

I am grateful to have the support of Chairman CHABOT and stakeholders like NADCO, Mountain West Small Business Finance, and Utah CDC, who know better than anyone just how critical the 504 program is.

I am squarely on the side of helping small businesses and am committed to keeping the Federal Government from getting in the way of their success. I believe the Small Business ACE Act is a great step in the right direction, and I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

HATE CRIMES INCREASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, in my community and in communities across this Nation, we have seen in the past year a dramatic increase in hate crimes and attacks against immigrants and, generally, against people of color.

In New York City, we saw how a lawyer named Aaron Schlossberg launched a racial verbal attack against workers at the Fresh Kitchen restaurant in Midtown Manhattan simply because they spoke Spanish.

Think about that for a minute, Mr. Speaker. This was in New York City, a city that prides itself on being a city of immigrants, a city which touts the presence of Lady Liberty herself on the harbor. Still, this lawyer felt compelled—without any hesitation, shame, or guilt—to confront workers at the Fresh Kitchen restaurant, verbally assaulting them simply because they spoke Spanish.

Yet we keep seeing more and more examples of aggressors and harassers launching vicious attacks and directing hate speech toward those whom they wrongfully perceive to be un-American.

In another recent incident, Rodolfo Rodriguez, a senior citizen, 91 years old, was brutally attacked for his ethnic background. He is of Mexican descent. He was told to go back to his country before being brutally assaulted with a brick.

In another recent incident at the Caldwell Woods Forest Preserve, Ms. Mia Irizarry was another victim of verbal harassment, abuse, and physical intimidation in an almost unthinkable 20-minute racial rant. Her harasser caught sight of Ms. Irizarry's shirt, patterned with a Puerto Rican flag such as this one, and proceeded to verbally assault her simply for the sighting of a proud American wearing a flag that represents 3.5 million American citizens on the island of Puerto Rico and several million more here in the United States.

The perpetrator said: If you are an American citizen, you should not be wearing that shirt in America.

Let me remind him that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, that they have a long and distinguished tradition

of defending freedom and democracy for our Nation across the world. They have spilled the blood of thousands in support of America and democracy.

Each of these instances and situations come on the heels of a 2017 California report, the first published since President Trump took office, indicating a 17 percent increase in hate crimes. Specifically, anti-Latino, anti-Hispanic hate crimes have soared, with increases of more than 50 percent last year.

Mr. Speaker, according to a Quinnipiac poll, 58 percent of Americans disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling immigration, and 55 percent of Americans say that the President has made it easier for racists to share their views publicly.

Like Attorney Schlossberg in New York City, like Jones in Los Angeles and Timothy Trybus in Illinois, we find aggressors and perpetrators who do not represent our values as a nation of immigrants.

The problem we have is that these individuals have seen our leaders in elected office participate in hateful and intolerant acts with hateful and intolerant words. Whether in New York City, Los Angeles, or Cook County, we have seen naked racism and blatant bigotry.

To these bigots I say this:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

The United States is for all of us—regardless of the color of our skin or the language we speak.

Los Estados Unidos es para todos—independientemente del color de la piel o el idioma hablado.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

U.S. ATTACK ON BREASTFEEDING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is just hard to keep track of the daily outrages: the President is not just insulting, but attacking allies like Canada on national security grounds; a tariff war; reckless and inaccurate attacks on NATO and our allies, the bedrock of stability in Europe; the President of the United States cozies up to one of the worst people on the face of the planet. Kim Jong-un, the dictator of North Korea, has imprisoned over 100,000 of his people in concentration camps, starved millions more, murdered members of his own family and is held up as some sort of exemplar by Trump. Trump says he likes the way his people pay attention to him. Well, maybe because if they don't, they get killed or sentenced to a concentration camp. This notion that we are forcibly separating children from families at the border, where the family simply is looking for asylum, inflicting probably permanent damage

on these children; and, of course, the countless environmental attacks and the activities of corrupt cronies who have been put in positions of authority.

Last week we witnessed one of the most despicable acts of this disturbing administration: The United States launched a global attack on breastfeeding—yes, breastfeeding.

Think about it for a moment. Mother's milk is the most nutritious way to feed a baby. It contains antibodies that provide it with health protections as a baby and throughout its life.

There was an innocuous resolution that was being advanced before one of the United Nations affiliates, the World Health Assembly, to promote breastfeeding.

This is a serious problem in developing countries. Global giants that sell baby formula have been touting this as a healthier, more convenient alternative. Recent studies show that less than 40 percent of poor women in developing countries are breastfeeding. The use of infant formula in these poor countries not only is inferior, not only does it lack the long-term health benefits, and is it not a cheaper alternative for low-income people. Actually, in many of these countries, mixing formula with dirty water poses a direct threat immediately to the health of the child.

Ecuador, a member of this assembly, was prepared to introduce a routine resolution promoting breastfeeding. Then this administration sprang into action, pressuring Ecuador—allegedly, with retaliation in the trade sector—to not offer the resolution. Ultimately, the bullying was successful; the resolution was not advanced by Ecuador. Although, irony of ironies, it was Russia that stepped up and moved forward with the resolution, which was ultimately adopted with minor changes.

What does it say about America and this administration that it would be doing the bidding of giant international corporations, promoting a practice that actually undermines health in many poor people? Just having a resolution promoting the benefits of breastfeeding was threatening to their business and to this administration.

We have seen a lot of disturbing and shameful acts since Trump became President, but it is hard to imagine something worse than what was on display last week.

It is time for my Republican colleagues to join us, expressing outrage about behaviors like this. We are better people, and we ought to demonstrate it.

NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon my colleagues to join me in addressing our Nation's rising debt. As of this week, our national debt is

over \$21 trillion, with a T. When we allocate that to each man, woman, and child, it is \$64,600—Mr. Speaker, \$64,600 for every man, woman, and child.

We are this far in debt because of irresponsible governing and a lack of political courage, regardless of which party has been in control in recent years.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its long-term budget outlook last month. It showed that the Federal debt held by the public will approach 100 percent of our gross domestic product within the next 10 years if we keep heading down this path.

Sadly, this Congress has chosen to continue this irresponsible, unsustainable fiscal course. It is irresponsible.

The tax cut legislation that our Republican colleagues rammed through Congress last December is projected to add over \$1.45 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years and \$2.2 trillion to our national debt. Some estimate that it will even be more. This is unsustainable.

That is an additional \$2.2 trillion that our children will have to pay unless we do something different. We cannot ask future generations to carry the weight of our shortsighted decisions and political cowardice. Not only is it unfair, but it is just plain wrong.

Yes, reining in our spending will be hard. It is always hard and difficult to make choices. We will get attacked by other political organizations and interest groups who dislike or disagree with our choices, but that is why we are here.

This happened in 2012, when the House had the opportunity to address the rising debt and deficit and supported a budget resolution by my colleague and good friend Congressman JIM COOPER from Tennessee. The resolution was similar to the recommendations made by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission, and it would have reduced our debt by over \$4 trillion over 10 years. It would just start to bend the curve. I stood with Congressman COOPER and 36 other House Members who supported the resolution, and a lot of groups attacked us.

President Kennedy, many years ago, wrote a book called "Profiles in Courage," in which he wrote of individual Members of Congress who made politically tough choices. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of those political profiles in courage in Congress these days, sadly.

We were sent here to serve the American people, even when faced with difficult choices. We are not sent here to do the easy thing. We are sent here to try to do the right thing and to come together in a bipartisan fashion. That is the only way you are going to get these things done.

We must find the political courage to make the tough choices and create smart and fiscally responsible policies that will have real and lasting effects in reducing our national debt. This will

require, again, that Democrats and Republicans work together, which is, in itself, sadly, too often in rare supply these days.

But if we don't put our partisan bickering and electoral fears aside long enough to do what is right for America, then when will we?

If we don't make decisions now to get the Nation's fiscal House in order, the programs on which Americans rely—important programs that most of us support like Social Security, like Medicare—will be impacted.

Mr. Speaker, on this day in 1974, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act became law. Forty-four years ago, the 93rd Congress came together to pass this law to strengthen our budget authority and to increase the capacity to make informed and independent decisions regarding America's budget to, in essence, put our fiscal house in order.

I stand here today, 44 years later, calling on the 115th Congress to use that information and capacity that we now have to make these difficult choices and have the political courage to put our Nation's fiscal house back on a responsible path. It is what our country needs; it is part of America's future; and, my fellow Americans, it is the right thing to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend J. Josh Smith, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Bogart, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father,

We pray this morning the words of Psalm 67: "God be gracious to us and bless us and cause Your face to shine upon us that Your way may be known on the Earth, Your salvation among all nations."

Father, we humbly acknowledge today how much we need You, how we depend on You for everything.

We acknowledge in desperation how much we need Your grace, wisdom, favor, and blessing.

And although You have already blessed us beyond measure, we unashamedly ask You for more of Your blessing, not for our benefit alone, but that through us and through every decision that is made in this place, all people and all nations might come to

know Your love, grace, kindness, mercy, and salvation.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who died so that those who trust and follow Him might live forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIANFORTE 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND J. JOSH SMITH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Reverend Josh Smith as our guest chaplain here at the U.S. House of Representatives, and I greatly appreciate his leading us in prayer this morning. He has been serving in ministry for nearly 20 years.

Josh has faithfully dedicated his life to the Gospel and currently serves as senior pastor of my home church, Prince Avenue Baptist Church in the Athens, Georgia, area.

In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in cross-cultural studies, a master of divinity, and a doctorate of ministry in expository preaching, he has worked to spread God's Word on both a national and international level.

As a pastor myself, it gives me absolute pleasure to recognize Josh for his spiritual leadership and guidance.

I also welcome, today, his wife, Andrea, to the people's House; and we send our best wishes to their five children, Lily, Gracie, Josie, Annalee, and Josiah, back home in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask everyone to join me in thanking Pastor Smith for leading us today and opening this session in prayer. It is my deep privilege to not only be a member of his church, but also be a co-laborer with him for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for his outstanding spiritual leadership to the Athens community and the world abroad.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO). The Chair will entertain up