

from the scales of justice with his cynical, cruel war on drugs, which continues to this day.

Tens of thousands of young Black Americans are arrested or cited still for something that two-thirds of Americans think should be legal; and, in fact, voters in 10 States have done so. We are watching how these interactions with police with young people for something that even a majority of Republicans now say should be legal can lead to tragic consequences. Why do we do this?

We have an opportunity before us now with legislation approved by the House Judiciary Committee, the MORE Act, which incorporates many elements of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's Marijuana Justice Act, which would just legalize marijuana, what the majority of American people want, what is happening in States across the country, and prevent this opportunity for interference with law enforcement that is completely unjustified. Completely unjustified.

I suggest that there is another simple action to deal with a century of discrimination dealing with housing specifically against people of color. I spent most of last summer and fall doing a deep dive into American housing policy. I have a report on my website: "LOCKED OUT. Reversing Federal Housing Failures and Unlocking Opportunity."

But what I found dealing with this is a tragic, embarrassing record of blatant discrimination by the Federal Government against people of color, especially Black Americans.

Look at the history of the Federal Government denying them housing for wartime work projects, for redlining, denying applications for New Deal housing projects, excluding African Americans. And an example of something that I just recently became aware of, the 1968 Housing and Urban Development Act, which had good intentions and generous terms, but gave way to predatory inclusion where real estate interests, banks sold essentially deficient properties at terms that unsophisticated buyers did not fully understand. But the banks and real estate interests didn't care because the loans were guaranteed by the Federal Government at inflated prices. Banking and real estate interests were able to take those back, flip them, sell them again. It is a shameful chapter in this century-long process of discriminating against African Americans in housing.

I would suggest that when we look at what we might do, some are thinking about reparations, I suggest we just provide generous rental subsidies and loan terms for Black Americans. Think of it as a GI Bill for Black Americans who endured a century of discrimination and denying them the access to wealth that has built much of the White middle class.

I would respectfully suggest that this is long overdue. It is justified. It would help stop some of the free-fall in hous-

ing markets that is moving forward and could lead to the same economic burst of energy that we saw after World War II for the GI Bill, which too many Black Americans were denied.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for our Second Amendment as protected by the United States Constitution.

The right to bear arms shall never be infringed upon, and I will always defend that right on this very floor.

I swore an oath to serve the people of Indiana's Sixth District, and that means fighting for the God-given right of all Americans to defend themselves and their property. The right to defend yourself and protect your loved ones is paramount now more than ever.

IN SUPPORT OF LIFE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to those who do not have one: The unborn children of America.

I am a pro-life American. It is our duty to protect the most vulnerable among us. Every human being deserves a right to life, and I will always defend that right. As I stand in this Chamber today, I pledge to always fight for the fundamental right to life given to us by God.

SUPPORT MAIN STREET

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support Main Street as our economy reopens.

Across this Nation mom-and-pop shops are suffering.

The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with extreme social unrest, has caused businesses everywhere to shut their doors, many of which may never open again.

As we reopen, American jobs may be lost permanently.

Congress must make it a priority to protect and support small business owners and workers.

It is our duty to do the people's work here in the people's House in our Nation's capital.

Congress must support the Americans we swore to represent.

IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for our brave law enforcement officers.

Behind the badge and uniform of our men and women in blue are neighbors and friends who put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens they serve.

Defunding the police would be downright dangerous, and I will never support that.

Further, some are advocating to change qualified immunity.

Eliminating this civil protection would have disastrous implications.

It would open up officers and their families to countless civil lawsuits and

make community policing all but impossible.

In these times, the heroes of law enforcement deserve more support, not less.

AMERICANS NEED A STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE BILL TO REVIVE OUR ECONOMY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice opposition to H.R. 2.

Americans across this Nation need a strong infrastructure bill to revive and strengthen our economy now.

Yet Democrats drafted this bill without any Republican input.

Commonsense, bipartisan proposals like the 12 amendments I authored failed because this is not a serious effort. This bill is a progressive wish list and a NANCY PELOSI power grab again.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2.

WISHING GOOD LUCK TO 4-H PARTICIPANTS ACROSS INDIANA

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the fair season begins, I want to wish the best of luck to all 4-H's across Indiana's Sixth District.

Though this year's fairs are virtual and may look very different, the hard work they have put in throughout this past year I want to recognize.

4-H is a tremendous organization that helps our Nation's youth develop the life skills needed to empower themselves and their communities.

Best of luck to those participating in their 4-H county fair. You are making your families and communities very proud.

MODERNIZING INFRASTRUCTURE IS IMPORTANT TO ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, like many Members of Congress, I came determined to increase long-term Federal investment in infrastructure.

Supporting the movement of people, goods, energy, and information through our infrastructure is crucial to driving investment in our communities and maintaining America's economic competitiveness.

Modernizing our infrastructure is important to Americans in every part of the country. We know that infrastructure projects are consistently evaluated as the best return on government investment.

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As a member of the New Democratic Coalition, we believe any new proposal must include new revenue, new financing, new funding, and regulatory streamlining and encourage lifecycle funding in innovative infrastructure projects that are built to last.

As chair of the New Democrat Coalition Infrastructure Task Force and a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I believe that there should be four pillars for infrastructure deals. Those include revenue funding.

I support securing dedicated, sustainable revenue to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent well into the future and increasing Federal investment that is not looted for other purposes.

We need a variety of funding options, including mileage-based user fees; raising or indexing the gas tax; user fees on electric vehicles or batteries to create parity with gasoline-powered vehicles; slightly increasing the corporate tax rate and dedicating the incremental revenue gains toward infrastructure, both expanded and new bond programs.

We must think strategically and use lifecycle cost analysis to account for the operating and maintenance needs of an asset across its entire lifecycle. Thus, we will help guard against deferred maintenance.

I support investing seed capital to capitalize an infrastructure bank that would leverage its funds for everything from roads, to water, to broadband projects. The bank would be accessible to States, localities, and regional groups and would be able to loan them money with favorable terms as well as offer bond insurance.

I and the task force support grant programs that would specifically target areas in desperate need of revitalizing their infrastructure, including those recovering from natural disasters, communities with higher rates of unemployment and poverty, and rural areas. That means new avenues to fund infrastructure projects in communities that have been left behind and in areas that traditionally struggle to attract infrastructure funding for projects that have holistic community support.

The task force recognizes the importance of continued regulatory streamlining in a way that balances expedited construction with appropriate environmental and safety safeguards. The administration must work to implement the numerous streamlining provisions already passed into law by Congress in the FAST Act transportation bill.

In addition, I support encouraging the use of regional partnerships and public-private partnerships.

We must also think about broadband and realize that this is the new transportation of the 21st century, making sustainable and innovative public and private investments across the U.S. to repair and upgrade existing assets and build vital new projects.

We must seek to support projects that help communities become more energy efficient, resilient, and better prepared to deal with the impact of climate change and environmental clean-up.

Finally, we must seek to give communities ownership of local development and encourage innovation, regulatory streamlining, and more comprehensive multiproject long-term planning.

PROVIDING RESOURCES TO REOPEN SAFELY

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, the overwhelming majority of constituents in my district are eager to get back to work, and I believe it is Congress' duty, our duty, to ensure that our citizens have the necessary resources to reopen in a safe and responsible way. That is why I am proud to have introduced two bills that focus on this very need.

The SAFE at Work Act would create a tax credit for businesses that allow their employees to work from home. This not only protects employees and employers against the spread of COVID-19 but also encourages employers to create telework opportunities for those most susceptible to the virus.

I also introduced the KEEP Act, which supports the President's push for a 3-month payroll tax holiday. This initiative would allow millions of Americans to keep more of the money that they already earn, thus providing critical capital to weather this crisis without involving Federal bureaucracy.

No government program, no matter how generous, can replace a functioning economy. These measures would support hardworking Americans' efforts to get our economy back on track, so I urge their immediate adoption.

HIGHLIGHTING BORDER WALL EFFECTIVENESS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my voice to the fight to protect our Nation by securing its borders.

Since arriving in Congress, I have stood by the President and his efforts to protect our children from traffickers, dealers, terrorists, and other criminal elements by building a wall.

For decades, our porous borders have threatened our national security, and it wasn't until President Trump took office that our government took this threat seriously.

Just how effective has the wall been? It is a fact that nearly 1 million people were stopped at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2019, but in the last 12 months, illegal immigration has been down 84 percent and illegal crossings from Central America are down 97 percent.

It is a fact that President Trump has deported over 6,000 MS-13 gang members.

And it is a fact that this barrier between the countries is helping stop the flow of illicit drugs. Nearly 450,000 pounds have been seized this year alone.

For far too long, too many have ignored the facts, but I haven't, and I will continue doing everything I can do to keep Florida 15 residents and its businesses safe.

HONORING SERGEANT ANDREW BOSKO

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Andrew Bosko, a Lakeland, Florida, World War II veteran who is 98 years young.

Andy was born in Ohio, raised in Pennsylvania, and one of 13 children of immigrant parents from Austria and Czechoslovakia.

He entered the Army Air Corps in 1943, assigned to the VII Fighter Command in Hawaii. In 1945, the command was reassigned to Iwo Jima, which had been seized by Marine units, to provide emergency landing fields supporting bombing operations against Japan.

Meanwhile, his wife and true love, Sophia, was supporting the war as a Rosie the Riveter. Yet, they still found time to write to each other each day.

Following the war, Andy worked as a machinist in New York and later launched some of Lakeland's favorite restaurants.

Andy, you, together with your bride of 74 years, represent the greatest of our Greatest Generation. You experienced economic and social turmoil and a World War, and then you rebuilt our Nation into the greatest on Earth.

It is our honor to serve you, as you, for so many years, have served us.

SALUTING ELLA ERICKSON, VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the inspiring story of a World War II veteran from Lakeland, Florida.

At 100 years young, Ella Erickson is a unique personification of what heroism is about.

Raised in Wisconsin, she joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. Following basic training, she reported to Marine Corps Headquarters here in Washington, and for the next 2 years, Staff Sergeant Erickson maintained the records of Marine prisoners of war.

Discharged at the end of the war, Ella married and began her family and career.

While holding demanding jobs at Wheaton College and as a nurse caring for the ailing, she also found time to be a supportive wife to international evangelist Victor Erickson and raise four children, two of whom went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force.

She has been a hero to the sick and to our Nation and an even greater one to her family. She epitomizes what heroism is all about, sacrificial service.

Thank you, Ella. Thank you for serving us and showing us how to live well.

On behalf of Florida 15, I salute you.

CALL TO REPLACE SICK CARE SYSTEM WITH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a father, an American, and a Congressman in support of H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act.

I rise today as a father because healthcare is personal. I know the pain of caring for a sick child. My daughter, Pia, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's