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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 19, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL MEUSER 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 NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I have good news and bad news to share as we celebrate National Apprenticeship Week. Let's get the bad news out of the way first.

The Biden-Harris administration has taken steps that would destroy the apprenticeship model. Just look at the Department of Labor's nearly 800-page proposed apprenticeship rule.

This is irresponsible and reckless because we know apprenticeships are a proven strategy in closing the Nation's skills gap. With 8 million open jobs in the U.S., expanding apprenticeships will be critical to keep the American economy growing.

Not only does the Department of Labor's proposed apprenticeship rule blatantly circumvent Congress, but more to the point, it sets up a regulatory gauntlet that will limit employer and sponsor participation in apprenticeships. This will effectively close a route into the workforce for Americans seeking an alternative to a baccalaureate degree.

Currently, registered apprenticeship programs in the United States constitute only 0.3 percent of the labor force, a significantly lower share than many other developed countries. Further, these apprenticeships have yet to gain a foothold in growing industries like healthcare and information technology. One reason for this is that employers are discouraged from participating, and the NPRM only provides them with more reasons to stay away.

Instead of buoying up the sinking ship, the administration's proposed rule smothers an already underutilized system with more red tape and a one-size-fits-all mandate. In fact, even President Biden seems to recognize that the rule will deter sponsors and employers from voluntary participation since he had to issue an executive order directing Federal agencies to coerce job creators to subject their apprenticeship programs to Federal control.

What is more, the proposed rule expands Federal control over apprenticeships, injects political ideology and DEI mandates into the apprenticeship system, and imposes significant burdens on apprenticeship sponsors and employers.

Here is just one example of the NPRM's expansion of control: It elimi-

nates the competency-based model that currently permits registered apprenticeship programs to measure skill acquisition through the demonstrated attainment of competencies instead of the amount of time spent on the job learning. Competency is increasingly becoming the currency of the labor market as more employers are focusing on the skills a worker possesses, not how long it takes to acquire them.

Why would the Department of Labor move apprenticeships in the opposite direction and eliminate the competency-based model, a model that has been referred to as the "bread and butter" of apprenticeship expansion?

The people most injured by the current administration's regulatory overreach are American workers who are eager to find routes to economic independence that avoid the ballooning costs and depreciating values of a baccalaureate degree.

Now it is time for the good news. Under the second Trump administration, Americans can look forward to an apprenticeship liberation that benefits students, workers, and job creators. In his previous administration, President Trump presided over a booming workforce that emphasized on-the-job learning, upskilling and reskilling opportunities for American students and workers. His industry-recognized work program was part of this success.

Under the second Trump administration, we look forward to a renewal of this expansion of apprenticeship opportunities, which is so central to maintaining America's economic leadership in the world.

Job creators are on the front lines of their respective industries every day, and they understand the exact skills workers need to be successful. We should empower them to provide their workers with tools for success, and we look forward to doing so under the second Trump administration through the expansion of the apprenticeship program.

□ 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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HONORING DR. SANIA CHOUDHURY IRWIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Dr. Sania Choudhury Irwin, a trailblazing civic leader from Glen Ellyn devoted to engaging and strengthening her community and our democracy. A respected leader, she works to address the important issues in our country, such as healthcare, education, immigration, press freedom, the impact of money in politics, and so much more.

As the vice president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, Sania works to inform constituents, empower voters, and defend our democracy across the country and in Illinois' Third Congressional District. She also leads nonpartisan initiatives to increase voter participation, ensuring that our local communities make their voices heard.

As the cofounder of One Community, Dr. Irwin works to advance social justice initiatives in DuPage County, focusing on programs and actions that build community. Her efforts and advocacy have resulted in the formation of a community relations commission in which she serves as the chair, spearheading policies, initiatives, and resources that create a more equitable and more inclusive society for all.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Dr. Irwin for her inspiring leadership, commitment to justice, and unwavering service to our community and our Nation. I thank Dr. Irwin.

HONORING SISTER MARTA CICHON

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Marta Cichon, a woman who has profoundly transformed the lives of Polish immigrant families and uplifted single mothers in Illinois.

Born in Zabkowice, Poland, Sister Marta's duty to humanity has led her across the globe, serving in Australia before arriving in the United States in 2000. Here, she recognized a pressing need to support mothers and their children who are vulnerable to homelessness, hunger, and the lack of assistance.

Ultimately, Sister Marta established a single mothers home in 2008. The single mothers home offers essential services, from legal assistance to mental health support, empowering women to rebuild their lives.

For nearly 15 years, Sister Marta has provided refuge, hope, and a path to independence for over 140 mothers and 180 children, including those who have experienced domestic violence. To this day, these families maintain a close bond with Sister Marta, who considers them family.

I commend on this day Sister Marta for her compassion, resilience, unwavering community service, and commitment to ensure that all of us are seen.

May we be inspired by her. May we be encouraged by her and be reminded that it is our responsibility to serve others.

"Dziękuję" "thank you," Sister Marta.

IRS FAILS TO SERVE AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, there has been a sharp increase in hostile and adversarial nations kidnapping American citizens and holding them for ransom. While these Americans are being held hostage, the last thing that they and their families need is more bureaucratic red tape here at home.

The fact that the IRS has been charging these hostages with late fees and penalizing them for failing to file their tax returns is yet another sign of the agency's failure to serve the American people.

It is time for the House to pass the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act, which will address this issue and support these Americans during one of the most challenging times in their lives.

An equally important component of this bill is that it would revoke the tax-exempt status of organizations that support terrorist groups like Hamas. No organization that supports terrorist groups should have tax shelters here in the United States.

It is time to stand with our allies and Americans. We need to pass this bill. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

CELEBRATING PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 161 years ago today, President Abraham Lincoln stood before a group of soldiers, citizens, and elected officials to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

His words offered a chance to reflect on the terrible cost that this battle had brought to Gettysburg, to the soldiers who had fought there, and to our Nation that was strained by years of a devastating Civil War.

Here in Congress, I have the honor to represent Gettysburg and the Gettysburg National Military Park. Today, the park does incredible work to tell the story of Gettysburg and to preserve the memory of all those who fought during this historic battle.

Please join me in remembering the words of President Lincoln: "That this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth."

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National American Education Week.

National American Education Week is a time to acknowledge the vital role education plays in shaping not just individual lives but the future of our great Nation.

Education is the foundation upon which our Nation was built, communities thrive, and progress is made. Every child who walks through the doors of a classroom carries with them the potential to lead, innovate, and inspire.

It is our collective responsibility as educators, parents, and community members to ensure that students have every tool and every opportunity to succeed. Every student across our Nation has the right to an education.

As a senior member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I have advocated for commonsense legislation that uplifts our students and educators nationwide. Chief among these is the All Children Are Equal Act, or the ACE Act. This bipartisan legislation would reform the discriminatory title I formula to ensure equity and fairness for school districts with high concentrations of poverty. School funding should never be based on a child's ZIP Code, and I will continue to work to ensure that Federal funding is fairly and equitably distributed across our country.

Additionally, as co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am proud to continue my longstanding support and commitment to advancing CTE and investing additional resources in these highly successful programs that create rungs on a ladder of opportunity. CTE provides students with the skills they need to succeed in life, and I will continue to support efforts that help students and families of all ages make the right decisions for their careers.

□ 1015

I am proud to lead on the Counseling for Career Choice Act, which provides additional resources to school counselors so that they can better equip students with the knowledge and the information necessary to make informed decisions about their educational journeys and future careers. Students are our future, and the commonsense legislation I have supported uplifts students to create a skilled workforce.

National American Education Week is a celebration of everyone who makes education possible. First, we honor our teachers, the unsung heroes who dedicate themselves to the mission of shaping minds. Their passion, patience, and perseverance are the lifeblood of our schools. A great teacher does more