

in Nevada and one of the largest in the country.

Our work to train and place thousands of Nevadans in good union jobs taught me a lifelong lesson about the power of organized labor to uplift working people.

As a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus, I am proud to support the PRO Act, which will return power to the hands of workers instead of Wall Street.

The PRO Act will ensure that workers have a seat at the table to advocate for higher wages, fair benefits, and security in employment and retirement.

Passing this legislation will protect the right to organize and provide basic labor protections to millions of workers who are not currently in a union.

Passing the PRO Act means undoing the damage of the Supreme Court's Janus decision, revitalizing the National Labor Relations Board, and rebalancing the scales between corporations and working people.

So I am proud to support the PRO Act because I know that when unions are strong, America is strong. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the PRO Act.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO GERALDINE AMSTUTZ

(Mr. HAGEDORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Geraldine Amstutz of Rochester, Minnesota, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 15.

Geraldine was born on March 15, 1921, in Grabill, Indiana, a small town founded and named after her grandfather.

After graduating high school at the top of her class, Geraldine went on to study music in college.

In 1943, Geraldine married Tillman Amstutz, with whom she would spend the next 63 years raising four children and eventually settling in Rochester.

Geraldine has always loved music, especially playing the piano, but her greatest passions involve people and art. For decades she has made personalized, homemade cards, sending thousands over the years to encourage, lift up, honor, and celebrate others. Approaching her centennial birthday, Geraldine continues making cards to bless others with her kindness and compassion.

Here is to 100 terrific years, Geraldine.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WILL BE LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the American Rescue Plan Act, ambitious and urgently needed legislation to end the COVID-19 epidemic and to facilitate our economic recovery.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to provide support to millions of families struggling because of lost work or grieving because they lost a loved one.

And this American Rescue Plan fulfills this responsibility, providing \$1,400 relief checks to Americans that are hurting financially.

For the Americans who have lost their job during the pandemic, the bill extends critical unemployment benefits so they can get back on their feet.

For children and families who are approaching 1 year of remote schooling, this bill provides \$125 billion to safely reopen our schools and protect teachers and students.

For small businesses that have been hit hard, this legislation could increase funding for the Paycheck Protection Program and other support loans and grants.

For over 25 million Americans who are struggling to put food on the table, this bill increases SNAP benefits so families do not go hungry.

For nearly 10 million Americans who are behind on rent and utilities, this bill provides funds to keep a roof over their head and the lights on.

And I am very pleased that this bill includes funding modeled after my legislation to ramp up and fund the manufacturing and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

STUDENTS MUST GET BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, as the father of three school-age boys, the health and well-being of children and school kids across America is one of my top priorities.

As we continue to navigate the COVID pandemic, I have heard repeatedly from parents across the 18th District of Illinois about getting our kids back in the classroom and back on the athletic field.

Throughout this pandemic, we have heard from experts and now President Joe Biden about the importance of trusting the science. When it comes to schools, the science is clear: Students and teachers can go back to in-person learning safely. The CDC is also clear on this. Risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the classroom is extremely low.

Getting back in the classroom won't just help our kids achieve their academic goals, it will also help with their mental and physical health, areas that many students have struggled with during this pandemic.

Hospitals across the country have seen increases in child suicide attempts and mental health admissions. Nothing is zero risk, but the consequences of keeping our children out of the classroom far outweigh the risk.

Our kids are suffering mentally and academically. The science is clear.

Let's put our children first and get students back in the classroom as soon as possible.

HELP FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Inland Empire of Southern California, the region that my family has called home for generations.

In my community and around this country people are hurting.

Businesses are struggling to keep their doors open. Families are wondering where their kids' next meal is going to come from, and our healthcare system is being pushed to the brink of failure.

Our communities are hurting, and they are wondering if people they sent to Washington to represent them are going to do anything about it. We need relief, and it can't come soon enough.

The American Rescue Plan represents real, tangible relief for our communities.

This bill will bring more than \$600 million into my community of San Bernardino County to help protect first responders, teachers, and other essential workers.

It will give small businesses the access to funding they need to stay open and to put money in people's pockets to help them make ends meet.

It will help crush the virus by expanding vaccine distribution and access.

And it will give our schools the resources they need to safely reopen and put kids in the classroom.

This is a unique moment in American history, and this legislation provides bold solutions that this moment calls for.

AMERICAN DAIRY FARMERS NEED AN URGENT FIX

(Mr. JACOBS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the Dairy H-2A Eligibility Act.

As I have traveled around my district and met with dairy farmers, their number one need has consistently been a reliable workforce.

Currently, dairy farms do not have access to the H-2A visa program because their work is not considered seasonal. My very simple one-page piece of legislation would simply make dairy workers eligible for these temporary work visas.

Farming is the largest economic driver in my district, and dairy farming is a critical part of the American economy and food supply.

We need to ensure that farmers have the resources and workforce they need

while enforcing our immigration laws and preventing illegal immigration.

This change would put dairy farmers on equal footing with other H-2A employers and adhere to the same rules and regulations in force today.

As larger reforms to the agriculture workforce are debated, I ask for the consideration of this urgent fix to ensure American dairy farmers can continue to provide for the American families and thrive for generations to come.

LABOR IS THE BACKBONE OF THE AMERICAN MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021.

The pandemic has made clear that we need to strengthen worker rights and expand union participation.

Across this Nation, frontline and essential workers have had to work in unsafe conditions with insufficient pay because of their inability to negotiate with their employers.

The economic fallout from the pandemic has laid bare the costs of severe income inequality in America, where corporations and the wealthiest individuals are able to thrive at the expense of everybody else.

Labor is the backbone of middle America and the key to addressing income inequality.

Protecting the right to organize and to collectively bargain ensures access to better wages, more robust benefits, and safer working conditions for hard-working Americans.

When workers are able to stand together and demand their fair share, we will all be better off.

I strongly support passage of the PRO Act and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and I am grateful to recognize inspirational women who have achieved success.

Inspirational women are the University of South Carolina's basketball team, who won a sixth SEC title in 7 years, the first time that has been done in SEC history. Congratulations to these talented women for remaining number one.

This game was also historic because it was the first time two Black head coaches met in a conference championship game with Coach Dawn Staley leading the Gamecocks and Coach Joni Taylor leading Georgia, an important milestone in American sports history.

Best wishes to the Gamecock women in the NCAA tournament.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Hatsy Young, widow of former Congressman Ed Young from Florence.

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DELIVERING HELP THROUGH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the American Rescue Plan.

Nearly 1 year ago, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the district that I serve. Now, the virus has infected more than 100,000 people in my district. No family in our region, in our State, throughout our Nation has been left untouched. Our sense of urgency could not be stronger.

The American Rescue Plan is an opportunity to deliver help. My corner of Illinois has thousands of small businesses struggling to keep their doors open, 113,000 kids who have yet to return to the classroom, and 150 towns in the congressional district I serve that need help to keep essential services running.

Mr. Speaker, the bill would provide an estimated \$27 million to Rock Island County, \$55 million to Winnebago County, \$35 million to Peoria County, and more than \$85 million to the other 11 counties in between in the congressional district that I serve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and vote for the American Rescue Plan.

ACT ON SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our southern border is in crisis.

President Biden has been dodging the crisis they caused at our southern border, calling it a challenge, not a crisis. They have opened our borders but, at the same time, kept our schools closed.

The Democrat's approach of "come on in" has reversed sensible immigration control measures put in place by the previous administration and led to disastrous results.

Compared to pre-inauguration numbers, Customs and Border Protection is encountering five times the number of family units trying to cross the border. We are on pace to have over 100,000 unaccompanied minors cross the border illegally this year, up by 45 percent. Customs and Border Protection is projecting a 20,000-bed shortage for the children in their custody.

Under his rule, asylum seekers are now allowed to come into America to

wait. And even if they are COVID-positive, they are released into the country—many of whom will never be seen again.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge President Biden to reverse these disastrous actions and return to sensible immigration policies that were present to stem the tide of illegal immigration.

PROTECTING RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE

(Mr. KAHELE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

The PRO Act empowers workers to exercise their right to organize and holds employers accountable for violating workers' rights.

In my home State of Hawaii, unions successfully raised the standard of living for thousands of our residents. I am proud to say that Hawaii has the highest union membership rate in the Nation, at 23.7 percent.

We must pass the PRO Act to make sure all workers have a free and fair choice to join a union.

Mr. Speaker, organized labor has opened the doors of opportunity for millions of Americans, to help them buy homes, secure healthcare, educate their children, and enjoy leisure time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, as an 11-year card-carrying member of the Air Line Pilots Association, I know firsthand how unions can level the playing field. Unions give us a stronger voice to advocate for higher wages, better benefits, and improved workplace conditions. Unions put the power in the hands of the workers.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will lift up American workers and strengthen America's middle class. I urge my colleagues to support the PRO Act.

HONORING GHOST ARMY VETERANS

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you in support of awarding the Ghost Army veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal.

This is such a great story. In World War II, the Ghost Army had a mission unlike any other. They were recruited in one of the greatest counterintelligence operations of our time, fooling the Nazis with inflatable tanks, mannequins, and decoys.

It is estimated that they saved tens of thousands of American soldiers' lives. Their work was so groundbreaking that it remained classified for more than 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Ghost Army and their legacy have never been formally recognized. This bill is long overdue for the soldiers and their families. Of the