

against the United States of America equal an imminent threat. They just gloss by that as though they have nothing to do with the national security of the United States of America. They didn't want to talk about it.

You are owed more than that. This is what debate is. I constantly offer them the time. They don't want to answer the questions. It is because this is all political for them. This is political. That is why they don't want to answer why they voted not too long ago to say use any and all means necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. They all over there voted for that.

None of them can explain today why they don't want to use any and all means necessary, but before, that was the case. It is not convenient. It is not politically convenient for them to do that.

My colleagues over here said it is a war of choice. Yes, it is a choice. As Americans, we make a choice. If somebody hits us day after day, week after week, month after month, do we just keep getting hit, or do we hit back? That is a choice.

I can tell you, as an American servicemember, an American fighter, if somebody hits me, kills my people, I am going to hit them back.

Yes, I hate high energy prices, but not as much as I hate people who kill Americans. I hate them, but not as much as I hate those that kill my people.

Iran kills our people consistently, attacks our people consistently, and wants to seek the means to do that with a nuclear weapon. They all agreed on it prior to President Trump doing something about it. They don't want to have a debate about that.

No matter how it comes down in the end, they don't want to actually talk about the real things that are going on. They don't want to talk about the troop levels over there that are basically the same thing that they were before this conflict even began. These are things they don't like to discuss.

Again, you weren't all here in the audience a week ago when we were debating this before, but as I mentioned earlier, they all voted to say the ways that Iran is a nuclear threat: They want to attack the United States of America. They want to attack us with ballistic missiles, with terrorist proxies. They want to obtain a nuclear weapon and use that against us.

They all voted to say that a week ago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I will keep that in mind.

They all voted to say that, that this is the way that Iran is a nuclear—that they are an imminent threat. They won't use the words "imminent threat," though, because to use the words "imminent threat" has some

specific legal connotation to it. They know it is bad for them. They don't want to do it. It is political, too political.

It would be like I have a cough, a fever, cold sweats, but I am unwilling to say that I have the flu. They are not willing to say it. They are not willing to acknowledge what is.

People in the audience, people watching, you are owed more than that out of those who are debating national security.

I mentioned already that before Operation Epic Fury began, in the 30 months prior to it beginning: 350 attacks in 30 months. They are not willing to say that that is "imminent."

Examples include U.S.-flagged tankers, and Iranian forces seize Greek-flagged tanker. There was the tanker *Pacific Zircon*, off the coast of Oman. Iranian Navy captures Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, *Advantage Sweet*. Iranian IRGC seizes Panamanian tanker. IRGC seize Marshall Islands-flagged tanker. The list goes on and on, week in and week out. There was an American tanker, a tanker from another country, putting U.S. sailors on their knees on a U.S. vessel, if everybody remembers that.

I am an American. I don't believe in getting hit and walking away and pretending as though it didn't happen. I would like to think that all Americans were the same way, but I know that is not the case. There are very few that serve in the United States military, and probably even less that are capable of it, because not everybody reacts to conflict in the same way or has the same desire to deal with it.

My colleagues over here who are voting for this are the kind of Americans that get hit and pretend as though it never happened.

If you want America to get hit and pretend as though it never happened, then vote with my colleagues over there. If you want us to keep doing something about it, protecting our servicemembers in the region and our assets in the region, then vote "no."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

The question is on the adoption of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. MEEKS. 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.

#### PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER THE EDUCATION AND CARE OF THEIR KIDS ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1224, I call up

the bill (H.R. 2616) to require public elementary and middle schools that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to obtain parental consent before changing a minor's gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form or sex-based accommodations, including locker rooms or bathrooms, 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 1224, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print 119-26 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H. R. 2616

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

*This Act may be cited as the "Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act".*

#### SEC. 2. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT RELATED TO GENDER MARKERS, PRONOUNS, AND PREFERRED NAMES ON SCHOOL FORMS AND SEX-BASED ACCOMMODATIONS.

(a) *REQUIREMENT.*—As a condition of receiving funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), a public school that receives funds under such Act shall obtain parental consent before changing a covered student's—

- (1) gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form; or
- (2) sex-based accommodations, including locker rooms or bathrooms.

(b) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *COVERED STUDENT.*—The term "covered student" means a minor who is—

- (A) an elementary school student; or
- (B) a student in any of the middle grades.

(2) *ESEA TERMS.*—The terms "elementary school", "middle grades", and "parent" have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITING USE OF ESEA FUNDS TO TEACH GENDER IDEOLOGY.

Section 8526 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7906) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (6), by striking "or";
- (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and
- (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) to teach or advance concepts related to gender ideology, as defined in section 2 of Executive Order 14168 (90 Fed. Reg. 8615; relating to defending women from gender ideology extremism and restoring biological truth to the Federal Government); or"

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

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

□ 1420

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2616.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2616, the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act.

For years, concerned parents have felt ignored as education bureaucrats push radical agendas in schools without their knowledge or input.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when kitchen tables became classrooms, parents got a firsthand look at what was really being taught. What many saw raised serious concerns. Instead of focusing on the basics like math and reading, many teachers and schools were introducing controversial lessons on gender ideology and pronouns, all while student achievement plummeted and continues to this day.

In the years since then, those concerns have only grown. Many schools are engaged in systematic attempts to erode parental rights. Schools are facilitating gender transitions or encouraging students to change their names and pronouns without telling parents.

These are enormously consequential decisions that have lasting impacts on a child's well-being and development. Parents deserve to be part of those conversations.

One study from Defending Education found that at least 21,000 schools across the United States have policies that allow or encourage staff to hide a student's name change or gender identity. This lack of transparency risks confusion, undermines trust, and weakens the essential partnership between families and schools. It also places teachers in difficult positions, sometimes expecting them to withhold information from parents or be less than fully transparent.

These policies are incredibly harmful to children and families. In fact, we are now seeing a wealth of data to prove that children and teenagers who seek out drastic, life-altering medical procedures often struggle with mental health issues now and beyond. Instead of supporting kids, these secretive gender transitions, often encouraged by radical school officials, do more harm than good.

At the same time, many parents are asking a simple question: Why aren't schools more focused on helping students recover academically?

Test scores in key subjects remain stagnant or have declined, and students are still working to overcome pandemic-era learning loss.

Parents, teachers, and school leaders should be working together to support

student success, not be at odds with one another.

That is why I am proud to lead H.R. 2616, the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act, alongside my friend and colleague, the vice chair of the Education and Workforce Committee, Congressman BURGESS OWENS. This bill takes monumental strides to restore parental rights and educational sanity.

H.R. 2616 affirms the right of parents to be in charge of their children's upbringing and ensures schools remain partners in a child's education, instead of usurping the role and rights of parents altogether. The bill also establishes clear guardrails to ensure taxpayer dollars are used to support learning, not indoctrinate kids in radical ideology and agendas.

At its core, this bill is grounded in a simple principle, Mr. Speaker. That principle is that parents want what is best for their kids. Schools should be partners in that effort.

I believe Members on both sides of the aisle share the goal of helping students succeed. This legislation moves us in that direction by strengthening trust, improving transparency, and keeping the focus where it belongs: on students' education.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2616, the so-called Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act, because the name bears little resemblance to what the bill actually does.

What it does is require schools to obtain parental consent before changing a student's gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form or changing a student's sex-based accommodations, including locker rooms or bathrooms, and that is for all students in middle school or elementary school.

This bill would prohibit the use of Federal funds to teach so-called gender ideology, whatever that is. Specifically, it bars any discussion of transgender people or topics in the classroom, banning books with transgender characters or that even discuss the existence of transgender people.

It is well established in statute that the States and districts determine their curriculum without interference from the Federal Government. This bill takes away State and local control of curriculum in education, the very thing that the current administration claims they are giving back to States by illegally dismantling the Department of Education.

Parental involvement is important, and I support that. It works in virtually all cases, but this bill is not about involvement. It is about Federal coercion forcing schools into situations

where they may have to disclose sensitive information about a student, even when they know it could put that child's safety at risk.

It goes beyond theory. It creates absurd situations. For example, my name is Robert. I go by Bobby. Under this bill, my middle school coach would need parental permission before listing me as Bobby on the sports roster. What if they write "Rob" instead? Would they have to go back and get parental consent?

This bill fails to clarify key questions, such as whether both parents must be notified and give permission.

Who will oversee these requirements if this administration continues illegally dismantling the Department of Education?

What it does make clear is that if the school gets it wrong, then they risk losing Federal funding. That is not protecting kids. It won't make trans students disappear. It is just micromanaging schools and wasting everybody's time.

This bill does nothing to improve literacy, improve teacher shortages, promote safe learning environments, support student mental health, or otherwise improve education. The bill is unnecessary, overbroad, and potentially harmful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would agree that this bill will promote good mental health and security and probably academic success in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), who is the bill's co-lead and vice chair on the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start my comments with a simple truth: There are only two sexes, male and female.

Sex is a biological fact, not an ideological whim. Yet, across our country, school districts are actively pushing radical gender ideology on children and, in some cases, facilitating social transitions without parental knowledge or consent.

I grew up in a time when most Americans, like me, knew what a boy was and what a girl was. This was not ever controversial. Unfortunately, with the rise of radical gender ideology today, many have lost what was called common sense.

Here is another truth that should not be contentious: Parents, not school administrators, should have the ultimate right to make decisions about their child's upbringing. Once again, this is common sense.

The Heritage Foundation has written: "A century of Supreme Court jurisprudence supports the notion that parents enjoy the fundamental constitutional right to direct the upbringing, health, and education of their children."

We are not talking about nicknames on football teams. We are talking adults, with no relation to a minor child, secretly transitioning a child, and then actively working to conceal it from that child's parents. That is madness. If a child is struggling with gender dysphoria, then parents should be the first, not the last, to know.

Right now, according to Defending Education, at least 21,000 schools in 1,200 districts, covering over 12 million students, have policies that prevent faculty and staff from disclosing a student's gender identity to his own parents without the student's permission. That is simply unacceptable.

If a child needs a permission slip signed to go on a field trip, a school should never think it has the right to socially transition that same child without informing his or her parents.

□ 1430

The Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act is straightforward: Any district that promotes these ideologies in a classroom or conceals a child's gender transition from parents will lose Federal funding.

Our school system should be teaching children how to read, write, and think, not how to turn little Johnny into little Jenny. Not long ago, these ideas would not have been controversial.

Today, too many schools want to cut parents out and push their own personal ideology instead. I am grateful to Chairman WALBERG for the work he has done to bring this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I spent 24 years as an educator, as a classroom teacher, and as an adviser to my school's Gay-Straight Alliance.

During that time, I knew children who suffered physical violence at the hands of family members who found out that they were gay. I knew kids who were withdrawn from school because staff had informed their parents of their perceived sexual identity.

The story of those students is exactly what is at stake in this bill. Those of us who have taught LGBTQI+ children or who have been LGBTQI+ children ourselves know the sad reality that not all children come from homes that accept their differences.

This bill puts educators in an impossible position. Teachers would be legally required to out transgender children even if they knew that doing so would put the child at risk of physical harm or even being kicked out of their home.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Federation of Teachers and a letter from the National Education Association opposing this bill.

AFT,  
EDUCATION HEALTHCARE PUBLIC  
SERVICES,  
April 29, 2026.

House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.8 million members of the AFT, I write in opposition to H.R. 2616, the misnamed Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act. Teachers teach children how to think, not what to think, and students and parents need less culture wars and more support.

At a time when our nation's public schools are facing real challenges and opportunities, educators desperately want to partner with this administration and Congress on an agenda that meets the needs of students, parents and school staff. Instead of prioritizing politically charged issues that divide communities, Congress should work on initiatives that will actually improve the lives of Americans.

For example, in the wake of the White House Correspondents' Dinner shooting, where White House officials felt the terror that is all too familiar to our educators and students, now is the time to address the gun violence epidemic. Why not bring common-sense gun safety legislation to the floor?

Congress should listen more closely to all stakeholders and take steps to enhance the capacity of schools and educators to fulfill their responsibilities and help students and their families. Why not bring bills to the floor that invest in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other nutrition assistance to help keep families fed and kids focused? Why not introduce legislation that makes healthcare more affordable and accessible? Why not bring to the floor bills that create guardrails for artificial intelligence and safety measures with parent consent? Why not offer a tax cut for working Americans to help make life more affordable amid the rising gas and grocery costs? Why not vote on a bill that supports critical thinking and ensures kids have safe and welcoming environments? How does H.R. 2616 get us there? It does not.

To this end, instead of rushing a bill that inflames culture wars, Congress should work in a bipartisan manner through regular order on legislation that builds consensus to:

Ensure all children have opportunities to learn by doing—engaging in experiential learning, including career and technical education;

Care for young people's mental health and well-being, including a demand that social media companies protect, not prey on, children;

Catalyze a vast expansion of community schools that meaningfully partner with families;

Support teachers and support staff, and give public schools the resources students need to thrive;

Increase students' access to healthy meals; Provide AI guardrails;

Enact gun safety measures, such as safe storage, that keep our kids safe and protect parents from the unimaginable; and

Help school districts recruit and train diverse teachers to alleviate the teacher shortage.

Yes, parents should know what is happening, and across the nation, students, parents and educators are working tirelessly with each other to identify and advance solutions that protect our students, value our parents and support our educators. We urge you to listen and work with us on what is needed in our schools.

Thank you for considering our views on these issues. I urge you to vote no on H.R.

2616 and instead bring measures to the floor that help us fight for a better life for all.

Sincerely,

RANDI WEINGARTEN,  
President, AFT.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC,  
April 27, 2026.

House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our 3 million members and the students they service, we urge you to VOTE NO on H.R. 2616 because it would require educators to betray their students and violate their own professional standards. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's report card for the 119th Congress.

This bill represents a major intrusion of the federal government where it does not belong—in curricular issues that should be debated and decided locally, as well as private matters of student identity. School communities would become less safe and less welcoming for many students, as well as educators.

Teachers, counselors, nurses, and other school staff could be required to "out" transgender and nonbinary students despite the damaging repercussions. Such students are already at heightened risk of harassment and bullying. This bill would make them even more vulnerable.

In addition, the bill's overly vague definitions of certain terms could lead to censorship that undermines the essence of a good education: exposure to different, age-appropriate perspectives.

Educators strive to ensure that students have what they need to learn and grow. They work with students and families to build school communities where every student is supported and feels a sense of belonging. Making sure that public schools are safe and inclusive environments where all students—no matter what they look like, where they come from, or how they identify—can thrive and prepare for their future is essential.

Treating a particular group of students as less deserving of respect, autonomy, and privacy—and even, inadvertently, putting them in harm's way—is the antithesis of educators' professional obligation: fostering learning environments based on respect, inclusion, and most of all, safety.

Please VOTE NO on H.R. 2116.

Sincerely,

KIMBERLY JOHNSON TRINCA,  
Director of Government Relations, National  
Education Association.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I will note that 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBTQI+ largely because they have been rejected by their families. Of course teachers should involve parents in their child's education, but a teacher also has a professional duty to ensure a child's safety.

This bill also forbids the teaching of any subject related to the existence of transgender people. That includes banning books, supportive student groups, or even textbooks that reference gender dysphoria.

Transgender kids do exist. They aren't products of a conspiracy or indoctrination. They are just kids, made who they are by God and by nature. They deserve our care and they deserve our respect just as any child does.

The majority is intent on making sure that transgender kids don't have anywhere where they might feel included, recognized, or safe.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSMER), a great member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2616, the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act. Hoosier families in southern Indiana and across this great Nation deserve to be in full control of how they guide and raise their most precious gift from God, their beloved children.

American parents must be aware and have great faith in the partnership between themselves and those teaching and counseling their impressionable child.

The Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids legislation takes an important step in restoring any trust that has been broken by ensuring that parents are notified and involved in important school-based decisions affecting their children.

This bill also increases accountability for any kind of information withholding and it puts an end to any mind control efforts that are intended to force radical and ideological viewpoints inside the classroom.

At the end of the day, we all believe that a loving parent knows best how to raise their own child, and this bill reaffirms that uncontroversial principle.

I thank Chairman WALBERG and Subcommittee Chairman OWENS for advancing this legislation that puts families and children first.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of parental rights of Hoosiers in Indiana and the rights of schoolchildren across this great country, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA).

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2616.

At a time when people are asking Congress to lower costs, crack down on corruption and powerful abusers, and keep children safe, House Republicans remain fixated on bullying vulnerable kids instead of addressing the real problems facing this country.

This bill forces teachers to out transgender students to their own parents even when they know it could put that child at risk of abuse, homelessness, or violence.

Think about that.

Republicans want to force teachers to betray the trust of children who likely already feel scared, isolated, and unsafe at home.

That is dangerous.

Most young people confide in their families when they feel safe doing so, but some queer kids don't have that option.

These same Republicans who consistently talk about small government cut funding to a local library in Bisbee a couple weeks ago just because it hosted

a drag story time. Now, they want to control what teachers can say, what students can read, and even a name a child can use at school.

Where will it end?

This bill censors discussions about transgender people and gender identity altogether. It sends a message that trans people should be erased from classrooms, from history, and from public life. Transgender people exist. They are our neighbors, our students, our classmates, our coworkers, our friends, and our children. No bill passed in this Chamber will ever change that.

What this legislation will do is make schools less safe for already vulnerable students.

I hate to break it to my Republican colleagues, but attacking trans kids will not make groceries or gas cheaper. It will not lower rent. It will not bring down healthcare costs. It will not make anyone's life better. It will not make this Nation safer, and it certainly won't make our kids safer in school.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Arizona.

Mrs. GRIJALVA. It is time to stop scapegoating children, stop targeting our kids, stop obsessing about gender identity, and let's start doing the jobs that people actually sent us here to do.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this letter from the ACLU opposing H.R. 2616.

ACLU,  
NATIONAL POLITICAL ADVOCACY DEPT.,  
Washington, DC,  
April 28, 2026.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: ACLU Urges NO Vote on H.R. 2616—the “Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act”.

The American Civil Liberties Union urges all representatives to vote NO on H.R. 2616, the “Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act.” Because of the harmful impact this bill would have on transgender students across the country, the ACLU will be scoring the vote.

H.R. 2616 attempts to erase the lives and experiences of transgender people from public school classrooms across the country in violation of the Constitution, and could even result in forcibly outing trans and non-binary students to their families before they feel ready or even safe doing so.

Youth who are transgender often face a real risk of rejection by the adults who are supposed to care for them when they disclose their gender identity. Trans people are much more likely to be abused by their immediate family based on their gender identity, and high risks of abuse and family rejection mean that trans youth are overrepresented in foster care homes, juvenile detention centers, and homeless shelters. Familial rejection and abuse dramatically increases the risks of suicidality, substance abuse, and depression. The unfortunate reality is that not every child can be their true selves at home without risking their physical or emotional well-being.

For trans and non-binary youth, especially those who cannot be safe at home, school may be one of the few places to be themselves. This bill would strip this precious freedom from these students. Trans and non-

binary students thrive when they are affirmed in their gender identity, which includes being called by a name and pronouns that reflect who they are. When these youth are supported at home, they can become the happy, confident children their parents hoped they would be. As trans and non-binary youth consistently report, being able to live and learn as their true selves transforms their lives for the better. Many schools across the country recognize that a supportive learning environment requires treating trans and non-binary students with dignity and respect.

Everyone has a right under the First Amendment to share ideas and receive knowledge, free from government censorship and discrimination. It's important that students can read and learn about the history and viewpoints of all communities—including their own identity—both inside and outside the classroom. This legislation would prohibit K-12 schools from receiving federal funds if they teach “concepts related to gender ideology,” effectively censoring teachers from talking about and students from receiving information relating to gender identity. “Gender ideology” is a vague, ideologically charged term that amounts to acknowledging the reality that trans and non-binary people exist and have existed for all of human history. Prohibiting teachers from teaching about gender identity in schools won't change that reality, but will threaten teachers' ability to speak freely and students to learn. Our nation's public schools should be places where young people are free to explore ideas, encounter new perspectives, learn to think for themselves, and where they can see themselves and the issues that impact them reflected in their classrooms.

Nothing about this dangerous, discriminatory bill “protects” kids. Quite the contrary, this legislation is intended to endanger students who are transgender or non-binary by outing them against their will and erasing their lives and experiences from the classroom in violation of the Constitution. The ACLU urges all members of Congress to stand with trans and non-binary young people and the First Amendment by voting NO on H.R. 2616. Please contact Ian Thompson, Senior Legislative Advocate, with any questions.

Sincerely,

MIKE ZAMORE,  
National Director of Policy & Government  
Affairs.

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on H.R. 2616.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), a special member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a special thanks to Chairman WALBERG and Representative OWENS for leading this important bill.

As reports continue to come out from the Department of Education, we have seen that public schools are blatantly violating FERPA by secretly encouraging children to adopt so-called transgender identities behind their parents' back.

In fact, the DOJ recently announced investigations into 36 public school districts in my home State of Illinois for violations of President Trump's executive orders that affirm the biological reality of male and female and prohibit public schools from indoctrinating

children into believing they were born in the wrong body.

H.R. 2616, the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act, takes an important step forward by codifying these executive orders and by rescinding Federal funding from any school that seeks to undermine parents.

Democrats believe children are nothing more than wards of the State to be indoctrinated as loyal foot soldiers in their march toward Marxism. They have labeled parents who are concerned about their children's well-being domestic terrorists and arrested them at school board meetings.

Parents are the only ones who have the fundamental, God-given right to raise their children as they see fit. Republicans are here fighting to protect parental rights, shield children from radical gender ideology, and restore sanity to America's classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2616.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

□ 1440

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republicans' don't say trans and forced outing bill. This misguided legislation is a cruel attack on transgender children who exist, whether the other side wants to recognize that or not, who are already among the most vulnerable in our society.

This bigoted bill not only infringes on American students' First Amendment rights by censoring curricula and banning books, but it also tries to erase American history and to erase the existence of transgender people by banning discussions of LGBTQ people and their families.

Furthermore, while many parents are aware of and supportive of their children's gender expression, in some cases, outing a student could lead to abuse or putting the child in harm's way. We should not force teachers to knowingly put vulnerable students in danger or to violate the trust they have built.

Every student deserves a safe and affirming school environment to learn, to develop social skills, and to grow. But Republicans are focused on spreading hate instead of protecting and supporting students.

Vote "no" on H.R. 2616.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter in opposition to this bill from the National Women's Law Center Action Fund.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER  
ACTION FUND,

Washington, DC, April 28, 2026

Re Vote NO on H.R. 2616, Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Women's Law Center Action Fund, we urge you to vote NO on H.R. 2616, the so-called Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act, which would result in an unprecedented federal intrusion into curriculum decision making and classroom discussions.

The NWLC Action Fund firmly opposes this anti-trans bill that will censor classroom discussions, police free expression, add administrative burdens to schools, and encourage unequal treatment of marginalized youth in schools.

H.R. 2616 would withhold federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for education agencies that "teach or advance concepts related to gender ideology." This provision would both dictate curricular choices while also serving as a "Don't Say Trans" bill that could chill classroom discussions.

Federal law has long recognized that the federal government should not intervene in state and local curriculum development, with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 clarifying that the federal government shall not "mandate, direct, or control ... instructional content or materials [and] curriculum." At least eight states have local laws that require LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum. H.R. 2616 would dictate federal limitations on curriculum, overriding state discretion and opening the door to far greater federal involvement in deciding what is taught in the classroom.

Additionally, the prohibition on "advanc[ing] concepts" could be construed—as other similar state "Don't Say Trans" bills have been—to silence discussion or support for transgender people. This could impact the availability of Gay-Straight Alliance and Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) clubs to support LGBTQIA+ students, result in prohibitions on Safe Space stickers or Pride flags, and also result in hostile employment environments for transgender teachers who simply talk about their own identity or experience.

H.R. 2616 is overbroad and would both infringe on free expression and create additional administrative burdens for schools by requiring parental consent before schools could recognize a change in a child's preferred name, pronouns, gender marker, or sex-based accommodations. Although the bill is clearly targeting transgender and gender-expansive students, the overbroad requirement will have an impact on all students who want to be known by a nickname. In 2023, for example, Florida required schools to collect consent forms before 3 student named Robert could be known as Bobby. Ultimately, this additional administrative burden will chill classroom dynamics, requiring forms before decency and putting bureaucracy in between teachers and their students.

H.R. 2616 would encourage unequal treatment of marginalized youth in schools. Inclusive policies that affirm LGBTQIA+ students' identities play a critical role in mitigating social isolation, harassment, and adverse mental health outcomes, especially for transgender and gender-expansive students. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported staggering mental health disparities faced by LGBTQIA+ youth, with the majority (53 percent) of transgender students having seriously considered attempting suicide in 2023. Although schools often already encourage family involvement where possible, H.R. 2616 will remove essential tools that allow educators and school staff to thoughtfully and carefully support transgender youth as they're navigating the coming out process.

We strongly urge a NO vote on H.R. 2616. Please reach out if you have any additional questions about this bill or our position.

Best,

BRIAN DITTMER,  
Director of LGBTQIA+ Equality, National  
Women's Law Center Action Fund.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North

Carolina (Mr. HARRIS), a great member of the Committee on Education and Workforce.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WALBERG for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act led by Chairman WALBERG and Vice Chairman OWENS.

For far too long, our education system has prioritized activism over fundamentals. Parents in America want their children to learn how to read, write, solve math problems, and reach their God-given potential. Unfortunately, schools across the country have abandoned biological realities in favor of curriculum that is infused with gender ideology, sexual education, and transgenderism.

Mr. Speaker, this is not education; this is indoctrination.

What is equally concerning is the effort schools have put into leaving parents out of important discussions regarding their children. Parents have the right to know what their kids are being taught and what is happening to their children in schools.

That is why I am honored to stand against the indoctrination of our kids and for parents' rights. I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same by joining me in supporting this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in fierce opposition to this harmful attack on public schools.

Republicans are losing. Gas prices are skyrocketing. They have no plan to end the illegal and unpopular war in Iran. Rather than doing the work to solve these real problems, Republicans just keep going back to the same old, tired playbook of harassing trans kids and, it turns out, calling us Marxists.

This time they want to give the Trump administration broad authority to cut off Federal public school funding if a school teaches or advances anything that the administration deems to be gender ideology.

Mr. Speaker, this could be anything.

A teacher doesn't get parental consent before using a student's nickname on a school form; a book in their library includes a transgender character; a teacher has a Pride Flag hanging in the classroom.

As the parent of two teenagers myself and as a former public school teacher, I want all kids to be protected and supported at school as they learn, as they grow, and as they figure out who they are.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee.

If the House rules had permitted it, I would have offered this motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would prevent this bill from taking effect until the Secretary of Education proves that the Department is taking the necessary steps to

protect women and girls from sexual harassment and violence.

I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD as well a letter opposing the bill from the American Booksellers Association.

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: I write on behalf of the American Booksellers Association, the trade association of independent bookstores representing over 3,200 bookstore companies nationwide, to express our deep concern with H.R. 2616. This book censorship bill would chill expression across the book industry, hurt small businesses, and decrease the variety of books in the marketplace.

H.R. 2616 is a national book ban bill, and even its authors likely cannot say where the banning will stop. The prohibition on use of ESEA funds to “teach or advance gender ideology” could impact everything from picture books about crayons to Plato’s Symposium, and it appears to apply to library materials as well as curriculum. The key term, “gender ideology,” is defined only in an executive order that has not been approved by Congress and could change in future administrations. It is not radical to say we should know what a law does before we pass it.

Attacking ESEA funding, the largest source of federal funding to public schools, defunds schools that are already struggling, which also impacts the bookstores that serve them. This vague bill would stymie or halt spending on all books, regardless of content, as already-overburdened school districts struggled to comply. Bookstores that supply local districts with library materials, book fairs, and author visits will see a massive decrease in book purchases. In states where book bans are most common, booksellers have been forced to shrink or discontinue their school programs, impacting jobs and local economies.

We have already started to see less diversity in the book market due to book bans. School and library sales are essential parts of the publishing ecosystem. When stories are banned from that marketplace, authors are silenced and have their livelihoods threatened. Book ban laws censor age-appropriate stories that people just do not want told, increasingly target history, and disproportionately impact people of color, LGBTQIA2S+ people, and people with disabilities. Loss of market diversity hurts readers as consumers, as thinkers, and as human beings.

For the sake of small businesses and their employees, the communities they enrich, the parents who want their kids to learn about the world as it is through the safety of a kids book, and the kids who just want to get back to their books, please vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

PHILOMENA POLEFRONE, PH.D.,  
Associate Director of Advocacy, American  
Booksellers Association.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit. This is once again government overreach.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Glisten opposing this bill.

[From Glisten, Apr. 29, 2026]

NEW YORK—Today, Glisten issued the following statement urging Congress to vote NO on H.R. 2616 (aka PROTECT Kids Act). This dangerous bill requires public elementary and middle schools that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to obtain parental consent before changing a minor’s gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form. It requires parental consent for students to access appropriate in-school spaces, such as locker rooms or bathrooms. It would also prohibit school staff from discussing “gender ideology,” which is an attempt to further marginalize transgender and non-binary students.

Glisten’s CEO Melanie Willingham-Jaggers (they/she) issued the following statement:

This bill would pose a great risk to student safety and undermine safe learning environments. This legislation is yet another example of federal overreach at the expense of our Nation’s students.

This act does nothing to actually protect a child’s freedoms, but instead, drastically limits the freedoms that young people need to learn, explore, and grow as humans. This act will stomp out students’ ability to live authentically, creating an environment where students who are different are vilified and unwelcome. Our education system is meant to create a world where youth can flourish as themselves and where safety is paramount.

Many students find their safe space at school amongst supporting adults and peers. Educators shouldn’t be forced to ‘out’ their students, especially if a child’s home situation compromises their safety.

Glisten urges Congress to vote NO on this dangerous bill. Glisten will always support LGBTQ+ students and prioritize their education and safety, and we urge you to do the same.”

For press inquiries, please reach out to:  
Mark Umbach, Lucky Break PR.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this so-called Stopping Indoc-trination and Protecting Kids Act.

This bill does not protect kids. In fact, it just bullies them.

From affordability to educational achievement, Congressional Republicans won’t tackle the country’s real issues. Instead, they are going back to their one very weird trick that we see over and over again: bills that obsess over the genitals of children.

We have dealt with cruel policies like this in Florida for years, and it hasn’t stopped Florida from now ranking dead last in reading.

This bill threatens children by forcing teachers and staff to out kids to their parents even if it puts them in danger. You call this the PROTECT Kids Act. You say this is about protecting kids. Do you want to know the biggest danger to our kids and our children? It is not trans people. It is not queer people. It is not drag queens. It is not books. It is bullets. The leading cause of death for a child in this country is to be shot.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman if he can tell me what he intends to do to protect kids from the leading cause of death for kids.

That silence that you hear, that silence means they have got nothing.

This bill does nothing to protect kids. It just bullies them.

Trans people have always existed. They always will exist, no matter what bills you pass. I hope this body, if you actually care about kids and care about their schooling, will fund public education. Why don’t you make sure that the leading cause of death for a child isn’t to be shot in their schools, shot on their block. Stop with bullying children and our most vulnerable people.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter opposing the bill from PFLAG. They say that this harmful bill would strip schools of Federal funds for even acknowledging the existence of transgender people and would make schools less safe for all students by putting barriers between vulnerable students, their teachers, counselors, and other trusted adults.

PFLAG NATIONAL,  
Washington, DC, May 20, 2026.

House Democratic Members  
C/O: House Democratic Legislative Directors  
and Education Staff  
RE Vote NO on H.R. 2616.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: PFLAG National, the nation’s largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them, urges all Representatives to vote NO on H.R. 2616.

This harmful bill would strip schools of federal funds for even acknowledging the existence of transgender people and would make school less safe for all students by putting barriers between vulnerable students, their teachers, counselors and other trusted adults.

America is a country of freedom of speech and freedom of ideas. Those freedoms end when politicians start banning books and censoring curriculum simply because some people find them uncomfortable. Children deserve an honest and accurate education that enables them to learn about diverse identities and experiences to help create a better future.

A public-school education helps students prepare for their future by encouraging curiosity and critical thinking through math and science, art and music, history and literature. But H.R. 2616 would force schools to purge books from their libraries that merely acknowledge that transgender people exist. It sets a dangerous precedent when politicians simply start censoring school content and books they don’t like.

The politicians and groups behind these bills want to use our laws to control what students can and cannot read, what they can and cannot learn, and—most troublingly—who they can and cannot be. Our schools should protect all students—including LGBTQ students—so they can learn and thrive in a safe environment where they can see themselves reflected in the books they read.

H.R. 2616 also forces school counselors, teachers, and other staff to out transgender children to their parents, regardless of the child’s wishes and well-being. What this bill does is tell every student, LGBTQ+ or not, that they cannot trust the adults at school.

Kids who have one trusted adult in their life are more likely to reach out for help

when they need it and less likely to engage in harmful or self-harming behaviors. For LGBTQ+ youth, the process of coming out is deeply personal and involves risk—because 4 in 5 LGBTQ+ youth face stigma, discrimination and harm at school and 2 in 5 youth who are homeless are LGBTQ+ kids whose parents rejected them. Having a trained, trusted adult who can help a student navigate the coming out process safely, including helping them develop a safety plan to bring in their parents, is vital to an LGBTQ+ youth's safety. H.R. 2616 yanks their safety net away.

Please OPPOSE H.R. 2616 and get back to work ensuring ALL students can get a quality public education.

Sincerely,

BRIAN K. BOND,  
CEO, PFLAG National.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a letter from Advocates for Trans Equality, which says, in part, the bill would harm transgender and nonbinary students in kindergarten through 8th grade by erecting barriers to best-practice student supports, such as recognizing a student's name, pronouns, and providing access to appropriate sex-based facilities. The bill would also impose broad unconstitutional limits on the speech and academic freedom of students and educators alike, while prohibiting any discussion of "gender ideology," a term coined by anti-trans activists to dehumanize trans people.

ADVOCATES FOR TRANS EQUALITY,

May 20, 2026.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: On behalf of your transgender constituents and their allies, Advocates for Trans Equality urges Members of Congress to vote NO on H.R. 2616. This bill would harm transgender and nonbinary students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade by erecting barriers to best-practice student supports, such as recognizing a student's name and pronouns and providing access to appropriate sex-based facilities. The bill would also impose broad unconstitutional limits on the speech and academic freedom of students and educators alike by prohibiting any discussion of "gender ideology," a term coined by anti-trans activists to dehumanize trans people.

Trans students are being driven out of traditional school settings by pervasive harassment and discrimination. Survey data has found that 71 percent of trans and nonbinary students have felt unsafe at school due to their LGBTQI+ identity and that 7 percent of LGBTQI+ students have changed schools due to concerns about safety and comfort. This bill will make it harder for educators to provide trans students support in the form of respecting a student's pronouns and name, which data shows produces better mental health outcomes for trans youth. Moreover, the bill could force schools to prohibit trans students who cannot obtain parental consent from using the appropriate facilities, exposing transgender students to higher risk of sexual assault. This, in turn, results in a less safe educational environment for all. Trans students must have access to the support and protection necessary for them to enjoy a quality public education.

The bill goes further by censoring any discussion of transgender identity at any K-12 school—an unprecedented attack on the free speech and academic freedom of students and educators. No school curriculum can be complete without some acknowledgement of transgender people, who have always been a part of North American history, predating the arrival of European colonists.

Transgender children will exist regardless of whether their schools acknowledge them. This bill would further stigmatize and isolate them by all but erasing them from their very own classrooms. This is a patently unconstitutional, un-American restriction of free speech that will profoundly harm vulnerable children if passed.

Advocates for Trans Equality urges every Member of Congress to defend civil liberties and the right of every student to a safe learning environment and a quality education by voting NO on H.R. 2616.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Trans Equality.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close if the gentleman from Virginia is, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, we should be asking who this bill actually helps. It is not needed for most situations where you can involve parents in constructive dialogue about a student, but it does not help students who confide in a trusted teacher because they feel unsafe at home. It does not help educators trying to create a supportive learning environment. It does not help students already stretched thin and trying to meet students' real needs.

What it does is impose a rigid Federal mandate that ignores context, disregards student safety, and prioritizes politics over people.

We can support parents without putting children at risk. We can respect local control without Federal overreach. We should be focused on legislation that improves students' lives, not bills that create new problems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1450

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, this issue is about parents, their children, and the protection of both.

This bill also protects teachers. It gives them the opportunity to use the resources already available to them to protect students, but not do that at the expense of parental rights.

Every parent in this country wants the same basic thing: to know what is happening in their child's life and to be able to guide them through it. That is not political. It shouldn't be. That is just being a parent.

Too many families today—and it is the majority of them—feel like they are being cut out of decisions that matter: decisions that affect their child's identity, their well-being, and their future. These are life-changing decisions that are being allowed and encouraged that are destructive. That is not how our schools are supposed to work.

Schools should be partners with parents, not replacements for them. Trust between families and educators is essential. That trust starts with honesty and transparency.

The Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act is just what it says. It is about restoring that trust. It is about making sure parents are informed, respected, and involved. It is making sure kids are protected.

At a time when students are still working to recover from significant learning loss, our focus should be clear: strong academics, honest communication, and helping every child succeed.

That is what this legislation does, Mr. Speaker. It puts parents back where they belong: at the center of their child's life and education. In fact, it mandates and strongly encourages parents to be back there with their kids. That is a good thing.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2616, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2616, which does not protect kids. This bill is yet another attempt to micro-manage educators, harm LGBTQI+ students, and weaponize the federal government to discriminate against a small handful of already vulnerable students. There are real problems in our schools, yet at every turn, my Republican colleagues are choosing to scapegoat the trans community to divert attention from the fact that they are partners with the administration in undermining our public school system and actively dismantling the Department of Education. Schools should be places where all children feel safe to live and learn as their authentic selves.

Instead, this bill prevents the use of federal funds to "teach or advance concepts" related to gender ideology and forces schools to "out" students—even if it would cause harm or trauma. This bill is damaging and discriminatory to transgender students, who have constantly seen themselves attacked and erased by my colleagues' harmful rhetoric. Research shows that discriminatory policies like H.R. 2616, are associated with higher suicide risk among LGBTQI+ youth. Adults in Congress shouldn't be actively harming the mental health of our Nation's youth. I urge my colleagues to please stop picking on trans kids and oppose this harmful legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Balint of Vermont moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2616 to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

The material previously referred to by Ms. BALINT is as follows:

Ms. Balint moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2616 to the Committee on Education and Workforce with instructions to report the

same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the bill the following:

**“SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this Act shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Education submits a written report to Congress that includes the following:

“(1) An explanation of the circumstances surrounding the reported fact that the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education (‘OCR’) reached zero resolution agreements in 2025 in cases involving sexual harassment or sexual violence against girls and women.

“(2) A detailed action plan that OCR will carry out to re-establish effective case resolution process to protect girls and women from sexual harassment and sexual violence.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. WALBERG. 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.

**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 2 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

**MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

A message from the Senate by Mr. Warner, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 739

Whereas John Seymour was born on December 3, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas John Seymour enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving his country in uniform from 1955 to 1959;

Whereas John Seymour attended public school in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1962;

Whereas, as a southern California businessman, John Seymour greatly contributed to Orange County's vibrant real estate and housing marketplace, serving as president of the California Association of Realtors in 1980;

Whereas, in 1974, John Seymour was first elected to the Anaheim City Council, representing the city of Anaheim as a council member from 1974 to 1978, and later serving as the Mayor of Anaheim from 1978 to 1982;

Whereas, as Mayor of Anaheim, John Seymour led efforts to secure the relocation of the Los Angeles Rams to Orange County in 1980, championing his community in the process;

Whereas, as Mayor of Anaheim, John Seymour further led initiatives to establish greater trust and public accountability between Anaheim law enforcement and the wider community;

Whereas John Seymour, during his time as a State Senator in the California legislature, as well as in the United States Senate, demonstrated leadership and commitment to causes dearly held by California residents, including special education, women's rights, and environmental stewardship;

Whereas John Seymour was appointed to the United States Senate in 1991 by California Governor Pete Wilson and served in the Senate until 1992;

Whereas, working alongside Senator Alan Cranston, John Seymour helped pass into law a landmark transportation bill, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 109 Stat. 1914), securing billions of dollars in funding to benefit the State of California;

Whereas John Seymour led congressional efforts to preserve California's natural beauty, protect its ecosystems, wildlife, and national parks, and stimulate California's industries;

Whereas John Seymour served with distinction, developing a reputation for candor, bipartisanship, and putting people and communities first;

Whereas John Seymour, in his advocacy as a public servant and private citizen, devoted particular attention to supporting affordable housing initiatives in southern California through steadfast engagement with non-profit organizations;

Whereas John Seymour was a beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather; and

Whereas the State of California and the United States have lost a compassionate lawmaker and dedicated public servant: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of John Seymour, the late United States Senator for the State of California; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of John Seymour; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark or respect to the memory of the late John Seymour.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3490. An act to require the Government Accountability Office to produce a report on esophageal cancer, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 603. An act to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 790. An act to redesignate the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as the “Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center”.

S. 3966. An act to prohibit the enforcement of certain contractual clauses that restrict disclosure of sexual abuse of minors, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Rachel K. Laser of the District of Columbia (re-appointment).

Gunisha Kaur of New York.

**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:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1993;

The motion to recommit H.R. 2616;

Passage of H.R. 2616, if ordered;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1300; and

Adoption of House Resolution 1300, if ordered.

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

**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1993) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to support programs at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 182]

YEAS—415

Adams	Balderson	Beyer
Aderholt	Ballnt	Bice
Aguilar	Barr	Biggs (AZ)
Alford	Barragán	Biggs (SC)
Allen	Barrett	Bilirakis
Amo	Baumgartner	Bishop
Amodei (NV)	Bean (FL)	Boebert
Ansari	Beatty	Bonamici
Arrington	Begich	Bost
Auchincloss	Bell	Boyle (PA)
Babin	Bentz	Brecheen
Bacon	Bera	Bresnahan
Baird	Bergman	Brown