done them better. The credit belongs to the man who was actually in the arena, who actually strives to do the deeds, and spends himself in a worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, just like the former President, I know that HARLEY's place will always be in the arena and never on the sidelines.

Annalise joins my family and yours—Kaira, Trace, Avery, Shea, and Dylan—in wishing HARLEY a happy and healthy birthday and a whole lot of love.

WORKING FOR THE INLAND EMPIRE

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Inland Empire of southern California, the region my family has called home for generations.

As we stand here today, people in communities like mine and across the country are hurting. They are mourning loved ones, they are missing paychecks, and they are wondering what their government is doing to make the situation better.

Right now, Democrats in Congress are laser focused on providing the relief the American people need in this pandemic. We have been for months. We passed the CARES Act in March, but we didn't stop there. We passed the Heroes Act in May, and then we passed the updated Heroes Act.

We have continued to work on behalf of the American people, and our Republican counterparts have not met us halfway. Senate Republicans' months of inaction have led to a dire situation across this country, and it is unconscionable for them to continue to do nothing as we approach the holidays.

We have lost valuable time, and it is my hope that, using the bipartisan framework, we can reach an agreement as soon as possible. To do nothing in the face of this much pain is unacceptable. The people we represent have entrusted us with an enormous responsibility, and we cannot let them down.

COVID–19 RELIEF

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic has devastated our country for 9 months now. More than 15 million Americans have been infected. Nearly 300,000 are dead. Our economy is on the ropes. Folks are struggling just to get by, and Democrats have been trying to pass a relief package for months.

Last week, Republicans finally met us at the table to negotiate a solution. We need to get this deal done. It must address the urgent needs of the American people by providing direct cash payments for working families; stronger unemployment payments; relief for cities and towns; new resources for the frontline workers who are keeping our communities safe; and funding for testing, vaccines, hospitals, and community health centers so we can end this pandemic and get back to our lives.

The American people sent us here to work for them. They have waited for far too long for Congress to pass a new relief package. Let's get this done on their behalf and let's not leave Washington until we do.

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to agree with the comments that have just been made. We do need to come together and provide assistance to the American public, to those who have been so extremely adversely affected, not merely by COVID, but by the, in some cases, very offensive uses of government power and actually unauthorized power in numerous circumstances taking away people's freedom for the first time in American history when they were not sick, quarantining people who were not ill, shutting down businesses, picking and choosing winners and losers among businesses. Yet we, as Republicans, have been begging our friends across the aisle, come on, there are things ready to be used—readymade.

The money that was appropriated several months ago—there is over $100 billion, maybe a whole lot more than $100 billion—is waiting to be used, but the deadlines in that initial bill have been exceeded. So all we need to do is say that money is available again. It is still just sitting there.

As businesses are going bankrupt, my friends across the aisle are allowing them to go bankrupt and basically holding them for hostage and saying: We are going to keep letting businesses go broke; we are not going to let you use the money that is sitting there waiting to be used to help these businesses to save them from bankruptcy and to keep them in business; and we are going to let them keep going out of business because we want a big comprehensive bill.

As I have said previously here, comprehensive bills is a term that means we want to make it so big that we can stuff all kinds of pork in there that you won't be able to find before we pass it. That is what is meant in Congress by comprehensive bill.

We ought to avoid comprehensive bills and we ought to have rival shots addressing just what needs to be addressed and not putting everybody's favorite gift in the legislation.

So we could have agreed on that months ago. I understand the position of the majority Democrats is that there have just been so many other important things that we haven't been able to get around to agreeing with our Republican friends on the need for just providing the billions and billions of dollars that have already been appropriated and is just sitting there. We don't want to make that available because we have got all these important things.

Like last week and this week, all these important things:

Let's see, we took care of saving the lives of ceiling fans this week. So that apparently was very critical.

And, last week, we knew that people were suffering immeasurably from COVID, and rather than, again, helping with funding, we took up a marijuana bill that will provide tax incentives and actually some money and some assistance in getting marijuana going stronger nationally. It wasn't a bill that said that we are going to let the States decide for themselves. It was a Federal bill to really push not medical marijuana, but just marijuana.

So the answer, according to the majority, to COVID and businesses going bankrupt is just smoke some dope and you won't be nearly as anxious about the loss of your business, the suffering of your family, and the isolation of our senior citizens.

I have had senior citizen places of residence directors just weep every day as they see the seniors not able to spend time with their families, in isolation.

□ 1300

We didn't address any of that, but we did take care of making dope available through the bill—at least the House has so far. It is doubtful the Senate will take those things up. And we also voted to take care of—as I understand, it just pertains to one place—where tigers are kept.

But as my friend Dr. DESJARLAIS pointed out—he was looking at the numbers—and in the time that it took in this Chamber to vote on that bill, there were more people that died of COVID than have died from tigers in the last 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are disagreements on priorities. Apparently, there was a need felt to do this bill to address the need of tigers, but we still left the needs of those dying from COVID, and businesses that are dying because of the restrictions, we left all of that undone to take care of ceiling fans, tigers, marijuana.

Mr. Speaker, we could get a bill done rather quickly. And I understand we should have had a bill done 2 years ago—it would have been easy to make it bipartisan—on funding infrastructure. We desperately need to upgrade our infrastructure. According to most engineers and studies, we have like a D-minus grade on American infrastructure. But my understanding for why we have not done a bill in the last 2 years that the Democrats have been in the majority here in the House, has been a fervent desire to avoid President Trump getting any credit for anything that really helps America. Despite that