

In the infamous letter which the Secretary solicited from the National School Boards Association, he suggested using the PATRIOT Act and that the FBI should begin investigating concerned parents at school board meetings. The letter had nothing to do with curriculum. The topic was how to vilify and target parents that disagreed with the narrative.

Secretary Cardona has repeatedly denied involvement in the letter, but recently released documents have exposed the truth. These actions show a clear pattern that puts politics over the interests of the parents and especially their children and their education.

Parents are right to be concerned about their kids being taught radical ideologies or being exposed to inappropriate materials. Every parent in the Nation, regardless of ideology, should be alarmed that the Federal Government is trying to strip away their rights and use these underhanded methods to try to silence them.

□ 1215

#### AMERICANS ARE FACING ONE CRISIS AFTER ANOTHER

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 1-year anniversary of one-party, radical rule in D.C.

With Democrats at the helm, Americans have faced one crisis after another, unfortunately. We have the highest inflation in 41 years, supply chain disruptions, workforce shortages in critical industries, spikes in energy costs; record numbers of people and drugs illegally entering our southern border, a surge in crime, national security threats, a series of foreign relations disasters; in my opinion, a mismanaged pandemic, and countless examples of government intrusion into all aspects of our lives.

Instead of addressing these problems, Democrats have doubled down on failed policies, have engaged in out-of-control spending, and are trying to control every aspect of Americans' lives.

This is not the way forward.

I recently asked my constituents one simple question: "Is your family better off than you were a year ago?" Almost 70 percent of the respondents said no. Fixing that problem should be Congress' main priority.

#### PIKE COUNTY DESERVES A LARGER PILT PAYMENT

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

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, payments in lieu of taxes, or PILTs, are Federal payments to local governments to help offset losses in property

taxes due to the presence of nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries.

Through my role on the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I have gotten to know the good people of Pike County, Ohio, where the Department of Energy owns 3,700 acres of land where a uranium enrichment plant once operated. And wouldn't you know it, Pike County has one of the highest cancer rates in the State of Ohio.

Yet, their PILT payment is a paltry \$47,000 a year. These are the people who enriched the uranium during the Cold War; they live in southern Ohio where corporations have gone in, extracted resources, and taken the profits out, and now we need to help this community get the kind of payment that they need. For all the radiation, all the sacrifice that they have made and endured over the years, it is long past time that the Federal Government increased the PILT payment for Pike County, Ohio.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID WAGNER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Venango Area Chamber Citizen of the Year, Dr. David Wagner.

Dr. Wagner currently owns and operates the Wagner Family Eye Care in Seneca.

Dr. Wagner is a graduate of North Clarion High School, Gannon University, and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

Dr. Wagner continues to be an active citizen of Venango County. He is dedicated to giving back not only in the area but around the world.

Dr. Wagner currently serves on the board for the Oil City Rotary Club and the Venango County Association for the Blind, in addition to being involved in his church, Second Presbyterian.

Despite staying busy, Dr. Wagner finds time to volunteer with other community groups, Mr. Speaker, and mentors young adults in the area.

Dr. Wagner continues his service outside of Venango by participating in Through God's Eyes and ZUMC to provide eye care to people in need throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Wagner on this tremendous honor and thank him for his continued dedication to those of Venango County and around the world.

#### THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAS STRUCK OUT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for a year, the Biden administration has struck out on every jobs report.

If this were a baseball game, this administration would have been benched long ago.

Economists predicted that 450,000 new jobs would be added in the month of December.

But what was the result? A dismal 199,000 jobs were added, the worst report of Joe Biden's Presidency.

Mr. Speaker, with these kinds of numbers, America's economy and workforce will never recover.

No matter how this administration spins these failures, one thing is abundantly clear: You cannot swing, miss, and then claim you have hit a home run.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### PUERTO RICO RECOVERY ACCURACY IN DISCLOSURES ACT OF 2021

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1192) to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as "PROMESA").

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 "Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021" or "PRRADA".*

#### SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE BY PROFESSIONAL PERSONS SEEKING APPROVAL OF COMPENSATION UNDER SECTION 316 OR 317 OF PROMESA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LIST OF MATERIAL INTERESTED PARTIES.—The term "List of Material Interested Parties" means the List of Material Interested Parties established under subsection (c)(1).

(2) OVERSIGHT BOARD.—The term "Oversight Board" has the meaning given the term in section 5 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2104).

(b) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), no attorney, accountant, appraiser, auctioneer, agent, or other professional person may be compensated under section 316 or 317 of that Act (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) unless prior to making a request for compensation, the professional person has filed with the court a verified statement conforming to the disclosure requirements of rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure setting forth the connection of the professional person with any entity or person on the List of Material Interested Parties.

(2) SUPPLEMENT.—A professional person that submits a statement under paragraph (1) shall promptly supplement the statement with any additional relevant information that becomes known to the person.

(3) **DISCLOSURE.**—Subject to any other applicable law, rule, or regulation, a professional person that fails to file or update a statement required under paragraph (1) or files a statement that the court determines does not represent a good faith effort to comply with this section shall disclose such failure in any filing required to conform to the disclosure requirements under rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

(c) **LIST OF MATERIAL INTERESTED PARTIES.**—

(1) **PREPARATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Oversight Board shall establish a List of Material Interested Parties subject to—

(A) the approval of the court; and  
(B) the right of the United States trustee or any party in interest to be heard on the approval.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the List of Material Interested Parties shall include—

(A) the debtor;  
(B) any creditor;  
(C) any other party in interest;  
(D) any attorney or accountant of—  
(i) the debtor;  
(ii) any creditor; or  
(iii) any other party in interest;  
(E) the United States trustee and any person employed in the office of the United States trustee; and  
(F) the Oversight Board, including the members, the Executive Director, and the employees of the Oversight Board.

(3) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The List of Material Interested Parties may not include any person with a claim, the amount of which is below a threshold dollar amount established by the court that is consistent with the purpose of this Act.

(d) **REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States trustee shall review each verified statement submitted pursuant to subsection (b) and may file with the court comments on such verified statements before the professionals filing such statements seek compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177).

(2) **OBJECTION.**—The United States trustee may object to applications filed under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) that fail to satisfy the requirements of subsection (b).

(e) **LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.**—In a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), in connection with the review and approval of professional compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) filed after the date of enactment of this Act, the court may deny allowance of compensation or reimbursement of expenses if—

(1) the professional person has failed to file the verified disclosure statements required under subsection (b)(1) or has filed inadequate disclosure statements under that subsection; or

(2) during the professional person's employment in connection with the case, the professional person—

(A) is not a disinterested person (as defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code) relative to any entity or person on the List of Material Interested Parties; or

(B) represents or holds an adverse interest in connection with the case.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extra-

neous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1192, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021, or PRRADA, is commonsense legislation that would promote greater transparency and integrity with respect to the ongoing financial reorganization of Puerto Rico. This will be the third time in just over 2 years that the House will vote on this legislation, but, Mr. Speaker, I think the third time will be the charm.

In response to dire fiscal issues facing Puerto Rico at the time, Congress passed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, or PROMESA, in 2016.

That legislation established the Financial Oversight and Management Board with control over Puerto Rico's budget, laws, financial plans, and regulations, and the authority to retain professionals to assist the Board in executing its responsibilities.

Although largely patterned on Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, PROMESA did not incorporate all facets of Chapter 11 and other relevant provisions of the code.

Importantly, this includes the code's mandatory disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest that professional persons seeking to be retained in a bankruptcy case must make to the court prior to their retention.

This bill would close that loophole by conditioning the compensation of professional persons retained under PROMESA under certain disclosures similar to those required under the Bankruptcy Code.

Additionally, the bill would require the United States Trustee to review these disclosures and to submit comments in response to the court, and it also authorizes the United States Trustee to object to compensation requested by professionals.

And finally, H.R. 1192 would allow courts to deny compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses if the professional person did not comply with the disclosure requirement, or represented or held an interest adverse to the bankruptcy estate. Common sense.

The House passed H.R. 1192 last February, and the Senate passed an amended version of the Act last December. The Senate amendments streamlined PRRADA's reporting requirements, strengthened the incentives for good faith compliance, and clarify other provisions of the Act.

Now, Puerto Rico's restructuring is drawing to a close, which makes passage of this legislation especially urgent.

I thank Representative VELÁZQUEZ for her leadership in championing this

bill and for her relentless dedication to ensuring that the people of Puerto Rico receive the fair, efficient, and transparent restructuring process they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which was passed out of the House last year and the year before by unanimous votes, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1192, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021.

In 2016, Puerto Rico was experiencing severe financial pressure from significant debt and related obligations.

In response to Puerto Rico's financial distress, Congress enacted the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act of 2016. That 2016 law created a bankruptcy process for Puerto Rico.

Like existing bankruptcy law in 2016, the law permitted certain professionals working on Puerto Rico's bankruptcy, like lawyers and accountants, to apply to get paid for their services pending judicial approval.

But the 2016 law lacked certain disclosure requirements for these professionals that would typically apply to restructuring professionals in other bankruptcy cases.

The gap in the 2016 law created the potential for undisclosed conflicts of interest for professionals involved in Puerto Rico's bankruptcy.

This bill fills the gap by mandating the necessary disclosure requirements. The bill also establishes a process for overseeing and policing disclosures that bankruptcy professionals make.

H.R. 1192 passed the House unanimously in February of 2021. In December, the Senate passed H.R. 1192 with a few minor amendments to improve the bill's administrative abilities. The amendments also enhanced the incentives for professionals to make significant efforts to comply with the new disclosure requirements.

H.R. 1192 will serve important goals and interests, including the interests of creditors and taxpayers and Puerto Rico itself.

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

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the approval in the House of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1192, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021.

I joined Representative VELÁZQUEZ to promote this bipartisan and commonsense bill to help ensure the restructuring process under PROMESA serves Puerto Rico's interests. Actually, just

this week, the plan was approved by the Federal Court, so this is perfect timing to approve this bill today.

Though it required some technical corrections, it is satisfying to see this bill has already achieved passage in both Chambers. I wish for my colleague, Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ, to be fully recovered in time to see it become law.

The intent of this legislation remains the same, and this bill will require any person or firm hired as legal, financial or technical staff or consultants for the Financial Oversight Board in the court cases for the restructuring of Puerto Rico's debt, to submit verified disclosures of all connections with debtors, creditors, or other interested parties in the process, before being compensated.

Our intention is not to exclude people with experience in Puerto Rico's financial transactions from being resources in the restructuring process, but it is essential that their connection to any parties interested in those transactions be known. Conflict of interest, or the appearance of conflict of interest, can be best avoided if there is accountability and transparency.

Anyone working to inform the Board's decisions, or representing it before the court, needs to be committed to defending the interests of the people of Puerto Rico first, in accordance with the law and justice.

Lack of transparency creates a lack of trust, and this bill will work toward avoiding that by making these disclosures a legal mandate rather than the Board's own discretion.

Our goal is to reach the day we no longer need the provisions of PROMESA and the Oversight Board, but until that happens, these instruments must be accountable and transparent.

I ask my colleagues to support the passage of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1192, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021.

□ 1230

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I just reiterate that I think there is a lot of support in the Chamber, and I support it as well.

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 1192 closes a loophole under current law by establishing disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest in the bankruptcy process under PROMESA. In doing so, this legislation promotes transparency and accountability in the Puerto Rico restructuring process.

I thank my colleague, Representative VELÁZQUEZ from New York, the author of the bill, for her leadership on this issue, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1192, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021. I was proud to introduce this bill with bipartisan support in the House. I would like to thank House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Chairman JERRY NADLER for bringing this legislation to the floor and to Senator BOB MENENDEZ for introducing a companion bill in the Senate and for his tireless efforts to make sure this Bill would get approved in the Senate.

H.R. 1192 already unanimously passed this House back on February 24, 2021 and I expect to do so the same day.

The Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021 or "PRRADA" eliminates a double standard currently facing Puerto Rico. Under U.S. Code and Federal Bankruptcy procedure, any conflicts of interest—or even the perception of such conflict—between those working on the bankruptcy and the debtor are required to be disclosed.

However, a loophole in the current law prevents this requirement from being extended to the people of Puerto Rico.

In 2016, Congress passed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, otherwise known as PROMESA. When PROMESA was originally passed, it incorporated Chapter 11's bankruptcy requirement that professionals file fee applications with the court. But PROMESA did not include Chapter 11's disclosure requirements that go hand-in-hand with those fee applications. PRRADA remedies this and makes sure that professionals paid by the taxpayers of Puerto Rico are fully transparent about what interests they are serving.

Puerto Ricans should be confident that the Board's bankruptcy advisors do not have their "thumb on the scale" to favor certain debts where they have a self-interest. This bipartisan bill ensures integrity and transparency of the PROMESA process.

While we can have differing opinions on how effectively the Oversight Board is carrying out its mission, one thing should be clear—the island's residents should be entitled to the same rights and protections as any debtor on the mainland.

Once more, I would like to thank Chairman NADLER, the Committee Staff and the bipartisan cosponsors of this bill. I strongly encourage all members to vote "Yes" on this critical piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1192.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GHOST ARMY CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.

1404) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, popularly known as the "Ghost Army", in recognition of their unique and highly distinguished service in conducting deception operations in Europe during World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1404

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the 23d Headquarters Special Troops (comprised of the 23d Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops, the 603d Engineer Camouflage Battalion, the 406th Combat Engineer Company, the 3132d Signal Service Company, and the Signal Company, Special, 23d Headquarters, Special Troops) and the 3133d Signal Service Company were units of the United States Army that served in Europe during World War II;

(2) the 23d Headquarters Special Troops was actively engaged in battlefield operations from June of 1944 through March of 1945;

(3) the 3133d Signal Service Company was engaged in operations in Italy in 1945;

(4) the deceptive activities of these units were integral to several Allied victories across Europe and reduced casualties;

(5) in evaluating the performance of these units after World War II, an Army analysis found that "Rarely, if ever, has there been a group of such a few men which had so great an influence on the outcome of a major military campaign.";

(6) many Ghost Army soldiers were citizen-soldiers recruited from art schools, advertising agencies, communications companies, and other creative and technical professions;

(7) the first 4 members of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops landed on D-Day and 2 became casualties while creating false beach landing sites;

(8) a detachment of Army radio operators under the command of Lieutenant Fred Fox joined the invasion fleet for a planned deception, Operation Troutfly, which was cancelled;

(9) Lieutenant Fox's men and their radios were instead attached to the 82d Airborne, which had lost 95 percent of its radio equipment, providing critical communications as the 82d Airborne fought its way inland;

(10) the secret deception operations of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops commenced in France on June 14, 1944, when Task Force Mason, a 16-man detachment of the 23d led by First Lieutenant Bernard Mason, arrived in Normandy;

(11) Lieutenant Mason and his men set up dummy artillery to draw enemy fire and protect the 980th Field Artillery Battalion (VIII Corps) as part of the Normandy Campaign;

(12) the rest of the soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops arrived in France in July and August of 1944;

(13) full-scale deception efforts began with Operation Elephant from July 1 to 4, 1944, in which the 23d Headquarters Special Troops covered the movement of the 2d Armored Division when it left a reserve position to go into the line between the First United States and Second British Armies;