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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PANETTA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 26, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY PANETTA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3359. An act to provide for a system for reviewing the case file of cold case murders at the instance of certain persons, and for other purposes.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

DEMOCRATS HAVE FAILED STUDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as students prepare to return to classrooms, it is now more clear than ever that the lockdowns of the past 2 years have dealt a devastating blow to the education of our Nation's children.

Isolation and a lack of hands-on learning was detrimental with students falling behind grade level in both reading and math.

In fact, new research shows that students have only recovered between 15 and 35 percent of the learning that was lost during school shutdowns.

Students are not learning the math, the science, the history, and the English that they will need to be successful, and over the long term, the consequence of this learning loss could be catastrophic for our young people.

Instead of addressing this crisis head-on and involving parents directly in their child's education to help get them back on track, the Biden administration has taken steps to limit parents' involvement and federally mandate what our children are taught in classrooms.

To take on this problem, I am proud to join my Republican colleagues as a cosponsor of the Parents Bill of Rights Act. This important legislation would ensure that parents know what their children are being taught in schools and that they have the chance to be heard and to be a part of their kids' education and not a bystander.

This bill would give parents the right to see their school district's budget and spending because it is time that we have transparency throughout our education system.

This would go even further to give parents the opportunity to protect their student's privacy by making sure that a school cannot change their policy on privacy without parental consent.

Our students are counting on us. They are counting on us to find solutions to the challenges that they face every day in school. It is time to increase family involvement, enforce high standards, and make sure that we are preparing our kids of all ages for success in education.

CELEBRATING SIGRID ANDREW

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Sigrid Andrew on her upcoming retirement from her role as medical center director at the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Andrews' 26 years of service to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs culminated with her time leading the Van Zandt VA Medical Center's team to where she has been a pillar of support for our veteran community.

Ms. Andrews' years of experience, not only as a nurse but as a leader in operational management, led her to find innovative solutions to a variety of unique challenges that face our veterans each and every day.

On a personal note, Sigrid Andrew has been instrumental in the development and deployment of the Homegrown Healthcare Initiative, which allows third- and fourth-year medical students to return to their communities in central Pennsylvania to care for patients and build the skills that they will need as young doctors, doctors who will be trained to address the physical and mental health issues of our great veterans.

Sigrid Andrews' tireless work to help address the rural physician shortage has been extraordinary and without her, the Homegrown Healthcare Initiative would not be where it is today.

Sigrid Andrews' persistence, her intelligence, and her dedication to excellence has been an essential tool to support the veteran community throughout Pennsylvania.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Sigrid Andrew for her hard work and her commitment to the veterans of the United States military. I wish her all the best.

DEMOCRATS ARE LOWERING COSTS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TLAIIB). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize President Biden and House Democrats' efforts to lower costs for American families.

Because of Putin's invasion, Americans have seen higher costs everywhere—from the gas pump to grocery stores, to goods across the shelves at local stores. Farmers, ranchers, and consumers have been victims of these price hikes because of Putin's invasion.

President Biden and House Democrats aren't standing for this. That is why last month my Democratic House colleagues and I passed the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

This bill will lower costs of goods for hardworking American families by addressing supply chain risks, lowering the cost of food and gas prices, strengthening the food supply chain, and ensuring robust competition in the meat and poultry sector. This will bring a much-needed drop in the prices of goods for the American people.

I am also glad to report that with President Biden's leadership, gas prices have declined by an average of 65 cents over the last 40 days. Yes, you heard me right, Madam Speaker, 65 cents in the last 40 days.

To bring additional savings for the American people, House Democrats passed the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act to further fight Putin's price hike.

While Democrats are determined to deliver results for Americans, Republicans showed little support on this cost-saving bill. While sad on their part, I was not surprised.

On the public health front, just this year, pharma companies have raised drug prices over 1,100 times. 1,100 times. Drastic, greedy increases like these have led to insulin in the U.S. doubling in price since 2012. This really hurts States and congressional districts like mine that have historically struggled with health issues like diabetes.

In Texas, more than 12.4 percent of the people—or nearly 3 million people—have diabetes. In the Houston area where I live, almost 14 percent of the residents have diabetes.

Madam Speaker, even in my own family—and you will recall, I am one of 10—6 of us have been struck with diabetes. I have one brother who is already under dialysis treatment.

Shockingly, reports show that one in four diabetics have rationed insulin in Texas due to high costs. Many resi-

dents have even died because of needing to ration this lifesaving medicine. This is simply appalling and unconscionable. No one in our great Nation should gamble with their life by rationing insulin because of high costs.

That is why House Democrats passed the Affordable Insulin Now Act to cap the price of insulin at \$35 per month because no one—and I mean no one—should have to ration insulin in America.

So, while Republicans remain focused on pleasing their political base and stripping women of their rights, Democrats remain laser focused on lowering costs for hardworking Americans across our Nation and standing with families.

Democrats are the party who put people above politics. We stand with the American people. Together we are building a better America for generations to come and for the future of our children.

DEFINITION OF RECESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, the Bureau of Economic Analysis will release its second quarter gross domestic product numbers, an overall measure of our country's economic output from April through June.

For decades, a "recession" has been defined as two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth. Therefore, if Thursday's second quarter GDP number is in the negative, then by definition, the United States economy will be in a recession.

However, that won't stop the White House from doing everything it can to deny the obvious. In fact, the White House Council of Economic Advisers is actively trying to change the definition of the word "recession."

In a blog published on July 21 titled: "How Do Economists Determine Whether the Economy is in a Recession?" the White House argues that "it is unlikely that the decline in GDP in the first quarter of this year—even if followed by another GDP decline in the second quarter—indicates a recession."

I hope those students who will be taking economics 101 in the fall are taking notes because the Biden administration is attempting to change the decades-old answers to the test questions for purely political purposes.

Instead of President Biden and his administration attempting to bait and switch the public on the definition of a recession, they should change course on their policies that are crushing our economy and creating significant pain for millions of Americans.

President Biden's disastrous economic policies are having a ripple effect on the housing market, on gas and food prices, real wages, and, of course, overall inflation. Now, we will find out on Thursday whether, by definition, we are in a recession.

Madam Speaker, it didn't have to be this way. We didn't have to borrow and spend ourselves into this mess. The President didn't need to cancel the Keystone Pipeline. He didn't need to restrict new oil and gas leases on public lands. He didn't need to create new regulations on every sector of the economy through the Securities and Exchange Commission and other bureaucratic government agencies.

Thankfully, the days of complete Democratic Party rule in Washington are likely coming to an end. The American people are fed up with their left-wing economic policies and will reject them soundly at the voting booth in November.

Until then, Republicans like me who stand for fiscal conservatism will continue to call them out and hope for more accountability.

At the end of the day, the President is responsible for this economic mess he created. He must do better. If he can't, Republicans will.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID WAS A GIANT LEAP FORWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, 57 years ago this week, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Medicare and Medicaid Act. By increasing healthcare access for elderly and low-income Americans, this act was a giant leap forward in building a more perfect Union.

Today, nearly 64 million Americans are enrolled in Medicare, and over 83 million Americans receive assistance from Medicaid.

We know that these programs are highly effective. Extensive research shows that Medicaid coverage is associated with a range of positive health outcomes. Medicare and Medicaid save lives. Medicare and Medicaid also have considerable economic benefits. Medicaid significantly helps reduce poverty and has been tied to economic mobility across generations and higher educational attainment, income, and taxes paid.

Despite the benefits of Medicare and Medicaid, my Republican colleagues are trying to dismantle these programs.

In 2018, a House Republican budget proposed slashing \$537 billion from Medicare over a decade. Yet, while House Republicans try to gut Medicare and Medicaid, House Democrats are working to expand these programs to more Americans.

□ 1215

I am fighting particularly hard to improve Medicare and Medicaid in my district of the Virgin Islands of the United States and the other U.S. territories, which have long suffered from healthcare inequities.

Before 2017, in the Virgin Islands, nearly 30 percent of residents didn't