

SACRED RIGHT—RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Coptic Christians—the largest religious minority in Egypt and the largest Christian community in the Middle East—are constantly persecuted.

In 2011, Ayman Nabil Labib went to school like he did every day. Ayman, like most Coptic Christians in Egypt, had a cross tattooed on his wrist as a sign of his Christian faith.

When he got to school, Ayman's Arabic language teacher asked him to cover the tattoo. Instead, Ayman pulled the cross from underneath his shirt and left it hanging around his neck.

The teacher became enraged. He choked Ayman and asked Ayman's Muslim classmates: What are you going to do with him? Then his classmates beat him to death to silence his faith.

Ayman was murdered because he was a Christian.

Religious freedom is a basic, sacred, universal human right. Alexander Hamilton said in 1775, "The sacred rights of mankind . . . are written, as with a sun beam in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of the divinity itself; and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power."

And that is just the way it is.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, there are only 7 legislative days until the GOP shuts down this government again.

I have been back home. I don't know about you, but what I have heard is that the American people do not want to see another government shutdown. They don't want to see Planned Parenthood defunded, taking away essential health care for women across the country.

What they want to see is for us to work together. They want to see both parties work together to keep the government open for sure, but to go beyond that, to make sure that families can save to own a home, that they can send their kids to college, that they can have something set aside for retirement.

It is not just enough to keep the government open. That ought to be a given. We ought to take up the priorities of the American people.

Unfortunately, what we see is that, in an attempt to get something that a minority of this body wants, they are going to hold up the entirety of the government—shut down the government—over one issue. That is not responsible, and that is not what the American people sent us here to do.

House Democrats are ready to work together. We will compromise, but let's negotiate. Let's have a discussion.

Let's talk to one another and come up with a budget that we can work together on and that we can present to the American people, and let's get back to the business the people sent us here to do.

MANUFACTURING DAY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage support in promoting National Manufacturing Day, an annual event that is recognized on Friday, October 2.

During a time in which the manufacturing sector is under a number of challenges, Manufacturing Day aims to revitalize the image of manufacturing and to bring awareness of this sector's many contributions to the economy and to the United States' competitiveness.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, I intend to support this day of recognition on October 2 in my district, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same in their districts. Manufacturing Day also serves as an opportunity for manufacturers across the country to highlight their work.

Manufacturing is imperative for the future of the United States' economy, and it encourages the growth of American innovation, a skill that must continue to be fostered in this generation and those generations yet to come.

A BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need to come together, put aside partisan politics, and pass a budget.

More than 7 in 10 Americans are saying they would prefer a budget agreement to prevent the government from shutting down.

I was elected to Congress and came here promising my constituents no more government shutdowns, no more Federal furloughs, and no more sequestration.

I ask for the leadership of both parties to put forward a bipartisan, long-term budget solution to help prevent a government shutdown.

We need to focus on what matters: growing our economy, upgrading our aging infrastructure, and helping to ensure that our citizens are able to obtain the American Dream.

We cannot waste any more time on political gridlock, and it is not fair to hijack our Nation's budget bill. Let's

come together. Let's get to work. Let's answer the call of our constituents, and let's pass a budget.

CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month.

Cardiomyopathy is a chronic disease of the heart muscle that increases the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, which is a condition that claims approximately 295,000 lives in the United States every year. It is also the leading cause of death among schoolchildren.

That is one reason I introduced the SAFE PLAY Act, which would improve the health and safety of student athletes, including those who are diagnosed with cardiomyopathy.

We know that, when sudden cardiac arrest hits, quick intervention saves lives. That is why the SAFE PLAY Act includes provisions to teach students across the country the life-saving skills of CPR and how to use AEDs.

As we recognize Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month, I want to invite my colleagues and their staffs to the second annual AED Hunt on the Hill, taking place tomorrow at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. There you can learn more about cardiomyopathy, how AEDs save lives, and how the SAFE PLAY Act can help. Together, we can make a difference.

□ 1415

GOP SHUTDOWN/PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, once again, Republicans are threatening to shut down our government.

Instead of passing a sensible funding bill or a long-term transportation bill that will create jobs, Republicans have chosen to put jobs at risk. They have chosen to weaken security at our airports. They have chosen to close our national parks. They pretty much have chosen not to serve their constituents back home.

And it is for what reason? It is because they are so determined to regulate women's bodies and block women's right to access preventive and life-saving health care that they would rather throw Americans under the bus.

Last year alone, in my State of North Carolina, Planned Parenthood served more than 31,000 patients, providing mammograms, pap smears, cancer screenings, contraceptive services, and STD testing.

Why would we want to deny women, many who are low income, of these

necessary health benefits? Women's access to health care has always been important to me, and that is why I am a consistent advocate for the work that Planned Parenthood does.

More importantly, I refuse to put jobs and our country's safety at risk over partisan grandstanding. Only 7 days left—it is time to do what we were sent here to do and end this senseless shutdown talk.

GOP DYSFUNCTION

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to please don't shut down the government. Let's work together. Let's put politics aside and do what is best for the American people.

By the end of this month, we are expected to negotiate a responsible budget agreement, but threats from the rightwing extremists are taking us off course once again.

I recently wrote an op-ed challenging Republican threats to women's healthcare coverage, as I refuse to stand on the sidelines when our country's daughters, sisters, and mothers are under attack.

Instead of, once again, holding women's health care hostage in order to pass a biased agenda, we need to come together to pass a responsible, bipartisan budget to address our Nation's most pressing problems.

Now, residents in the Dallas/Fort Worth area are concerned about getting some congestion off of our freeways and doing things like making sure that the American public has good, well-paying jobs and protecting our businesses.

They want us to pass a balanced and responsible budget that averts another government shutdown. We cannot expect to repeat the same mistakes and think that it is going to yield different results.

The American people are counting on us to focus on what matters: jobs, education, and fixing our country's crumbling infrastructure.

STOP GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today outraged and disappointed. Once again, petty partisan politics is threatening to derail government funding and shut down critical services to hard-working, deserving Americans.

Later today, I will be hosting a forum with the media, talking about how women are treated and misrepresented in the media; and here, we have an issue that has a direct impact on women being used as a pawn to shut down our government. The only group that is portrayed more negatively—and we all hear it—is our own Congress.

We must act now to change how we are portrayed and how America views us. We must work together and stop another wasteful and harmful government shutdown. We are better than this.

Congress, my colleagues, let's work together and keep our government working.

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, September 16, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The 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 September 16, 2015 at 9:23 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2036.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 23) to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) DIRECTOR.—Section 203(1) of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702(1)) is amended by striking "Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy" and inserting "Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology".

(b) LIFELINES.—Section 203 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) LIFELINES.—The term 'lifelines' means public works and utilities, including transportation facilities and infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines, electrical power and communication facilities and infrastructure, and water supply and sewage treatment facilities."

(c) WINDSTORM.—Paragraph (5) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by inserting "northeaster," after "tropical storm,".

SEC. 3. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 204 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, the purpose of which is to achieve major measurable reductions in the losses of life and property from windstorms through a coordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at improving the understanding of windstorms and their impacts and developing and encouraging the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those impacts.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.—

"(1) LEAD AGENCY.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall have the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the Program. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director shall—

"(A) ensure that the Program includes the necessary components to promote the implementation of windstorm risk reduction measures by Federal, State, and local governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, and others with a role in planning and constructing buildings and lifelines;

"(B) support the development of performance-based engineering tools, and work with appropriate groups to promote the commercial application of such tools, including through wind-related model building codes, voluntary standards, and construction best practices;

"(C) request the assistance of Federal agencies other than the Program agencies, as necessary to assist in carrying out this Act;

"(D) coordinate all Federal post-windstorm investigations to the extent practicable; and

"(E) when warranted by research or investigative findings, issue recommendations to assist in informing the development of model codes, and provide information to Congress on the use of such recommendations.

"(2) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—In addition to the lead agency responsibilities described under paragraph (1),