

House will pass, tomorrow, the American Rescue Plan, a comprehensive plan that the Biden-Harris administration and our Democrat-led House and Senate has crafted which will give constituents in the district that I represent, and all Americans, the chance for some relief.

Our plan will help crush the COVID-19 virus and get the economy moving again by getting vaccines into arms across the country. Because in places like my home State of Texas, where Greg Abbott, who is the Governor, is prematurely lifting COVID-19 restrictions, the best thing we can do to combat a potential surge against the virus is to make sure that everybody has a vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am a proud supporter and will vote for the American Rescue Plan tomorrow, because we need a bold solution like this one for our country and economy to get back on the right track and to get back to normal.

DELIVERING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Michigander as my home State is recognizing 1 year from the arrival of our first cases of COVID-19.

I rise today to say that more help is on the way, that today we are delivering for the American people and delivering for my home State of Michigan.

I rise today to say that we passed the PRO Act to stand up for hardworking Michiganders, that we will get rid of right-to-work, that people are at the heart of what we do here in this Chamber, and that by prioritizing the legislation that stands up for hardworking Americans, we are delivering for them.

Tomorrow, we will pass the Butch Lewis Act. We will right the pensions of almost a million Americans. That is what we came here to do. That is what unity is.

DEMOCRATS' SPENDING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), my friend, who had someone that was very special in his life that he wanted to talk about.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DREW DANIEL

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here tonight saddened because a little over a year ago, I took to the House floor to pay

tribute to a dear friend, Peggy Daniel of west Tennessee, who had recently passed away.

Today, we honor the life of her son and my friend, Drew Daniel, who left us way too soon. Drew passed away last week. He was a native of west Tennessee, the son of my friends, Peggy and Jimmy Daniel.

Drew moved to Shelby County in the early 1990s for college, and he received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Memphis, where he then later achieved a master's degree in public administration. Drew interned in the House of Representatives for then-Congressman Don Sundquist, who also was a close and dear friend of Drew's parents.

Drew loved to volunteer for his community, and he was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America, the Midtown Rotary Club, and Memphis City Beautiful Commission.

Drew was also extremely active in the Shelby County Republican Party and the Tennessee Republican Party. He had served as the Shelby County Young Republican chair and was an elected member of the Tennessee State executive committee of the Tennessee Republican Party. In 2019, Drew was selected as a Tennessee Republican Party Statesman of the year.

Drew was also a longtime valued employee for David Lenoir in the Shelby County Trustee's Office and then an agent for New York Life.

Without a doubt, Drew was a dedicated leader with a heart for public service and also for volunteerism. I really don't know many people who were more passionate about politics or their community than Drew Daniel.

I have so many memories, seeing Drew and Peggy cheering on the Memphis Tigers in the Liberty Bowl and the FedEx Forum. Truly, as good of a person as Drew was, he was a great son to his parents and a terrific brother to Mike and Melanie.

We are all better because of Drew, and he will be deeply missed by everyone. Roberta and I extend our deepest sympathies to his brother, Mike, and his sister, Melanie. Rest in peace, Drew.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, when we have someone special in our districts like that, sometimes with the chaos around here, it is hard finding time.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I wanted to do this evening is to start to build on a theme that I have done in the past, and I hope to be able to do over the coming months. But it is a little difficult right now because, let's be honest, the House is spending money at a pace where it is really hard for the Joint Economic Committee and even my own staff to try to keep up.

We are going to talk about what is going on, a couple of things I really want us to start to put in the RECORD, talk about, and get our heads around.

I have an absolute fixation of a moral obligation to the working poor in this

country and an understanding of what happened in 2018 and 2019 when the working poor, the value of their labor—and understand, for many of us who have graduate degrees and those things, who can work behind a computer, great. Our skill set is what we are selling.

For much of the workforce, if you didn't finish high school or you have moderate skill sets, your labor is your value. What is going on here right now is almost a type of economic violence to that labor value.

Yet, I am not sure my brothers and sisters on the other side even see it. So, let's first delve into a little bit of what is going on at the border. Do understand, one of the things we see in the math from 2018 and 2019, when the working poor got dramatically less poor, the first 2 years in modern times where income inequality shrank—not because rich people got less rich, but because poor people made money—the value of their labor increased because they weren't competing with armies of other unskilled labor.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be honest around here and say we care about the poor, that we care about the working poor, don't you see the economic violence we are allowing to happen at the border, making our folks have to compete with floods of moderate- to low-skilled immigrants? I know it is an uncomfortable conversation, but we need to see it in the totality of the people we claim we care about.

Then, the other day, I made a mistake on one of the hard-left-leaning cable television shows. They were trying to compare what we did in tax reform to the Democrats' \$1.9 trillion spending bill and said: Well, they are both \$1.9 trillion. But look here, this went to tax cuts, where this goes to spending. Isn't the spending so much more wonderful?

□ 2115

Once again, I need my brothers and sisters on the left to go back to school and spend a moment paying attention in their economics class. The elegance of the tax reform was that it made the value of workers' labor more valuable because the economy grew. We specifically made it so businesses would take part of that tax reform and put it into things that made their businesses more productive, making it so you can pay people more.

Remember, individuals' wages go up on two things, inflation and productivity. It is one of the reasons in 2018 and 2019 we had the fastest wage growth of workers, particularly the working poor in modern history.

So what is the Democrat solution to help these populations?

We are going to send them a check. And maybe part of that is good. There are people out there who are really suffering and hurting.

But what do we do next year?

The elegance of when you have someone's labor become more valuable is

that value sets; and then the next year, it builds on it; and the next year, it builds on it; and after a little while, they are no longer in the working poor.

We are going to do a patch that is going to load another \$1.9 trillion of debt. And over the decade, the amount of interest we are going to pay on that is not \$1.9 trillion, but it is probably \$1.6 trillion. That is one of the things we are going to talk about just real quickly here.

I cannot produce these boards fast enough to keep up with the Democrats' spending agenda right now. The CBO can't produce the data fast enough. The Joint Economic Committee can't produce the data fast enough to even get our heads around it.

So this slide here is from September. Understand, the numbers are much uglier today. It was a simple point in functioning 8 budget years. In September, we were saying each family would have \$230,000 of Federal debt applied to their household, the amount of debt. So that is every household. That is not tax-paying households; that is every household. Today, my back-of-the-napkin math is about a quarter of a million dollars in 8 years for every family in America. We are spending that fast.

Being the father of a 5-year-old, I see the economic violence being done by the left here to her future, to the kids' futures. I am looking for the day I have to sit her down and apologize that she is not going to live as well as I have lived because of what we allowed to happen here today.

Let's have a quick education. Let's walk through real quick where the money goes. Social Security, about \$1 trillion. Remember, this is based on last year's numbers. Today, these numbers have ballooned again. Defense, 724. Medicare, right now, I believe this year has now surpassed defense. So my last bit of math was Medicare was now starting to pass defense in total spending. Health, that is ObamaCare, that is all the other entitlements.

But if you actually look at the slide, Social Security, Medicare, the other health entitlements, income security, interest, veterans. It is the vast majority of spending. Yet you look at these tiny little slices, like, this little slice over here is foreign aid.

Yet how often do the politicians get behind these microphones and say, well, if we would cut foreign aid?

If this were a clock, I think foreign aid would cover about 14 minutes of spending in an entire day, in a 24-hour day.

If we don't get our heads around the fact that the Medicare, the health entitlements, the net interest are the things now which will drive our debt, I am terrified of what is coming. Because, understand, it is really hard to say, but our demographics, we are getting older very quickly as a society. If you look at the 30-year curve, we are a country that doesn't make it. We are so buried in debt.

And the economic violence the Democrats are committing tomorrow by adding another \$1.9 trillion on top of the trillion that is already sitting in the bank and hasn't been expended, that we have done this last year, are we thinking about anything other than our next reelection?

How about thinking about my 5-year-old daughter and what her economic future is. How about everyone else's economic future.

I am going to try to do a couple of these quickly. We were trying to use CBO's numbers. The problem is, they haven't updated them yet on how fast we are spending. But what is so important here in functionally 8 budget years—now, this slide looks a little different than your typical debt slide because we calculate it on debt that is sold to the public, not internal debt.

Remember, when you look at U.S. sovereign debts, there are, sort of, two pies. There is stuff where we reach into the Social Security fund, grab that money, and borrow it, and put IOUs in it.

The other debt that is economically dangerous—because when interest rates move, it causes a problem—we are going to talk about that real quickly. This is debt sold to the public. It might be China; it might be Japan; it might be your grandma's pension. In about 8 years, debt held by the public will double from where we were last year. Understand how fast.

Now, a lot of this, believe it or not, even though some of the crazy spending we are doing right now is the demographics, demographics aren't Republican and Democrat. It is just math that we don't like to talk about. But the fact of the matter is that we have made promises, and the money that we collected for those promises, we have already spent and we are going to have to borrow.

So understand the fragility—I love that word, fragility—we have given ourselves. Interest rates in January were under 1 percent. They were actually at .91. Today, when the market closed, I think it was, 1.54, something in that nature. Most of us go, big deal, this still is historically really, really, really cheap. Except, think about it. Just that little movement in the last 2 months is about \$600 billion over the next 10 years. Just that little movement, \$600 billion of interest.

What are we buying with that interest?

Nothing.

And there are a lot of economists out there who think, because we are spending at such a fast rate, we are going to start to chase our tail. Part of that may be because the economy actually is getting healthier. One of the great intense ironies is we are about to spend \$1.9 trillion, pretend it is a stimulus—even though a bunch of that money doesn't get spent for a year, 2 years, a little bit, 3 years from now—claim it is a stimulus, pile it on as debt that is going to cost \$2.6 trillion with financ-

ing costs added to it. Only a sliver of it is actually economic stimulus. And because we are going to the markets to finance every dime of it, we are helping drive up our own interest rates. Meaning, we are going to chase our tail economically.

Do you understand?

Remember the pie chart from before, that interest right now. We expect, within about a decade, interest may be the second most expensive thing in our budget. You will be seeing Social Security, Medicare, and then interest right up there, and that is going to consume everything. There functionally will be no more money left.

I know I am getting a little thick, but to try to drive this home, the changes in debt that happen from where the CBO was projecting back in January to some of the numbers we are seeing right now.

So just for the fun of it—I know this is hard to read. We just did a calculation and said, hey—the CBO basically said, hey, interest rates are going to go up a quarter percent. Think of it as 25 basis points. But if we went up 100 basis points in interest, over the 10 years of financing that, we are basically looking at—what is that—another \$3.5 trillion of financing costs.

So, yes, you get to say we are spending that \$1.9 trillion today, but do you understand the total cost of that?

So it is not just the cost of the legislation. It is the cascade effect that you are creating to the economy; where that family who wants to buy their first home, you just raised their mortgage interest rates.

But on a national basis, this year we will finance probably about \$10 trillion. My quick estimate is about \$7 trillion on just our bonds that are rolling off, that we have to refinance because we have no cash to pay for them. So they get reset at the new interest rates.

Then we have our typical spending. So there goes another trillion dollars, plus the trillion we authorized back in December and last year, and now another couple trillion dollars. So another four on top of that seven, and you start to look at over \$10 trillion of new issue or refinancing coming to market of U.S. sovereign debt.

What did we just do to our interest rates, the world interest rates, the value of money?

And this comes back to my earlier point. We talk about what is happening in income inequality, the working poor. Those of us who have stocks or have a house or have assets, when you do this type of monetization of debt, when it requires the Federal Reserve to keep pumping in—today, we have 20 percent more cash floating around in our economy than we had a year ago.

People who are wealthy own things. They make a lot of money because their assets get more and more valuable.

The working poor who don't own a house, they don't own stocks, they don't have a bond, they don't have a

pension. What they have, they get crushed. That is what we are doing to the working poor here.

Please, someone, buy an economic book for my Democrat brothers and sisters to understand. There is going to be a lot of singing and happy in a couple months when they get the check. And next year, when they realize they are being crushed, who will step up and actually take blame, saying, we could have done things that would have grown the economy, grown your future income, made so the working poor actually had a future?

Instead, we are going to flood the market with competing labor. We are going to devalue any asset you have, and we are going to make it so you can never afford to get out of the quartile where you are trapped. And this is what leftist policies do to poor people.

So, look, this is a theme. We are going to build on it and we are going to bring in more and more data and facts and see if we can turn around some of the heads here to say it is not enough to talk that we care. It is when you actually can stand up and say Republican policies in 2018 and 2019, before the virus, we actually made a difference. We are the party that actually closed income inequality. We are the party that actually made the working poor less poor.

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

THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona for his very informative speech here about our coming, looming economic issues.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 weeks, the majority has attacked the First Amendment; and now they are attacking the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment clearly states the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. And as Justice Scalia noted in his decision in *Heller*, the Second Amendment does not give Americans a right; it protects a preexisting right. Hence, the phrase, "Shall not be infringed."

□ 2130

Our theme for the next 30 minutes will be about H.R. 8 and the damage it will do to the Second Amendment which is, as Justice Scalia noted, a pre-existing right.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE).

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we are all concerned with this bill, H.R. 8. And the reality

is, the big money donors and powerful special interest groups behind the Democratic Party for a long time have sought to undermine, restrict, and even eliminate the Second Amendment rights of Americans.

With the Democratic Party now calling the shots here in Washington, quite frankly, the majority party is not even trying to hide their true agenda.

Masquerading as supposedly good-faith proposals to end gun violence, what they are really putting in place are the stepping-stones to creating a national firearm registry and eventually even confiscating firearms.

H.R. 8 is being considered later this week, and it would implement a universal background check system. The majority claims that this is an obvious solution to gun violence, but that is simply not the case at all.

Gun violence in America is complex, and so are the solutions. But the overwhelming majority of criminals would not be stopped by H.R. 8 whatsoever. In fact, the Justice Department itself, by its own data, says that 75 percent of criminals in prison who possessed a firearm obtained it through theft, the black market, or family and friends.

Secondly, we know that the vast majority of mass shooters would have been able to pass background checks. This bill does not in any way end gun violence.

But what it does do is create a national gun registry that will eventually be used against law-abiding Americans.

Without a permanent database of who owns a firearm, the Federal Government would not be able to determine whether a private firearm transfer took place with the required background check.

So that brings to us the real aim of this bill, H.R. 8. It paves the way for this database to be used at a later date in a national gun confiscation program.

Mr. Speaker, don't take my word for it.

Even President Biden, himself, in August 2019, said that he does support confiscating assault weapons which he would consider AR-15 style.

So, Mr. Speaker, the threat is real. We are in a major fight for those who are trying to dismantle and eliminate the Second Amendment. We are not blowing smoke here. H.R. 8 is a massive move in that direction, and we stand here tonight to say: No, we are not going to allow that to happen on our watch.

We have to be vigilant, and we have to stand guard for our freedoms.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Arizona, for yielding to me.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I thank this body for still continuing the tradition of this opportunity to speak and have our voices heard, even though we are in the minority.

We don't control the floor, we can't put our bills on the agenda to have a debate, and often we can't even get an amendment considered on the bills. The Rules Committee strips out anything that would materially change a bill. Sadly, that has been a bipartisan approach to governing in this body. That is not a functioning legislature when those kinds of things happen.

Why is that important?

Every Member needs to have their voice heard, and they should be heard on the bill. They should be heard when this body wants to change our constitutional protections fundamentally. The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The majority doesn't seek to amend the Constitution, but they seek to nullify that constitutional guarantee with subterfuge.

They say that this is a background check bill. Well, every commercial firearm transaction today already requires a background check. It doesn't matter whether you do it at a gun store, at a gun show, or at any other forum, if you buy a firearm from a commercial seller of firearms, a Federal firearm license holder, you have to do a background check. You can't do it, Mr. Speaker.

Now, what does this do?

It basically says, Mr. Speaker, that if you want to even loan a gun to a family member to go on a hunting trip, then you have to get a background check. Someone would be criminalized for doing that. You can't have private transfers. Essentially, the government says you can't be trusted to sell a firearm to anybody. You have to go to a licensed agent of the Federal Government.

How do they guarantee that?

They guarantee that by creating a registry.

Why should we be concerned about that?

Well, that is the path toward seizing it. It doesn't guarantee that the Government will do it, but let me tell you about the Supreme Court and what is going on right now, Mr. Speaker.

Under the Fourth Amendment, there is a clause that has been interpreted by Court opinions to allow seizures for community care—warrantless seizures of property. This goes with civil asset forfeiture and all kinds of abuses of warrantless surveillance and the Fourth Amendment. If we do not stand up and defend the Second Amendment today, it will be just as abused as the Fourth Amendment's guarantee of privacy is today.

We have to oppose this bill. The people of the United States of America are constitutionally guaranteed the right to keep and bear arms, and this body shall not infringe it, and it shall not be infringed without a constitutional amendment, and that is not what is on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to oppose H.R. 8 and any such effort to deny the American citizens the protections our Constitution guarantees.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).