

patriot, a selfless neighbor, and a great friend.

Since 2018, Laura has served as the chair of the Kansas Republican Party's Big First District. Over the last 6 years, Laura oversaw the helm of a historic chapter of the Kansas GOP's First Congressional District.

Laura led our district in a historic election of delegates to secure President Trump's nomination. She rigorously defended our Nation's motto from being erased from law enforcement vehicles, fought to protect our children and their parents' ability to choose an education that is right for them, and grew our conservative base that will reverberate through Kansas politics for many years to come.

Somewhere in the middle of her historic term, she fell in love with her husband, Drew. On the same day as their first date, they attended an event that I hosted in my district in Garden City. They shared a phone call with President Trump that day, and the rest of their love story is history.

Laura and Drew married nearly 2 years later.

Laura is a fierce and loyal leader, but she is an even brighter neighbor, law enforcement community member, friend, mom, wife, and follower of Jesus.

Kansas is the pilot light of the country, and I can attest that the pilot light burns stronger and brighter because of Laura.

I thank Laura for her commitment and dedication to our congressional district, State, and Nation. It is so deeply appreciated.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy and most wise God, we seek Your wisdom: Wisdom to meet the challenges of this day, wisdom to discern what is the direction You would have us go, wisdom to determine what is the truth You wish us both to hear and speak.

How does a person become as wise as this? The first step You have said is to trust and honor You, O Lord.

So we take our first step today, before any legislative matters are

brought forth, before our committees are convened, and in advance of any votes brought to the floor, to show our reverence for You, O Lord.

May we also trust that You will equip us, You will guide us, and You will speak to us with the sufficiency of Your wisdom for the living of this day.

Believing in You and leaning on the strength of Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RETURN POWER TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the failed Biden-Harris administration, Federal agencies were allowed to drastically expand power, undermining the legislative authority of Congress.

Currently, the process for Congress to pass resolutions on an agency policy it disapproves of slows the ability of Congress to block destructive regulations, destroying jobs.

This week, House Republicans will vote on the Midnight Rules Relief Act, led by Congressman ANDY BIGGS. The bill allows Congress to disapprove of multiple policies through one resolution when those rules were issued during the last year of a Presidential term.

Ultimately, the bill will provide Congress with the necessary tools to reject regulations, protecting democracy and creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect

American families with peace through strength.

I thank legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili of Georgia for protesting the rigged presidential election in Georgia.

ON BEHALF OF THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

(Ms. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Let me tell you what the CFPB has done to protect working families for years, such as capping bank overdraft fees and credit card late fees, suing big banks for taking advantage of families, saving Americans over \$20 billion from abusive corporations.

Now, Elon Musk and DOGE want to kill it because it is better for billionaires and big corporations and not for you.

Let me be clear: This does nothing to make your life more affordable. It is quite the opposite. In fact, none of what the Trump administration has done so far is making life more affordable for working Nevadans.

If you are concerned about these attacks on working families and attacks on our Constitution itself, I implore you to call your nearest Republican.

Let's face it: They control Congress, and it is up to them to stand up and help us stop this unconstitutional power grab and deliver on their promise to make life more affordable for you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

CELEBRATING THE RELEASE OF MARC FOGEL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the release of Pennsylvania schoolteacher Marc Fogel from Russian custody.

For more than 3½ years, Marc, a dedicated teacher, loving husband, and an American citizen, was unjustly detained in a Russian penal colony.

His punishment of 14 years of hard labor was an excessive and politically motivated sentence.

Despite years of bipartisan pleading with the Biden administration to bring Marc home, or at the very least designate him as wrongfully detained, there was no progress.

Enter Donald J. Trump.

In just 22 days, President Trump, Secretary Rubio, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, and a team of advisers successfully negotiated Marc's release.

Mr. Speaker, Marc Fogel is now back on American soil and reunited with his family.

Promises made, promises kept.

I thank all of those involved in bringing Marc home.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CLEMENCY GRANTS

(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, immediately after taking office, the current President granted sweeping pardons and commutations to over 1,500 insurrectionists who stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

At least 174 police officers were injured while protecting the Capitol that day, and 5 officers who responded later died.

One of the people the President deemed fit to be released from prison shot a stun gun directly into the neck of an officer, causing him to suffer a heart attack and sustain a traumatic brain injury. Another attacked officers with bear spray. After being released for these crimes, he is now at large for allegedly soliciting a minor in 2016.

I was one of the last Members who was evacuated from this building on January 6. I have vivid memories, as many of us do, of the Capitol Police officers battered and exhausted but still defending us.

The decision to grant clemency to many violent and dangerous individuals is an affront to our democracy, our justice system, and the brave police officers who defended us that day and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members and Americans to reflect on this decision.

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 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUEST) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 12, 2025, at 11:14 a.m.:

Appointments:

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Finance Committee as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations to international conferences, meetings and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements Joint Committee on Taxation Washington's Farewell Address

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 122, I call up the bill (H.R. 77) 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, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 122, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 77

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 "Midnight Rules Relief Act".

SEC. 2. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF DISAPPROVAL PERTAINING TO "MIDNIGHT RULES".

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) In applying section 802 to rules described under paragraph (1), a joint resolution of disapproval may contain one or more such rules if the report under subsection (a)(1)(A) for each such rule was submitted during the final year of a President's term."

(b) TEXT OF RESOLVING CLAUSE.—Section 802(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after "resolving clause of which is" the following: "(except as otherwise provided in this subsection)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "In the case of a joint resolution under section 801(d)(4), the matter after the resolving clause of such resolution shall be as follows: 'That Congress disapproves the following rules: the rule submitted by the ___ relating to ___; and the rule submitted by the ___ relating to ___. Such rules shall have no force or effect.' (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in and additional clauses describing additional rules to be included as necessary)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 77.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 77, the Midnight Rules Relief Act. This piece of legislation will allow Congress to efficiently oversee Federal agency rulemaking.

Under the Congressional Review Act, known as the CRA, executive agencies must report all promulgated rules to both Chambers of Congress. The CRA gives Congress, then, the authority to pass joint resolutions to prevent agency rules from taking effect. The CRA's disapproval mechanism gives Congress a check on Federal administrative overreach.

Currently, the CRA forces Congress to introduce a separate joint resolution for each agency rule it seeks to review. This limit slows Congress' oversight of agency rulemaking.

Its inefficiency is most clear during the midnight rulemaking period of the last year of a President's term, when executive agencies historically issue more regulations than any other time in a President's term.

The 119th Congress can examine Biden administration rules that fall within the CRA lookback window. This window includes any rule submitted to Congress from August 16, 2024, to the end of the Biden administration.

During that period, the Biden administration finalized a staggering 1,406 rules.

H.R. 77 would make Congress' oversight more efficient during this midnight rulemaking period.

The Midnight Rules Relief Act would allow Congress to introduce joint resolutions considering multiple agency rules during the final year of a President's term.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle may claim that this bill is only an attempt to slow down agency rulemaking, but that is incorrect. There are no provisions in this bill that are designed to slow down rulemaking.

Rather, this bill would merely allow Congress to more efficiently exercise the oversight authority it already has and respond to the influx of agency regulations during the midnight hours of the President's final term.

My colleagues would also like Americans to believe that this is an effort to repeal every regulation submitted to Congress. Again, that is inaccurate. After reviewing submitted regulations, Congress can pick and choose which rules to overturn, just as we do now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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