

injustices that Black women and many people face in our Nation, our workplaces, and our healthcare system.

I just left a hearing of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance where we discussed the 2023 hate crime report, which reported increases in hate crimes based on race, religion, and gender. In my community, we specifically have more hate crimes against Black transgender women.

I am also standing here in honor of the women that, even in their workplaces, are 2.5 times more likely to have their hair labeled as unprofessional. Twenty percent of Black women aged 25 to 34 have been sent home from work because of their hair.

This isn't about style; it is about systemic bias that polices our identities.

I am so glad that Ms. PRESSLEY has reintroduced the CROWN Act and that my mother, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, supported it. I helped to get it passed in Harris County. We are the first county in Texas to pass a local version of the CROWN Act. While our State government of Texas did pass the CROWN Act statewide, they have yet to properly enforce it. Students have been sent home, denied their education, and treated unfairly just because of the crown on their head.

#### HONORING ART DEL CUETO'S RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. BORDER PATROL

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my friend, Art Del Cueto, who is retiring from the U.S. Border Patrol after more than 20 years of service.

Art's life and career have shaped his views and understanding of the dynamics of the southern border. He grew up in Douglas, Arizona, directly across the border from Agua Prieta, Sonora, and freely shares stories of how different the border was in the days of his youth.

For the last 20 years, he has patrolled in the Tucson sector, which is consistently one of the busiest sectors in the country.

Art has made it his mission to ensure every American can understand the need for border security and is a prolific commentator in the news and hosts "The Green Line" podcast, bringing the truths of the border straight to the listeners.

Art is one of the most knowledgeable people on the Arizona border. He has hosted President Trump, Vice President-elect Vance, incoming border czar Tom Homan, and dozens of Members of Congress.

There are countless stories I could share from these trips, such as watching an alien shimmy over the border wall to be promptly apprehended by Border Patrol, meeting coyotes waiting on the Mexican side for the oppor-

tunity to cross alien groups, discovering a group of young women and children left alone in the desert by their smugglers and simply told by the coyotes to wait for Border Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, these examples are only a small fraction of what Art has seen over the course of his career. He is a great friend to me and a true American patriot. I am grateful to know him and honored to share his story here with you today. I wish him the best as he moves into the next chapter of his life.

#### MORE PAPERWORK FOR CAR BUYING

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that when you go to get a permit to rebuild your roof or go open a new bank account that you think: Could I do even more paperwork?

Well, that is going to be applied to cars now and other vehicles through the FTC, the Federal Trade Commission. They finalized a new rule to do just that to small business dealerships, the so-called CARS Rule.

An estimate of this rule by the Center for Automotive Research claims it will add at least 1 more hour to purchasing a vehicle and over \$24 billion in new regulatory costs across the 40 million transactions expected for consumer vehicles and hundreds of millions of consumer inquiries expected each year.

Even though this rule was supposed to only affect consumer sales, the FTC recently stated it would now apply to heavy-duty trucks, tractor-trailers, and schoolbuses, as well, which are almost exclusively bought by businesses and governments, not consumers.

Not even once did the FTC mention the words "heavy-duty trucks" or "commercial transactions" in their original proposal or the cost-benefit analysis that they are required to carry out.

A business buying a new cement truck and a family buying a minivan are two very different things. It only makes sense in the mind of a Washington bureaucrat that they somehow should be regulated the same way.

Next Congress, we need to fix or nix this sort of thing.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 115, MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1616 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 1616

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 115) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for

en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last night the House Committee on Rules met to report a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 115, the Midnight Rules Relief Act under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. It also provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, first off, I will start today by saying thank you to everyone who has prayed for our family and sent letters, flowers, and best wishes over the past 2 weeks. Your thoughts and your prayers have helped our family as we deal with an almost unimaginable crisis with the loss of our beloved daughter, Christine. The support from everyone in this body has been overwhelming, and I hope everyone knows that my family appreciates the support. We met overwhelming grief with overwhelming support, and for that I want to thank people.

With today possibly being the last time I manage this debate, and if this body will indulge me, I will express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity of a lifetime to serve as chairman of the exceptional Rules Committee.

When I was first elected in 2003, I could never have imagined serving in this capacity and performing such an important role in our legislative process. Throughout my career, I have made a point of always saying "yes" to a challenge. When Speaker JOHNSON called me, I knew I had no choice but to accept. Serving on this committee,

let alone assuming the role of chairman, has not been an easy ride, and the legislative process is not as smooth as what we learned in "Schoolhouse Rock!," but it has only allowed me and my appreciation for the House of Representatives to grow further. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve as its chairman.

It has given me a front-row seat to history, and whether I agreed with the decisions being made or not, this committee continues to be a model for how Members conduct themselves in the House of Representatives, respectful but ever-passionate, and I hope you all continue with that strong and honorable tradition in the next year because the American people have high expectations, but, frankly, they deserve the best from us.

I also will take a moment and thank the Rules Committee itself, my personal staff, the Rules Committee staff, who have worked so hard to ensure that I am prepared every day and that this body can conduct its work efficiently. For the past 22 years, I have been blessed to be surrounded by an amazing, smart, and talented staff. Without each of them, I would not have gotten to where I am today.

I thank my Republican colleagues for your continued commitment to prioritizing legislation that is always in the best interest of Americans. You all have a tall order next year, but having gotten to know each of you over my time here, I have every bit of confidence that this House is up to the task.

I appreciate Mr. Speaker's indulgence, and now we will get on to the business at hand.

Yesterday, the Rules Committee met to report on a rule providing for consideration of legislation that is as timely as it is fundamental to our constitutional checks and balances. The Congressional Review Act, or CRA, provides the primary legislative check on regulatory overreach by allowing Congress to reverse a rule by resolution. However, that is a single rule, and Congress' ability to keep up with these new regulations is constrained by its ability to write and pass new bills as fast as an administration can send them out with trillions of taxpayer dollars and resources at their disposal.

Administrations of both political parties tend to overwhelm Congress at the end of their term with hundreds of new rules. These are known as midnight rules, representing billions of dollars of new regulatory burden in the span of just a few short weeks. Congress has historically struggled to keep pace. The executive branch has exploited the inefficiency of the Congressional Review Act because bureaucrats know that Congress simply does not have the time or the resources to consider hundreds of rules, draft a bill for each one, and get each one signed into law by the time that rule would take effect. The result is our constituents bear the burden of this new bureau-

cratic cost without any accountability to eliminate it. H.R. 115 makes a small change to existing law to allow Congress to catch up to this expected onslaught of new regulations as the Biden-Harris administration leaves office.

The bill will streamline the process Congress already employs with respect to executive rulemaking. It does not change the lookback timeframe, congressional prerogatives to block similar rules, nor does it eliminate or constrain the executive rulemaking authority in any way. These things are already in existing law.

All it does is simply allow what Congress can already do in one bill instead of hundreds. Doing so will allow Congress to keep up with the rapid pace of midnight rules, reining in the Federal bureaucracy at a time when historically it is its most aggressive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I will take a moment to recognize my colleague, Chairman MICHAEL BURGESS.

First, I will let him know that he and his family will remain in our prayers during the difficult time that he is now dealing with, and we all will keep your daughter in our prayers, as well.

As he also mentioned in his opening remarks, this is the last time that he will be managing a rule on the House floor before his retirement. While it is no secret that Congressman BURGESS and I have rarely agreed on issues before us—we probably can't even agree on what to have for lunch—I have always respected his dedication. I have always respected his diligence and his service to this institution, and I know how much he loves this country.

I know I speak for all of us when I say that we appreciate his years of hard work and we wish him all the very, very best. We look forward to working with him in other capacities. He has placed his official portrait right in front of me in the Rules Committee, so I will constantly think of him.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, now for the matter at hand while we are all on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could stand here today under different circumstances and I wish I didn't have to open my remarks with the news of another senseless tragedy, but here we are again. Yet another school shooting, this time at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin. Innocent people killed; innocent people injured just days before Christmas.

Let's think about that for a moment. Innocent people killed and injured while the Republican leadership in this Congress does absolutely nothing about the epidemic of gun violence in this country. Nothing at all. It is shameful.

How many times are we going to let this happen? How many more shootings before we decide enough is enough?

This House should be moving heaven and earth to pass legislation to save lives. Instead, Republicans are wasting more time on yet another bill that does nothing and will go absolutely nowhere.

□ 1230

This so-called Midnight Rules Relief Act that we are considering is not about helping the American people. It is not about protecting kids from gun violence. It is not about making our communities safer. This bill is about one thing only: giving handouts to corporate special interests.

Republicans are gutting critical protections that keep our air clean, water safe, and economy fair because they want to give corporate special interests free rein to pollute, cheat, and exploit the system. This is about helping billionaires and big donors at the expense of everyone else.

While we waste time on this nonsense, kids continue to die in classrooms and parents continue to live in fear every time they drop their children off at school.

We should be voting on the assault weapons ban. We should be voting on universal background checks. We should be closing dangerous loopholes that allow deadly weapons to fall into the wrong hands.

Republicans don't want to do any of that. Why? Follow the money. Follow the money. Look at who the NRA donates to.

That is how Washington works. It is all one big giveaway for the special interests and those at the top who want to profit off gun sales.

I find it shameful. It is horrific that Republicans refuse to break free from the grip of the gun lobby.

Instead, we are here debating a bill that helps billionaire corporations and hurts everyday Americans. That is what we are doing in this Chamber today. What a disgrace, Mr. Speaker.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Americans want safety in the products they buy and the food they eat. Republicans, with this bill, will undermine the regulations that provide Americans peace of mind.

The government's job is to keep us safe, to put people's health and safety over corporate profits, but Republicans want to side with profit-making corporations and their billionaire buddies over the people's interests.

H.R. 115 would allow congressional Republicans to reverse dozens of agency rules at once, in one fell swoop, without careful consideration by professionals or regard for the safety of American families. This bill would help corporations cut corners at the expense of families across the country.

We have seen what happens when rules and regulations aren't in place. Think back to when cars became deadly fire traps after car accidents because there were no safety regulations. Remember the defective airbags that exploded, taking lives instead of saving them?

Without regulations, those car companies would have been able to go on doing that. Regulations make sure that salmonella does not enter our food supply and sicken millions.

Because they don't like regulations, because their corporate friends don't like regulations, in one simple bill, Republicans would eliminate dozens of agency rules, including a rule to replace lead pipes so communities have safe drinking water.

There are almost 10 million American households and—listen to this number—400,000 school and childcare centers that are served by lead service lines, pipes, or other fixtures. In some of our Republican districts, there are tens of thousands of families and children exposed to lead pipes.

Why are they putting their corporate interests over the health and safety of those who are drinking water from lead pipes?

The Biden administration's October 2024 rule makes sure that those dangerous lead pipes would be replaced, but if Republicans get their way, this rule could be on the chopping block without any discussion in Congress.

This Republican bill could also eliminate a proposed rule to expand access to contraception. Women deserve to know that Republicans can't seem to stop going after our reproductive healthcare, this time by reducing our access to basic contraception. Really, Republicans just can't seem to respect women's rights to basic healthcare.

The Republican bill could also eliminate a rule to establish safety standards for infant support cushions and even a rule to finally implement the National Suicide Hotline Act. Once again, because Republicans know that these regulations are popular with the American public, they want to eliminate them without discussion or debate.

"Midnight" is probably a good name to give to this bill because it is an in-the-dark attack on our ability to protect Americans now and in the future.

Congress already has a bill. If they want to reverse a regulation, they can do it. They can come on the floor and let the American people know why they want to do it so the American people are not in the dark.

This bill would let Republicans deny women's contraception. It would let them hide their work to weaken children's safety and hide the fact that they are turning their back on the suicide hotline.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule and against this bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

These are interesting talking points that have come up against a bill that the minority purportedly says didn't do anything in the first place. Let's look at what the facts of the case are.

This bill does nothing to change how the Congressional Review Act works. It does not change the look-back period for disapproving rules. It remains 60 legislative days from the point at which a rule is put in the Federal Register. That is current law.

It does not change whether Congress can block substantially similar rules. Congress is already able to do that. It is authorized under law and unchanged by this bill.

It does not proactively constrain or eliminate executive rulemaking authority.

All this bill does is allow Congress to do what it already can do in a single bill rather than having to file multiple bills.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, since this is possibly the last time the Rules Committee will be on the House floor for this Congress, I wanted to take a moment to review some things—the dysfunction, the chaos, the incompetence, the extremism, and the broken promises that have become the new norm under this failed Republican majority.

Republicans came into power talking about openness, transparency, and regular order. Regular order, my foot. All they have done is delivered a master class in dysfunction, extremism, and behind-closed-doors lawmaking.

They promised openness and debate, and they basically broke that promise the moment they took power. They presided over the most closed, the most undemocratic, and the most restrictive House of Representatives certainly since I have been here and probably ever.

Republicans shattered their own record for closed rules, 115 closed rules in total. Fifty-seven percent of the rules advanced by this committee were closed. That is a 29 percent increase over the last Congress, which they had the gall to criticize at the time.

Understand that a closed rule means no amendments—no amendments, no debate, no nothing. A bill goes to the floor, and we take it or leave it.

Closed rules may be appropriate at some times, but the unprecedented number of closed rules here isn't just a failure of process. It is a deliberate choice by Republican leaders to silence the voices of Members on both sides of the aisle.

All told, this majority rejected nearly 6,000 amendments in Congress. Eighty-two percent of them were Democratic amendments blocked by Republicans. It didn't stop there. Sixty-seven percent of bipartisan amendments, proposals that could have brought this House together and delivered results for the American people,

were blocked by the Republicans. They actively rejected bipartisanship.

Here is the most shocking number: Republicans blocked 57 percent of their own amendments. They didn't just box out Democrats. They boxed out a lot of their own people who wanted to bring amendments to the floor and have debates and votes. They blocked more than half of their own amendments. If I were a Republican, I would be asking: What the hell is going on around here? Why is this majority so afraid of debate?

We haven't even touched on their incompetence and dysfunction yet. Multiple times this Congress, we heard from Republican witnesses on bills that they never brought to the floor. Multiple times they would pass something through the Rules Committee only to never bring it up for a vote on final passage.

They still have not sent 13 bills they passed over to the Senate. Do these guys need to watch "Schoolhouse Rock!"? I mean, a bill can't become law if you don't send it over to the Senate.

They are half-passing their crappy bills. You literally can't make this stuff up, Mr. Speaker. They have waived regular order dozens and dozens of times, skipping hearings and mark-ups and sidelining committees of jurisdiction that have extensive expertise on policy matters.

Let's not forget how we started this Congress—with 5 days and 15 ballots just to elect a Speaker, a Speaker who handed over his gavel to the most extreme elements of the Republican Party. Then, 9 months later, the MAGA extremists fired him anyway. They fired him anyway, and they plunged the House into 3 weeks of complete paralysis and total chaos; 3 weeks where Congress couldn't move, couldn't legislate, couldn't do anything all because of Republican incompetence; 3 weeks where Republicans sat around and argued with themselves and did nothing at all about the urgent crises facing this country.

That is beyond dysfunction, Mr. Speaker. It is more than a waste of time. It is pathetic. If this were the private sector, they would all be fired. Republicans sat around and did nothing for weeks on end while Democrats pleaded with them to do something, anything, and they did nothing.

Then, somehow, things got worse because Speaker JOHNSON didn't end the dysfunction. He doubled down. Under his leadership, Republicans issued 56 closed rules in his first 9 months.

Things went from bad to worse. Rule votes failed time and again, a stunning humiliation for this Republican leadership. For context, Mr. Speaker, before this Congress, the last time a rule failed on the House floor was over 20 years ago, in 2002. Now, it is becoming routine because Republicans can't even pass their own bills.

They said they would complete all 12 appropriations bills before the August

2023 recess—another broken promise. They said this year that they would finally get their act together—another broken promise because here they are, the week before Christmas, trying to pass another stopgap funding bill that nobody has even seen the text for.

Where is it? Where is it? Is it hiding behind a desk somewhere in the Chamber? Is it under the Christmas tree? With Republicans in charge of this place, maybe the Grinch stole it.

Maybe we will see the text before we get to vote on it. Who knows with this majority.

It is just astounding, astounding incompetence and chaos. It is honestly pathetic. Republicans have run this place like a dictatorship, Mr. Speaker, and they don't even have anything to show for it.

This has been the most ineffective Congress in American history, the fewest laws passed in the first year of any Congress since the Great Depression. Maybe, just maybe, it is because Republicans prioritize extremism and handouts for corporations and billionaires over solutions for everyday people.

Even when they did work to address real challenges, like avoiding a catastrophic debt default, keeping the government open, or delivering essential foreign aid, it was Democrats who stepped up every time and got those bills over the finish line. They needed our votes every time.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Republicans end this Congress the way they began it: Shutting down voices, shutting down ideas, and shutting off debate.

□ 1245

The American people deserve better. I think that is why the other side actually lost seats in this election. Control of this Chamber was decided by 7,309 votes across three districts out of 148 million votes cast for House candidates nationwide. That is not a mandate for chaos, Mr. Speaker, it is an indictment of this majority's failed leadership, and I shudder to think of how bad things will get next year if Republicans don't change things up.

Given their razor-thin margin next Congress, the way for them to do that is pretty obvious to me: They need to stop the extremism. They need to stop the extremism, and they need to get to work with Democrats to get stuff done.

That is the path ahead. That is what the American people want, and I hope my Republican friends will take it so we can work together for the good of the American people. All of us in this Chamber should be disappointed in the record of this Congress.

My Republican friends, in particular, should be disappointed with their failed leadership. That has to change. People have to come first. We have to solve the problems that are facing average people in this country, and we have an opportunity to do that. It is to turn away from the practices of this past Congress.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, can I just point out for the record that the number of rules produced by this Rules Committee under this Republican majority is more than the number of rules that were produced in the previous Congress under a Democrat majority. That is just a fact of life.

Look, I recognize this time of year, it does get tense. The ranking member knows well that the committee has to remain flexible to be able to give the Speaker the tools he needs to get done whatever needs to be done for the government to be funded for the end of year. It is not always a pretty process. It wasn't when Democrats were in charge, and certainly this year, the challenge remains.

I do want to say this: The motion to vacate the Speaker a year and some months ago was a mistake. It was a mistake brought to the floor by individuals who had a particular axe to grind, and they ground it. It hurt the country, and it was wrong.

We are so fortunate that Speaker JOHNSON stepped forward. He took the challenge that the Conference provided him, and he has provided excellent stewardship in the 16 months that have followed. We are enormously grateful as a Nation, especially at this time at the end of the year where we are giving thanks and we are looking around and counting our blessings.

Well, one of those blessings that families should count is Speaker MIKE JOHNSON because he has really placed the future of his country front and center in his life. His family has had to make sacrifices, and he has had to make sacrifices.

Yes, we have made some sacrifices on the Rules Committee. I freely admit that, but this country is worth that. As we wrap this up—and this may not be the last rule of the year. You never know. The excitement is always around every corner. As we conclude this debate, I, for one, just want to say how grateful I am to the Speaker of the House, MIKE JOHNSON, for the work that he has done in delivering us and getting us here. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his response, but maybe one of the reasons why you had the number of rules you did is because you had to keep on redoing them because they either failed on the House floor or they couldn't pass the House floor.

When the gentleman says that it was a mistake to vacate the Speaker's chair, it wasn't a mistake. It was something that the gentleman and the Republicans deliberately did by changing the rules to make it easier for any single Member to vacate the chair to get rid of the Speaker.

That was a deliberate change in the rules that Republicans made possible

because they were afraid of the extremists. They sided with the extremists in their Conference.

Again, I have nothing but personal high regard for the current Speaker of the House, but I don't think it is appropriate to say that Republicans are necessarily happy with his leadership.

I am just reading a quote from one of my Republican colleagues here who said that the Speaker's overseeing of the CR process, the continuing resolution process, is—and I am saying this directly—a “dumpster fire.” A dumpster fire.

All I am pleading with my Republican friends to do is to change your ways as we enter the new Congress, to actually make this place function in a way that doesn't always cave in to the extreme, rightwing, MAGA elements of your Conference and actually put people first.

We all don't have to agree on everything to agree on something, but the way my Republican friends run this place, even something we agree on, we can't get to the floor.

Maybe if we open the process up a little bit more, and we don't try to break this Congress' record for having the most closed rules, maybe we will have a deliberative process, and we can get some stuff done and the American people might have some confidence in this institution.

Right now, this place is not functioning. This is the least productive Congress that I can ever recall, perhaps even in history. I don't think that that is kind of the title that anybody should want to aspire to.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I would just point out that in the last election that the gentleman keeps referring to, Republicans did prevail. They prevailed up and down, Presidency, the Senate, and the House. It is a narrow margin to be sure, but it keeps you on your toes when you are trying to manage a very slim majority.

I think for the first time in history, there is a larger majority in the Senate than there will be in the House in the next Congress. The American people heard a vision articulated by our Presidential candidate, President Trump, and they responded to it.

I mean, what has failed the last 2 years has been leadership from the White House. It has been nonexistent. We are entering a time where there will be a bold vision for America, articulated by soon-to-be 47th President Donald J. Trump. I, for one, am grateful and looking forward to his leadership on that.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I respond to the gentleman that I think that when you look at the numbers, the election was pretty close.

Yeah, unfortunately, for people who think like me, Donald Trump became President. I think that is a terrible thing for the country, but that is what ended up happening.

At the same time, the American people voted to lower their margin here in the House. Maybe that is because the American people are paying more attention to what is happening in this Chamber and not liking what they are seeing, what they are hearing.

I think the message of the last election, given how close everything is, is the American people want us to work together, because if not, we are not going to get very much done. I think there are a lot of things that we need to do.

I began my opening today referring to the terrible tragedy in Madison, Wisconsin. I think the American people would like us to do something to prevent gun violence in this country.

I think they want us to do more to lower prices. I think they want us to do more to increase wages, to make housing more affordable and accessible for people. I think they want us to take on the pharmaceutical industry, which we have tried to do under the last two Democratic Presidents, but my Republican friends seem to always be critical of those efforts to lower prescription drug prices, but they want to have healthcare costs lower.

They want us to take on everyday problems. I don't think you can do that if all you bring to the floor are extremist measures, measures that, quite frankly, play well with a small group of hard, rightwing conservatives in this country, but have no appeal to anybody else.

Mr. Speaker, we are here in the aftermath of yet another senseless gun massacre, another preventable loss of life. Yet, this majority would rather do the bidding of special interests than address an actual crisis facing our Nation.

The bill we are talking about here today on regulations, again, is big corporations' dream come true. It is a way to eliminate regulation designed to protect the well-being and the safety of the American people without having a lot of debate and just doing it all at once with a bunch of repeals all bunched together, and just giving big corporations what they want. I think that is a terrible idea.

Big corporations don't speak for the people I represent in Worcester. Big corporations, quite frankly, are working overtime to try to deny my constituents the fair shake that they all want so that they can make more profits.

My colleagues on the other side need to take a hard look in the mirror. They need to ask themselves, again, on the issue of gun violence, how many more shootings until they find the courage to stand up to the gun lobby and actually do something.

The American people are watching, and they are tired of this cowardice.

They want us to act. They want us to keep people safe. They sure as hell don't want us wasting their time on corporate giveaways like the ones contained in the legislation that we are going to be debating later today.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. I urge my colleagues to reject this shameful bill and start doing the job we were sent here to do, protecting the people we serve, helping to even the playing field, helping to give people more hope that their life will improve in the future.

I urge a "no" vote on this rule, a "no" vote on the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Review Act, a lot of times, people don't think about it. It is not something that registers or strikes a lot of cords in people's souls, but let me just tell you something, we all have those moments in our lives: I remember where I was when the man landed on the Moon. I remember where I was when a world leader died. I remember where I was when the Congressional Review Act was allowed to go into law under George W. Bush early in his administration that prevented the institution of what was called the repetitive injury rule.

I ran a small medical practice at the time, not a big business. I had 50 employees in my office, and I was going to have to change every computer terminal, every keyboard, and every keyboard rest to be in compliance with the repetitive injury rule that some agency in the Federal Government had produced.

Congress, early in the days of the Bush administration, passed the Congressional Review Act, which reversed this rule. I remember pulling into my driveway one evening, probably early the year 2001. We didn't have cable news and 24-hour news back then. I was listening to NPR on the radio.

The news came across the wire that Congress had repealed this Federal rule that was going to cost me tens of thousands of dollars in my small medical practice. Although that was a small step for man, a giant leap for mankind, it was at that moment I realized in my mind the importance of my Representative looking at the rules that are produced by a Federal agency. I didn't need more paperwork to make my life safe at that point.

Clearly, I urge this body to support the rule and the underlying legislation. The bill allows Congress to more efficiently review rules issued during the midnight hours of the President's term by reviewing more than one rule at a time. This change would let Congress properly oversee agency rulemaking in the period when a disproportionate amount of rulemaking historically occurs.

Mr. Speaker, for perhaps the last time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1330

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1616; and

Adoption of House Resolution 1616, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

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#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 115, MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1616) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 115) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 207, nays 192, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 506]

YEAS—207

Aderholt  
Alford

Allen  
Amodei

Arrington  
Babin