 1:50 p.m.

### MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT/ BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House Committee on Homeland Security is marking up Articles of Impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for his stark dereliction of duty at our Nation's southern border.

I believe that Secretary Mayorkas deserves to be impeached for his failures, and my intention is to vote in favor of his impeachment.

That said, it is because of House Republicans' commitment to restoring regular order that we have now reached this critical juncture. Regular order has allowed the Homeland Security Committee to conclude its investigation into Secretary Mayorkas and move at an expedited pace in its consideration of these Articles of Impeachment.

It is well known that I voted to refer the impeachment process to this committee. Regular order can and should be followed, especially on such an important issue as this.

What has come to light now is that the vote to refer these articles to the Homeland Security Committee expedited the process by giving that committee sole jurisdiction over the articles. That vote gave us the quickest possible timeline to move these Articles of Impeachment to the Senate where a conviction can and should be affirmed.

We must also acknowledge that regular order has also preserved precious taxpayer dollars that would have otherwise been wasted if the Committee's investigation had been immediately cut short.

Mr. Speaker, while we are on the topic of the southern border, let me address the Senate's secret border deal.

The President has claimed that he needs Congress to pass legislation to empower him to secure the southern border. That is patently false. Congress has no such obligation to do so.

President Biden has always had the authority to enact measures at the southern border to deter illegal aliens from entering our country: ending catch and release; ceasing exploitation of parole authority; reinstating the remain in Mexico program; expanding the use of expedited removal authority; renewing construction of the border wall.

Let's not forget about what authority is granted to the President under the Immigration and Nationality Act as well: "Whenever the President finds that the entry of any aliens or of any class of aliens into the United States would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, he may by proclamation, and for such period as he shall deem necessary, suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants, or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem to be appropriate."

Again, the President already has the authority to secure the southern border. Even in precedent set by the Supreme Court in *Trump v. Hawaii*, the President can make "decisions whether and when to suspend entry, whose entry to suspend, for how long, and on what conditions."

Mr. Speaker, President Biden is acting as if Congress has tied his hands

☐ 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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and the only way he can secure the border is with more congressional approval.

The truth is that President Biden has been sitting on his own hands for months on end. Perhaps he should take a long, hard look in the mirror.

#### R&D CHANGES TO FEDERAL TAX CODE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute this morning to again look at the 118th Congress, which just completed its first year of operation last December, and it was sadly the least productive Congress in memory.

Thirty-one bills were enacted during that first year of the 118th Congress. Again, that is a fraction of the number of bills that have been introduced in this Congress. That now surpasses 7,000 bills which were introduced in the House and a comparable number in the Senate.

Obviously, much of the year was consumed with a lot of interparty fighting with the majority party, but now with really a year left, it is our duty to try and find bipartisan measures that are actually going to help this country and address real problems for Americans.

The good news is, a week ago Friday, the Ways and Means Committee reported out H.R. 7024, which is a bill aimed at making corrections and improvements to the Tax Code that are long overdue.

There are three basic pieces to it.

Number one, it reinstated the child tax credit, which had been wiped out after ARPA expired. This will basically take roughly half a million children out of poverty. Low-income families don't qualify for the full value of the child tax credit. Thankfully, the two sides came together to come up with a meaningful fix. We really have more work to do, because the initial version that was part of ARPA actually cut child poverty in this country in half.

The second thing it did is it expanded the low-income housing tax credit. We have a desperate need for more housing supply in this country, and this will stimulate more investment by developers to build more housing.

I want to be clear. Those units that will benefit from this will be mixed income and will benefit working families and folks who are desperate to find affordable places to live.

Mr. Speaker, what I really want to talk about is the research and development tax deduction, which, in 2017, when the tax law was passed, which I opposed at the time, it basically took the research and development expensing mechanism that had been on the books since 1954, which allowed businesses to write down the investments that they did in new products, processes, workforce innovation, and basically forced them to have to spread it

out over 5 years, causing a huge hardship for small businesses, particularly small manufacturers.

I have a poster next to me from the Westminster Tool company in Plainfield, Connecticut. I visited it a few days ago. This is a firm with 35 workers. Again, a family-owned business. They do great work in terms of medical device manufacturing. They also make aerospace parts that go into our F-35 program that is so critical to the Air Force and the Navy.

When this new expensing mechanism went into effect, it is almost hard to believe this, but their tax bill went up 355 percent. Again, for companies like this, who don't have cash reserves to continue innovating in terms of new products and processes, which Westminster Tool does, this is basically a wipeout in terms of their ability to invest.

This is showing up across the country. It was a terrible decision back in 2017. This bill will resume having the annual expensing mechanism, which will allow this company—and this is a picture with Ray Coombs, who is to my immediate right there, the owner, and his two daughters and his son, Colby, who are running the business. Behind him is the president of the Eastern Manufacturing Alliance, which has been desperately asking Congress to go back and fix this ridiculous change which took place in the 2017 tax bill.

So, again, this is a pro-growth measure, which is going to allow companies like this to get back on track in terms of innovation, which is so important for us in keeping ahead of our global competitors and creating jobs—good jobs, skilled jobs. Westminster Tool has been just an absolute shining example of why we need to make this change.

Hopefully, we are going to get this across the finish line and make sure that, again, the problem is fixed. We could do more; there is no question about it. But the fact of the matter is, in this Congress, we have to take us where we can and victories where we can to address real problems for companies like Westminster Tool.

#### ENFORCEMENT OF BORDER SECURITY LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, Congress writes the laws, and the executive branch enforces them.

Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker. Congress writes the laws, and the executive branch enforces them.

At least that is what we teach our kids, and that has been the norm throughout our Nation's history. Yet President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have refused to enforce our Nation's border security laws.

Now, as House Republicans are poised to impeach Secretary Mayorkas for his willful and systematic refusal to en-

force our Nation's border security laws, President Biden feigns that Congress must pass even more border security laws before he can act.

It is a sad attempt to shift blame, Mr. Speaker. If the President truly wanted to secure our border, by a stroke of a pen, he could reinstate remain in Mexico. President Biden could cancel the mass parole of unvetted migrants into the United States. He could cease repositioning border agents away from the border, and he could resume border wall construction.

But, Mr. Speaker, we know the President is not going to do that. The President should do that, and he should start today by enforcing our border security laws, but, sadly, he won't, and he should not be able to shift blame to anybody else.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Gracious and merciful God, receive our prayers and our purpose for this day. We begin with the best of intentions, renewed by the rest of the weekend, asking Your blessing as we tackle the challenges laid before us in the week ahead.

Hear our prayer that we remain committed to doing the right thing, and bless our desire to bring careful thought to do what is pleasing to You, taking pains to remain true to honest things, true not only in Your eyes, but in the eyes of the people we serve.

In this may we prove faithful to loving You with our whole heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with our whole mind.

And may the work of our hands and the intentions of our truest self serve as worthy proof that our love for our neighbor is no less than that for our own selves.

Lead us, O Lord, in the living of this day, we pray in Your most holy name. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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