United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022 *No. 25*

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE of California).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 8, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA LEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ANSWERS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of millions of law-abiding citizens who are under attack because they own a firearm. Right now, their rights are under attack from the Biden administration.

This week, it was reported that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives is now in possession of nearly one billion records detailing the firearm purchases of American citizens. This is a gross overstep of the ATF's power. No government agency should be spying on Americans.

Right now, crime is on the rise in cities throughout America. This certainly is not the time to attempt to intimidate law-abiding citizens. It is not the time to infringe on their constitutional right to carry a gun. It is their right to defend themselves, their right to protect their family and their communities.

It is time for the Biden administration to explain this menacing and unconstitutional action.

Madam Speaker, the law-abiding people of America are awaiting an answer.

DEMOCRATS ARE DOING IMPORTANT WORK

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the important work Democrats are doing to strengthen our supply chains and keep the U.S. economically competitive.

Last year, the Biden-Harris administration and their allies in Congress achieved the best record of job creation in history. Let me repeat that: The best record of job creation in history.

Texans continue to find jobs with higher pay or better benefits.

We are seeing the best economy for American workers in decades, with people getting higher wages, better benefits, and better jobs thanks in large part to President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the American Rescue Plan and an effective national vaccine rollout.

When I visited with leadership from the Port of Houston in my district, they expressed their gratitude for Congress' strong investment in the maritime infrastructure needed to keep America's economy moving in the right direction.

But they also expressed concern that more workers were still needed in technical training than our current system will provide.

Last week, the House took another great step forward to support the job creation and the American workforce by passing the America COMPETES Act.

Now it is critical for the Senate to move on the America COMPETES Act to pass measures like my grant program for training at Domestic Maritime Centers for Excellence.

The America COMPETES Act will also provide real solutions to the problems of how we start making more of our Nation's critical products right here at home. This will provide more job opportunities as jobs return from abroad.

It will also make our futures more secure by shifting away from reliance on foreign countries for the products that you and I and everyday Americans rely on.

Finally, it will invest in critical infrastructure and development we need in science and technology to encourage and support our next generation of scholars, incentivize innovation, and keep the U.S. competitive.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that Americans are back to work and getting their vaccines and boosters at a record pace.

The America COMPETES Act can continue this trend.

We must get this bill to the President's desk now.

I urge the Senate to pass it.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

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

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