

family budgets, and providing Congress with accurate cost estimates that include the cost of debt servicing is commonsense reform that would hold Congress to the same standard, forcing lawmakers to reckon with the actual cost of raising our national debt.

Additionally, this budget is pro-life. It includes my bill, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, which would help prevent taxpayer dollars from funding abortion providers. This legislation will empower States to end the bankrolling of abortion providers and free up funding for healthcare initiatives for those providers that actually put the well-being of women and babies first.

This budget is pro-Second Amendment. It includes my legislation to prohibit a natural disaster declaration from being used to impose gun or ammo controls.

Finally, this bill is fiscally responsible. It includes my legislation for a Federal sunset commission to monitor the effectiveness of government agencies and prevent wasteful inefficiencies and duplicative programming.

I want to thank the RSC Budget Task Force chairman, Congressman HERN, and the chairman of the RSC, Congressman BANKS, for putting forth a bold budget.

We can get our Nation back on track. We just need to put in the time to do what we have to do here in Washington.

WHAT CONSTITUTES AN INSURRECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the commission to study the events of January 6, as well as spending \$2 billion in a security supplemental.

The question that comes to mind is this: What about all the riots that happened during the summer of 2020 after the death of George Floyd? What about all the damage caused to Federal buildings, churches, people's businesses, and innocent people that were killed, like David Dorn?

This past summer, Minneapolis city officials estimate 700 buildings were damaged, burned, or destroyed, including 360 local businesses. Riots caused an estimated \$55 million in damages in Minneapolis alone.

BLM and antifa established an autonomous zone in Seattle and attempted to burn government buildings in Portland. Is that not an insurrection?

On one Friday night alone in New York City, BLM protesters caused over \$100,000 in damages, and 150 people were arrested.

Just one Monday night in Philadelphia resulted in a crowd of 1,000 people looting stores, setting fires in the middle of the street, and 30 police officers injured.

Protests in Kansas City resulted in \$2.1 million in damages, mostly over

the course of one weekend. Several officers were injured as well.

Protests in Wichita, Kansas, cost the police department about \$1.5 million in overtime.

Protests in Salt Lake City cost at least \$100,000 in damages.

Protests in Denver cost the city at least \$5.5 million in damages and overtime.

BLM protesters in Nashville set a Federal courthouse on fire. The destruction is estimated to have cost \$1.2 million in damages. Again, is that an insurrection?

Protesters in Portland destroyed barriers and attempted to burn down government buildings, resulting in \$2.3 million in damages, including \$1.6 million in damages to the courthouse downtown.

In St. Louis, following a night of violence, buildings were looted, vandalized, and burned.

Protestors in Louisville set the courthouse on fire and shot two cops, resulting in a state of emergency order being declared.

Protesters in Kenosha, Wisconsin, injured police officers, set off fireworks near the police and courthouse, and set at least two city trucks on fire.

In Guilford County, North Carolina, a courthouse was broken into and set on fire, resulting in roughly \$200,000 in damages.

Protests in Oakland, California, resulted in a courthouse being set on fire and vandalized.

The LAPD was defunded by \$150 million, and some smaller crime units were eliminated entirely.

Studies show 570 protests in 220 U.S. locations turned violent over the summer. Are those not insurrections?

The \$1-plus billion in riot damages is estimated to be the most expensive in insurance history. It resulted in up to \$2 billion of damages in 20 cities across the U.S., mostly concentrated in L.A., Detroit, Miami, D.C., and New York.

Indeed, we should have a commission to study the violent BLM and antifa mobs that have plagued American cities this past summer, and that is for the American people who, by the way, pay the taxes that fund everything we do here.

Also, we should have a security supplemental to fund all the police departments that have been defunded due to the pressure from radical, violent, and socialist groups. We should back the blue because they certainly back us.

Also, while it is catch-and-release for domestic terrorists, antifa, BLM, the people who breached the Capitol on January 6 are being abused, some even being held for 23 hours a day in solitary confinement.

So, Mr. Speaker, my questions are these: Who placed the pipe bombs at the RNC and the DNC, which is an attack on both Republicans and Democrats? Why was President Trump's request on January 5 for 10,000 National Guard denied, and who denied it, and what chain of command did they fol-

low? Also, who killed Ashli Babbitt, and why is that not being revealed? Does her family not deserve justice? Lastly, when will the witch hunt of Donald J. Trump come to an end, and all of those who support him?

UNREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, what Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad are doing to Israel is nothing short of evil and barbaric. Even worse, some of my colleagues across the aisle and in the national media are excusing this violence against our closest ally in the Middle East.

It is a fact that Hamas and the PIJ, if they were to lay down their weapons, there would be peace. But if the Israelis laid down theirs, they would be exterminated. This is no secret because these two terrorist groups explicitly say their goal is to wipe Israel off the face of the map, and their actions back up their words, Mr. Speaker.

I think a history lesson and global current affairs update is in order for Members of Congress and media organizations taking the side of terrorists intent on exterminating Israel and the entire Jewish population.

For starters, nobody should forget that, in 1997, it was President Bill Clinton's State Department that placed Hamas and the PIJ on the United States' list of foreign terrorist organizations. Both groups are still on the list today and for good reason.

Israel removed their forces from the Gaza Strip in 2005, but in 2007, Hamas violently forced out Fatah, its rival Palestinian faction, and consolidated its control over the entire Gaza Strip. A terrorist organization controlling territory within mere miles of Jewish communities leaves Israeli civilians vulnerable to violent attacks, Mr. Speaker.

Israel's military blockade protects its rightful homeland from infiltration by radical jihadi terrorists. The blockade is important for preventing the transfer of weapons from Iran's Revolutionary Guard, which gives support to Hamas and PIJ. God only knows the devastation recent missile attacks would have inflicted if the Iranians were able to smuggle guided missiles into the Gaza Strip.

Despite the blockade, Hamas and PIJ still construct their terror tunnels and manufacture their rockets with dual-use materials like concrete, steel, chemicals, fuel, explosives, and many other things. These materials, which the Israelis allow to pass through their blockade, are meant for infrastructure in Gaza, only to wind up confiscated by the terrorists for their horrific attacks, Mr. Speaker.

If anybody questions the existence of the tunnels or their use, I recommend they go on the next codel to Israel to

see for themselves. I have been there and stood in them. They are, in fact, 100 percent real.

This is a dilemma for Israel. They want to improve civilian life in Gaza by letting these important materials pass through its blockade, but they also know their enemies will steal these materials and try to harm Israelis.

The violence that began last week came as a result of protests regarding an ongoing Israeli court order to evict Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of Jerusalem. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is serving his 16th year of what is supposed to be a 4-year term, Mr. Speaker, called for unrest in the streets. Not to be outdone, Hamas and the PIJ recognized a political opportunity to assume the mantle as protectors of all Palestinian people.

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These terrorist groups responded by gutlessly and indiscriminately firing over 3,000 missiles since last Monday at hospitals, schools, and other civilian population centers across central and southern Israel.

Thankfully, the United States provides Israel with generous military assistance for the Iron Dome and other missile defenses. This system has intercepted 90 percent of the missiles. However, there have been 10 Israelis killed, including two children.

Israel has the right to defend itself from unprovoked terrorist attacks from Hamas, PIJ, and anybody else. The Israelis responded forcefully, actively trying to limit civilian casualties by calling residents in targeted buildings and deploying “knock on the roof” warnings. This is a courtesy that terror groups like Hamas and PIJ do not and will never return.

Without these important measures, Mr. Speaker, hundreds more Palestinian civilians would be dead because Hamas and PIJ use commercial and residential buildings to house their military operations and ammunition depots. This disgusting tactic is the reason why the Palestinian death toll is higher and why the lives of dozens of innocent Palestinian children have been lost.

These terror groups are more than willing to use their own people as human shields for the sake of vilifying Israel. Unfortunately, the most radical Members of Congress and the American mainstream media have bought this narrative hook, line, and sinker, Mr. Speaker.

Hamas and the PIJ are no friends of ours and want the same fate for Israel that so many terrorists want for the United States: the complete and total destruction of democracy.

If you are going to blame Israel alone for the recent violence, you are being nothing more than a useful idiot and a publicity tool for the two terrorist organizations.

RECOGNIZING TERI TOPPING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I have the privilege of recognizing one of the millions of hardworking, taxpaying Americans who form the foundation of our Nation's economy through their employment in small business—in this particular case, the healthcare industry.

Mrs. Teri Topping of Elkins, West Virginia, has served her patients exceptionally well throughout her distinguished career as an orthopedic nurse manager.

As a result, Mrs. Topping is beloved by her community for the conscientious care that she has provided to those in need. Her outstanding performance has helped her local hospital, the Davis Memorial Hospital in Elkins, West Virginia, become one of the best hospitals for joint care in the entire Mountain State.

It is hardly surprising that Mrs. Topping's patients illustrated their deep appreciation for her incredible efforts when the Inter-Mountain's 2021 People's Choice Awards opened balloting to the public. In a heartwarming display, those graced by Mrs. Topping's skill and dedication voted in droves to grant her this year's award for Best Nurse. This tremendous honor is well deserved.

I extend my thanks and congratulations to Nurse Topping for her phenomenal service to the people of West Virginia. I encourage everyone, especially young nurses, to follow her extraordinary example.

Teri Topping and her husband, Ret Topping, are the mother and father of three beautiful daughters. They also are grandparents. They have their first grandchild, fortunately, living nearby them in West Virginia. I consider them personal friends, and they are pillars of the community.

Congratulations to Nurse Teri Topping for her Nurse of the Year award.

HELP FOR VETERANS FACING STRUGGLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, for eight generations, my family has lived in the mountains of western North Carolina. Many of my family members have served in our Armed Forces. I grew up surrounded by men of courage and patriotism who dedicated their lives and their honor in defense of this American Republic.

I understand, as much as one can without serving, the struggle a veteran faces attempting to reacclimate to civilian life. It is incumbent on the American people to work hand in hand with our veterans and streamline their transition back into the workforce.

To that end, I urge support for H.R. 2167, the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act. Included in this larger piece of legislation is a program that I am proud to advocate for.

My language in this bill authorizes a pilot program to allow States to use grants or contracts to carry out short-term fellowship programs for unemployed veterans. This program is not some revolutionary concept, but what it does is build off the successes of other pilot programs in the veteran community.

This program would authorize DOL VETS to carry out a pilot program similar to fellowship programs created by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to allow States to use grants or contracts to carry out a short-term fellowship program.

After the participating States have been selected by the DOL, each State would enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organization to carry out the short-term fellowship program. Participants would be provided a small stipend while they are participating in the program.

This program prioritizes veterans and opens up new and unique pathways toward employment. This new fellowship program will build upon the successes of other fellowship programs across the country, and I am confident that it will empower unemployed veterans to find meaningful work in the post-COVID economy.

The benefits of this program are numerous. It will give eligible veterans the ability to gain on-the-job experience in a field of their interest while earning a monthly stipend.

I will always fight for the veteran community in NC-11, and this program is a bipartisan measure that puts veterans first.

One of the foundational attributes of Americanism is our sense of brotherhood. Those who sacrifice for the good of this Nation are not simply a resource to be utilized and then cast aside. These are our heroes, and they deserve much more than what our Nation currently provides them.

When I left my mountain home to come to Washington, I promised the veterans in our district that I would be their weapon in Washington, D.C. I will never abandon those who sacrificed their lives and livelihoods in defense of our freedoms.

For too long, we have cast our veterans, these guardians of our Republic, by the wayside and derided their sacrifice. Never forget, America is the land of the free because of the brave. Together, we can show these men and women who dedicated their lives to us that we will not turn our backs on them.

Join me in supporting the new veterans fellowship program, and let's take a firm step toward supporting our veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2167, the National Emergency Extended Deadline Act.