

Raleigh Police Chief Estella Patterson, who recently announced that she will retire next year.

Since Chief Patterson joined the Raleigh Police Department in 2021, I have been proud to have worked with her on many issues. She has led the charge to lower crime rates, address gun violence, recognize mental health issues, and more. Chief Patterson offered vital input on my legislation, the Supporting Women COPS, which would incentivize more women to join law enforcement.

She has continued to prioritize a police force that represents the community it serves. Chief Patterson also led our community through one of its darkest times, the Hedingham shooting that stole five precious lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Patterson for all she has done for our community. I wish her good luck in her retirement and her future endeavors.

#### HONORING HOWARD HAWKS

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of Nebraska's own, Howard Hawks.

Howard was a generational leader who lived the American Dream, co-founding an energy company called Tenaska. Since founding the company in 1987, he helped grow it into one of the largest privately held companies in America.

Mr. Speaker, if you know Howard Hawks, then you know that if he got involved in a project, people in a five-State area knew exactly what was going on, and it would get done.

One of his greatest investments was at the University of Nebraska where he gave both his time and his treasure. He served almost two decades as a regent and helped strengthen our Husker athletic program as a booster.

In recent years, he has provided the lead gift that helped build the University of Nebraska Lincoln Business School. This is just another example of his philanthropic projects that he took on throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, Howard will be missed. Our hearts and prayers go out to Rhonda and the entire Hawks family as we all mourn his loss.

#### RECOGNIZING SHANELLE SCALES- PRESTON

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shanelle Scales-Preston for her decades of service to the House of Representatives.

Shanelle has lived in and served in Contra Costa County in northern California her whole life. Since 2001, she

has worked diligently on behalf of district residents, first for my predecessor, Congressman George Miller, who served in this House for 40 years, and now for my office. As our district director, she has helped lead our efforts in the district to provide outstanding service to our constituents.

Shanelle has also shown unwavering devotion to her hometown of Pittsburg, California, where she resides with her husband, Damon, and their sons, Jaden and Ashton. She has served on the Pittsburg City Council serving as mayor and council member since 2018, working tirelessly to foster a strong and diverse community throughout Pittsburg, California.

Shanelle was chosen by the voters to serve as the next Contra Costa County supervisor for District 5. While I am very sad to see her go from our team, I am confident that in this role she will continue to be an effective and wonderful leader for our community, for our county, and for our country.

It has been a joy to work with Shanelle throughout the years, and I am incredibly grateful and proud for her service.

#### MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cleveland Museum of Natural History ahead of their grand reopening.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has been teaching people from all over America about the natural world for more than a century, and it has been a global leader in scientific research, science education, and conservation.

The museum serves over 300,000 people each year, including 30,000 students. The museum's collection encompasses approximately 5 million specimens, and its Natural Areas Program protects more than 12,000 acres of natural habitats in northeast Ohio.

This week's opening of the new 50,000-square-foot expansion of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will launch a new era for the museum which will share science and the wonders of discovery for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the museum on this momentous occasion, and I look forward to its next century of success.

#### ESCALATING CRISIS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BAN- GLADESH

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness of the human rights violations in Bangladesh against the minority Hindus.

Since 1971 when Bangladesh got its freedom from Pakistan, there has been numerous occasions where minority Hindus have been attacked. More recently we have seen a Hindu priest being arrested and his lawyer was murdered.

The crowds of the majority have destroyed Hindu temples, Hindu deities, and Hindus who are practicing their religion in peace. The time has now come for the United States Congress to act and the U.S. Government to act. It is important whether we use humanitarian issues, economic sanctions, every possible tool in our hands needs to be used to ensure that such atrocities in Bangladesh against the Hindus stop right away.

#### ADDRESSING THE WILDFIRE CRISIS

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of the bipartisan Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act.

This bill is one pillar of my landmark, comprehensive legislation to address the worsening wildfire crisis. It transforms our fight against wildfires, moving us from our current reactive approach to a proactive plan to prevent mega fires.

For too long, we have been playing catch-up with wildfires instead of preventing them. This bill flips the script, cutting red tape so communities like mine can tap into existing disaster funds before those flames threaten our homes. It means communities can rebuild faster, strengthen their defenses, and avoid devastating losses down the road.

We know wildfire prevention will cost \$6 billion each year, and this proactive approach is more cost effective, and it is the best way to protect our neighbors, keep our firefighters safe, and speed up help when families need it.

The passage of this bill is a major step forward, and I look forward to the full passage of my full wildfire modernization process package as soon as possible now and for the future.

□ 1215

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### SINGLE, UNIQUE ZIP CODES FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 8753) to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8753

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SINGLE, UNIQUE ZIP CODES FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES.**

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service shall designate a single, unique ZIP Code for each of the following communities:

- (1) Eastvale, California.
- (2) North Tustin, California.
- (3) Castle Pines, Colorado.
- (4) Centennial, Colorado.
- (5) Cherry Hills, Colorado.
- (6) Greenwood Village, Colorado.
- (7) Highlands Ranch, Colorado.
- (8) Lone Tree, Colorado.
- (9) Severance, Colorado.
- (10) Silver Cliff, Colorado.
- (11) Sterling Ranch, Colorado.
- (12) Superior, Colorado.
- (13) Scotland, Connecticut.
- (14) Estero, Florida.
- (15) Ft. Myers, Florida.
- (16) Hollywood, Florida.
- (17) Miami Lakes, Florida.
- (18) Ocoee, Florida.
- (19) Oakland Park, Florida.
- (20) Lighthouse Point, Florida.
- (21) Coconut Creek, Florida.
- (22) Parkland, Florida.
- (23) Deerfield Beach, Florida.
- (24) Wilton Manors, Florida.
- (25) Burr Ridge, Illinois.
- (26) Urbandale, Iowa.
- (27) Carmel, Indiana.
- (28) Noblesville, Indiana.
- (29) Westfield, Indiana.
- (30) Zionsville, Indiana.
- (31) Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- (32) Montz, Louisiana.
- (33) Grass Valley, Nevada.
- (34) Swanzey, New Hampshire.
- (35) Kinnelon, New Jersey.
- (36) Flanders, New York.
- (37) Glendale, New York.
- (38) Riverside, New York.
- (39) Pendelton, New York.
- (40) Northampton, New York.
- (41) Goose Creek, South Carolina.
- (42) Fairview, Texas.
- (43) Murphy, Texas.
- (44) Sargent, Texas.
- (45) Fairlawn, Virginia.
- (46) Caledonia, Wisconsin.
- (47) Franklin, Wisconsin.
- (48) Greenfield, Wisconsin.
- (49) Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin.
- (50) Somers, Wisconsin.
- (51) Mills, Wyoming.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 8753, to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes within their system for certain communities throughout the country.

While all the communities in this bill typically utilize some sort of ZIP Code already, the ones we are discussing today do not have a ZIP Code that is unique to their city or town in the Postal Service system, and this does have some very serious consequences.

Communities that do not have a unique ZIP Code within the Postal Service system often experience associated problems that include loss of economic development, loss of sales tax, unjustifiably high insurance rates, tax remittance and commercial licensing issues, diminished public safety and reduced emergency response times, identity issues, and efficiency issues.

For example, first responders often go to the wrong streets of people needing help. They are experiencing delays due to these ZIP Code issues that would be addressed by my legislation.

It is estimated that the city of Lone Tree, in my new district in Colorado, is losing about \$5 million in sales tax revenue each year because of this ZIP Code issue.

H.R. 8753 requires the Postal Service to formally establish unique ZIP Codes for these communities across the Nation within their system. This bill is a product of various House Members' advocacy for their districts and requires the Postal Service to formally recognize 51 communities within their system.

As a sponsor of this bill, I am proud that this bill would help communities in my home State of Colorado, including the communities of Silver Cliff, which really got me passionate about this issue to begin with, Lone Tree, Castle Pines, Centennial, Severance, Greenwood Village, Superior, and Sterling Ranch.

The current process allows small towns and cities to petition the Postal Service for a unique ZIP Code, but it is rarely approved. If it is denied, they cannot appeal this decision for up to 10 years.

Congress has intervened on these matters in the past and passed laws enacting four unique ZIP Codes through the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, so there is a precedent for this type of legislation.

My bipartisan bill has support from communities and Members throughout our great country. While this may seem like a niche issue to some, it is very and extremely important to these cities and towns that asked for this bill to be put forward on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bipartisan bill to support small cities

and towns throughout America, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), my friend, for bringing forward H.R. 8753.

This bill would require the U.S. Postal Service to designate unique ZIP Codes for more than 50 different communities across America. The legislation actually combines multiple bills that have been introduced in this Congress by both Republicans and Democrats that aim to address specific community concerns expressed over a long period of time about disrupted mail delivery, undeliverable and lost mail, and geographic confusion.

I commend Representative BOEBERT for her very creative and undaunted work on this issue, which has been a chronic headache for residents of dozens of small communities across the land.

For example, Scotland, Connecticut, is a municipality with only 600 addresses, and it is broken up into six different ZIP Codes. The town has reported multiple instances of disruptions in mail delivery, including absentee ballots in recent elections. The town has already sought the assistance of the Postal Service, which operates a ZIP Code Boundary Review Process, and even sent an appeal after their initial petition was denied.

The process has been protracted and a tough task for them, as well as for other communities covered by Ms. BOEBERT's legislation. The distinguished gentlewoman's bill operates as a last resort for towns to get the resources and the attention that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to support this legislation. Congress has designated new ZIP Codes via legislation in the past. I found the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, enacted in 2006, required the designation of unique ZIP Codes for four different towns. This one is far more comprehensive.

Mr. Speaker, we are delighted to endorse the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8753, which directs the U.S. Postal Service to designate unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, including North Tustin in my district.

North Tustin is a longtime community and census designated place, but its status as an unincorporated area has caused confusion. Simply put, a unique ZIP Code is common sense, and it will help residents with postal delivery and taxation issues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH), my good friend.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill. It is an important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the community of Fairlawn, Virginia. Fairlawn is in Pulaski County, but it has a Radford City ZIP Code.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues may say that is not such a big deal because, in most of the 50 States, the cities are within a county. In Virginia, the cities are completely independent.

All the tax money of the numerous businesses in Fairlawn often gets sent mistakenly to the city of Radford, which is completely independent of Pulaski County, thus denying Pulaski County or making it a hassle for them to track down the accurate amounts of money that they are supposed to receive on the local part of the Virginia sales tax.

Further, this confusion can create other problems. Recently, our area was hit with Hurricane Helene. Pulaski County got its designation early.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, when Hurricane Helene hit, the County of Pulaski was designated a couple of days before the city of Radford for FEMA assistance, and the people of Fairlawn were told that they were not in Pulaski but in Radford, so they couldn't get assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we need the bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LOPEZ), who represents the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congresswoman BOEBERT's bill. She will be taking over for my district during the 119th Congress, so it is an honor to be here to support this.

For too long, this issue has been plaguing small communities. As a former mayor of Parker, Colorado, I know firsthand the challenges that residents have when they are not able to receive the mail on time and when they are not able to actually get emergency services.

I believe that this is commonsense legislation. I am glad to see that our colleagues are supportive of it.

Mr. Speaker, I champion this, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote unanimously behind this bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 8753, Ms. BOEBERT's bill. I am

very grateful for the gentlewoman bringing this forward.

My amendment would designate a new ZIP Code for Pendleton, New York. Pendleton is a growing community that has long been overlooked in our postal infrastructure.

Mail delays can cause serious consequences, especially for our seniors relying on timely medication or for local businesses depending on consistent shipping to serve their customers.

This simple change would improve the quality of life for Pendleton residents by ensuring reliable access to essential goods and services by mail and providing a distinct geographic identity for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, we have many colleagues who are excited about this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8753, which directs the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for communities across the country that currently do not have one.

These communities, including Sargent, Texas, in my district, and others, such as Somers, Wisconsin, do not have their own unique ZIP Codes and can experience a wide variety of associated problems. They include inconsistent postal deliveries, longer emergency response times, loss of economic development, and loss of sales tax, just to name a few.

This legislation is a simple, essential, and commonsense solution to help our cities and towns across the country that currently do not have unique ZIP Codes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, before I start on the content of this legislation, I thank the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), the sponsor of this legislation. I also thank Chairman COMER and Mr. RASKIN for working together.

Mr. Speaker, that is the only nice thing I am going to say because I am frustrated that we are here. We have the greatest country in the world, and we can't even figure out how to do ZIP Codes. This is something the post office should just do on their own.

The fact that we have to do legislation to fix this is frustrating, but I do thank my friends because my friends have refused to let the bureaucracy sit here and stew, leaving these ridiculous conditions in place. They have come in and proposed a solution on a bipartisan basis.

Particularly in my district in south Louisiana, the community of Montz, in

St. Charles Parish, has a mess of a ZIP Code, so this actually ensures that they are going to have their own ZIP Code.

Then, of course, the greatest university in the Nation—I will let it come to mind; that is right, LSU, and I hope you got it right—Louisiana State University has a broken up, bifurcated ZIP Code system. This bill fixes that, as well.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), Mr. RASKIN, and Chairman COMER for working together. I thank them for fixing these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I will say it again: Post offices should be able to do this on their own. I hate that we have to spend time in Congress doing this. This is just red tape that should be able to be fixed on its own. I thank the sponsors of this bill for not putting up with it. I appreciate their leadership in working together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) for his very thoughtful and insightful remarks on this. We had the Postmaster General with us yesterday in the Oversight Committee, and we are facing a crisis in lots of parts of the country in terms of undelivered mail, late mail, and inefficient delivery taking place. In the meantime, the costs are going up and up.

□ 1230

There is a lot of work that needs to be done in the post office. The post office is really the only Federal department that is defined by the Constitution itself. It is in Article I of the Constitution. The post office created the national transportation network, the postal roads. It created the national information network. Benjamin Franklin was the first Postmaster General.

We have got to bring the post office back to a point where we can rely on it to do the basic things that are so essential to our economy and to our society, and one of them is lining up the ZIP Codes properly.

Again, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Colorado for her initiative, which is truly bipartisan, to loop together all of the communities that have been very frustrated and disappointed in this process to say that Congress will, indeed, act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I associate my remarks with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES). This is a very frustrating thing that we have to be in Congress debating and issuing legislation on.

I am so proud to be here and have a part in that, but this is something that should have been done. Many of these

cities, many of these communities have requested the United States Postal Service to give them a unique ZIP Code, and they have been denied.

This started for me with the town of Silver Cliff in Colorado. It is one of the most beautiful towns right next to Westcliffe, Colorado in Custer County. In my first term, I represented Custer County before redistricting. They were taken away from me, but this was one of the very first issues that I learned of as their Representative.

It was not the first time this issue was brought to a Member of Congress. Two Members of Congress prior to me had heard about this issue, had legislation on this issue, and the legislation did not go forward.

In the Oversight Committee, we do have jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, and I am so grateful for Chairman COMER and Ranking Member JAMIE RASKIN, who have worked so diligently alongside of me to get this legislation through committee with complete and full support of every Member, and now I am looking forward to this bipartisan legislation passing the House, going to the Senate, and hopefully being signed into law.

I thank Senator BENNET for also being passionate about the cities who need unique ZIP Codes in Colorado, but hopefully we don't need legislation in the future to designate these ZIP Codes, to get the people what they deserve. Hopefully, this sets a precedent for the United States Postal Service to approve these communities' requests, and it won't take an act of Congress to do the right thing.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8753 to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for communities across the United States.

Madam Speaker, communities lacking a unique ZIP Code often experience a host of issues that extend beyond just the delivery of mail and can impact everything from economic development to emergency response.

This is no exception for the community of Mills, Wyoming, whose existing designation has caused issues with residential mail delivery, loss of property tax revenue and franchise fees, and incorrect census accounts.

Each of these issues poses significant challenges for Mills as it continues to grow, develop, and attract new residents across Wyoming and beyond.

Passage of this bill will go a long way to correct this oversight, not only for Mills, but for other communities nationwide.

I am grateful to the city of Mills and their advocacy on this legislation, and I am proud to be one of its cosponsors.

I will also mirror what Representative BOEBERT was saying about the im-

portance of mail delivery in our communities. Coming from the least populated State in the Nation and one of the largest landwise, I can assure you that having consistent and reliable mail delivery is absolutely critically important, not only for the delivery of medication to our veterans, but to make sure that we are able to comply with a variety of laws.

I thank Representative BOEBERT and Chairman COMER for their leadership on this critically important issue and I support this legislation to resolve these issues for my constituents in Mills.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 8753.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I thank everyone, once again, all of the cosponsors, all of my colleagues who have supported this legislation, Ranking Member RASKIN, and Chairman COMER.

This has been an amazing effort that we have come together to designate these unique ZIP Codes to recognize these cities.

I want the people to understand we know there are more cities and towns throughout each and every State that are facing this issue and, hopefully, the United States Postal Service will do the right thing in the future once they see what we can do by passing a bill like H.R. 8753 and providing these cities and towns with the identity that they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Madam Speaker, I understand we have a few moments before our friends arrive for the next discussion.

I, again, commend the distinguished and passionate gentlewoman from Colorado for her really creative work on this legislation.

I know it means a lot to thousands and thousands of people across the country. It is going to make people's lives a lot simpler. The post office should be something that facilitates our work in small business, our work sending out bills or checks and receiving them, and the post office should not be something that gets in the way.

This legislation will definitely ameliorate a problem that exists, and we hope it will facilitate life, commerce, and social action taking place in lots of parts of the country.

This also gives me the opportunity to thank my colleague for engaging in this legislative endeavor in a totally bipartisan way. We live in a time where partisan feelings are intense and ferocious and, of course, that is not historically novel.

There have been partisan tempers flaring basically since the Federalists and the Democratic Republicans went at it in the election of the 1800s. I suppose George Washington was the last

President who actually won a unanimous verdict in the electoral college. He got all the electoral college votes. Everybody loved Washington.

After that, we formed political parties. There is nothing evil about political parties. The alternative of having political parties, I suppose, is a one-party system something like is developed in China with the Communist Party there or in Russia under Vladimir Putin or what Orban is working on with illiberal democracy in Hungary.

There is an easy way to get rid of partisanship if partisanship is the problem and that is you get rid of political parties. We can't do that because political parties are a sign of health in a society because people have different views about things and political parties are a great way to articulate different agendas and programs, bring them to the electorate, bring them to the voters, and to express conflict in a civil and nonviolent way.

The problem, of course, is when we elevate our devotion to party above our devotion to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in the country as a whole. All of us who aspire and attained a public office are nothing but the servants of the people, all the people.

We might get elected with a little "R" next to our name or a "D" next to our name or an "I" next to our name, but once we swear our oath of office, we are there to uphold the Constitution for everyone and we are there to serve all of the people. That is our job.

If you say that sounds romantic or that sounds idealistic, actually, that is how we conduct most of our lives as politicians. If you come to my district office out in beautiful Rockville, Maryland, in the beautiful Eighth Congressional District, and you have a problem, let's say, with Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid or the post office or PPP loans, whatever it is, we will go to bat for you. We will go to work for you to help you navigate the twists and turns of the public system and Federal bureaucracy.

We never ask, are you a Democrat? Are you a Republican? Are you an Independent? If you are my constituent, we will go to bat for you. I know that is true of my friend from Colorado, too. She is there to serve everybody: Republicans, Democrats, Independents, others, and people who hate all the political parties.

All of those people are Americans and deserve the programs and the services of the government at the very least and certainly all of the rights and the freedoms that they are entitled to as Americans under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We have the honor and the privilege to serve the people, to serve all America, and to serve the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

We are not the masters of the people. Anybody who occupies public office, no matter how high or how low, is nothing but a servant of the people. That is

why the Founders created a system where if people begin to act like kings and queens and lords over the people, that is when we throw them out through elections or we evict, we eject, we reject, we impeach, we convict if we have to do that, but the Constitution has an electoral system to keep the process moving.

All of us are just servants of the people. Just like we are there to serve the people, the Federal departments we set up, like the post office, which I think still, even with all of the problems, is our most popular Federal function. With hundreds of thousands of hard-working, devoted people working in the post office, all of them work for the government, work for the Congress, which works for the people.

The three most important words in our Constitution are the three most important words in our country, we the people, and we reject every form of despotism and dictatorship and anybody who would try to overthrow rule by the people.

In this bill, which may be deceptively simple and may apply only to tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of people in the country, what we see is a democratic representative government in action. When we are trying to live up to our oaths, we can act in a bipartisan way. We can remember where the word "party" comes from. It comes from the French word "partie", which means a part. Each of our parties is nothing but a part of the whole.

When we are doing our jobs right, as Ms. BOEBERT is today, then we are acting in the interest of the whole without regard to political party or sect. I am proud to be a part of this legislation, I am proud to support it, and I am very hopeful that our friends in the Senate will pick it up quickly and we can move it through this Congress.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8753, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### INCREASING BASELINE UPDATES ACT

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9716) to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to provide baseline updates, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9716

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Increasing Baseline Updates Act".

#### SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE UPDATES TO BASELINE.

Section 202(e) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4)(A) The Director shall, to the extent practicable, submit to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least two updates to the baseline submitted under paragraph (1). At least one of the updates shall include economic data used by the Director to calculate such update.

"(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the Director from providing any other update to the baseline during such year."

#### SEC. 3. ANNUAL TECHNICAL BUDGET DATA SUBMISSION BY THE PRESIDENT.

Section 1106 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) On or before February 1 of each calendar year, the President shall submit to Congress technical budget data for the fiscal year beginning in the ensuing calendar year, which shall include up-to-date estimates for current year and prior year data and credit reestimates for the current year (as included in the Federal credit supplement of such budget)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

□ 1245

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 9716.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of my bill, the Increasing Baseline Updates Act.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) for co-leading this effort.

The Increasing Baseline Updates Act would require CBO to produce at least two baseline updates per year, including at least one with economic data. Currently, under the Budget Act, CBO is required to publish its baseline before February 15 of each year, but a specific number of baseline updates is not statutorily required.

As a result, in recent years, CBO has not published updates to the baseline later in the calendar year. The last time CBO published a baseline update after July was in 2020, and the Office has not published three baseline updates in a calendar year since 2019.

By requiring these two additional baseline updates each year, the In-

creasing Baseline Updates Act will ensure Congress has updated information on the most relevant budget and economic figures to better inform the appropriations process and other legislative proposals we consider later in any given calendar year.

The bill also ensures CBO will receive the relevant technical data from the executive branch by February 1 of each year so CBO can complete their baseline in a timely manner.

I was proud that this bill unanimously passed the Budget Committee this past September, with the help of the ranking member from Pennsylvania.

During the 118th Congress, the Budget Committee has been laser focused on sounding the alarm about the threat posed to our Nation by the debt and deficit crisis in which we find ourselves. This has included bipartisan efforts with our Democratic colleagues on reforms to bolster improper payment accountability, improve the budget process, and shore up our long-term fiscal solvency.

Critical to our efforts to rein in the Federal debt and deficit is providing oversight of CBO to ensure this office is providing Congress the most accurate and timely information possible to inform legislative efforts.

There is a sincere desire in a bipartisan way to get after the fiscal state of this Nation, and we have seen several proposals emerge. Not all of them have passed, but a lot of them have been worked on together with my Democratic colleagues on the Budget Committee to accomplish things to improve this process. That is what the Increasing Baseline Updates Act aims to accomplish.

We know we have a lot more work to do. We are \$36 trillion in debt, and we had a staggering \$1.8 trillion deficit last fiscal year. We are paying more just to service the debt than on our national defense for the first time. It is unacceptable, and we must reverse our debt culture.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the new Congress on efforts to grow the economy, cut spending, and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government. The Increasing Baseline Updates Act is a commonsense reform solidifying a total of three baseline updates per year to provide Congress with a better and more up-to-date sense of fiscal and economic developments, while paving the way for a return to regular order.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9716, the Increasing Baseline Updates Act, a bipartisan measure to ensure Congress has the accurate and timely information we need to govern responsibly.

This bill is fairly straightforward. It requires that the Congressional Budget