

The increase in violent crime is the predictable result of liberal cities defunding and undermining their law enforcement, like in Austin, Texas, where the far-left city council cut \$150 million from their police budget. What did we see weeks later? A doubling in the number of murders.

Just this week, the police chief of Oakland, California, begged publicly for the city council not to cut the police department budget because it would result in more crime.

When you cut law enforcement budgets, you reduce the number of law enforcement officers. When you reduce the number of law enforcement officers, more criminals will be on the streets.

This is not rocket science. Stop attacking, undermining, and defunding law enforcement, and the crisis of crime will stop being a crisis.

#### GETTING ANSWERS ON COVID-19 ORIGINS

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of 4 million individuals across the world, including 600,000 Americans. It took the life of my mother-in-law, as well as the loved ones of many of my constituents in the community that I represent.

As we safely reopen our communities and evaluate lessons learned, we know no one wants to see another pandemic. As we hear of the new delta variant, I know I am not alone in wanting answers regarding the origins of COVID-19.

Reports of this virus having escaped from a lab must be taken seriously and looked into, especially as CCP refuses to cooperate with investigations into COVID-19's origins.

As we mark the CCP centennial, and it continues its quest to be the world's top economic, technological, and military superpower, it is more important than ever that we get to the truth.

This is a public health issue, economic issue, and a national security issue that, as we saw over the past year, will impact each of us.

#### RESECURING SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, in the 100 days Vice President Harris has been overseeing the border, an estimated 500,000 immigrants and thousands of pounds of drugs have flowed over the border into our country. Despite clear evidence of a worsening crisis, the Biden administration continued to dismantle effective policies.

When I visited the border, Border Patrol agents consistently expressed that eliminating the Remain in Mexico pol-

icy has brought on this current crisis. Now, the Biden administration is considering rescinding yet another successful policy, title 42, which allows CBP to expel adult migrants.

The data is clear. Human traffickers, drug smugglers, and criminals are benefiting from the Biden administration's open border policies. More fentanyl has been seized this year than in all of 2020.

Deadly drugs like fentanyl are flowing across the border into our communities, killing people in my district and all of our districts. Fentanyl was present in 75 percent of the overdose deaths in my home county of Luzerne County in the last year.

An open border is not some faraway problem. Consequences are reverberating across America. We must send a strong message of enforcement and resecure our southern border.

#### CALL FOR NATION TO RECOGNIZE SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today as I always do, with great respect for all and love of country at heart.

I rise today for a very special reason. Today is one of the days that I will cherish for the rest of my life. What I will do today is something that I believe will help us to commemorate an unfortunate circumstance that our country has been a part of.

This is the day that I will have the opportunity to bring to the attention of the Congress of the United States of America a very special resolution. This is a resolution that is supporting the designation of Slavery Remembrance Day.

The resolution proposes that August 20, 2021, serve as the first Slavery Remembrance Day. And this is done to remind us of the evils of slavery.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that as time has passed during my lifetime, there have been those who have sought to whitewash, to sanitize, the evils associated with slavery. This is a necessary resolution because this resolution will forever allow us to remember the horrors of slavery, the events that have shaped our current circumstances.

Slavery was our seminal sin. It was the sin that has, for too long—centuries, for too long—had an impact on the politics, the economics, the social standing of people in our country.

This resolution reads as follows. I shall not read it in its entirety today, but there are some portions of it that are exceedingly important.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the "Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021."

For those who keep records, it is H. Res. 517. It has been filed, and it has

more than 75 original cosponsors. I am saying original and more than 75 simply because, right up to the last minute, we were adding people, so more than 75 original cosponsors.

I shall do all that I can to memorialize the persons who are original cosponsors, and I shall seek additional cosponsors of this resolution.

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

Whereas we posthumously recognize the following Members of Congress, who served during and after the Reconstruction era, as honorary cosponsors of this resolution.

Their names are listed. I will not read them today. I want to do something very special when these names are mentioned, and they shall be mentioned in the near future. But their names are all here, persons who actually served in the Congress of the United States of America. These are persons who merit a special place in history because of all that they had to endure to serve our country.

Whereas, on August 20, 1619, the first 20 enslaved Africans were brought to what is now Fort Monroe, then Point Comfort.

At that time, the time that they arrived, August 20, 1619, it was Point Comfort. History has a way of reminding us of things. "Point Comfort," the place where 20 enslaved Africans arrived. Point Comfort.

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

Whereas African tribal chiefs captured, enslaved, and sold their captives to transatlantic slave traders.

You can't tell the story without telling the whole story. You have to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If there is a scintilla of a mistake in what I say, I would beg that people would contact me and let me know, because the truth about slavery must be told. And the truth is that African people sold other Africans into slavery.

Whereas over the period of the Atlantic slave trade, from approximately 1526 to 1867, millions of humans were abducted and shipped from Africa, and 10,700,000 arrived in the Americas as personal property.

Whereas the majority of enslaved Africans brought to British North America arrived between 1720 and 1780.

I do want to emphasize the fact that they were personal property, chattels. They could be bought; they could be sold. I do understand that this is a part of the history that we don't cherish. It is a part of the history that we don't care to recall, but it is a part of the history that we must remember.

We cannot allow ourselves to think, for any amount of time, that history will never repeat itself, and we have to be ever vigilant as to prevent history

from repeating itself. This is why we must have a remembrance day.

This is not the only remembrance day, my dear friends. We remember 9/11, and it is commemorated for the lives that were lost. We remember Pearl Harbor. We remember January 6, the date of the insurrection. And my prognostication is that there will be a January 6 remembrance day.

Days such as these, days that are infamous, should always be remembered in the annals of history, and they should forever live in infamy. But we have to remember these days.

□ 1145

Whereas 6 percent of African captives were sent directly to British North America.

Whereas by 1825, the population of the United States included about one-quarter of the people of African descent in what has been called the New World.

Whereas the Middle Passage from West Africa to the West Indies was dangerous and horrific for enslaved people.

Whereas the Middle Passage carried mothers, fathers, children, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, and individuals from all walks of life to slavery in the Americas.

Whereas although the sexes were separated, men, women and children were kept naked, packed—and even stacked, I might add—but packed close together, and the men were chained for long periods.

Whereas according to some historians, about 12 percent of those who embarked did not survive the voyage.

Whereas sharks followed the slave ships to feed on the bodies of slaves thrown overboard.

Whereas enslaved people suffered a variety of miserable and often fatal maladies due to the Atlantic slave trade and the inhumane living and working conditions.

Whereas infant and child mortality rates were twice as high among slave children as among Southern White children.

Whereas enslaved people often worked from sunup to after sundown, 6 to 7 days a week often without food for long periods of time.

Whereas enslaved Black families lived with the perpetual possibility of separation caused by the sale of one or more family members.

Stepping aside from the text for a moment, it has to be painful to hear this, to know that on the auction block a mother could be separated from her children and to know that on that auction block families would be separated and could be sent in different directions.

Human beings were treated as property. The suffering that they endured is unthinkable and unimaginable. It was suffering that not even the mind of Dante could imagine. They were persons treated, to a certain extent, like animals. The enslaved Black families were human beings.

Continuing with the text:

Whereas it is estimated that approximately one-third of enslaved children in the upper South States of Maryland and Virginia experienced family separation in one of three possible scenarios: sale away from parents, sale with mother away from father, or sale of mother or father away from children.

These are the horrors of slavery and the evils of slavery that we can never

ever forget. Just as we never forget other horrors and just as we have remembrance days for them, we should have this remembrance day for slavery.

Continuing with the text:

Whereas Nat Turner was born into slavery in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1800.

Whereas Southampton County was home to many plantations, and enslaved people outnumbered free Whites.

Whereas Turner learned to read and write at an early age, a young age, becoming deeply religious.

Whereas Turner was sold to several different masters over the course of his life, the last time in 1830.

Whereas Turner preached to his fellow enslaved people developing a loyal following.

Whereas Turner began planning a revolt with a few trusted fellow enslaved men from neighboring plantations.

Generally speaking, we honor people who fight being held in captivity. Generally speaking, they are held in high esteem, and they are celebrated for their desire to be free and their willingness to fight for their freedom—generally speaking.

But one has to ask: Where are all of the statues for Nat Turner?

Where are all of the resolutions that have been written extolling the virtues of Nat Turner?

The question must be posed: How can we honor those who enslaved to a greater extent than we honor those who suffered the horrors of slavery?

Continuing with the text:

Whereas Turner began planning a revolt with a few trusted fellow enslaved men from neighboring plantations.

Whereas Turner's rebellion began in August 1831, quickly growing from a small handful of enslaved individuals to more than 70 enslaved and free Blacks.

Whereas the rebels went from house to house in Southampton County, freeing enslaved people.

Whereas the rebels were ultimately defeated by a State militia that had over twice the manpower of the rebels, with three artillery companies reinforcing it.

Whereas Turner was captured 6 weeks after the rebellion was put down, whereupon he was quickly convicted and sentenced to death.

Whereas in retaliation for the uprising, Virginia officially executed 56 Black people with at least 100 more killed by militias through extrajudicial violence.

We are now talking about people who were killed because other people fought for their freedom.

Stepping aside from the text, we can never allow ourselves to sanitize the horrors of slavery. This resolution is important. There has to be a day of remembrance.

Whereas the rebellion caused widespread panic among slaveholders throughout the South, resulting in widespread violence against enslaved people.

Please, Mr. Speaker, understand, I take no great pride in reading this and presenting this. There is no great pride in this. There is pain. This is sinful and shameful, and we can never forget the horrors of slavery.

Whereas in the wake of the rebellion, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation making it illegal to teach enslaved free Blacks to read and write.

I take no pleasure.

Whereas the Underground Railroad was a network of individuals who helped around 100,000 slaves escape to the North.

Whereas the railroad began when a conductor often posing as a slave would enter a plantation and attempt to guide runaways.

(1200)

Whereas the escapees would travel 10 to 20 miles each night between safe houses or "stations" to avoid detection, waiting in safe houses for the next along the line to be alerted to their presence.

Whereas Ms. Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery along the Underground Railroad, a network of abolitionists who guided escaped slaves to the North, traveling primarily at night to avoid bounty hunters.

My dear friends, my dear brothers and sisters, many of these persons were not of African ancestry. We didn't get here by ourselves. There were people of goodwill, of many stripes who made it possible for us to have these opportunities that we have today. I thank them all. My prayer is that there will always be such people of goodwill to assist those who find themselves in harm's way, due to injustice.

Continuing with the text:

Whereas Ms. Tubman returned to the South no less than 13 times to free 70 enslaved persons, including much of her family, for which she would be given the name, Moses.

Whereas Ms. Tubman deftly led those she saved North during the fall and winter, when there would-be captors stayed inside to avoid the cold.

Some things bear repeating. Whereas Ms. Tubman deftly led those she saved North during the fall and winter, when their would-be captors stayed inside to avoid the cold.

Whereas in Ms. Tubman's own words: "I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger."

Whereas during the Civil War, Ms. Tubman served as a nurse, scout, spy in the Union Army, becoming the first woman to plan and lead a military operation in the United States, liberating 700 enslaved people in South Carolina.

Whereas the life of Ms. Tubman continued working to improving the lives of oppressed people, raising funds and building schools, as well as a hospital, in the name of formerly enslaved people, while participating in the women's suffrage movement.

Whereas John Brown, an abolitionist who ran an important stop on the Underground Railroad, dedicated his life to slavery.

Whereas John Brown led a militia in guerilla attacks on pro-slavery towns in Kansas, losing one of his sons in the struggle.

Whereas John Brown, with the help of Harriet Tubman, planned and organized an invasion of the South to free all slaves.

One has to ask: Where are the statues of John Brown?

One has to ask: How is it that we have statues within a short distance of where I stand now honoring those who would enslave, but not honoring those who would set the slaves free?

One has to ask: How do these things happen?

But one has to also be appreciative of the fact that their removal is almost a certainty now.

One has to be appreciative of the fact that there are those among us who

have taken up the fight for freedom, and they have brought it to the very floor of this House of Representatives.

I am grateful to those who have concluded that we must remove the statues of those who would enslave, and my prayer is we will replace them with some statues of those who fought to free the slaves. This is my prayer.

Continuing with the text:

Whereas John Brown began his invasion at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, but was surrounded and captured by Federal troops led by Robert E. Lee, losing two more sons in the fight.

There are still people alive today who don't want John Brown to be celebrated. They don't want the people who gave their very last breath, the very last ounce of their existence to the cause of freedom. Celebrate those who would enslave, but not those who would free the slaves.

I am grateful to those people of goodwill who stand today to continue the struggle for liberty and justice for all, as extolled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Whereas the 13th Amendment was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865, and provides that "Neither slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a condition of punishment, except as punishment for a crime whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

There is much more that can be said about the 13th Amendment. Because I do not say it at this time, I beg that you not charge me for not knowing some of the things that can be said about the 13th Amendment.

Continuing with the text:

Whereas beginning in the 20th century, African Americans began to relocate from Southern farms to Southern cities, from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and West, in a movement known as the Great Migration.

Whereas the relocation of formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants also included unfavorable and, at times, unjust interactions with law enforcement that often resulted in imprisonment and convict leasing.

Stepping aside from the text, in Sugar Land, Texas, bodies were unearthed. In Sugar Land, Texas, 95 bodies unearthed. Those who study these things have concluded that they were likely the victims of convict leasing.

Convict leasing was a means by which slavery was continued by another name. Convict leasing allowed laws to be used to have persons who committed petty offenses held in jail. They were detained. Couldn't pay a fine. These Black Codes, as they were called, allowed for convict leasing to continue.

Persons were arrested for just standing around, not having a job, put into the convict leasing program. And 95 such bodies were found of persons who are thought to have been victims of convict leasing in Sugar Land, Texas. Just outside of my congressional district, I might add.

Continuing with the text:

Whereas convict leasing, also known as slavery by another name, was a system that

allowed persons to lease imprisoned individuals to private entities, often corporations and plantations.

Whereas the remains of 95 persons thought to be of African ancestry, who were subjected to the State of Texas convict leasing system, were discovered in 2018, at the construction site of Fort Bend Independent School District's James Reese Career and Technical Center in Sugar Land, Texas.

There is much more to be said about this. In the days and weeks to come, I shall say more about this and what has happened to these 95 persons, human beings, buried, to a certain extent, in a common grave area.

Whereas while slavery was abolished, descendants of the enslaved continue to live with the effects of slavery's progenies: Jim Crow, mass lynchings, segregation, police brutality, mass incarceration, and institutionalized racism.

□ 1215

Stepping aside from the text, I am a son of the segregated South. I have experienced these progenies, some of them. Not all of them, of course, I am 73 years of age. I have been blessed to live longer than many thought I would, not because of some illness, but because I was born Black.

The prognosticators never projected or prognosticated that I would be standing here. There was nothing at my birth that would have given anyone reason to believe that I would stand here. And probably there was nothing that would give persons reason to believe that I would stand here and read this resolution.

For many, this is a resolution that is not supposed to be filed; it is not supposed to be heard.

I am a liberated Democrat. I am not going to allow my agenda, the agenda of those who have suffered, to go unnoticed. It won't happen on my watch. As long as I am in this House, I am going to remind us that we have a duty and a responsibility, as well as an obligation, to understand the evils of slavery and understand how they have not evaporated. They have not simply faded away. To this day, the progenies of the evils still haunt us. They haunt us in this very House.

For those who are offended, I beg that you would forgive me, but I don't have any recourse. Those who sent me here, they didn't send me here to do all that I can to get along and go along. They sent me here to try to make a difference. I guess I have a case of the "can't help it's."

I do what I can do, because I know my history, and I have suffered the pain from a progeny of slavery.

Continuing with the text:

Whereas despite the horrors of slavery and against all odds, enslaved people became thought leaders and revolutionaries and changed the course of American history.

Too often they are forgotten, pushed aside.

Too often, the history that they made is stolen.

Too often the status quo will wait until they can find a proper person to attribute the history to.

The status quo too often selects the persons that ought to be celebrated in history, and too often those persons are not the persons who suffered to bring the history to a better place.

The status quo has many ways to defend itself. The status quo can do it with the power of appointment.

The status quo can do it by acknowledging people and ignoring others.

The status quo has many ways to defend itself.

I am reminded of the words of Voltaire. He reminds us that—and I am paraphrasing—it is dangerous to be right in matters where the established powers are wrong.

So the status quo defends itself, and the true history is not always known. There will come a time, however, when the truth about some of the history I am aware of will be made known.

Mr. Chairman, the House is not in order. Someone appears to be on the phone in the House. I ask that we kindly investigate. This is a matter of serious concern, and a person ought not be on the phone in the House. It is contrary to the rules of the House. A person ought not do this when a serious matter is being discussed on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Doesn't matter who that person is, by the way. And if the person doesn't stop, I will put the person's name in the RECORD, because I know who it is. I am not going to suffer that kind of disrespect.

Resolved, this resolution may be cited as the "Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021." That is section 1 in the short title.

Section 2, Slavery Remembrance Day.

That the House of Representatives:

One, supports the designation of a "Slavery Remembrance Day" to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery.

Two, condemns slavery and its evil progenies; and encourages all to acknowledge the importance of slavery remembrance.

I am grateful to the Speaker for allowing the time. I am grateful to the majority leader. I am grateful to the whip. I am grateful to all of the chairs. I am grateful to the many persons who are cosponsors of this resolution.

As I indicated, it was coming to me as I was moving to the floor, and I have found a note from my staff. I am eternally grateful to my staff.

Seventy-seven cosponsors. These are the persons who are part of what I believe to be a historic resolution.

Those who are not should not be condemned. We simply but only ask that they would become cosponsors, and this can be accomplished quite easily. Contact my office and let us know that you would like to be a cosponsor. The love we have for you is not diminished one scintilla because you are not an original; it is not. I am not that kind of guy. I am interested in having persons of goodwill become a part of this resolution. And there is much more that will be said and done as we move forward with the resolution.

I thank all of the persons who are here today. I appreciate the fact that

this House functions as efficaciously as it does.

I am going to remember who was standing with the gavel at hand. I am going to remember the faces. This is a special moment in time. I will remember those who were to speak after me.

I will remember this wonderful lady who is seated over to my left, who has always been so kind and so generous and gentle.

I will remember the person who has prevented someone else from talking on the phone and who doesn't allow it to happen in this House when there is business before this House. She is even-handed; she treats all of us the same.

I will remember the Parliamentarian, who has allowed his COVID beard to continue. That is just a joke, friends. I want to bring a bit of levity. But the Parliamentarian has been very helpful, and all of those who are associated with the office, have been very helpful.

I pray that on the August 20 or before, this resolution will receive a vote in this House so that this House can go on record, as it has gone on record for many other things, as supporting Slavery Remembrance Day.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor now to yield back the balance of my time.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Richmond High School softball team, the Division 3 State champions.

As you know, softball, especially girls softball, has been very near and dear to my heart.

The Richmond girls persevered through a hard-fought championship game against Buchanan, including being down 1 to 0 going into the sixth inning.

After losing two of their first three games, the Richmond girls showed that they would not give up on their team and ended their season on a 22-game win streak.

With everything that these students have had to fight through this year, softball has been their rock. They continued to fight to prove that no matter what adversity was in front of them, they would overcome it.

We are all so proud of you. Congratulations Richmond girls softball team.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Unionville-Sebewaing High School's softball team, the back-to-back Division 4 State champs.

The girls of Unionville-Sebewaing, also known as U-S-A, proved to the entire State of Michigan that they remain at the top of Division 4 with their 14-1 victory over Rudyard.

Congratulations.

□ 1230

#### HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 30 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your courtesies. And I begin with a clarion call. The Speaker wears many hats, and we have been in meetings where we have focused our legislative prowess, legislative questions, on voting rights. So, I think it is appropriate to begin today to say that a crisis is pending.

I am stunned by this decision. I am aghast. I will not use the word "enraged" because action requires a calm and contemplative mind.

Today, the Supreme Court upheld voting restrictions. They might have written it and said they upheld voting laws. They upheld voting restrictions in Arizona and signaled that challenges in new State laws making it harder to vote—my God, I am going to say that on this floor—making it harder to vote in spite of the constitutional privilege that is ensconced in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments that generates into the States the dignity of humanity, that citizens' birthright is the right to be precise in your desires of your representation.

And then, it signaled in this article that challenges to new State laws making it harder to vote would have a hostile reception from a majority of the Justices.

The vote was just as we expected. All the Court-packing—all the Court-packing—has borne fruit.

Forgive me. I wanted to be on this floor speaking eloquently, if you will, about a myriad of things, but a 6-3 vote, not even a light of difference: three who were not appointed by Republican Presidents, and then, of course, the packing by the former President of the United States.

By the way, I just want to make a public statement. I know the First Amendment has its privileges. I ask the media to call the former President "the former President." He is not the President of the United States. He is not "President" and his name. He is the former President. He is not "President" and his name at the border. He is the former President at the border, creating havoc.

And havoc was created with this 6-3 vote. The decision was the Court's first consideration of how a crucial part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 applies to voting restrictions that have a disproportionate impact on members of minority groups.

It was issued as disputes over voting rights have taken center stage. We are still suffering from the Shelby case of 2013 that indicated that the Section 5 provision is unconstitutional and has left us with no tools to deal with this.

As Republican-controlled State legislatures increasingly seek to impose re-

strictions, new voting rules, we are in the fight of our life.

I am on the floor of the House today to indicate that there is no divide in any of us, thanking the Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman BEATTY on the urgency of voting rights, and the Judiciary Committee and the chairman of that committee, the subcommittee chairmen of that committee, and all the Members and staff, we needed this decision to be able to craft the record that is going to withstand and fight the battle and be able to pass what the Supreme Court cannot undermine with its decision.

In fact, we must thwart its decision. We must protect the vulnerable. We must not allow the disabled to be videotaped in Texas. We must not allow the hungry and thirsty to be denied water and food in Georgia. We must not allow judges to overturn willy-nilly the elections in Texas.

We must not allow, if I might, the idea of a former officer of the United States—in fact, the Chief Officer of the United States. We must not allow that person to make a mockery of the order of government.

There is but one President of the United States. That is President Joe Biden. There is but one Vice President, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS. And they are effectively leading this government and this Nation. They are caring people.

President Biden is, as we speak, either there or en route to the enormous tragedy in Surfside, Florida, to provide comfort but also to provide the strength of the Federal Government in any investigation that will proceed.

That is the able work of the Florida delegation and this President. They will do their job, particularly those Members who represent that area, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and many other Members.

But it is challenging to be thwarted in voting and to ignore the Constitution, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

So, today, I want to proceed with what I think is a necessary agenda that is so important to this Nation. I will talk about so many different aspects of the issue of governance, why voting is so important, and why we need to close the social and racial divide, or racial and social equity should be intertwined.

Let me emphasize, if you will, the enormous difference that what we are going to be working on over the next couple of weeks is going to make in lives, and that is, of course, the child tax credit.

Votes and winning the majority in 2020 of the House and Senate by Democrats, and, of course, the new President and Vice President, led us to the expanded and improved child tax credit.

It is a historical change that is a lifeline to the middle class and cuts child poverty. It provides children and their families with additional payments through the year that help them with