

HJC Markup – September 9, 2020  
H.R. 683, H.R. 6196, H.R. 8161, H.R.  
5053, H.R. 8124, H.R. 631, H.R. 4225,  
H.R. 7146, and H.R. 7572  
415 words

**Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.**

**Today, we are taking bold steps to:**

- 1) Address injustices in debt adjustment cases involving Puerto Rico;**
- 2) Hold bad actors accountable for fraudulent trademark filings;**
- 3) Put an end to abusive practices in youth correctional institutions;**
- 4) Reduce the recidivism rate by incentivizing community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers;**
- 5) Provide subsistence and transportation assistance for indigent defendants; and**

**6) Fulfill our responsibilities as the leader of the free world to help immigrants in dire situations that look to America for refuge.**

**These are all issues that have been exacerbated due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**

**And while *others* have decided to ignore these issues, we choose to act and deliver for the people.**

**For this reason, today, we are moving forward with marking up the nine bills before us.**

**These bills will impose much needed transparency measures and protections for vulnerable communities across the country.**

**Surely, many of us can recall a time in which we have gazed at the Statue of Liberty – an image that in many ways symbolizes the values and promise of our country.**

**And these are the words casted onto a bronze plaque and mounted across its base in a sonnet by American poet Emma Lazarus:**

**“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”**

**This grave pandemic has surely impacted many of us in ways that are unimaginable; but despite this, we are reminded not to lose sense of who we are as a nation.**

**That the United States thrives because of our solemn commitment to uphold liberty and freedom for all of its people, regardless of their socioeconomic status or where they were born.**

**The American people and all of us in this committee have the responsibility to uphold our ideals that gave birth to our great country.**

**This should weigh heavily on each one of us because we each swore an oath to make life better for our communities and folks all across the Land of the Free.**

**And here today is how we try to strive for a more perfect union by marking up legislation that will help so many vulnerable communities in need of equal justice under law.**

**I thank you, and I yield back the  
balance of my time.**