

These 800,000 young men and women are not just court cases or statistics. Each of them has a spark of divinity in them. They are young men and young women who have obtained driver's licenses. They have work permits. They have pursued higher education. They are contributing their talents, their heart and soul, to this country.

Many say: Tell them to go home. They are home. This is the only country they know. This is the country that they love. They are serving in our military. In my congressional district, Silicon Valley, where all Members of Congress want to go and visit and see what innovation is happening, what innovation is bringing about, the majority of those geniuses who are producing this innovation are immigrants to our country.

I stand here as a first-generation American. And if the tenor of some in Congress—not all—but some in Congress—certainly the White House—were in charge when my parents were children, that boat would have had to have made a U-turn. They would not have been welcome in America because they weren't from Norway. They were from the Middle East. Yet, today, their daughter stands here on the floor of the House to address the House and the people of our Nation.

Our Nation, from its beginnings, was built by immigrants. I stand here today to say I love immigrants. They are the backbone of each generation and really the blood that flows through the veins of America. If you put a clamp on that vein, you stop the heart of America from beating.

Shortly after President Trump terminated the DACA program, Pope Francis said: "To all people"—of the United States—"I ask: take care of the migrant who is a promise of life for the future."

Please follow his words, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, and we will be a better nation because of it.

#### REBECCA'S STORY OF SLAVERY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Rebecca grew up in a small town in southern Oregon. She was on the honor roll, and she played varsity sports. She graduated high school early and immediately enrolled in Oregon State University. However, when her daughter was born, she had to withdraw to find a job.

Like many single moms, Rebecca struggled to make ends meet. But when she met a man she described as "Prince Charming," she thought things were finally turning around for her. He was kind, and caring, and offered to take care of her and her baby daughter. With expensive gifts and trips, he treated her to a lifestyle that she had never dreamed of. So when he asked her and her daughter to move in with him, Rebecca thought she had hit the

jackpot. But her dream quickly became another nightmare.

When she arrived in Las Vegas at his home, she found several other women and children already living there. This man then told her that now she would be forced to have sex with men for money. When she refused, he beat her up, hitting her over and over again.

Fearing for her life and the life of her child, Rebecca complied. So for the next 6 years, Rebecca was forced to have sex with countless strangers many times a day. Any time she stepped out of line, he beat her up. She had her face broken in five different places. Her trafficker even went so far as to tattoo his name on her back. Yes, branded her like cattle. She was nothing but a piece of property to him.

After her fourth attempt to escape, her trafficker told her that he would start selling her young daughter for sex if she didn't comply and submit. Feeling utterly hopeless, Rebecca tried to commit suicide two times. She thought that ending her life was preferable to living in the hell that she had to endure every day.

Finally, Federal agents raided her home and captured the trafficker. But, Mr. Speaker, he eventually took a plea deal and only served 1 year in prison for slavery. Meanwhile, Rebecca was left to deal with a lifetime of pain and trauma. As a former judge, Mr. Speaker, I believe the sentence was too light for a slave trader. No human being should ever have to endure what Rebecca and other trafficking victims like her have gone through.

Despite the system failing to provide justice against her trafficker, Rebecca has found a way to turn her darkness into light. Since becoming a survivor, she started the Rebecca Bender Initiative. This program provides training for those who have the opportunity to be intercepted and intervene with victims who are often being trafficked.

In this Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I want to commend Rebecca on her resilience and focus on providing support and compassion to the victims of trafficking. As co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, along with my friend JIM COSTA from California, we are dedicated to ensuring that victims and survivors know that we as a nation will stand with them.

Traffickers, buyers, and sellers must be prosecuted and sent to the jailhouse. And with the help of local, State, and Federal law enforcement, we are going to stop the sale of our children and our adult women on the marketplace of sex slavery.

Mr. Speaker, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, but it is still taking place, and it is time that we defeat this scourge on our community. Justice demands this, and justice is what we do.

And that is just the way it is.

#### FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IS NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about our need to invest in America, to invest in our future. Sound infrastructure is literally and figuratively the foundation of our Nation's economy. But, for quite some time, we in Washington have not provided the critical funding for our infrastructure projects that our communities around the country need.

We must stop living off the investments that our parents and grandparents made generations ago and, instead, start intelligently investing in our infrastructure again. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that, to update our infrastructure system, we need to make an investment of over \$1 trillion. And, of course, the President has talked about such a bipartisan package.

One key to intelligent investment is the Federal Government matching infrastructure funds for State and local governments. This is needed, and it has been historic to, in fact, make these projects a reality.

As we see from our history, infrastructure projects in this country move forward most effectively when we have a combination of local, State, and Federal dollars to invest. Across the country, State and local governments are raising funds to repair and improve infrastructure, often making tough political choices for raising taxes or making difficult decisions when required to do so.

This is happening both in red and blue States alike. In all three of the counties in my district, Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties, they have voted to increase their local sales tax by a half cent in order to pay for essential transportation projects, including road repairs and construction of new road systems and highways.

Last year, the California State Legislature and the Governor enacted a bill to increase the State gas tax and vehicle fees to pay for bridges, roads, and other transportation improvement projects over the next 10 years.

Currently, these are tough decisions, tough political decisions, but the policy implications, notwithstanding the political risks, are worth it. Our State and local leaders in California have taken these risks. It is the right thing to do. It takes dollars to fill potholes. That is the bottom line. To repair bridges and improve road systems, it takes dollars. It is not magic.

And now the Federal Government needs to step up and face the challenge head on. We need to be responsible in our Nation's Capital. I have been working hard for years to improve the infrastructure in California's San Joaquin Valley, both in the statehouse and now here in Congress, and we have made

some progress. But what we are lacking is the Federal component.

It is essential that we build a transportation and water infrastructure system to meet the 21st century system needs, not only of California, but of our entire Nation, and the valley I have the honor and privilege to represent.

We need a more reliable water system to supply our farms and cities that are growing, and with climate change, we know we have to take that into account. We also need a better 21st century system of transportation.

What is missing? I will tell you what is missing: Federal funding; Federal participation. To make this happen, we in Congress should incentivize States and local governments like in California and the counties I represent that have already raised funds for these projects, with a Federal funding stream that will complement these State and local efforts.

California and the San Joaquin Valley are already doing their part, and we need, here in Washington, to do our part to invest in our country's future. This will require Democrats and Republicans to work together to engage in a serious bipartisan deliberation and negotiations this year to make this national infrastructure project a reality.

Last week, we in the Problem Solvers Caucus released a report to the State of our Nation's infrastructure and made bipartisan recommendations on how we get there. These recommendations can serve as a foundation for consensus on which bipartisan collaboration can build the policy that repairs, advances, and invests in America's infrastructure.

Although we have not seen a lot of bipartisan deliberative policymaking here lately, I am urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to show some profiles in courage. We must come together to invest in America's infrastructure if we expect to have the capacity for the economic development and innovation for the future of America in the 21st century.

I have made this a priority throughout my years of service in the San Joaquin Valley, both in Sacramento and now in Washington, D.C. I invite my colleagues to join me in investing in America's infrastructure; work with the President; work on a bipartisan basis.

After all, that is what we are supposed to do in investing in America's infrastructure and, therefore, our future. This has been our tradition in the past and how we have gotten great projects completed, and this is the kind of investment we need to make today for America's infrastructure.

Let us work together. It is the right thing to do.

#### AFGHANISTAN CONTINUES TO BE A FAILED POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, as we in Congress are faced with another continuing resolution, I cannot help but think about the wasted lives and money in Afghanistan.

On Sunday night's 60 Minutes, I watched, with great interest, a segment about the 16-year war in Afghanistan. The title was: "Kabul under siege while America's longest war rages on."

During the interview, Correspondent Lara Logan detailed the growing danger in Afghanistan and interviewed General John Nicholson, commander of American forces in Afghanistan, as well as Afghanistan's President Ghani. While I do not have the time to go into detail, this segment made it very clear—and I think anyone watching would agree—that Afghanistan continues to be a failed policy.

□ 1045

At one time, Lara Logan stated to Nicholson: "A lot of people at home just don't buy that terrorists are coming from Afghanistan to attack them at home. They are worrying about the guy going to rent a truck from Home Depot and drive into a crowd of civilians."

In General Nicholson's response, there was a sentence that caught my attention, where he said: "We need to defeat the ideology."

I was amazed and astonished by his response. It has been said that you cannot kill an ideology with a bullet or a bomb. So why are we still trying?

This is why I am calling on Speaker RYAN, once again, to permit the House of Representatives to have a policy debate on Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I have beside me a poster of a young woman whose husband was killed in Afghanistan. It is so pathetic because the woman and the mother of the little girl sitting in her lap is crying, yet the little girl is looking at the Army officer with a look like: Why am I here? Why is there a flag-draped coffin? Why is my mother crying?

The little girl is too young to really understand what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Speaker RYAN to let us have a debate on the policy issue of Afghanistan and its future.

I will close with the words of the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Chuck Krulak, who said: "No one has ever conquered Afghanistan, and many have tried. We will join the list of nations that tried and failed."

Mr. RYAN, the Speaker of the House, it is your time to call for this House to debate the future of Afghanistan. Please make that call to the House of Representatives that we will have that debate.

#### OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to

the Trump administration's proposal to lift a decades-old ban on offshore oil and gas drilling on our country's Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

This proposal has to be one of the most irresponsible actions of the Trump administration. Currently, 94 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf is off limits to drilling, and rightly so, given the importance of protecting the economic and cultural value of the country's coastlines.

The Trump administration has offered a staggering reversal, proposing to open up over 90 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas drilling. While Governors and lawmakers from both parties have risen to voice their opposition to this plan, this administration is moving forward at a breakneck speed. It has given a mere 60 days for the public to comment. In my home State of Maine, which has much to lose from this plan, we don't even get a full public hearing.

This proposal's lack of transparency and fairness couldn't have been more apparent than when Governor Rick Scott of Florida somehow earned an exemption for his State. Everyone can see that this was less about protecting Florida's pristine beaches and coastline, as Governor Scott said, than a political favor from President Trump.

Mr. Speaker, I absolutely have nothing against the Florida coast. But the State shouldn't have to be home to Mar-a-Lago to earn an exemption from this awful plan. All coastal States deserve this protection.

My home State of Maine is one of them. If you measured every inch of our State's jagged coastline and islands, it would measure an incredible 3,500 miles. Those miles include some of the most beautiful places in the world and critical habitat for hundreds of species of fish and wildlife.

That coast is also dotted with dozens of small towns filled with hardworking people who depend on a beautiful, healthy ocean to make their living.

Two of my State's largest industries are tourism and fishing. Tourism in Maine is a \$5.6 billion industry, 71 percent of which comes directly in from the Maine coast. Millions of people visit our State to experience our beautiful coastline, snug harbors, and stunning landmarks, like the Marshall Point Lighthouse in Port Clyde.

Our fishing industry and businesses that support it have even more to lose from this proposal. Thirty thousand Mainers make their living in marine industries. They include boat builders, ground fishermen, clambers, seaweed harvesters, oyster and mussel farmers, and, of course, lobstermen.

Our world-famous lobster fishing industry alone brings in \$500 million annually. I have had so many discussions with the lobster fishermen who tell me about all the difficulties their industry already faces. They want to pass their businesses on to their sons and daughters, but they worry about the future.

Will the Gulf of Maine, which is already warming faster than 99.9 percent