

is the number one Federal official tasked with advocating for students struggling to repay Federal student loans.

The bill also requires that the ombudsman's office be fully staffed at all times so that the office can conduct the level of oversight necessary to protect student borrowers.

On the ninth anniversary of the passage of Dodd-Frank, it is time that we take stock of the protections of that landmark legislation that prevents another financial crisis. Many of these protections, the administration and my Republican colleagues have chosen to strip away. Even if piecemeal, we must reanimate those protections established under Dodd-Frank or we will again face the kind of dire consequences that fell on the shoulders of American families in 2008.

I wrote my book, "Broke: How Debt Bankrupts the Middle Class," in 2012. That was 7 years ago. The college affordability crisis is not new to this country, and it is not new to this Congress. The crisis has been going on for years.

While students are unable to finish their educations because of the financial burdens and lack of student supports, while thousands face bankruptcy because of the high costs of college, Congress has done nothing. In the 7 months that I have been here, Congress has done nothing.

How much longer will we wait to address the student loan crisis? Because the students who are buried in debt, many from degrees that they were unable to finish because of financial pressure, cannot keep waiting.

Every day that we do nothing, we are failing every single person in this country who pursues a postsecondary education. We are stifling our economy and actively preventing the most vulnerable people from achieving economic stability and success. No one in Congress, Democrat or Republican, should accept this. We are failing our Nation's students.

As a mother of three young children, I refuse to stand by and let this happen. That is why I have joined with my colleague, Representative JAHANA HAYES, to found the first-ever Congressional College Affordability Caucus.

Before being elected to Congress, I was a university professor, and I spent nearly two decades helping consumers who were facing bankruptcy. The mission of the College Affordability Caucus is to convene a diverse group of Congress Members to discuss the main drivers of the increasing cost of higher education and the resulting accessibility barriers to students who are seeking a postsecondary degree or credential.

The College Affordability Caucus will highlight solutions to the student loan default crisis, ensure that adequate guardrails are in place to protect every student from predatory actors, and reduce barriers to college completion that subsequently heighten college

debt repayment problems for far too many students.

As we move forward to a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, I hope that the College Affordability Caucus can work with other congressional leaders for whom this is a priority to make sure that we are protecting our students and ensuring that everyone has access to a high-quality, affordable education.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I am excited tonight to talk to this audience here and at home about a serious situation that has plagued America and American politics since the mid-1980s.

But that is not what I am excited about. I am excited to offer a bipartisan legislation solution to fix our broken immigration system.

Before I get into the nuts and bolts of what we are going to talk about, we need to look back on past efforts of what worked and efforts that did not work.

This body, along with President Reagan, did immigration reform that gave approximately 3.5 million individuals amnesty. Reforms were put in place to prevent a repeat of the illegal immigration challenge this Nation has had.

America, time and time again, has been said to be the most generous country when it comes to immigration policies, and I think we can all agree with that. Over 1 million people migrate to America, legally, per year.

Unfortunately, this body became divided and has continued to be divided over the enforcement of current laws and border security and making the needed reforms and revisions and adaptation to the times and needs of today to ensure our Nation's borders are secure.

There are many programs where individuals can migrate to America legally, whether it is for work, to get an education, to become a citizen, to seek refuge from a national disasters, fear for one's safety because of bad government, corrupt government, or fear of life.

However, this body has become so divided and the situation since 1986 has grown to the point that we now have a conservative estimate of over 12 million individuals in America illegally, and the number continues to grow.

The number will continue to grow until this body stops playing politics with policies and people's lives and puts forth a policy that is best for America—not best for a political party, not best for the next election.

If a policy is best for America, the question is asked: Is it not best for

all—our citizens, the immigrant, and national security?

What must happen is for this body to stop playing the political divisive game that has divided this Nation over the immigration policies.

The Democratic side, Mr. Speaker, claims the Republicans are running concentration camps, tearing children away from their parents, and throwing children in cages with no food, no water, no toothbrushes, et cetera.

The Republicans claim, Mr. Speaker, the other side wants to have open borders, and I have to admit, the Democratic Presidential candidates have talked about that. The Democrats, Mr. Speaker, want to give everyone amnesty.

Therefore, nothing gets resolved because the narrative becomes political, the canyon that has grown between us grows larger, and nothing gets done.

I am a veterinarian by trade, and what I have learned is you have got to look at the facts in front of you; you have got to diagnose the condition; you have got to look at the underlying cause; and then you have to treat accordingly.

In order for a problem to be solved, there must be the recognition that there is a problem.

Let me reference some of the rhetoric spoken by the very people tasked with solving this challenge to our great Nation, and this was at the beginning of the year.

House Speaker NANCY PELOSI called the situation: "A fake crisis at the border."

Senate Minority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER called it: "A crisis that does not exist."

House Majority Leader STENY HOYER said: "There is no crisis at the border."

And I can read on and on with the individuals' names, but there is no need to because they are talking points that don't change.

Another Member: "There is no crisis at the border."

Another Member: "A fake crisis at the border."

"There is no crisis at the border."

"We don't have a border crisis."

"A phony border crisis."

"A fake crisis at the border."

"A crisis that does not exist."

"Nonexistent border crisis."

"There is no border crisis."

This comes from a piece in the Washington Examiner that Byron York wrote: "This moment might be a time for introspection for those who have consistently downplayed the urgency of the situation on the border. Earlier this year, with the number of illegal crossings rising; with the nature of the crossers changing, more families and more children than in earlier years; with the testimony of border officials that they were unable to handle the situation; with all that happening, many Democrats and their supporters in the media forcefully denied that there was a crisis on the southern border."

Here are a few more examples, Mr. Speaker.

“In the media, ‘Never Trump’ Republicans, former Republicans, and other commentators have joined in.”

“Former Rep. Joe Scarborough, now with MSNBC, called the situation ‘an imaginary border crisis.’

“Former Bush White House official Nicolle Wallace, also with MSNBC, said, ‘There’s not a crisis.’”

“Former Weekly Standard editor Bill Kristol called the situation ‘a fake crisis.’”

Another one says: “A fake crisis.”

Another one: “There is no crisis on the border.”

Another one: “There is no crisis at the border.”

They are the same talking points that get passed from one person to another.

Another one: “A faux crisis.”

“A make-believe crisis.”

Even the comedians on late-night television weighed in and said: “A fake border crisis.”

In this one article, there are over 26 examples, and there are plenty more where this came from.

□ 1945

“The situation at the border is so terrible in part because those in power, and those cheering them on in the media, have steadfastly resisted commonsense measures to reduce the flow of illegal migrants, the large majority of whom do not have a valid claim of asylum, across the border. The resulting paralysis in border policy encourages more migrants to come, making the situation worse by the day.

“Perhaps some of those quoted above only want to deny the President a victory,” which is shameful. No matter how sensible the results are, they can’t give in so that the situation is resolved.

The bottom line is, the American people are less safe; the immigrants are less safe; and America’s national security is threatened.

“Perhaps others are simply looking for a partisan advantage” for the next election. “Perhaps some sincerely believe in open or virtually open borders.”

As I said, the Democratic Presidential candidates have all expressed their views on that.

“It does not matter what their motives are. The crisis—yes, crisis—at the border worsens every day that we do not act.”

I am happy to say that I think people have come to their senses, that there is recognition today that there is a crisis at our border. The important thing to note is that if we recognize there is a crisis at the border, then you can start to heal the problem, and then you can start fixing that problem. It starts with border security and the enforcement of the laws already on the books.

People want to put in new laws and do all these things. The laws are already on the books. There are some

flawed laws, like the Flores agreement, that need to be changed.

I just spoke to a Member of Congress who returned from the border, and he has spoken to the border security people. He was down there, and he saw firsthand. He had a shocking report. The coyotes bringing people in have control of what we call parishes or little neighborhoods. They have control of an area, and they bring people in. They are working with the narcotraffickers. They are bringing individuals into this country.

Understand what is happening here. An individual who comes in will pay a coyote up to \$8,000 for entry to come into America. It is more difficult to bring one individual in than it is with a child. A person who comes in with a child only has to pay \$5,000 to a coyote. The reason is that they have to smuggle an individual in, get them on a bus, and they give them a boxed lunch.

This was just reported to us, and that was from last week.

The person with a child who comes in only has to pay \$5,000 because we have to process that, so it is easier to get them in. They can just come across the border, and our system rolls them in, so it is only \$5,000 to come in.

The coyotes—understand this—and human traffickers, which are the same, are advertising in other countries, Africa, the Middle East, the Asia-Pacific region, and South and Central America on TV ads. Ads in print say: Come to America. We can get you in.

They have the prices printed. The coyotes, the human traffickers, and the narcos are getting rich at the expense of the immigrant and the refugee who truly need to come into America, and the children.

We always hear on the other side that it is for the children. Well, by God, if you believe that, then fix the dang problem.

It is also at the expense of our American citizens and our children. I was elected by American citizens, and my first job is to uphold the Constitution. My first job is to the people of my district who sent me here. My first job is to protect our constitutional principles for the people of this Nation.

The other thing that gets threatened is our national security. The reports we have right now indicate there are over 60 countries represented from around the world, from China and Africa, that are coming into this country at the hands of the coyotes.

I want to drop back to 2014. I think it is interesting that Members on the other side of this very body who were saying there is no crisis at the border, if you look at my first poster here, it is from June 2014. Let me read you the headline here, “Sickening Photos of the Humanitarian Crisis at U.S. Border Detention Centers.” This was June 16, 2014, and it was written by Brett Logiurato.

There were Members who are serving in this Congress today who took these photos, and they said what a shame it

is that we have these situations at the border.

You can see this picture. People are laying on concrete floors.

But then they turn around and accuse President Trump of laying these people on concrete floors with no pillows and no blankets. That is 2014, when President Obama was in charge.

Here is another picture. “A staggering humanitarian crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border has left Federal officials scrambling to provide the basic human necessities to thousands of undocumented immigrants, most of them unaccompanied children.”

The other side will say, well, it is for the children. I agree. No child should have to go through that. No parent should have to go through that in 2014. Yet, this is 2019. Not a dang thing has been done in this body to fix this problem because politicians—and I am almost embarrassed to say that I am a politician—are afraid to fix this problem.

Do you know why? They will get political arrows thrown at them. Somebody will say: Oh, you want amnesty. You want to deport everybody.

They stay away from this, another election comes, and nothing happens other than the situation gets worse.

Let me go to another picture of sickening photos of the humanitarian crisis at the border detention center. Business Insider all the way in Australia is highlighting how dysfunctional the American immigration system is. You see kids running around. They are barefoot. People are laying on aluminum blankets, heat shields.

People are in this situation. This is not a new crisis. This is something that has been going on since 1986. It is coming to a head, and it is going to get worse if this body does not get the backbone to do what is right and do what is right for America. As I said, if it is right for America, then it is going to be right for the immigrant, right for the American citizen, and right for this country. If we don’t do those things, then it is going to get worse.

Let’s go to that other picture. There is a graph here that I want to highlight before I turn it over to my good friend. On this graph, I think it is interesting because numbers and pictures speak lots of words. This is the southwest border apprehension for fiscal year 2019.

Before I get into this, President Trump has taken a lot of heat for trying to resolve a situation that gets worse every day. He has to do that only because this body is inept at what it is tasked to do. This body is the one that is supposed to write immigration laws. This body is the one that is supposed to do the enforcement laws. The President is tasked with executing the laws. According to Article II, Section 3, he shall faithfully execute the laws of the land. But if Congress does not solve the problem, then he has no other choice.

He has called this an emergency. He has taken flack for that. He has taken

all kinds of criticism for trying to do what is right for this country, trying to protect our national security, and trying to have some kind of common-sense way to slow this down.

Yet my colleagues on the other side who acknowledged in 2014 that this was a crisis, at the beginning of this year, they said there was no crisis. They criticized him for trying to act.

I want to show this graph. I know it is probably hard to see from TV, but look at this graph. We have different years represented here. We go from 2014 all the way up to 2019. The bottom line is, 2016, we were actively deporting people. There was a bad economy. We weren't getting as many people into this country.

What I want to show is in October 2018. Look at 2019. If we start at January, we are at 54,000 people apprehended at the border. This was when there was no crisis at the border, 58,000 while there was no crisis at the border. By the time June came around, that number had grown to 104,000 apprehensions at the border.

There was no crisis, according to my colleagues on the other side who won't come together to solve this problem.

President Trump acted, and he acted strongly. He appealed to Mexico to help us with this situation. I commend the President of Mexico for coming to terms with President Trump. They put in enforcement at their southern border.

You can see exactly the effect of that when it happened. It happened right here in the end of June. Since then, the illegal apprehensions have dropped precipitously down to under 110,000 in just a month and a half.

We haven't changed the laws in this country. We haven't increased border security in this country. But the Mexicans came to rescue and help us. In fact, the Mexican Government is doing more to solve this problem for America, American citizens, and immigrants than my colleagues on the left side.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), who is a great friend of mine and a great proponent of legal immigration.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for taking the initiative to claim this time on the floor of the House of Representatives and bring up this topic.

I point out, Mr. Speaker, to the people who are paying attention here at least, whether or not that is you, that this is the most complex issue that the United States of America faces and has ever faced.

We might face a tax issue or a national defense issue, and we might face a healthcare issue. They are very complex and very detailed. But almost everything else, you can make your mistakes, fix them, and move on, but it doesn't multiply itself throughout the multiple generations that we have.

Immigration is very complex. At the heart of it is something that I heard the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) reference, and that is the word "1986."

I revere Ronald Reagan, and I always have, except for the two times in all of history that he let me down. 1986 was the time he did that, when he granted amnesty to what turned out to be more than 3 million illegal aliens in this country.

It wasn't the number of illegal aliens who were granted a reward for breaking our laws. Instead, it was the destruction of the rule of law. Once you reward people for breaking the law, you get more lawbreakers. More lawbreakers destroy the law.

In the center of everything that I have done on immigration here in this Congress in 16½ years has been about the restoration of the respect for the rule of law, in particular with regard to immigration. Yet I see on the other side of the aisle a constant push to erode and degrade the respect for the rule of law and the rule of law itself.

We are dealing with sanctuary cities, sanctuary counties, sanctuary States, and sanctuary jurisdictions. In the last Congress, we passed sanctuary legislation that went over to Senator MCCONNELL's desk that would have shut it all off and given a victim standing to go to court to sue the political subdivision for compensation for the damage caused by turning people loose on the streets who should have been interdicted, put back in the condition they were in before they broke the law.

I am a little bit extra emotional about this tonight, Mr. Speaker, because I get the news from Des Moines, Iowa. I am going to be delicate about how I say this because I don't want to prejudice an impending prosecution.

We have a triple murder that took place in Des Moines, Iowa, that peaceful city, a triple murder. The individual who was arrested for that triple homicide went into the custody of the Des Moines police for maybe a few hours. Shortly, his name came off the roster for being in their custody.

When you check, he is in ICE's custody. It has now been announced that the individual who is a suspect for a triple homicide in the peaceful city of Des Moines, Iowa, is an illegal alien, a criminal alien.

He also had been interdicted for a hit-and-run just a couple of months ago, turned loose on the streets of Iowa, now potentially becoming guilty of killing three individuals, a mother, an 11-year-old daughter, and a 5-year-old son.

□ 2000

"Illegal alien," well, we are not supposed to say that because it hurts their feelings.

And one of our Members of this Congress has introduced legislation—now, by the way, it is JOAQUIN CASTRO, whose brother is running for President of the United States. He has introduced legislation to eliminate the use of the term "illegal alien" in Federal statute because it hurts people's feelings.

Hurts people's feelings, when we have people going to their graves at their

hands. I think their feelings are hurt a lot worse. And our compassion needs to be for those who have been killed and those who have been injured and those who have been abused in many ways. But to just change the terminology of the reality is just a political statement.

And I would add, on top of that, the policies that have been advocated on the other side of the aisle are the policies that culminate in open borders.

Open borders mean, picking a particular number that came out of DHS, in April, 4,117 illegal aliens interdicted in a single day.

So I got out my little calculator, and I divided 4,117 into 710,000, which is the average size of a congressional seat. That meant that every 24 weeks another congressional district, an entire congressional district in Iowa, is supplanted by illegal aliens coming into America. And that number could well be as many as 50, 60, or 70 seats over the period of a Census time.

So I point this down, in conclusion here, and compress it so that even those folks who are the least likely to understand this will understand what I am about to describe.

If you were to clear out a county in the desert of Nevada so that there wasn't a single person living there, and then as we interdict these folks on the border at the rate of 4,117 in a single day, and over 24 weeks you accumulate the equivalent of an entire congressional district, you put them into that county, the Census shows up and counts them—710,000. 710,000 of them then become an entire congressional district. That entire congressional district couldn't elect a single person because there wouldn't be a single citizen there in 24 weeks.

So that means anybody can move there and vote for themselves, come to Congress, and represent 710,000 illegals—that is how bad it is—in only 24 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KING, his passion for this. And I want to run through a few numbers before I go to Mr. CHIP ROY from Texas.

Southwest border apprehensions by U.S. Customs, total apprehensions from October 2018 to May of 2019, 593,507.

May of 2019, apprehensions alone, 138,887—highest month in over a decade.

Total inadmissibles in October of 2018 to 2019, 82,808.

Inadmissibles, these are people who can't come into the country because of their record.

Mr. Speaker, 2019, 6 months total already has exceeded the total for the year of 2015.

At this time, I yield to Mr. CHIP ROY from Texas, a passionate individual about this. And I, again, thank Mr. KING.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership tonight in

bringing an opportunity for us to speak on the floor of the House of Representatives on an issue that is front and center for most of the American people. It is, by far, the number one issue that the American people care about. I can particularly speak to the people of Texas, who are bearing the brunt of the failed border security, the failed immigration policies of the Federal Government.

I had the opportunity to visit an ICE detention facility in Aurora, Colorado, this past Saturday. I was out in Denver for a Western Conservative Summit. I was visiting family members, and I saw this terrible story of individuals rushing the ICE facility in Aurora, Colorado, and taking down the American flag, defacing the American flag, then raising the Mexican flag.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I was going to bring this up, and I am glad the gentleman from Texas did.

What happened to the day when migrants came to this country to cherish liberty and freedom and become enrolled in the beliefs that we have to assimilate?

I appreciate the gentleman bringing that up because those aren't friendly signs, to take down the American flag and put up the Mexican flag in our country.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's question. I think it is an important question.

To take down the American flag, deface the American flag with the words "abolish ICE," to turn it upside down and re-raise it; to raise, then, the Mexican flag alongside of it over this ICE detention facility, I went there the day after this occurred. I met with the individuals running this facility, both ICE as well as the private individuals, GEO, that were running it.

What did I find in the facility? It is a detention facility that houses 1,200 individuals. It was clean.

There were doctors' offices. There was medicine.

There were ping-pong tables.

There were iPads to watch news in home countries.

There were televisions.

There were video game stations.

There were three square meals.

There were clean bunk beds.

There were people from 57 countries. Only 29 percent of the people in there are from Mexico.

Traditionally, this ICE facility has 80 percent of its occupants coming from individuals who are brought in there from interior enforcement, usually violent criminals or people who have violated our laws other than immigration laws, and 80 percent are usually of that population.

Now, 80 percent of that is from people who are flooding across our border, overwhelming Border Patrol. ICE has no beds, no place to put these individuals who have violated our laws. As a result, you see the overcrowding in the Border Patrol facilities.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have, for months on end, been

refusing to acknowledge that there is a border crisis, only awakening in the last several weeks to finally acknowledge that there is a crisis, to finally agree to pass only humanitarian aid, that is, dollars to go to HHS, ORR to take in individuals, unaccompanied children, to place them, but then restricting dollars for ICE.

Why? Because I think that the Democratic Caucus is run by four members of the Caucus. I don't think there is a single Speaker. I think there are four Speakers, and I think those four Speakers are deciding the policy for the Democrat Party. I think, as a result, we saw precisely what is happening. We have no resources for ICE—none.

We are vilifying ICE. We are vilifying Border Patrol. Speak to the Border Patrol agents on the border who are holding the line defending the United States of America while cartels have operational control of our border, while the Gulf Cartel, the Reynoso faction, Los Zetas, the Cartel de Noreste, the Sinaloa, they are using human beings for profit. They are using children as tickets to sell access to the United States.

Why are they doing that, and how are they doing that? My Democrat colleagues know full well the answer to that, and they don't care. They don't care that cartels are abusing our laws for profit, that they are doing so in a way that violates children, violates women on the journey, a third of whom are abused along the journey. And they do so knowing that Border Patrol is overwhelmed and refuse to do anything about it.

Now, what I want to know, and I don't know what my colleagues think about this, but why is it that we have got about 1 week left before we are going to adjourn for a 6-week recess, and yet my Democrat colleagues are going to do nothing, nothing on the floor of this body, the people's House, to address this calamitous situation, nothing to provide the resources necessary for ICE, nothing to address the fact that they only provided \$200 million for ICE with restrictions on how the money may be used?

When Barack Obama, former President, asked for \$762 million for ICE in the wake of the unaccompanied alien children who were coming in 2014—and this crisis is multiple times worse—what are my Democrat colleagues going to do next week to solve this problem before they leave for 6 weeks?

What are my Democrat colleagues going to do to save the little girls and the women who are going to get abused in the next 6 weeks when everybody adjourns for this body to go off to fundraisers and trips and go back to their districts while our border is on fire?

What are my Democrat colleagues going to do? I will tell you what they are going to do. Absolutely nothing, and it is an embarrassment.

It is an embarrassment to this body, the people's House, that we are looking

at a southern border that is being violated. We are looking at a sovereignty of the United States being violated. We are looking at little girls and women being violated by dangerous cartels. And my Democrat colleagues would rather waste time on the floor of this body with meaningless resolutions.

We spent time yesterday doing what? Taking down the words and having a vote on words that were a result of a resolution against a tweet. That is what this august body did yesterday. That is what they spent their time doing.

Did they address the border crisis? No.

Are they going to address the border crisis next week? No. They are going to send us into the August recess, barreling towards deficits well over a trillion dollars, with people streaming across our border in violation of our sovereignty to the detriment of our security, to the detriment of the well-being of the migrants who seek to come here, and they are going to do that, to go home and do absolutely nothing about the problem.

So I would ask my colleagues: Are we going to allow this body to adjourn next week? Are we going to leave the floor and go home for 6 weeks and allow that to continue to be the state of affairs at our southern border?

I think this country deserves better. I think the migrants who seek to come here deserve better.

I think we should sit down and roll up our sleeves and do the job the American people sent us here to do: secure the border, balance the budget, provide healthcare freedom, make sure our men and women have a clear mission and the tools to do it, and get the hell out of the way of the American people.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's passion, and appreciate him bringing these things out.

And this is something we have sent President Trump, and I am going to say tonight, I implore President Trump—in fact, I am going to challenge President Trump to reconvene this Congress at the beginning of the August recess. And I would do it every recess from here on out until this body comes to grips and solves this problem in a bipartisan, bicameral way; because, if you don't do that, Congress will run out.

Like the gentleman said, they are going to go fundraise. They are going to get ready for the next election and tell everybody how great they did, yet this problem is getting worse.

President Trump, you can do this. It hasn't been done since 1948. That was President Truman, and he did what was best for this body.

I can tell you one thing. When you invade the personal time of Members of Congress, you get their attention. I think it is time we do that. I, for one, will stay here. I think this needs to be done. This is such a critical issue.

At this time, I would like to go over a couple more facts, these numbers, the

sources, total CBP enforcement, Custom Border Patrol.

Apprehensions in 2017, total for the year was 526,901. 2018, that number—because the word had gotten out. The drug cartels are very good business people, unfortunately. They are not ethical people. They are not people I would want to have next to us. I don't want them in my country. But they are very good at what they do. The apprehensions in 2018 was 683,178.

Now, get this. If people will not come together in a bipartisan way, they don't need to be in Congress.

When you hear these numbers, apprehensions year-to-date 2019—keep in mind, 2017 is 527,000; 2018, 683,000 for the years. 2019, to date, the end of June, 787,161.

Folks, when are we going to do this? If not now, when? Are we going to wait until there are 20 million people here? 40 million people? 50 million people?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), a great friend of mine, another great Texan.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, and I appreciate him yielding.

This is something we ought to be talking about every day because it is a crisis. It makes a difference. It is helping destroy our country.

And it is really tragic, though, and I would not superimpose any type of attack on personalities, however, I think what we really have is not evil intentions. I think it is just massive ignorance. Because we have heard over and over: Oh, if you want to secure the border, you want just U.S. citizens, then you are a racist.

So that just reflects an ignorance.

Mr. YOHO. Does the gentleman feel like it is politics being played over policy for the next election?

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there is no question about that.

Mr. YOHO. Absolutely. It is sickening, sickening for this body, sickening for America.

Mr. GOHMERT. No, it is.

But American citizens are comprised of every race, of every nationality, all walks of life. It is one of our strengths, people coming from so many different walks of life, countries, races. Yet when we have applied the standard “from out of many, one,” then we have been our strongest, all different races, nationalities.

□ 2015

But now, in order to tear down this country and the greatness in the way of opportunities and help around the world for other countries, not seeking some hegemony, not seeking imperialist motives, we want everyone to be better off. We want peace. We want good for everyone.

But if you destroy our borders and people flood in who are not educated on what it takes to keep a self-governing country, you won't keep it.

Eric Metaxas has a book out on this, but it goes back to what Benjamin

Franklin said when he was asked at the end of the convention, “What did you give us?” And they wondered if it was another monarchy.

“A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it.”

The one thing we know: No country has lasted, either as a complete democracy like the Athenian city-state or whether it is a parliamentary country—they don't last 200 years.

We are 230 now. We are moving on. So, we are in a very desperate situation to try to keep this shining light on a hill that shines light for the world.

So, it is important that we have borders. If we don't have borders, if we don't secure our borders, then we will come—as many have wanted. They wanted to see America fall from within.

As Lincoln said, if death be our light, then we will die by suicide is basically what he was saying.

We have got to secure our borders so that we can welcome people continuing at the rate faster—more people coming in than any other country in the history of the world.

But I have had people in my district say, “We went to the border. We went through these facilities. We have all this information. People are being kept in cages. It is horrible.”

Well, I go down a lot, have been down many times. And I started going down during the Obama administration. That is when the cages were built. They were built by the Obama administration. That is when overcrowding was started, during the Obama administration.

But it is like there is an intent, as my friend from Florida was pointing out, for political purposes, that we want to try to make the Trump administration look bad, so we will take all the wrongdoing that occurred during the Obama years, the mistreatment of people that have come in illegally, and project that onto the Trump administration, and we will push to have even less enforcement on our borders.

We will make these promises of, gee, we are working on all these kinds of things. Here is an article from The Hill: “Democrats calling for decriminalization of illegal entry abandoning national sovereignty.”

They want to decriminalize—it is against the law, it is a crime to come into the country illegally. They are sending every message they possibly can. It is not a dog whistle. It is a big neon sign saying “Come.” Whether you are coming from Asia, Africa, South America, Central America, we don't care. Just come illegally, as many as you can. We will overwhelm these folks. We are going to be able to probably get a lot of people that are here illegally voting, and then will be the end of the Republican Party.

And what they don't say—maybe they don't realize—is that it will also be the end of a self-governing nation as we knew it. Because the way this normally works out—and we are well be-

yond the maximum, basically, 200 years. When we lose our freedom, it won't come back. We are done. And there will be no place for people being mistreated around the world to come after that.

It is interesting, though, when I have been down to the border, especially during the Obama years, the Obama administration personnel kept me out of some of those facilities. We had to really raise Cain and get in there.

So, we have got people who are not part of the government, and they go waltzing into these facilities. That is ridiculous.

Then we know that there were two pictures that were initially—they had to be withdrawn, but they were from 2014, about people in cages. I had seen that my friend, Mr. YOHO, had the pictures. Those are from the Obama administration.

Mr. Speaker, let me just finish by pointing out, this truly is a threat to the existence of a self-governing country as we have known it. This is serious stuff.

For those who have big hearts, those of us that want to help as many people as we can, destroying the fabric of a self-governing country will not allow better fabric to take its place.

You will have another Venezuela. It always works out. People try to self-govern for so long, and then, eventually, untoward efforts bring about chaos.

And, normally, the way chaos is dealt with is push for a monarchy, a totalitarian government, a Putin, a Chavez, a Hitler. There is some effort to get somebody in that can get all of this under control, and it is the end of a democratic republic.

So, I am really pleased that my friend, Dr. YOHO—I tell friends, he is a guy, having been a veterinarian, that was best equipped to work in Congress because he has had so much experience dealing with the south end of a north-bound horse. So I thank him for bringing about this Special Order, and I am looking forward to many more. We need to talk about this, this is a threat.

Mr. YOHO. This is a threat. This is not about being racist. It is about doing rule of law.

Our good friend STEVE KING brought up a great point. This is rule of law. That is all we are asking: Follow the rule of law.

This body has been derelict in their duty, and that is why this problem is growing, because they put politics above policy. They are afraid to stand up.

It is like I said. We have asked President Trump, reconvene Congress, bring us back in at the August recess. And I would bring us back every time until we fix this problem, period.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, our Border Patrol agents are exhausted. They have worked so many hours.

We had a hearing today in Judiciary on a bill adding requirement after requirement, millions and millions of dollars. They didn't give them any money in the 4.6 to do the job of enforcing the border. Our Border Patrol agents need help. They are in big trouble.

Mr. YOHO. They do. I appreciate the gentleman bringing that up. I will talk about that at the end.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), my good friend and colleague, the brigadier general.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for hosting this Special Order and continuing to elevate this issue and keep talking about it.

The last time that we were speaking on this floor about the crisis on our southern border with Mexico, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle were still denying there was a crisis, if you remember.

In report after report—if you watched CNN, MSNBC, et cetera—they said it was a manufactured crisis, manufactured by Donald Trump.

To their credit, they finally agreed that there is a crisis. I just thought, well, such is the state of the Democrats on the other side of the aisle. But mere acceptance of reality counts for progress around here. But we have got to be thankful that we are at least having a conversation sometime.

But you would think, with this crisis on our border—5,000 people a day coming illegally. That doesn't count the ones coming at points of entry. Those are in between the points of entry. And that also doesn't count the ones that weren't caught, right? Those are the ones we caught.

Usually, Border Patrol says you can times two whatever we caught because others are getting through. You would think that we would be working around the clock here to fix this crisis at the border since we all now agree that there is a crisis.

But, instead, my good friends on the other side of the aisle are focused on smearing the President. I get the partisanship, but what really troubles me is they are also focused on smearing Border Patrol and ICE agents that are duty bound. They raise their right hand and take an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and the laws that we created, that this body created. They are just doing their job that we asked them to do, and for that, they are being criticized, demonized, and smeared.

To add further insult to injury, some of our colleagues are now saying that they want to abolish these folks, the agencies—ICE and Homeland Security. You didn't hear that wrong. That is a solution.

So, a solution to the problem of people coming illegally, pouring across the border, offered by the other side of the aisle, in some cases, is to abolish the agencies and the people who are working to stop it.

This completely sounds wrongheaded to me. I don't know who that makes sense to, but it doesn't make any sense to me.

Now, what other ideas have we heard? Of course, amnesty for illegal foreign nationals. That is going to fix the problem, because if you know that you can break the law and nothing is going to happen to you, I am sure that is not an encouragement to keep on breaking the law. I am sure that is not somehow.

Decriminalizing illegal entry. So, if you have somebody trespassing on your land and you go to the police and you say, "Hey, these folks keep trespassing on my land," the police say, "Well, here is our solution. We are just going to make trespass legal now. Are you good with that?"

Well, that doesn't seem like much of a solution.

Eliminating detention facilities. So, recently, a study maintains that 30 percent of the young people—usually young girls, but not exclusively, but young people that are being brought in—because these folks know that if they bring a child with them, it is tantamount to just immediate entry—30 percent of them had no connection, had no familial—family connection to the person that they are with.

So, the reason to have detention facilities, among other things, is to try and figure out: Is this child with a parent or a relative, or is this child being trafficked?

A solution to this overwhelming problem offered by my friends on the other side of the aisle is to just get rid of the detention facilities.

So, the last place that this small child is looking for salvation, for safety, to stop the trafficking that is happening at that time, looking to America, probably praying and hoping that, finally, when I get to America, they are going to find out that I am being exploited in horrific ways.

Our good friends on the other side of the aisle say, No, we are not going to do any of that. Just keep on exploiting the kids, but don't do it here. Don't do it in Mexico either. Now, just keep exploiting them in your town.

Well, that is not much of a solution. To me, that is horrific, thinking about that.

Of course, then, another solution is providing taxpayer-funded healthcare for people that came here illegally.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know where everybody lives, but I know that people in the community that I am privileged to represent are having a hard time paying for their own healthcare now, let alone paying for people that came here illegally.

And, again, that is a solution to stop people from coming across the border offered from our friends on the other side of the aisle.

Let's face it, these are incentives. These aren't solutions to fix this problem; these are incentives to exacerbate the problem.

I don't know what reality my good friends on the other side of the aisle are residing in, but, so far, it seems to me their platform has been amnesty, apathy, or apoplexy.

And we are frustrated because we know that the solutions are out there. We have worked on them here, and we are happy and willing to work with our friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but they seem paralyzed by theatrics in politics.

We know that loopholes in our immigration laws are being exploited by human traffickers and drug cartels. They are taking laws designed to help the most helpless, and they are using them for profit at a tragic cost to children and families.

Yet, the policies and the solutions proposed by our good friends on the other side of the aisle expand those loopholes or create even brand-new ones.

And we know, with hundreds of thousands of people streaming across the border, we need funds for beds and detention space.

Some of our friends on the other side of the aisle say, "Well, we don't want you to detain these people, and we are not going to provide any funding for beds."

So the answer is, when they come across the border, don't even talk to them. Just let them keep on going. Let the children stay with their trafficker, end detention altogether, leaving the trafficked child at the mercy of their trafficker.

Then there is the dangerous transnational criminal organization, not only trafficking in children, but the drugs that are ravaging your very community.

□ 2030

They are coming across our southern border. Barriers, fencing, and wall, they are a force multiplier, because if our Border Patrol agents don't have to stare at this place right here on the border because there is a barrier there, they can look over here where traffickers are coming across. Without any barrier, they have to look everywhere, and there is just simply not enough of them.

The other side shut the government down, trying to stop us from securing the border.

These cartels make massive profits. You heard about El Chapo's sentence today. It is estimated he was making \$3 billion a year trafficking children and drugs into your community, \$3 billion a year.

El Chapo is in jail. Do you think somebody else didn't take over? Do you think he was the only cartel in Mexico?

The other side is wasting time on this floor passing partisan bills that have no hope of becoming law. Meanwhile, ICE made more than 1,500 human trafficking arrests, and 97 percent of those were for sex trafficking. 20,000 children were illegally smuggled into the United States in December of

last year alone, 20,000 children. These are little kids.

I know the statistics start to run together, but these numbers must be recited. As of March this year, CBP has seen over a 50 percent spike in gang members apprehended at the southern border.

Did you look to see what happened in Los Angeles just this week, the arrests and the horrific crimes? Is this what we want in our communities, people hatcheting and macheteing each other to death, cutting each other apart?

We have a great country. There is no reason to do this.

In the last 2 years, ICE has arrested 266,000 aliens with criminal records. Those aliens had convictions, including 100,000 assaults, 30,000 sex crimes, and 4,000 homicides.

If you believe the cartels are going to stop making millions a year if we decriminalize the border and abolish ICE, you are not living in reality.

Every day, children are being recycled across the border, serving as human shields. They send them across with somebody; they send them back; and then, they come back with somebody else. That is trafficking. There is no consequence to it.

It is time to stop just talking about protecting the children being exploited. It is long past time to start protecting them and our communities by closing the loopholes that are used to hurt them.

A famous quote we have all heard goes like this: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men and women do nothing." That is happening, Mr. Speaker, in this House.

The country is still waiting on the leadership of this House of Representatives to do something.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for inviting me and keeping this issue front and center.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania's passion and leadership on the things he has done.

He talked about it. Mr. ROY talked about it. Mr. GOHMERT talked about it. It is edifying.

The ICE agents and the Customs and Border Patrol agents are doing a job that this body created with laws and policies, and then hired them. We have people on the other side of the aisle who are criminalizing the very people we hired to do this job that they have to do. And it is a thankless job.

I know our side, the Republican Party, and, I am sure, some Democrats are truly thankful that our ICE agents and Customs and Border Patrol are there. They are taking time away from their families, and they are taking the time that they could be doing other things, but they are keeping our Nation safe.

As Members of Congress, we here are thankful for them, and I know our Nation is thankful for them.

I implore, again, President Trump to reconvene Congress, if it leaves without solving this problem, in the August recess and every time. He can be the first President since President Truman in 1948 to do this.

I implore anybody who is watching to call your Members and tell them you want this problem solved. There is no reason that this does not get solved. This is something we can do.

Throw politics out of it. Let's get good policies. Good policies for America are good policies for the migrant, good policy for our citizens, and good policy for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### KEEPING THE PROMISE OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, tonight is a continuation of a series I have been doing on the floor every other week, depending on the chaos of the floor schedule. I take about a half an hour and walk through things I see in the numbers and, in many ways, express my intense frustration at both the Democrats and many of my brothers and sisters on the Republican side for not taking a step backward from the daily chaos that has become the House of Representatives to realize that the single biggest threat to the cohesion of our society is demographics. I am going to walk through what that means.

The reason I always put up this particular board is that we have developed, in our office, a five-prong attack on what society does financially to be able to keep the promises of Social Security and Medicare.

The demographics I was speaking of are those of us who are baby boomers. There are 74 million of us born, functionally, in an 18-year period, with 10,300 of us retiring or turning 65 every single day.

The math is devastatingly ugly. My instinct is maybe that is why it is avoided in conversation around here, because the math is difficult. It is uncomfortable. It is also real.

Something I don't often do, but I want to read a simple paragraph from a June 11, 2019, analysis from the Manhattan Institute that was analyzing the numbers from the Congressional Budget Office. They are talking, right now, about just Social Security and Medicare. "Over the next decade, 91 percent of the projected increase in budget deficits, which are set to approach \$2 trillion, comes from the increased cost" of Social Security, Medicare, and the associated interest.

Think of that. In the next decade, when we talk about the growth of the debt and deficit, 91 percent of that is just, functionally, the demographic

growth for Social Security and Medicare.

Another way to think about that is, every 5 years, just the growth in Social Security and Medicare equals the entire Defense Department.

If we are going to keep our promises as a society—these are earned benefits. We made a promise as a society, avoiding the reality of the math.

Think about this part of this paragraph. "Over the next 30 years, Social Security and Medicare are projected to run a \$100 trillion cash shortfall, including resulting interest costs, while the rest of the budget is projected to run a \$16 trillion surplus." Think about that one more time—over the next 30 years.

I have a 3½-year-old little girl. Doesn't she deserve to live in an America that continues to be prosperous?

With these sorts of numbers, it is impossible. Functionally, our debt deficits, the attempt to try to keep some of our promises, is going to consume everything around us.

In previous times on the floor, and I know I am going to be doing it again, we brought in a series of what the left often says: "Well, we will tax the rich more. We will do this and this." They only cover tiny portions. The scale of this doesn't work in our modern rhetoric.

Think about that last sentence again. If you remove Social Security and Medicare, over the next 30 years, the budget has a \$16 trillion surplus. One of our boards has a higher number because the board is a bit out-of-date. But the budget is what we call a cash surplus. The associated revenues exceed the associated expenses.

If you add in Social Security and Medicare, it is a \$100 trillion deficit, with its associated interest costs.

What are we going to do? We believe we have a fighting chance. There was a time, a decade ago, if you did certain senior options and those things in Medicare, gave some pricing power and options, you could see where you could flatten out some of that debt-to-GDP curve and make the baby boomers survivable, economically.

We have waited too long. We have missed that window. Now our argument is that we have to do everything. We have to do things that grow the economy, a Tax Code that maximizes economic expansion, trade that maximizes economic expansion, regulations, smart regulations, using technology that maximizes economic expansion.

Labor force participation, what do you do to encourage workforce entry? We are doing remarkably well right now. We still have a problem with millennial men. We still need to find ways to create some spiffs within the Tax Code, within the retirement parts of the code, to encourage seniors who are healthy, wish to do it, and are prepared to do it, to stay in the labor force.

We have to do things to encourage family formation and to move to an immigration system that is talent-