



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

No. 146

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MALOY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 19, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CELESTE MALOY 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 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and to celebrate the countless contributions the Latino community has given to the United States.

Whether you are an immigrant like me, a Hispanic American like many others, or have been in this country for generations, the Latino community is

deeply interwoven within the fabric of America.

Many came to the United States and went through a long process in search of the American Dream and embodied the hopes and possibilities our Nation has to offer. America is a unique Nation where anyone, no matter their background, can climb as far as they can dream and achieve extraordinary things.

My story is just one example. When I was young, my family and I immigrated to the United States in search of our American Dream. We set up roots in southern Arizona and embraced the opportunities this amazing Nation has to offer. My parents taught me the value of hard work and perseverance, values that drove me all the way here to the United States Congress.

As the first naturalized citizen from Mexico elected to represent Arizona in any Federal office, it is my honor and privilege to work to give back to the community where my family and I are living our American Dream.

As co-chair of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Caucus, I was proud to co-lead a resolution designating the week of September 9, 2024, as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week.

This week also marks another special occasion, Citizenship Day. Madam Speaker, 18 years ago this week, I received the honor of a lifetime, becoming a United States citizen. I will never forget the pride I felt that day when I raised my right hand and recited the oath of citizenship.

This reminds me of a story where my dad talked to me right before I launched this effort, and he said: Son, where else in the world could we have our story? We come to this country, immerse in the culture, learn English, go through the long process of becoming U.S. citizens.

My dad said: I drive a bus my whole life, and now my son has the oppor-

tunity to be a United States Congressman. Where else in the world could we have this story?

Friends, the answer is simple: Only in America could we have that story.

CONGRATULATING UTTERBACK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my former middle school, Utterback Middle School in Tucson, Arizona.

Utterback Middle School recently made an incredible achievement. The Arizona State Board of Education graded them as a B school. Since 2018, this school has improved two whole letter grades, an outstanding achievement that reflects the unwavering dedication our teachers and educators have for our students.

During the August work period, I had the privilege of visiting Utterback Middle School and was extremely impressed with the school's program and staff, particularly the principal, Ms. Sanders.

Rising to a B ranking is largely due to the efforts of Principal Sanders, who worked with staff and community partners to turn the school around. She even recently received the Stellar Principal Award for her incredible work.

Utterback offers nine different electives and two intervention classes that include drama, dance, Lego technology, and computer literacy to keep students engaged in a variety of ways.

They also provide a class called AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, a unique readiness program that gives the students the opportunity to prepare for life beyond the classroom.

Thanks to the outstanding work of Principal Sanders and her team, Utterback Middle School provides unique opportunities for students to engage in the classroom in a variety of ways. They should be an example for other schools around the country.

□ 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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I thank Utterback Middle School for providing an incredible learning opportunity to the students in Tucson, and I thank Principal Sanders and her team for all their great work. Go Unicorns.

HONORING THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of our Nation's founding document and to recognize Constitution Week, a time to celebrate the wisdom and foresight of our Founding Fathers and recommit ourselves to the values that define America.

I also recognize the Tombstone Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for all of their work promoting Constitution Week across southern Arizona.

This week, 247 years ago, our Constitution was ratified, giving birth to a nation conceived in the ideals of freedom and democracy, governed by the consent of we the people, not the whims of an overseas monarch.

It established the United States as a nation of laws, where institutions are respected and all citizens are afforded a presumption of innocence and the right to a fair and speedy trial. It gave us separation of power between branches of government, preventing the concentration and abuse of power by any single entity.

Our Constitution is our cornerstone and our roadmap. As Americans, we have a responsibility to uphold these values and ideals to ensure it continues guiding us for generations to come.

On this Constitution Week, let us reflect on the principles of liberty and democracy enshrined in the Constitution and recommit ourselves to the ideals that make America truly exceptional.

God bless the United States of America.

BIPARTISAN PATH IS ONLY WAY FORWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, we are just 11 days away from a government shutdown, and let me be clear: A shutdown would be a disaster for the American people.

A shutdown would disrupt vital services, halt disaster relief, and put countless Federal employees out of work. We simply cannot afford to go down that path.

Speaker JOHNSON made the deliberate choice to tie the SAVE Act, which seeks to create burdensome barriers to voting, directly to the government spending bill. He is setting himself up to fail to push a voter suppression bill. This is just another attempt to make it harder for Americans to participate in democracy.

We already have processes in place to verify citizenship during registration. Only citizens can vote in U.S. Federal elections. Let me repeat that: Only citizens can vote in U.S. Federal elections.

Study after study shows that noncitizen voting is not affecting our elections. It is a Federal crime for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections, and noncitizens who violate the law and attempt to vote anyway face prison time and deportation.

Here is the plain truth: At Donald Trump's orders, extreme MAGA Republicans are holding government funding hostage unless they can impose some of the most radical pieces of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda.

Instead of wasting time with political games, Republicans must stop following the former President's orders and join Democrats in a bipartisan effort to pass a short-term funding extension free of poison pills so we can keep the government open and complete a bipartisan government funding process this year. We did it last year, and we can do it again.

Instead of focusing on the needs of the American people, extreme MAGA Republicans are more interested in playing puppet for Donald Trump.

Let's be clear: Donald Trump wants to shut down the Federal Government. Is this really the leadership the American people deserve or just a chaotic circus of partisan political games?

This is not how you govern. This is how you create chaos. Instead of collaborating for the good of the country, they are threatening a shutdown just to appease a former President. Are they representing their constituents or just following orders directly from Mar-a-Lago?

Let's not forget, a government shutdown doesn't impact politicians. It harms everyday Americans. For some Republicans, it is just another opportunity for partisan political theater.

The American people are tired of the Trump show. They want results. I came to Congress to get things done. We are on track to be the least productive Congress in our Nation's history because Trump Republicans continue to play partisan political games.

Let's put people over politics and come together to pass a clean continuing resolution that supports the needs of our constituents and keeps the government open for business. We owe it to the American people to prioritize their well-being and their best interests.

I will work with anyone and everyone to keep the government open, and a bipartisan path in a divided Congress is the only way forward. Let's stop wasting time and fund the government.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of agriculture education.

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to celebrate school-based

agricultural education, share the story of agricultural education's importance and effectiveness in the United States, and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators.

This recognition of agriculture education is more important than ever. The average American farmer is around 57 years old, a statistic that underscores the urgent need for agriculture education.

Inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders is critical for our food security, and this encouragement begins in the classroom. As chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I had the privilege of meeting with agriculture educators and students in Pennsylvania and throughout the country. Programs like Future Farmers of America and the 4-H strongly advocate advancing agriculture education and exposing our youth to the agricultural industry.

In July, I met with the Pennsylvania FFA State officers here in our Nation's Capital. We discussed many career opportunities in the agricultural field and the vital needs of a robust agricultural industry.

We interact with agriculture at least three times a day, and students must have the opportunity to learn about the industry and its career opportunities.

Madam Speaker, each one of us can play a role in advocating for agriculture education. Now more than ever, we must recognize that food security is national security, and a nation that cannot feed itself is a nation in turmoil.

As I mentioned earlier, we are at a critical point in our agricultural history. With the average age of our farmers hovering around 57 years old, it is essential that we develop the next generation of farmers.

To support the next generation of farmers, I included provisions in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 that bolster new and beginning farmers by increasing access to credit and crop insurance; supporting research, extension, and education activities; and improving program delivery at USDA.

As a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, co-chair of the 4-H Caucus, and a proud member of the FFA Caucus, I am passionate about advancing agricultural education in our schools.

Teach Ag Day highlights the importance of agriculture education in our schools and communities. It is not just about learning how to farm. It is about understanding the science, technology, and business behind agriculture.

I thank all of our agricultural educators across the country and the Commonwealth and in the 15th Congressional District. Their dedication and hard work are the foundation of our agricultural future, and the guidance that they provide prepares the next