

That is one of the 340 bipartisan bills that are languishing on Senator MCCONNELL's desk. He will not call them up before the Senate for a vote, muzzling democracy.

That is 340 important bipartisan bills blocked, stalled, or ignored.

Madam Speaker, let's not forget that we began our majority in the middle of a damaging and irresponsible government shutdown, the longest shutdown that I have experienced in the 40 years I have been here.

We moved swiftly to end that shutdown and prioritize the passage of funding bills last year and this year before the end of July in order to prevent another shutdown of our government.

So last year we passed 8 of the 10 appropriation bills by June 26. This year, we passed 8 of those 10, notwithstanding COVID, by July 26.

The Senate has not passed out of committee a single appropriation bill, not one, Madam Speaker.

What have they been doing? Judge after judge after judge after judge. That is what they are doing, to serve their ideological agenda, hoping that they can control through the courts that which they cannot control in the democratic process.

We have shown, Madam Speaker, what it means to govern for the people, and over the next few weeks, Americans will have a chance to choose the direction our country follows in the years ahead. They know that Republicans have failed them: no healthcare bill, no infrastructure bill that the President talked about in the campaign, "I am going to invest in infrastructure." No bill has been presented by the President to do that, no healthcare bill.

They know that our Republican colleagues have failed them through their inaction and irresponsibility.

And they know, Madam Speaker, that Democrats have offered a serious agenda of leadership, have demonstrated the capacity to govern responsibly, and have shown ourselves always to be for the people.

Madam Speaker, today we will be considering a bill. We are in negotiations. I hope those negotiations work. Frankly, Speaker PELOSI and Secretary Mnuchin reached four bipartisan deals. Mr. MEADOWS was not chief of staff, of course, at that point in time. Let us hope that we can reach a bipartisan deal.

We were supposed to consider our Heroes 2 bill, our offer, our proffer, our statement of what we think is necessary to uplift the American people, to let them know they are not on their own, we are with them, we are together.

We will consider that bill today if there is not an agreement. I hope there is an agreement. I hope we have a bipartisan piece of legislation that we can pass in the near future, because the American people need it, and that is what we have done in the past. Let's hope we can do it today.

#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to call attention to this deadly disease, to recognize the advancement our Nation has made in the battle against breast cancer, and to spread information about the fight to save the lives of those impacted.

It is estimated that more than 275,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year. For this reason, it is vital that those at risk take proper steps to reduce their risk for this disease.

Our medical personnel have made great progress in our fight to cure breast cancer, but we must continue to do more.

Madam Speaker, I hope everybody will join me this month in spreading awareness about breast cancer, comforting those who have been impacted or are fighting cancer right now, and thanking our medical personnel for their dedication to treat and cure this deadly disease.

#### DON'T TAKE THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR GRANTED

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, our elections are foundational to our democracy, the pulse of our Nation, and the most sacred form of protest that we as Americans have at our disposal.

We, the people, have a right to vote without obstruction, without fear, without intimidation, and with the assurance that every vote will be counted.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a minute to assure the American people who are receiving mail-in ballots for the first time, making a plan to vote on election day, looking for locations where early voting is taking place, signing up to volunteer, or feeling a sense of uncertainty as we participate in one of the most important elections of our lifetime: your vote is safe, your vote is secure, and your vote matters.

And, Madam Speaker, to the young people who will be casting their votes for the first time: you are the future of this country, and we need you to participate in our government now more than ever.

To those who have lost faith in our government: we, the people, are the gatekeepers of our democracy, and our participation has never been more important.

There is far too much on the line for us to take voting for granted.

#### THE GIFT OF ADOPTION

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to reach out today to the thousands of Americans who have opened their homes to the gift of adoption. Giving a child a home and a better life is one of the greatest gifts we can give.

I especially want to applaud Judge Amy Coney Barrett's effort to help bring two children from Haiti out of the depths of despair to a better life here in America.

I was doing medical relief work in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, which made 80,000 children orphans instantly. Children who would literally be 10 feet apart from their parents would be separated in the chaos, never to see them again.

The Barrett family did a beautiful thing by adopting an orphaned child in the aftermath of this horrible disaster. Her family gave a toddler a new life after one of the worst earthquakes in recorded history.

Unfortunately, some misguided souls in this country have turned that beautiful act of kindness into one of creating racial division rather than unity. They purport evil motives in a selfless act of sacrifice just to create further division in our Nation.

Judge Coney Barrett is now a Supreme Court nominee. Let her example of knocking down racial barriers and creating unity rather than division be an example for all of us to follow.

I look forward to her successful placement on the Nation's highest court.

#### WE ARE A NATION IN CRISIS

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, more than 207,000 Americans are dead, and there is no end in sight. One in six Americans is jobless.

These are not just numbers. These are people. They have lost their livelihoods, their health, their careers. Many have lost everything. It did not have to be this way.

Our Nation had its first confirmed COVID case in January, and yet 9 months later, there is no national testing strategy, no leadership from the White House.

We have a President who would rather save face, save power to himself, than save lives, who corrosively continues to play politics as people die.

We are a Nation in crisis. People are in despair.

Government has a role to play. We must act with urgency and decency as we support one another with direct cash relief, funds for State and local governments, widespread testing, and the guarantee of free COVID treatment and vaccines for all.

Let us live up to Elijah Cummings' command: "We are better than this."