

Together, with the support of the American people, we will never give one inch in the defense of the Second Amendment.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), my good friend who represents Kansas' First District and introduced H.R. 1758, the Home Defense and Competitive Shooting Act of 2021.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this important Special Order to highlight a basic right that we all share and love and that makes us who we are as Americans.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss President Biden's misuse of the executive order and its harmful impact on law-abiding citizens.

In 1789, George Washington penned the first executive order, directing the heads of his departments to submit reports on their operations.

In 1957, my fellow Kansan, Dwight D. Eisenhower used the executive order to send Federal troops to integrate public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.

□ 2045

Nearly every United States President has issued executive orders like these to instruct the government how to work within the parameters set by the Congress and the Constitution. Until now.

In his first 10 days as President, Joe Biden issued 25 executive orders, more than the last seven Presidents combined in their first 10 days. And the list continues to grow. Today, we are up to nearly 60 executive orders and more executive actions and memoranda than I care to count.

The power to issue executive orders is derived from Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution, which states that the President "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

When orders are based in facts and stakeholder engagement, like those we saw with Washington and Eisenhower, they work well to steward the execution of said laws. When the power to issue an executive order is abused, though, used to strong-hand the minority or circumvent Congress, the orders become a dangerous tool to undermine the American people and our democracy. This is what is happening right now.

President Biden recently penned six anti-Second Amendment executive actions in one day, banning handmade guns altogether; defining a pistol as a short-barreled rifle, allowing for more intense regulation; and mandating a report on gun gifting and trading.

In a recent interview on gun control, a spokesperson for President Biden stated: "The President will not wait for Congress to act before the administration takes our own steps, fully within the administration's authority and the Second Amendment."

We can no longer sit idle and watch dozens of executive orders from a single administration attempt to dictate

the direction of our country with no input from this Congress. Congress was created to legislate.

Governing by executive order is not legislating. That is why I introduced H.R. 716, the More Accountability is Necessary Now Act, requiring the executive branch to notify the American public and this Congress with its intent to issue any new executive order or revoking any executive order that pertains to our Second Amendment rights.

I also introduced H.R. 1758, the Home Defense and Competitive Shooting Act, pushing back on President Biden's intent to redefine pistols as short-barreled rifles and eliminating the prohibition on transporting short-barreled rifles in interstate commerce.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor both of these pieces of legislation as we stand up against any efforts, including shameful executive overreach, to diminish or weaken the rights of law-abiding Americans to own, carry, and use firearms.

The Second Amendment is a load-bearing wall in our Constitution. If you weaken a load-bearing wall, it is bad for the entire structure.

We must and we will push back against the relentless attacks on our Second Amendment rights.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, while any infringement of our Second Amendment rights is unconstitutional, policymakers have imposed even stricter regulations on some types of firearms, particularly short-barreled rifles. I truly appreciate my friend from Kansas' First District correcting this by introducing the Home Defense and Competitive Shooting Act of 2021, which will accurately classify short-barreled rifles as semiautomatic rifles, as they should be. They should be semiautomatic rifles and only semiautomatic rifles and regulated as such.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for affording my colleagues and me the opportunity to stand before you today in defense of the Second Amendment and to highlight commonsense, conservative-led proposals to protect and preserve our rights.

Madam Speaker, I thank each of my colleagues for their participation this evening. Their respective constituents should be proud to have such staunch defenders of the Second Amendment representing them in the people's House.

Though several of my colleagues who have introduced proposals could not join us tonight, the American people should know that the solutions highlighted in the last hour are not exhaustive of our efforts to restore, protect, and preserve our God-given right to keep and bear arms. Rather, the solutions presented tonight are just the tip of the iceberg.

Madam Speaker, I again reiterate to you my sincere hope that the American people will take the opportunity to share their thoughts with the ATF on the two proposed regulations that I mentioned, as you can see on this

board right here, as they have the potential to upend not only the firearms manufacturing industry but also the legality of guns in homes across the country as we know it.

My constituents sent me to Congress to do everything in my power to protect and uphold the Constitution, and I plan to do just that so long as they entrust me with their voting card.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CBC SUPPORTS INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight for the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour on this critically important topic, infrastructure. Tonight, we will share with you our positions, our plans, and the state of what we think about infrastructure.

I am so honored to be here tonight as a coanchor and as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Traditionally, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE would be here as our lead anchor. I thank her for allowing me, as chair, to stand in for her.

I am so honored that her coanchor will now be my coanchor tonight. It gives me great pleasure to talk about all of our members, Madam Speaker, but we are joined by someone who is not only a freshman but a freshman who is a leader, a freshman who is strong, a freshman from New York's 15th District, someone who came to Congress with a plan, someone who came to Congress saying that he wants to be here and be able to be a part not only of the Congressional Black Caucus but to be able to stand up and stand out and make a difference for his constituents. Madam Speaker, he has done far more than that.

Congressman RITCHIE TORRES serves on the powerful Financial Services Committee as a freshman. He is a leader when we talk about housing and infrastructure. Tonight, I get to dialogue with him. I get to listen to him, and we get to talk about other members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Tonight, we want to speak directly to the American people and reflect on

the ideas and the critical interests of our constituents. Tonight, we gather in the sacred Chamber on the floor of the people's House to discuss America's infrastructure and to amplify Our Power, Our Message. You will hear this throughout the evening because we realize that it is about our power and our message, 57 members strong of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Tonight, we will educate our constituents. We will educate Americans about the importance of the investment in infrastructure in our neighborhoods and our communities.

Tonight, we will stand strong in support of infrastructure because we know roads and schools in our districts are crumbling and need urgent repair.

We also tackle this with bold Federal investments in our country's roads and bridges and access to broadband and transit and water systems and housing and human care. The investment in infrastructure, Madam Speaker, would support workers and create millions of good-paying jobs in urban and rural populations, the types of jobs that support workers, engineers, steelworkers, bus drivers, childcare workers, and rail workers, and their families.

Isn't that what this is about? Isn't that why we stand up for the people, to make them able to have good-paying jobs to take care of their families?

The Congressional Black Caucus understands this because we have lived this. I know this all too well when we talk about roads and bridges, when we talk about waterways and broadband.

What good is it to say let's educate our children, let's give them the technology that they need, and so we give them a laptop, a computer and all the software, but in many of our rural and urban communities, there is no broadband?

What good is it to have roads and bridges that people can travel, but where are they traveling to? They are traveling home. But what happens when there is no home, when there is no housing?

That is one of the reasons that we are here tonight, so that we can talk about this investment in our Nation's future that includes extending key tax credits, tax cuts that were included in the American Rescue Plan, which the Congressional Black Caucus stood tall to help pass, that will benefit lower- and middle-income workers and families.

We even created a domestic policy transportation team within the Congressional Black Caucus to talk about infrastructure, and I will use their language. In their recent meeting, they said that we need a modern American infrastructure plan. That, too, is what tonight is about.

You will hear facts. You will hear data. You will hear stories. You will hear the strong testimony of why we are saying to all of our colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, that we need an infrastructure plan that works for the American people.

Madam Speaker, the majority whip, Congressman JAMES CLYBURN, needs no

real introduction. Mr. CLYBURN hails from South Carolina. He has stood on this floor repeatedly and talked about the American way. He has been a leader, a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, someone who has mentored most of us.

He has repeatedly said to us, which we must remember as members of the Congressional Black Caucus: We must exercise our power and our message. We must speak truth to power. And we must understand that on days that are bad and days that are weak, we are the strength. We are the Members that the American people who look like me look for. We are leaders.

Often, people will say: What is it that the Congressional Black Caucus stands for? What is it that the Congressional Black Caucus does?

Well, let me just tell you, the third most powerful man in the United States Congress is a part of the Congressional Black Caucus. We have six members of the Congressional Black Caucus that make up full chairs of committees and more than 22 that represent subcommittee chairs.

Tonight, as we talk about infrastructure—roads, bridges, broadband, waterways—we also talk about care, human care, human infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great honor to yield to Congressman JAMES CLYBURN.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding to me. I thank her for the tremendous leadership she has given as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I appreciate her work, and I appreciate her friendship.

Madam Speaker, I woke up this morning to several headlines, one of which came from a little town in my congressional district, Summerton, South Carolina.

Those who have studied a little bit of our history will know that Summerton is a little town that started our Nation on the road to Brown v. Board of Education. It was Briggs v. Elliott, the first case to challenge segregated schools in this country, and that case became one of five that have become known as Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

But that is not why Summerton, South Carolina, was in the news today. It was in the news today because that little town's entire water system has failed. All the people in that town have been subjected, over the last several weeks, to poison in their water system.

People were getting sick. Nobody knew what was causing it. People were being diagnosed with all kinds of things, like swimmer's ear when they had never been in a swimming pool.

□ 2100

Today, the estimated cost of fixing their water system is more than the entire budget of the town.

Summerton is just one example of what is happening all over this country. Little towns like Summerton,

rural communities, schools, childcare centers, you name it, the people in that little town need their infrastructure fixed.

Now, that is traditional.

But I will tell you something else about the little town of Summerton: Scott's Branch High School, the school where Brown v. Board of Education started, that is what the school was, Scott's Branch High School; it is still there. It is the third building, but the school is still named the same. Less than 34 percent of the students in that school district are connected to the internet.

Now that means in that little school that challenged segregation years ago because they were not being adequately educated—and I can talk all night about this—kids walking 9.4 miles to school every day one way and 9.4 miles back home. They weren't suing to integrate the schools, all they wanted was a school bus. These are the basic things. And you look at that school district today, they want to be connected to the internet.

And we have colleagues in this place who tell us that they are all for an infrastructure bill so long as it confines itself to traditional infrastructure issues like roads and bridges.

Well, we need roads and bridges, but we need water and sewerage. We need to deepen our ports, fix our rail systems. The greatest country on Earth needs to do something about its rail system.

And I remember when rail was not traditional infrastructure. Of course, I wasn't around, but I remember from my studies when rail was not traditional infrastructure. It wasn't until Abraham Lincoln gave us the transcontinental railroad that rail was considered infrastructure. The interstate highway was not infrastructure. Dwight Eisenhower gave us the interstate highway, and then it became traditional infrastructure.

Today broadband has got to be a big part of infrastructure. COVID-19 has exposed some real flaws in our system, and when it comes to education we have many children who have already lost a full year of school; some are threatening to lose a second year of school. What happens to a sixth or seventh grader when they lose 2 years of school?

But the children who had the internet stayed in touch with education, which tells me that in that school district there in Summerton, South Carolina, where less than 40 percent of the students are connected to the internet, they run the risk of 60 percent of their children losing another year of school. They will be no better off than those students were back when Brown v. Board of Education was decided in 1954.

So this infrastructure bill has got to be about more than what is traditional. It has got to be looking toward the future. And it seems to me that we, as the greatest country in the world, need to look to the future. What do we want

for our children and our grandchildren? We should not tie ourselves to that which is traditional. Traditional alone means what has been. We need to be futuristic.

Now before I close, Madam Speaker, I want to share a little story. I often tell this story. Back when the rural electric co-ops were celebrating their 50th anniversary of rural electrification, they decided to publish a tabletop book, and they called the book, "The Next Greatest Thing." And the reason they called the book, "The Next Greatest Thing" is because one night a farmer in rural Tennessee stood up in church and said to them, brothers and sisters, let me tell you something, the greatest thing on Earth is to have the love of God in your heart, but the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house.

Think about that. Broadband will do for the 21st century what electricity did for rural America in the 20th century. And this is our best opportunity to bring rural America in line with the rest of us and make sure that children will not be limited in their educational pursuits by where they live. We are too great a nation for that.

This is a great country. It doesn't have to be made great again. What we have got to do is make this country's greatness accessible and affordable for all of its citizens.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank the majority whip for setting the stage for us tonight to talk about traditional and nontraditional infrastructure, especially broadband. I think we all learned a message about the value of going beyond what the tradition is, and certainly broadband does that for us.

Earlier, Madam Speaker, I had the distinct pleasure of saying how honored I would be to be joined by our co-anchor tonight, Congressman RITCHIE TORRES from New York.

I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) for him to make an opening statement as we co-anchor tonight.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair BEATTY for yielding. And I know brevity is the soul of wit, so I will express my thoughts as succinctly as I can.

I am honored to be the co-chair of the CBC Special Order hour and to serve under the dynamic leadership of the CBC chair, JOYCE BEATTY, who is a force to be reckoned with. I thank the gentlewoman for affording me the honor to co-chair the CBC Special Order hour.

I echo what our majority whip said, that we cannot afford to take an obsolete view of infrastructure. Infrastructure is about more than roads and bridges. It is about the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. It is about access to the internet, especially in a world of remote learning and telehealth. It is about safe, decent, affordable housing, which is a human right.

Abraham Maslow spoke about a hierarchy of needs, and the highest need we have is self-actualization. And in order to actualize ourselves, we have to meet our most fundamental needs, our need for employment, housing, transit, and education. That is what we mean by infrastructure.

Infrastructure is not simply physical, but it is social and human. It is that which enables us to become the best version of ourselves.

The component of infrastructure that matters most to me is affordable housing. I would not be where I am today were it not for affordable housing and the stability that it gave me and my family. For me affordable housing is not simply brick-and-mortar, but it is the foundation on which we build a better life for ourselves and our family.

It is often said that the south Bronx is the poorest congressional district in America, but I think of the south Bronx as the essential congressional district. Because it is home to essential workers who put their lives at risk during the peak of the pandemic so that the rest of the city and the country could safely shelter in place.

And I believe deeply that the essential workers of America, the essential workers of New York City should be able to afford to live in a city that cannot survive and succeed without them.

□ 2110

Now, the American Jobs Plan proposes hundreds of billions of dollars in new funding for affordable housing, but just as important as the dollar amount is how those dollars are spent. If we simply invest those dollars in expanding housing supply without expanding housing subsidy, then we run the risk of creating housing that leaves behind the lowest income Americans. We run the risk of creating the appearance rather than the reality of affordable housing.

When the subject of affordable housing is raised, the question that often comes to mind is: Affordable for whom?

We need deep affordability. We need real affordability. And the best path to deep affordability—to affordability for all Americans—is housing vouchers for all. Housing vouchers ensure that you pay no more than 30 percent of your income towards your rent.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to sponsor legislation with Chair WATERS and subcommittee Chair CLEAVER, which would expand the Section 8 program and establish housing vouchers as an entitlement, as a human right, codified in Federal law.

Housing vouchers for all takes on a special urgency because we are facing the greatest affordability crisis that we have seen since the Great Depression. There are 37 million Americans who pay more than one-third of their income toward their rent. There are 17 million Americans who pay more than half their income toward their rent. And that does not even factor in the cost of utilities, food, transportation, and healthcare.

There are millions of Americans who are living on the brink of foreclosure and eviction in the midst of COVID-19. And at the heart of the affordability crisis is the gap between supply and demand. The demand for affordable housing far exceeds the supply.

Madam Speaker, I will provide you with some statistics in New York City. In New York City, there are 1 million households earning at or below 50 percent of AMI, which is about \$60,000 a year. But there are only 420,000 units affordable to those households. That is a gap of 580,000 units.

That is why we need a Federal Government that is going to take an expansive view of infrastructure and invest in the creation and preservation of affordable housing on a scale that we have not seen before. Our country deserves no less.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those eye-opening remarks.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield the floor to Congressman BOBBY SCOTT. Congressman SCOTT hails from Virginia's Third Congressional District. A proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus, he is also one of those six chairs who I referenced earlier. He is chair of the Committee on Education and Labor. He is a scholar. He is a lawyer. He also takes the lead role when we talk about the Congressional Black Caucus and how we plan for the future not only for education and childcare, but also how we plan for the Congressional Black Caucus' budget.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my colleague and friend.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and, more importantly, I thank her for her leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus and her leadership on the Committee on Financial Services.

Madam Speaker, we are slowly recovering from the economic mess that we inherited after the last administration. The number of jobs, up. Unemployment, down. Initial claims for unemployment insurance, down. The economy is going in the right direction, but, clearly, not fast enough.

That is why the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan are so important. The American Jobs Plan will create funding for the traditional infrastructure, like roads, bridges, tunnels, rail, public transit; also investments in ports.

It also proposes significant investment in broadband. And we have heard how important broadband is because it connects families and businesses to the internet, and connects students to the internet. Those students who did not have connectivity could not take advantage of educational opportunities for over a year, and if they don't get connectivity, they will be disadvantaged going forward.

We need to have universal broadband, and the investments in the American

Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan will go a long way towards universal access to broadband.

We even have electric charging stations for people who are not inclined to buy electric cars if they can't charge those cars on the highway. And people are not building charging stations along the highway because there are not that many electric cars.

The American Jobs Plan will have funding for electric charging stations so that more people will be inclined to buy electric cars. And not surprisingly, as soon as that happens, all of the restaurants up and down the highways will have charging stations so people will be inclined to hook up; and while they are waiting, they will go in and take advantage of the restaurant.

Madam Speaker, those are just some of the investments in the American Jobs Plan.

It also includes school construction. There is an article recently in Virginia that told the story that about 50 percent of the schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia are over 50 years old. That sends a disappointing message to students when they are going into old schools. It gives the impression that education is not important. We need to improve our schools, and we can do that with the funding in the American Jobs Plan.

Madam Speaker, we have funding to improve housing, that we have heard, and many other projects. Creating millions of jobs, good-paying jobs—mostly union jobs—where they are guaranteed to be able to negotiate a decent wage and equal pay for equal work. But those jobs will go unfilled unless we also pass the American Families Plan, which has funding for childcare and early childhood education and improved child nutrition so parents can actually go to work; job training and apprenticeships and improved access to higher education so workers can get the skills needed to perform those jobs.

These bills will create millions of jobs and enable workers to perform those jobs, and these programs will be fiscally responsible because they will be paid for.

Madam Speaker, that is how we will build back a better America.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. Congressman BOBBY SCOTT is right. Tonight is about building back better. Tonight is about the Congressional Black Caucus demonstrating our power, our message.

Madam Speaker, as I talk about our power and our message, it gives me great pleasure to yield the floor to Congressman ANDRÉ CARSON, who hails from Indiana's Seventh Congressional District. He is the grandson of a legend, someone who served in this House, someone who I had the opportunity to know and to witness her work in Congresswoman Julia Carson.

Tonight, my friend, my colleague, a leader when we talk about intelligence or counterterrorism, when we talk

about looking at the future and how we stand up for infrastructure. He serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, so he comes to us this evening to share his thoughts on how the Congressional Black Caucus can help with this infrastructure plan.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I thank the Congressional Black Caucus for giving us a leader, a hero, a visionary, a general, and a true public servant in Chairwoman JOYCE BEATTY, a fellow Midwesterner.

Madam Speaker, when I see people like Congresswoman BEATTY, it motivates me in the spirit of my grandmother, in the spirit of Fannie Lou Hamer, in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, in the spirit of Sojourner Truth. That fearlessness, that boldness, that commitment to liberation in freeing us from physical shackles along with mental shackles.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to join my great colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus tonight in support of the INVEST Act, a bill that we marked up over 18 hours in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, now this is one of the greenest bills to ever come to the floor. It provides strong support for sustainable infrastructure, green infrastructure, and green transit.

The INVEST Act also addresses critical water projects for clean drinking water and wastewater projects, priorities that are long overdue after the racial injustices discovered in the Flint water crisis.

□ 2120

The INVEST Act includes strong job creation provisions for minority contractors and transportation professionals that will help spur Black generational success and wealth.

We also know that access to reliable transportation is a civil rights priority. It is critical to economic and educational opportunities.

This bill makes big investments to cut carbon emissions. For electric vehicle technologies, it expands EV charging stations and networks across our country by investing \$4 billion in charging infrastructure, helping the U.S. shift to the next generation of clean vehicles. I am especially proud of the EV charging stations approved in the bill for Indianapolis, which has one of the first green bus rapid transit systems.

This bill also dedicates \$8.3 billion for activities targeted to reduce carbon pollution and provides \$6.2 billion for mitigation and resiliency improvements. It also advances the development and utilization of green construction materials.

It makes our roads safer with a great boost to smart road technologies and roadway safety programs, plus record levels of investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, complete streets

planning and smarter road design, and safe routes to schools.

This bill also strengthens passenger rail service, as Mr. CLYBURN mentioned. At my request, our staff request, there were provisions included to improve rail safety by addressing highway-rail grade crossing needs, as well as addressing trespasser and suicide fatalities and eliminating gaps in railroad safety.

This bill also creates a Federal blocked crossing program to collect data and enforce a 10-minute blocked crossing limit. This is a huge win for the problems we have faced in Indianapolis and other places as well.

Madam Speaker, the INVEST Act is a long-overdue bill, and I urge my colleagues to help us in passing this monumental piece of legislation.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman CARSON. I thank him for reminding us that America's infrastructure is in desperate need of investment. That is what this is about.

Talking about investment, Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), the second vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the chair of the Women's Caucus, someone who understands infrastructure probably more than most of us. You see, when she started as a postal worker before she worked her way up, she was in the community and on those roads. She was traveling across those bridges, and she was listening to people. That is why her constituents voted her to be mayor. As mayor, we certainly understand the things that you are hit with the most, our infrastructure, our roads, our bridges, our care for human infrastructure.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I thank the Congressional Black Caucus. I want to recognize and say how much we appreciate and how much Congress has benefited from the bold leadership of our chair, JOYCE BEATTY. I thank her for hosting, with the Congressional Black Caucus leadership, this Special Order hour.

Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the urgent infrastructure issue that needs and deserves the attention and the action of this body. Our water infrastructure in the United States is in serious need of repair.

Families in Michigan and across this country are struggling to get safe and clean drinking water because of lead pipes in their homes and communities, not to mention the contamination of our water system sources.

I am from Michigan, and the Great Lakes weigh on my mind constantly as the largest body of freshwater in this country.

A 2016 study found that there were more than 6 million lead service lines across the United States, serving 15 to 22 million Americans. This is a crisis.

Madam Speaker, I have lived through and witnessed the Flint water crisis in Michigan. I saw where the people, the United States citizens of this country,

their drinking water was poisoned, and because of that, we saw them getting sick and being hospitalized.

I am sad to say, not only did it happen in Flint, but it is happening all over our country. This issue disproportionately affects communities of color and the poor.

We have an opportunity, a once in a generation chance, to rebuild our infrastructure and to build back better for the American people. The Americans Jobs Plan and the bipartisan infrastructure framework both tackle our water infrastructure problem.

These proposals will replace lead pipelines across this country. It is an action that is long overdue.

This is an investment that could not come soon enough. I want this Congress to know that the Federal investment in public water infrastructure projects—it is embarrassing to say—under our watch has fallen from 63 percent of our overall investment in 1977 to just 9 percent in 2014. Let me repeat that. We invested, at one time, as a government, 63 percent in our water, and now it is down to 9 percent. This is unacceptable.

Let's pass a comprehensive infrastructure package to rebuild our water infrastructure, fix our roads and bridges, and invest in electric vehicles while creating good-paying jobs and positioning ourselves for the future.

This is a public health issue; it is a racial justice issue; and it is an economic justice issue. Access to clean water is a basic necessity for human life.

I am grateful to stand with my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus and call for our Nation's investment in infrastructure. This is our power, and this is our message. We must get this done.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE. She is absolutely right; this is a public issue. This is a racial justice issue because we know our roads, our bridges, and our water systems are crumbling. We know our electric grid is at risk of catastrophic outages. We know many schools are crumbling from lack of attention and neglect. Too many lack access to affordable housing, and too many lack access to childcare and education.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS). We call her our HBCU czar. She is the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' HBCU caucus, historically Black colleges and universities. She is also more than that. She has spent a lifetime educating children and college students.

She serves on the powerful Financial Services Committee, and she has a strong voice on the Education and Labor Committee and Agriculture Committee.

□ 2130

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BEATTY for

yielding. I thank Representative TORRES for his leadership and thank Chairwoman BEATTY for being such a phenomenal leader and a role model for all of us.

I am pleased to be here tonight to support the Congressional Black Caucus members, known as the conscious of the Congress, not only because of what we believe, but because we show up on days like this.

I rise tonight to talk about an essential infrastructure investment, an investment in our historically Black colleges and universities.

Earlier this year, the bipartisan leadership of the HBCU Caucus, Representative FRENCH HILL from Arkansas, Senator CHRIS COONS from Delaware, and TIM SCOTT from South Carolina, as well as our vice chairs, Representative TERRI SEWELL and MIKE TURNER, came together to introduce the bipartisan IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act.

We introduced this legislation to help light a fire for our schools. The IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act represents a historic investment in both the physical and the digital infrastructure of our historically Black colleges.

Our Nation's HBCUs deserve a level of investment and engagement reflective of their multibillion dollar impact on our Nation's economy and their collective impact on the minds of millions of our Nation's future leaders.

We have bipartisan agreement on that. Don't just take it from me. In the words of Senator TIM SCOTT, "HBCUs have educated and produced top-notch graduates in every field—all while operating on minimal budgets. I can only imagine what more they will accomplish with proper funding."

Our Nation's low-income, first-generation college students deserve that opportunity, and to ensure that that happens, the schools that they attend must be made whole. There are more than 102 across this Nation. I had the privilege of serving for 40 years on the campus of Bennett College in Greensboro, and I am a graduate twice of North Carolina A&T State University, and Johnson C. Smith University is in my district.

Finally, as we have a national debate about infrastructure in Congress and across the country, I want to make one thing clear, that the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act is not only an infrastructure bill, it is also a jobs bill. And this bill creates jobs and enables HBCUs to continue to be a critical source of diversity in the workforce. This bill has the potential to create over half a million jobs while investing in critical HBCU infrastructure.

Historically Black colleges and universities are essential infrastructure for the next generation of students, workers, innovators, athletes, creators, thinkers, and leaders, and that is why we need to pass the most transformative legislation for historically Black colleges and universities in history. You have got to rectify over 150 years of neglect, broken promises, and institutional racism.

Any infrastructure package that leaves this House must include a historic investment in our HBCUs. I am not going to rest until we remove all of the barriers to their success and the success of our HBCU students.

So I ask my colleagues to please join me in our bipartisan list of over 70 cosponsors in the House and Senate in supporting the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act. Our power. Our message.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS for her comments.

It is always a pleasure when we have the opportunity to work together. And I say to Congressman TORRES that that is what we are going to do tonight.

I could not think of a better segue than to pitch it to Representative TORRES. We have two members of the Congressional Black Caucus from the great State of New York. I am so used to saying the great State of Ohio, but tonight we have two freshman members of the Congressional Black Caucus who have been great supporters to our message, our power, who have been fearless leaders.

So at this time, I say to Congressman TORRES, my coanchor, that I think it would be best for him to yield the floor to and make some remarks about Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN who will speak next.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES.)

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, we are not only from the great State of New York but the great county of the Bronx.

Education is infrastructure and who better to speak about education than a lifelong educator.

Well, before running for Congress, our next speaker was a principal who dedicated his life to educating the students of the northeast Bronx. He is one of the first Black Members of Congress to ever represent Westchester County, which has historically been ground zero for resistance to fair housing.

If you have ever seen the movie, "Show Me a Hero," in Yonkers, that is the district of our next speaker. Even though he embodies how far we have come as a country, he knows more than most how far we must go.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN), the one and only.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman TORRES for that introduction and for yielding, and I thank him for his overall leadership and vision, not just for our country, but for the Boogie Down Bronx.

I thank Madam Chairwoman for her incomparable leadership, and wisdom, and vision for the CBC and for our country.

It is my honor to stand here with both of you to call for a big, bold, visionary infrastructure package that finally addresses the disparities in our economy. We like to think of America as the land of opportunity where anyone can achieve success and shape their

own future with little more than hard work and determination. For many people, that is exactly the reality that they exist within, thanks to a little luck, determination, opportunity, and one-sided historical Federal investment.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to us believe that this accurately represents our history, but, unfortunately, most Black Americans have been written out of this narrative. Consider the world as it exists today in our history of the redlining of Black and Brown communities, as well as other racially biased policies of the New Deal. These divisions have always been rooted in Federal policy.

President Biden has said he considers this infrastructure package to constitute a generational investment in the American public and in communities like mine in the Bronx, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, and Yonkers. And now is the time for us to right the wrongs of that history.

The infrastructure package of 2021 must be rooted in racial and economic justice. We must uplift the care economy, fix our public housing, rebuild our crumbling schools, expand access to Medicare, and end our dependency on fossil fuels, among many other things. No American with this infrastructure package should be left behind.

As the White House considers this infrastructure package, let's take a deeper trip into our history. In 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act, redistributing 10 percent of the land in the country, arguably constituting the single greatest wealth transfer in our history. African Americans never received their 40 acres of land after slavery, while White Americans received millions of acres of land which gave them the opportunity to self-actualize.

Housing now accounts for over 40 percent of household wealth, with much of this housing-related wealth stemming from Federal investments in homeownership during the New Deal. Because of redlining—one of the largest drivers of the wealth gap—of the over \$1 trillion invested between 1934 and 1962, in 2021 dollars, less than 2 percent went to non-White families.

We can no longer attempt to build out the middle class on the backs of marginalized communities. We must make sure that the next round of generational investment incorporates everyone, beginning with those most marginalized.

If we make this infrastructure package inclusive and comprehensive, we can give every single American a job, a career, and the resources they need to flourish from the Bronx; to Mount Vernon; to Yonkers; to New Rochelle, New York.

If we have the courage to address the climate, economic, and racial injustices that threaten the human race, we can give our children and grandchildren a future they deserve.

We can either impart the full story of American history to our children or doom ourselves to relive it. In the case of infrastructure, an investment of this scale, repeating the failures of the past is unacceptable. To meet the promise of our democracy, we must give every person in our country an opportunity to both survive and thrive. That begins with a robust and comprehensive infrastructure package. This is our time. This is our moment.

□ 2140

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman BOWMAN for reminding us of our history, as well as the need.

I am sure if Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE was at this microphone tonight, Congressman TORRES, she would look to you and she would say, let's get this done. She would look to you and she would remind us that part of this bold action means we must use all of our available resources.

She would remind us, in 2017, that the Republicans used the reconciliation process twice. Oh, how I remember how they used it against the Affordable Care Act. And how I remember that they used it not only for taking away American's healthcare, but a second time to pass the GOP tax scam of 2017, in giving more money to those in the top 1 percent.

But, tonight, we have heard from the top of our leadership. We have heard from Members from across the United States.

Now it gives me great pleasure to bring our last speaker to the podium. He is also our newest Member to Congress. He hails from the great State of Louisiana. He is someone who is no stranger to being an elected official. He is someone who has dedicated his life to serving the people. He has been successful. He is here in his own right, serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the Small Business Committee.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), my colleague and friend.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Madam Chairman BEATTY, Coanchor TORRES, it is indeed an honor to join you tonight with your incredible leadership, Madam Chair, with your tenacious ability to lead, direct, and command the respect of 57 Members of this august body, to fight tirelessly on behalf of the people of your district, but also all the people of our great country. I thank you for your leadership.

This week, the House will take up an important bill for our Nation's future, the INVEST Act.

Americans have grown weary, and justifiably so. We have talked about an infrastructure bill for a very long time, and we have kicked the proverbial ball down the road as far as we can.

The people deserve more. The people deserve better. They deserve an infra-

structure plan now, and one that speaks to traditional infrastructure, brick and mortar, as well as human infrastructure, broadband, housing, opportunities for our communities to rebuild, to grow, to thrive.

As a Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and as a Representative of one of the largest transportation hubs in the Nation, I know this legislation will reimagine and rebuild our infrastructure in Louisiana and across America.

This is a big bill and it does big things. It steps up to the challenges we face now and prepares us for challenges to come in the future. It powers economic development, creating good-paying jobs, building and fixing our crumbling infrastructure.

It connects communities by supporting public transit and new, high-speed, low-emission railways between cities like New Orleans and Baton Rouge and the river parishes in between.

It restores communities that have been harmed by old transportation decisions, like neighborhoods and districts that were cut in half and live in the shadows of interstate overpasses.

It also invests in passenger and freight rail. Both are very important to me because my district is home to the only port served by six Class 1 railroads, and it contains a corridor that badly needs new high-speed rail from New Orleans to Baton Rouge.

Investing in and supporting freight rail would allow them to continue driving our economy and reducing greenhouse gases from shipping.

The plan to connect New Orleans and Baton Rouge was delayed by a short-sighted decision of a previous Governor. But this bill and this administration gets us back on track.

Connecting two of the biggest cities in the State with high-speed passenger rail makes all the sense in the world; tying communities together, creating jobs and opportunities throughout the State of Louisiana, providing the resources to have cleaner forms of transportation.

Infrastructure now means so much more than stop signs and sidewalks. It means access to broadband, affordable and safe housing, and support for people caring for parents or children.

This bill starts that, and the rest of our efforts must continue to move forward in the vein of including people.

We need physical infrastructure, but we also need human infrastructure. We need to invest in highways and ports, but we also need to invest in the environment and the environmental safety of our communities, because I have long said that people should not have to die for their jobs. We must invest in the corrections that will create a safer and better environment. We need to invest in our people. We need to invest in affordable housing and the opportunities for neighborhoods and communities to stand up.

I look forward to fighting for all of this, and then some. I look forward to

building back better. America deserves better. America deserves more. America deserves a robust infrastructure plan, and America deserves it now.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, how much time do we have left, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. BEATTY. Then let me close by saying thank you to all of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus. It was clear tonight that infrastructure is not only a big word, but it is a big deal, which encompasses many concepts, which comprises modern American infrastructure.

For some Members we have heard tonight, it is through traditional roads and bridges and waterways. For others, it is broadband and it is housing, it is human care.

Regardless of definition, the Congressional Black Caucus is ready to stand in the gap to support legislation and policies that will help infrastructure invest in America's future so we can build back better.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) to say thank you to our Members.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I will just quickly state, you know, we are in the midst of an FDR moment, and we have an historic opportunity to govern as boldly in the 21st century as FDR did in the 20th century. But the difference between

then and now is ours is going to be a new deal for everyone; Black and Brown new deal.

Mrs. BEATTY. Strong. Congressional Black Caucus, our power, our message.

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

□ 2150

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERGEANT AT ARMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS,
Washington, DC, June 28, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, following consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, I write to provide you further notification that the public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 remains in effect.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. WALKER,
Sergeant at Arms.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the extension, pursu-

ant to section 3 of House Resolution 8, and effective July 4, 2021, of the covered period designated on January 4, 2021.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker, on Friday, June 25, 2021, announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 409.—An act to provide for the availability of amounts for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Whistleblower Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1340.—An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 3385, the HOPE for Afghan SIVs Act of 2021, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 3385

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2021-2026
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 3593, the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 3593. A bill to provide guidance for and investment in the research and development activities of the Department of Energy, Office of Science, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-72). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 504. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2662) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3005) to direct the Joint Committee

on the Library to replace the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the United States Capitol with a bust of Thurgood Marshall to be obtained by the Joint Committee on the Library and to remove certain statues from areas of the United States Capitol which are accessible to the public, to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3684) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 503) Establishing the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol; and for other purposes (Rept. 117-74). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 4193. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify venue requirements relating to bankruptcy proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JONES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TLAIB,