Ms. NORTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMERICANS WANT TO BE RESCUED NOW

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, with final passage of President Biden's American Rescue Plan expected tomorrow, the priorities I pressed for, including $1,400 in direct payments per person and $26 billion in rental assistance makes the Rescue Plan live up to its name.

The rescue extends to the District of Columbia, which retrieves $755 million taken from the District when Republicans treated the District as a territory in the CARES Act. Instead, the new bill treats D.C. as a State as usual because D.C. residents pay full Federal taxes, and it funds D.C. for city, State, and county levels because D.C. provides services at all three levels.

This bill resisted the Republican plan for less money because the American people want to be rescued now, not later. The American Rescue Plan Act will hasten doing our business together again on this House floor and getting the American people back to business and to school.

CONGRESS IS MAKING PROGRESS

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, over the past 10 years we have made a lot of progress in making Congress more transparent and accountable.

After years of persistence, I was pleased to see that the House finally adopted the comparative text rule that I proposed.

The comparative text rule made it possible for Members of the House and the public to actually see and understand exactly what a bill changes.

Every legislature in the country does that. But sadly, boom, in an instant this year the House abolished that rule, even though it was a top priority with the bipartisan Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform Task Force for commonsense solutions to a better government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is shameful.

HELP IS ON THE WAY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the COVID pandemic and economic crisis are destroying the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of Americans across the country. And our most vulnerable communities are bearing the brunt.

Thankfully, help is on the way. The American Rescue Plan will save lives and livelihoods by putting vaccines in arms, putting children safely back in school, putting money in people's pockets, and finally putting people back in jobs.

I am proud to note the inclusion of provisions in this bill for the Virgin Islands and other territories that we all in this House have been fighting for. This plan creates equality in the child tax credit, the earned income tax credit, including an advancement of the child tax credit in 2021.

The child tax credit provision in the bill will be transformational in the lives of hundreds and millions of children, lifting them out of poverty. This is generational change. This will reduce poverty and improve the economic standing of Americans throughout our country. We are grateful for this bill.

THE MARS ROVER IS AN INCREDIBLE MARVEL

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago our country witnessed the incredible marvel of American ingenuity when NASA successfully landed its Perseverance rover on Mars, laying the groundwork for the next generation of space travel and exploration.

Perseverance has four primary goals: determine whether life ever existed on Mars, understand the climate of the planet, characterize the geology of Mars, and finally, make any preparations necessary for human exploration. These goals are crucial not only for our Nation's eventual mission to send humans to Mars, but also for the continued advancement of mankind as a whole.

Before making its journey to the red planet, Perseverance spent some time in my backyard in northeast Ohio. It was researchers and scientists at Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center that developed the rover's power source and oversaw testing the rover's parachute needed to land safely on Mars.

Mars truly is the next frontier in space travel and exploration. I am incredibly grateful that northeast Ohio has added yet another chapter to our State's already rich history in space travel and exploration.

I look forward to what Perseverance can teach us about this new unknown and what our next endeavor will be.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day, a day to recognize the great accomplishments of women and the great possibilities that lie ahead.

During the course of the day we will be having some recognitions. But one very important one is that: As we speak here now, on the Senate side, they are finishing up the engrossment of the American Rescue Plan.

This plan, as my distinguished colleague from the Virgin Islands pointed out, does so many great things for America's children, America's families, and America's women. If you are a caregiver, whether for a child or a senior or whatever, childcare is substantially supported in this legislation.

If you are a teacher, schools will be able to be open more safely with increased funding to do so with ventilation, separation, and the rest to have our children and teachers return safely as well.

The child tax credit and the refundable child tax credit, the earned income tax credit—as was mentioned by the distinguished chairwoman on the Ways and Means Committee, which was largely responsible, along with ROSA DELAURO, RICHIE NEAL and MIKE THOMPSON in getting all this done—the point is, we will be having a further discussion about this bill as we move forward to its passage in the next 24, 48 hours.

It is important to acknowledge on International Women's Day the connection between the advancement of women, the recognition of the contributions of women, and the needs that are met in the American Rescue Plan.

As President Biden said, help is on the way. That promise is kept in this legislation to all Americans. I wanted to acknowledge specifically the women of America.

VETERANS NEED VACCINES

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

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I join Madam Speaker in celebrating International Women's Day.

Today, I rise in support of the VA VACCINES Act. This is a bipartisan bill that will expand the VA's ability to provide COVID–19 vaccines to all veterans and their caregivers, regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in the VA healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, the VA should not turn away any veteran who wants this lifesaving vaccine. You know, where I live in Florida—and I am sure it is like this in most places—it is still like playing the lottery to get a vaccine.

This vaccine is free to all Americans and is paid for by our tax dollars. So, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, for our veterans who have selflessly served our