

trains throughout the country, as well as in California. We are under construction now.

But that is one part of an overall connected system that makes sure that our air transportation, that our inner-city transportation and our roads and highways are connected as we see in Europe and in other parts of the world. That is the challenge.

Madam Speaker, I think, if we can come together in a bipartisan fashion as we have done traditionally, we can overcome these challenges and invest in ways that do what? Provide good-paying jobs; because when you invest in the infrastructure—whether it is our water, our transportation, our schools—we are investing in Americans, and those create the good-paying jobs that raise all boats for working people. And, really, that is what we are talking about here when we talk about investing: investing for working people, for all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Orange County for all of her good work.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, the administration's Muslim ban has ripped families apart. Orange County families have endured this Muslim ban for 3 long years; yet, the President has doubled down, making it so much worse.

Make no mistake, this policy is based on hate. It is based upon dividing us with fear.

President Trump showed hostility to Muslims during his campaign. He called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States."

Just 7 days into office, the President signed the first version of the Muslim ban. This was never about national security. It was about anti-Muslim hate and discrimination.

The families in my community, as well as families across the United States, are suffering. Families in my district are being torn apart by the ban. It is separating husbands from wives, mothers from children, and adults from their dying parents.

Let me be clear: No individual or family should be discriminated against based on their religious beliefs. It is why I backed the Freedom of Religion Act, which would prohibit religious discrimination in our immigration system and protect Americans of all faiths—not just Muslim Americans.

I am proud that so many Americans have stood together to protest the administration's Muslim ban, to push back and to vote in Representatives like me who will fight discrimination.

Today, because the American people made their voices heard, the House of Representatives began the process to repeal this shameful ban. I am proud to be a backer of that legislation, the NO BAN Act, and I will always support and celebrate the vibrant Muslim community in Orange County.

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

THE TALE OF TWO CITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for yielding the balance of the hour, of her time, to me.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 40 minutes remaining.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm among the shrinking Black population in cities across the U.S. According to a recent study by the University of Illinois at Chicago, the city of Chicago lost 350,000 Black residents between 1980 and 2016.

Madam Speaker, this is what I call "Black exodus"—not exodus, but "Black exodus." This intense "Black exodus" is a result of decades of disinvestment and disenfranchisement. Sadly, the city of Chicago that so many African Americans looked to as a beacon of hope during the great migration has often failed to invest in its Black population.

The economic, cultural, and political impact of Chicago's Black community on our Nation has been immense: Louis Armstrong's groundbreaking jazz emanated from Chicago, Thomas Dorsey's gospel rose up from Chicago, and Muddy Waters' blues all came about in Chicago.

□ 1745

Since 1945, until recently, the iconic Ebony Magazine, along with its sister magazine, JET magazine, chronicled Black civic and social life in Chicago and across the Nation.

The first African American President of the United States began his political career on Chicago's South Side.

The story of Black Chicago is one of power and perseverance, often in the face of extreme resistance and resounding prejudice.

The UIC study stated that a lack of well-paying jobs and affordable housing are two main factors that have driven the decline in Chicago's Black population. The alarming statistics presented in this study are proof that the consequences of the predatory and prejudiced practices from the past are still present with us and still being felt at this very hour.

Madam Speaker, the practice of redlining was invented, first occurred, in Chicago.

Last September, I highlighted a study from Duke University that stated that redlining, the practice of restricting the availability of conventional mortgage loans in certain neighborhoods based on their racial makeup, stole up to \$4 billion from Chicago's Black community during the 1950s and 1960s. Chicago's Black community was ripped off up to \$4 billion because of redlining in the 1950s and 1960s.

Now, some of the neighborhoods that African Americans were initially systematically forced into are, all of a sudden, quickly developing, which threatens to push out families who have lived there for generations.

Redlining is being followed by the gentrifying that is occurring in Chicago.

Despite the creation, Madam Speaker, of 65,000 new jobs in downtown Chicago between 2010 and 2015, Chicago's predominantly Black communities saw a net reduction of 1,500 jobs. While 65,000 jobs in the downtown area increased, 1,500 jobs in Chicago were decreased from the Black community.

Compounding, Madam Speaker, this reduction is the fact that over 700,000 jobs are located within 30 minutes of Chicago's downtown, in the predominantly White North Side of Chicago, but just 60,000 jobs are located within 30 minutes of the South Side of Chicago.

Chicago is a tale of two cities. It always was and currently remains the tale of two cities: the wealthy, affluent, upper-middle-class North Side, and the poor, devastated communities on the South and the West Sides, both within 30 minutes of Chicago's downtown area.

Many Black Chicagoans who reside on the South Side are thus deprived of the opportunity to earn a living in or near the community that they reside in.

Madam Speaker, these startling trends are certainly not confined or restricted just to Chicago or even to the Midwest. In fact, Madam Speaker, we can look right here in our Nation's Capital, the city of Washington, D.C., for our next example.

A recent Georgetown University study found that African Americans accounted for over 70 percent of the District's population in 1970. By the year 2015, African Americans were just 48.3 percent of the District's population, from 70 percent to less than 50 percent in just a few years.

Georgetown's findings were strikingly similar to the findings at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Soaring housing prices and a diminished job market for those who were without a bachelor's degree pushed longtime residents out of our Nation's Capital, and they pushed out longtime residents in Chicago as well.

Madam Speaker, we don't look just at Chicago or our Nation's Capital. Let's look south to see the same troubling trend.

Austin, Texas, Madam Speaker, is a modern-day boomtown whose population grew by 20 percent between 2000 and 2010, a boomtown in Austin, Texas. During this same period, its African American population fell by over 5 percent.

A 2014 survey from the University of Texas at Austin found that 26 percent of African Americans who moved out and left Austin did so because the city had gotten too expensive.

Gentrification has forced many long-term residents of color to leave their neighborhoods due to increased housing costs.

It is essential that this Congress ensures that neighborhood development does not force out those families who have often called these very same neighborhoods home for many past generations.

Madam Speaker, that is why I am so proud to have joined with Congressman HANK JOHNSON in introducing H.R. 4999, the Opportunity Zone Fairness and Inclusion Act. This bill seeks to mitigate the inequities that are often brought on by rapid neighborhood development.

The opportunity zone program was intended to incentivize investment in underserved communities. Currently, Madam Speaker, this same investment program, this same opportunity zone program, lacks mechanisms to ensure that the residents of these neighborhoods benefit from this increased investment.

By mandating that opportunity zone funds establish investment and advisory boards that include members of targeted communities, H.R. 4999 would ensure greater local involvement in opportunity zone projects.

H.R. 4999 would also establish requirements for small and minority business involvement in those very same critical opportunity zone funds. I encourage all of my colleagues in this Congress to join me in supporting H.R. 4999.

Madam Speaker, going forward, we must develop policies with an eye on rectifying the prejudices and the injustices of the past. That means bringing affordable housing, stable and well-paying jobs, and vibrant and robust businesses to communities that have been denied these opportunities for far too long, including my beloved hometown, the city of Chicago.

Merely pushing development without a firm focus on equity would only perpetuate the discriminatory policies of the past.

In partnership with State and local governments, this Congress and future Congresses can help preserve and strengthen the vibrant, pioneering, and groundbreaking Black communities in places like Chicago, Illinois, and, more broadly, in urban areas throughout our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, this Congress can do nothing more or nothing less than help American citizens regain a footing in their communities, in their neighborhoods, by ensuring that fair housing is available, affordable housing is available, economic viability and vitality with increased businesses are available, and that jobs are created in these communities.

Let us turn this page to a more productive and progressive future and close the book on the predecisional and bad disinvesting past.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

E-VERIFY IS THE SOLUTION TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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. Madam Speaker, I want to talk about immigration, more importantly, a guest worker program for agriculture that will solve this dilemma.

The reason we have an immigration issue in this country is because this body has failed to act in the last 30 years. It is something that the American population shouldn't have to go through and the immigrants shouldn't have to go through because there are simple solutions out there. But, unfortunately, in this body, politics gets played and prevents that from happening.

E-Verify is the solution to illegal immigration. E-Verify stands for an electronic verification system that verifies one's legal identification.

The ID number most commonly used for employment is a person's Social Security number. This ID number is used at an employee's place of employment, and the employer uses this number to validate the identification number of the employee.

There are some major concerns and shortfalls with relying on a Social Security number for identification, as we will explain below.

Using a Social Security number sets the system up for fraud and does nothing to verify the legal status of an individual.

Other numbers can be used for identification purposes for employment, but there does not yet exist a universally accepted ID number or an adequate program for a non-U.S. citizen to use or to enroll into a national E-Verify system.

The problem with using a Social Security number is often they are used by multiple persons fraudulently at the same time and do not provide positive identification of the person using that specific number.

For instance, in my discussions with DHS E-Verify personnel, the people who run that program say they can verify a Social Security number as legitimate within seconds. This is something that is free to the employer. So they can run a Social Security number and verify it within seconds, but they cannot verify if the person using that number is, in fact, the actual person that the unique Social Security number was assigned to.

DHS has said that, in many instances, a Social Security number will be verified as real, yet it will show up in 10 different locations around the country at the same time. Therefore, all E-Verify is doing is verifying a legitimate Social Security number, not whether an individual is permitted to

work here legally or if that person is the legitimate holder of that Social Security number.

Another issue with using a Social Security number for non-U.S. citizens is that somehow it denotes citizenship, and so people think, if they have a Social Security number, that the person using it is a U.S. citizen.

A Social Security number, in what we are promoting and advocating for, should be reserved for and used only by U.S. citizens. All others should receive a different form of identification.

There is a solution. What I propose is to create a standardized E-Verify system used universally around the country so all employers can verify the legal status and identity of an employee. This protects the employer from hiring illegal individuals, as well as providing the migrant employee legal documentation, identification, and permission to be in the country to work.

The solution is a guest worker identification card. This card can be referred to as the GWIC. The GWIC will have a unique 15-digit identification number issued to each unique individual. The GWIC, or guest worker identification card, will also have a photo of the individual on the front and a smart chip embedded in it.

The smart chip will have embedded within it biosecurity information belonging to that cardholder. The recommended biosecurity information would be facial recognition, fingerprints, retinal scans, possibly blood type and DNA. Other things that have been proposed are personal questions only the cardholder would know, and they could customize their individual, unique card to have this information included in the encrypted technology.

This information would only be available to DHS or government agencies. An employer could not get into this because they would be locked out of that information.

The current sectors being proposed in the U.S. Congress to be able to use this program are agriculture, hospitality, and construction. These designations would be at the end of the unique 15-digit identification card.

So, for instance, there would be the 15-digit number, and at the end of that would be the initials AG for agriculture, HP for hospitality, or CS for construction.

The way this program is set up would allow a person to apply, prior to coming into the United States, to work in a specific sector. For example, if the person applies to the agricultural sector, they don't come into the country until there is a job.

So, at the beginning of the process, they are what we would call an applicant. When the person applies and goes through the process and gets accepted into the guest worker program for agriculture, that individual also agrees that they will work only in the agriculture sector. Or if they want to work construction, they are agreeing to work only in the construction sector.