

minutes and reported the efficiency and safety in receiving the doses.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I thoroughly understand the vital role pharmacists play in fighting viruses, from administering flu shots to COVID-19 vaccines.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all participating pharmacies for their diligent work in ensuring safe and effective vaccine administration across the country. We can look forward to a brighter future because of them.

EQUALITY ACT NEEDS TO BE STRUCK DOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of women, girls, and children.

I would like to talk about the Equality Act. It is a bill that we will be voting on this week. It is a bill that was passed before, but it is a bill that needs to be struck down. This is a bill that will add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under the Federal 1964 Civil Rights Act.

We live in a nation—thank God—that declares all of us equal. There should not be discrimination of anyone in the United States of America, and I fully believe that. But I ask everyone to take pause and truly consider what the Equality Act will do, because it has very serious consequences.

You see, women have come very far in America and our rights are extremely important. The work of our grandmothers and mothers to declare women as equal and push our way into the workplace and into sports has been a remarkable achievement.

Voting, being able to own businesses, achieve education the same as men in America is a gift that I feel so honored and blessed by. I know that every American woman treasures this.

□ 1100

You see, the Equality Act will change all of that, because it will put trans rights above women's rights, above the rights of our daughters, our sisters, our friends, our grandmothers, our aunts. It is too much.

Mr. Speaker, you see, as a woman, I have competed in sports, and I am so thrilled that I was able to do that, but I competed against biological women. It is a wonderful thing to be able to compete and prove yourself. Competition is a great, great thing. Little girls all over the country play sports. They play their hearts out, they practice, they enjoy time with their friends, then they compete at higher levels where they can earn scholarships, where they can go to college and achieve and receive an education through playing a sport for their university or college.

There are women that move on into professional sports fields and do remarkable things, incredible things for

women. For example, Florence Griffith Joyner became the fastest woman in the world in 1988 when she ran the 100-meter dash in 10.49 seconds. I could only dream of being that fast. But in 2019, Matthew Boling caught the fastest high school 100-meter time ever in 9.98 seconds, an entire half-second quicker than the fastest woman in the world.

Biological women cannot compete against biological men. Biological little girls cannot compete against biological little boys. And they shouldn't have to.

I have a daughter that is a D-1 athlete. We traveled the country for 10 years where she competed at the highest level. She earned her scholarship, and now she plays fast-pitch softball. And I can't tell you how much fun I had watching her play this weekend, and she had a home run. But if she has to compete against boys in her sport, not only will they be on her playing field and she has to compete against them; they will be in her locker room; they will be in her showers; they will be in her bathroom; they will be in her hotel room when she travels with her team—all under the Equality Act. This is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't about political parties. It is not about Democrat, Republican. This is about right and wrong. This is about girls' and women's rights.

Furthermore, it affects women in prison. Trans men, biological men that identify as women, will be put with women in prison.

Battered women's shelters, women that have been beaten and abused by men will have men in their battered women's shelters.

Drug rehab centers—and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to stop discrimination of a class of people, but it is another thing to completely violate and destroy the rights of girls and women in order to achieve this. This bill must be struck down. It is completely wrong.

Furthermore, we are in an institution where it says, "In God we trust." Well, it says in Genesis: God created us male and female. In his image, he created us. Science has two sets of chromosomes that prove male and female.

Mr. Speaker, 80 to 95 percent of children with gender dysphoria completely outgrow it after puberty. The Equality Act will force doctors and nurses to perform mastectomies on girls that want to have their breasts removed. It will force doctors also to perform abortions, because according to the Equality Act, a doctor cannot say no.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that everyone please pause and consider, and vote "no" for the Equality Act. We can't do this in America, and it needs to stop with political parties.

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 11 o'clock and 4 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. TAKANO) at noon.

PRAYER

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

By Your mercies, O Lord, we present ourselves to You this day, bringing with us not just diverse attitudes and a range of passions, but deeply held opinions which we truly believe are offered in faith.

We reluctantly admit that it is our faith that confounds us, for as we dare to interpret Your will and attempt to live into Your intent, we find ourselves viscerally at odds with the very ones with whom You have caused us to serve.

Renew our minds, individually and collectively, that we would not be conformed to the divisive patterns of this world but transformed by Your grace. May we not think so highly of ourselves that we fail to be reasonable or use careful judgment. Remind us that as Members of this one body, we are called to live in peace, to be thankful, to admonish in love.

Then together, in faith, enable us to discern Your will to determine what really is good, pleasing, and appropriate for our country, for our community, and for our Congress.

We offer ourselves, our words and deeds, praying in Your most holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CRAIG 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.

ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I

offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 154

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SPECIALIST DERRICK AMELI

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Specialist Derrick Ameli, a member of the Minnesota National Guard from Savage, Minnesota.

Derrick was a husband, a brother, a friend and Guardsman whose service honored our community. Tragically, Derrick died by suicide last month, falling victim to the sometimes fatal disease of depression.

Like any ailment, no one is immune. Depression can and does take the very best of us. Addressing this epidemic is one of the Nation's most urgent challenges. But in order to combat this disease, we must first destigmatize mental health treatment.

In order to give our neighbors and our families the help they deserve, they need to feel safe and supported asking for treatment. We must begin treating mental health as the chronic illnesses they can be, for Derrick and for so many others who we have lost.

GOVERNING REQUIRES COMPROMISE

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, Democrats won the House by the slimmest of margins in November. In fact, it is the slimmest Democrat majority since 1875, a mere five seats. 31,718 votes are what determines the majority. Their victory in the other branches was also tight, 50/50 on the Senate side.

Usually, when one party has a tiny majority, they recognize that governing requires compromise. Not this majority.

Less than 2 months into controlling the House, despite promising to solve problems and restore democracy, Democrats have proven that their primary goal is not governing but grievance, the politics of censorship, not common ground.

In January, they eliminated the motion to recommit, the last chance for the minority to improve legislation, without a single Republican vote. It will go down in history as the first time in the history of this body that a majority did that, deny the minority, the millions of constituents, their voice.

Already, millions have lost their voice in Congress due to the brazen partisanship. What Democrats are doing this week is even worse.

Today, they will hold a subcommittee hearing that will focus on broadcasters' and cable news' devotion to journalistic integrity. This explanation should concern every American.

It has never been Congress' role to define and enforce journalistic standards. The First Amendment expressly prohibits the government from controlling what the press says.

But Democrats are trying to give themselves the power to dictate what you can read and watch in your own home. And their assault on free speech goes beyond today's disgraceful hearing.

On Monday, Representatives ESHOO and MCNERNEY sent a letter to 12 cable, streaming, and satellite companies, essentially threatening them to remove "Fox News", "Newsmax", and "One America News Network" from their airways.

Here is just a quick snapshot of the answers they are demanding from the carriers:

"What moral or ethical principles do you apply in deciding which channels to carry or when to take adverse actions against a channel?"

"What steps did you take to monitor, respond to, and reduce the spread of disinformation, including encouragement or incitement of violence by channels your company disseminates to millions of Americans?"

Then the other question, coming from Congress in a majority of a committee: "Are you planning to continue to carry 'Fox News', 'Newsmax', 'One America News Network', both now and beyond any contract renewal date? If so, why?"

Now, I am not an attorney, but some people have asked me, does that reach an ethical complaint against these Members by using undue influence?

I don't know. I guess the Ethics Committee would have to decide that.

These are Members of Congress who are using their official position to coerce and control the information Americans can watch and access in their own homes. They are demanding more

censorship, more deplatforming, and more control of what Americans can watch.

In their letter, Congresswoman ESHOO and Congressman MCNERNEY suggest that censorship is necessary because conservative views are not only different, but they are dangerous. This is not only false; it is the same script used in countries like China to silence speech they disagree with.

Democrats would bring those same socialist standards to America, but those standards are dangerous, vague, and easily abused. They have no place here.

Democrats' action this week make it clear that the greatest threat to free speech today is not a law from Congress, which is bound by the First Amendment. The greatest threat is politicians who bully private companies to silence dissenting views.

The sad part is it isn't only Democrats who have done this. They sent a letter to a company of Amazon that was created to sell books, to tell them not to sell books.

Lastly, beyond these serious threats to free speech, the irony of Democrats' actions this week should not be lost on us. For the last 4 years, we were told that the greatest danger to free speech was President Trump.

To underscore this accusation, the liberal legacy newspaper in Washington adopted its first official slogan: "Democracy dies in darkness."

As usual, the heated rhetoric from the other side was off base—badly. The same party that is now worried about misinformation rumor mills and conspiracy theory hotbeds was comfortable with endorsing destructive and false narratives for 4 years.

Back in August, Congresswoman ESHOO herself basically alleged that the Trump administration was intentionally attacking the U.S. Postal Service. She called it election theft and a campaign of sabotage.

How about Congressman ADAM SCHIFF? For years, he said he had more than circumstantial evidence of Russian collusion. We all found that to be false. Nevertheless, networks like "MSNBC" continue to perpetuate the baseless accusation. I wonder if they sent a letter there.

Or how about our own Speaker PELOSI, who said in 2017, "Our election was hijacked. There is no question."

Mr. Speaker, the American people are capable of making decisions about how best to live their lives. They deserve to decide how to take care of their families or open their businesses during a pandemic. And they deserve to decide to watch the news, judge the information they choose, and draw their own conclusions about its accuracy. They need us to trust them, not to try to control them.

If Democrats accepted robust debate, they would find that more people would trust Washington.

Mr. Speaker, this is a body that is using its power to try to determine