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No. 151

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1198. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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.

HONORING SEARA BURTON

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor fallen Richmond Police Officer Seara Burton.

Officer Burton was an exceptional law enforcement officer who never failed to answer the call with bravery. Our Richmond police officer passed away Sunday night, September 18, with her family and loved ones close by. Her Richmond community proudly knows her as a fighter and a warrior—a title she very much deserved.

She was well-loved and will be well-remembered by all whose lives she touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to pray for her loved ones and fellow officers as they grieve during this difficult time.

HONORING CORPORAL KELSEE LAINHART

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Kelsee Lainhart. Corporal Lainhart was one of the U.S. servicemembers injured by the Kabul Airport bombings a little over 1 year ago in Afghanistan, but today, I am here to provide a more hopeful update.

Though she spent many weeks in the hospital, our brave young marine from Dearborn County never lost hope. This August Corporal Lainhart participated in the Chicago Paratriathlon and finished fifth.

So, Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Corporal Kelsee Lainhart today for her strength in recovery and her bravery and diligence during her difficult times.

HONORING PETER MCDANIEL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Peter McDaniel. Peter McDaniel's legacy and the lives that he touched will live on in his community.

After serving his country for 4 years in the Marine Corps, Mr. McDaniel served his community in many capacities, including 22 years with the Richmond Fire Department. Peter McDaniel was not just a public servant but also a son, husband, father, and grandfather. His selflessness and dedi-

cation will serve as an example and a legacy to uphold. We are proud to honor his life today.

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, this summer our pride and excitement rose as we beheld the events of this year's Little League World Series.

Indiana's own Hagerstown in the Indiana Sixth District represented the Great Lakes region in this year's games. Indiana has celebrated this team from the beginning, and we couldn't be prouder for their success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to simply say thank you to these outstanding young Hoosiers who took their Hagerstown team to the 2022 Little League World Series.

PROXY VOTING

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Speaker of the House to end proxy voting once and for all.

Just this Sunday, President Joe Biden took to prime-time television to declare the COVID-19 pandemic over, thank God.

In any other job in America, if you don't show up, you get fired. I proudly say today that I never once proxy voted. It is not fair to our constituents who send us here to be their voice or to the taxpayers whose hard-earned dollars we are supposed to be responsible stewards of to not show up here.

We all know why proxy voting keeps getting extended. It is so the majority leadership can control its members and limit the effectiveness of this people's House.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter stating that it is time to end proxy voting, return to regular order, and get back to work on behalf of the American people.

□ 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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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write in support of President Biden's recent declaration that the COVID-19 pandemic has come to an end. In accordance with this important announcement, I formally request the Speaker bring an end to the House proxy voting system and all pandemic related House rules enacted as part of House Resolution 8. It is far past time this legislative body returns in person to fulfill our constitutional duties on behalf of our constituents.

As you are aware, House Resolution 8 provided unprecedented authority for Members of Congress to designate a colleague as a proxy to cast votes on the House floor on their behalf. For the first time in our nation's history, this body allowed a sitting Member of Congress to defer their constitutional responsibilities to a Representative of another district. Since then, more than six thousand letters designating a proxy voting member have been submitted to the House Office of the Clerk bearing an official statement of a member's inability to physically attend proceedings in the House chamber due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since President Biden rightfully declared an end to the pandemic, it seems fit to end a practice specifically put in place to accommodate the logistical challenges posed by COVID-19.

The voting card entrusted to us here in Congress belongs to the people we represent. Over the course of one hundred and fifteen sessions of Congress, this body convened in times of war, pandemics, and national crises alike to fulfill our constitutional duties. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic two and a half years ago, essential workers, blue collar employees, first responders, food and restaurant industries, and many more have shown up to work each and every day to do their job. We in Congress should find the courage to do the same.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

GREG PENCE,
Member of Congress.

DEMOCRATS ARE INVESTING IN AMERICA

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the good-paying jobs that will be created by the historic investments Democrats have recently made in America.

What are the investments, you may ask?

Well, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act. These are three key laws that will power America forward by creating jobs, jobs, and, yes, better-paying jobs.

Since President Biden took office in January 2021, over 9.4 million jobs have been created. I will repeat that: 9.4 million jobs.

If we look closely at the numbers and reports of these three new laws, we get a preview of how many more jobs will be created under President Biden's leadership.

First is the Inflation Reduction Act. This bill has the power to create 9 million new jobs over the next decade, nearly 1 million jobs each year, and 5 million of these jobs will likely be new clean-energy jobs across America.

Second, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will add 2 million new jobs per year over the next decade.

Third, the CHIPS and Science Act will create more than 1 million construction jobs over the next 6 years to build America's semiconductor factories.

All these laws work to create good-paying union construction jobs for plumbers, pipe fitters, electrical workers, steel workers, laborers, electricians, and other trades for working people.

These are the types of jobs that residents across my district, Texas 29, and millions of Americans across our Nation proudly work to help keep their families together, to feed their children, and to look to the future. These are the kinds of jobs that power America and its economic engine.

House Democrats and President Biden understand that growing the middle class means creating better-paying jobs right here in our country. That is why we passed these monumental laws.

Under the leadership of President Biden, who is the most pro-worker and pro-union President in American history, we have also invested hundreds of millions of dollars in registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships to provide new opportunities for working people to get good-paying union jobs.

President Biden knows it is not only about providing opportunities for Americans today, but it is also about planning for tomorrow's generation of workers and having a better life for our children.

I am proud President Biden is building a better America for generations to come by putting people over policy politics. Sadly, as House Democrats and the President are working to create better-paying jobs, the Republicans are job killers. They oppose this legislation because they only focus on controlling women and their bodies. Democrats trust women.

So while Republicans are focused on their own power, House Democrats and President Biden remain laser focused on producing results for the American people, and Democrats are delivering big-time.

SUPPORT FOR BE PRO BE PROUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, workforce development programs are spreading across the country because of organizations like Be Pro Be Proud.

In March of 2016, Be Pro Be Proud was launched by the Arkansas Cham-

ber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Arkansas to serve the future leaders of America's workforce more effectively.

Thanks to Be Pro Be Proud, more young people know that they can find a good-paying job and have a successful career without going to college. They have learned that there are alternatives to a baccalaureate degree—alternatives that can produce equal, if not better, outcomes.

In June of this year, I had the privilege of traveling to Arkansas and attending the national Be Pro Be Proud conference alongside Representative FRENCH HILL and Senator JOHN BOOZMAN.

The progress that has been achieved to date by this organization is remarkable, and in the realm of workforce development, its gains are second to none.

In February of this year, officials in North Carolina signed a contract that established a Be Pro Be Proud pilot program within the State. This is wonderful news indeed.

As you can probably tell, Mr. Speaker, this is truly a State-led effort that is a model to other States and becoming a national movement, and it is one that is a force to be reckoned with.

States need to know that the power is in their hands to implement strong and effective workforce development programs. They need to know that they, in fact, are in the driver's seat.

I thank everyone who has worked so diligently to make Be Pro Be Proud what it is today. The work they are doing will go on to leave a positive impact on America's future leaders for generations to come.

AMERICANS ARE NOT CELEBRATING

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder the American people believe that Washington is out of touch. Last week President Biden held an event on the White House lawn to celebrate the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

He took a victory lap in front of the entire country alongside his allies on live television.

But, Mr. Speaker, do you know who was not celebrating with President Biden?

Hardworking taxpayers and their families who are being pummeled by the President's inflation catastrophe and inflation tax. That same day, new numbers were released showing that inflation continues to surge.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden couldn't read a room if he tried. The rising cost of goods and services will cost the average American household over \$700 a month. When added up, that is over \$8,000 that they will be forced to fork out in a year.

Grocery prices are up 13.5 percent, and food prices are up 11.4 percent since last year. This is the largest 1-year increase in prices since 1979.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who believes that these numbers are worth celebrating needs a serious reality check. The Biden administration's fiscal irresponsibility put us in this mess. Come