

democracies from all around the world, to put pressure on this illegitimate regime to exit.

One last thing I want to address is the issue of what some of my colleagues say is the embargo. It is unconscionable to me that we would have Members of Congress that would actually blame America for what is occurring in Cuba.

What people need to understand is they do business with nearly every country around the world, yet, nothing has changed in six decades. That is because everything that comes into this island, whether it is food, whether it is medicine, money, the regime takes it, and they use it to weaponize against their people. You either go along with their communist revolution or you get nothing, you starve. And that is the reality. So lifting the embargo will only further prop up this regime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President, I urge my colleagues, and there are Democrats and Republicans who do support Cuba at this moment, and especially those of us who are of Cuban descent. Let's have a Berlin moment here. Let's make history together. We need to just do it by encouraging democracies from around the world to join us, and we need our leadership to be extremely strong at this moment.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Live free Cuba. We are with you. We hope to see liberty in Cuba soon.

Viva Cuba libre. Estamos contigo. Espero que vemos libertad pronto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York will provide a translation of her remarks to the Clerk.

The Chair will remind all Members to maintain proper decorum in the Chamber.

#### RACIAL EQUITY IN AMERICA JOBS AND FAMILY PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, while the American Rescue Plan is changing the course of the pandemic and delivering relief for working families, this is no time to build back the way things were. We, in the Virgin Islands, can tell you that after suffering not one, but two Category 5 hurricanes in 2017. This is our moment to reimagine and rebuild a new economy.

Let it be known, the American Jobs Plan is an investment in America, that it will create millions of good jobs, rebuild our country's infrastructure, and position the United States to outcompete China and others.

Public domestic investment, as a share of the economy, has fallen by more than 40 percent since the 1960s. The American Jobs Plan will invest in America in a way we have not invested since we built the interstate highways or won the Space Race.

The United States of America is the wealthiest country in the world, yet we rank 13th when it comes to overall quality of our infrastructure. After decades of disinvestment, our roads, bridges, water systems are crumbling. Our electric grid is vulnerable to catastrophic outages. Too many lack affordable, high speed internet, and quality housing.

The past year has led to job losses and threaten economic security, eroding more than 30 years of progress in women's labor force participation. It has unmasked the fragility of our caregiving infrastructure. And our Nation has fallen behind its biggest competitors on research and development, manufacturing, and training.

It has never been more important for us to invest in strengthening our infrastructure and competitiveness, and in creating the good-paying union jobs of the future.

Like great projects of the past, the President's plan will unify and mobilize our country to meet the great challenges of our time: the climate crisis and ambitions of an autocratic China. It will invest in Americans and deliver jobs and opportunities we all deserve.

But unlike past major investments, the plan also prioritizes addressing longstanding and persistent racial injustice. The plan targets 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investment to disadvantaged communities. The American Jobs and Family Plan assists in creating equity and wealth creation in communities of color, which helps all Americans.

The American Jobs and Family Plan will transform transportation infrastructure, addressing historic inequities, and increasing resilience. It will bring broadband coverage to 100 percent while reducing costs, create jobs in renewable energy, revitalize our schools, veterans' hospitals, and support our essential home care workers.

The bill will strengthen financial security of working families through an increase in funding for key nutrition initiatives: SNAP, WIC, child nutrition, rural development, including broadband, rental, and other housing initiatives, and access to healthcare.

This will ensure a clean, affordable, and secure energy future by investing over \$14 billion in clean energy and science, which will create tens of thousands of good paying jobs. We will also make sure K-12 educational institutions have the resources they need, with robust investment in Title I and special education, Pell Grants, and other financial assistance so students' success is not limited by their income or their ZIP Code.

We will provide strong funding for minority-serving institutions, like HBCUs, like in my own district, the University of the Virgin Islands, along with Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribally-controlled colleges and universities.

The American Jobs and Family Plan will honor our responsibility to our

veterans by supporting them with investments in veterans' healthcare, including women's healthcare and mental health, combating veterans' homelessness, creating economic opportunities, and rebuilding military infrastructure.

House Democrats are supporting the Jobs and Family Plan, which will advance justice and opportunity, secure opportunities for underserved businesses, low-income communities, communities of color, rural communities, and others too often left behind.

Democrats believe that we should invest in what we value as a Nation. We are investing in the American people, American economy, and our American values of opportunity, prosperity, and justice for all.

#### RETAIN THE HYDE AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of retaining the Hyde amendment, and the bipartisan spirit that has allowed this commonsense provision to remain in law every year since 1976.

This past January 22 marked the 48th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which struck down any laws protecting unborn children from abortion in every State in the Union. The Roe v. Wade decision has now resulted in the tragic deaths of over 62.5 million unborn children, and currently it is estimated that as many as 2,500 unborn American lives are ended every day through abortion.

When this body first enacted the Hyde amendment in 1976 through funding for what was then the Health, Education, and Welfare agency, the vote was an overwhelming bipartisan 312-93. And even prior to that final enactment, nearly half of Democrats in the House voted for the amendment when it was first considered.

This began a 40-year agreement on both sides of the aisle that Americans opposed to abortion should not be forced to violate their conscience and religious liberty, by subsidizing abortions through their tax dollars.

The principle that no citizen should be forced to pay for these services that contravene their strongly held beliefs has stood the test of time, and it is one that this body should protect and highly regard.

But most importantly, this simple budget rider has saved more human lives from abortion than any other policy at the Federal level. Today, it is estimated that over 2.5 million lives have been saved by the Hyde amendment since it was first enacted.

To this day, this prohibition on taxpayer funding of abortion enjoys strong support with the American people. A Marist poll earlier this year found that almost 60 percent of the Americans opposed the use of taxpayer-funded abortions.

The Hyde amendment has historically been supported by mainstream Democrats as well. In 1994, President Biden wrote in a letter to a constituent, "The government should not tell those with strong convictions against abortion, such as you and I, that we must pay for them." Again, in 2005, he remarked that abortion was "always a tragedy," and said, "I think we should be focusing on how to limit the number of abortions." And as recently as last year, he acknowledged the fact that the majority of the American people agree with the Hyde amendment.

I can assure you that nothing has changed in the time since President Biden made those statements, other than perhaps a desire to appease the belligerent, liberal left that dominates Democrat policy today.

Back in Kansas, the Kansas Supreme Court wrongly ruled in *Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt*. They ruled that it paves the way for unrestricted, unlimited, and even State taxpayer-funded abortion. I am grateful for the work of Kansans for Life, the Kansas Catholic Conference, the Kansas Family Policy Alliance, and all of the Republican legislators in the statehouse who have placed the Value Them Both Amendment on the ballot next year.

The Value Them Both Amendment will allow for commonsense regulations of the abortion industry that protect both the baby and the mother, and ensures no State taxpayer funds will be used to fund abortion.

I am confident that when Kansas voters speak on this issue next year, Kansans will choose life. And I think Kansans' respect for the sanctity of life can be a model for Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, respectfully encourage my colleagues across the aisle to reconsider voting to remove the Hyde amendments from law. And I pray that President Biden will return to supporting the commonsense Hyde amendment as he had for his first 46 years of public service.

Congress must reaffirm our commitment to defending the most vulnerable lives among us, the unborn. We must reaffirm and retain the Hyde amendment, legislation that is supported by both Republicans and Democrats in Congress and in the White House, for over a generation. We must reject the abortion politics of the far left, and continue to find a way to work together whenever possible to protect human life at its most vulnerable stage.

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#### LOWERING COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Americans continue to face a prescription drug crisis.

Americans pay three to four times more than families in other developed countries for the exact same drugs. Kids, families, seniors, we all feel the effects of skyrocketing prices of medications.

Mr. Speaker, insulin costs have grown to 10 times that of any other developed country, with annual costs per patient, for just the insulin, now at nearly \$6,000.

One in four seniors reports difficulty affording their prescriptions, with one in five reporting not taking their medication because of the cost.

This is heartbreaking. It is unacceptable, and it demands that we, as Members of Congress, must take action now.

Whether it is H.R. 3, empowering Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, which will bring down prescription costs, not just for seniors, but for individuals and families across America, or my bill, the Seniors SAVE on Prescription Drugs Act, which will strengthen senior savings and expand access to the Medicare Part D Extra Help program.

It is time for us to lower drug prices, lower premiums, and lower out-of-pocket costs for American families. And it is time to take action and end our prescription drug crisis now.

#### BIDEN POLICIES HURTING TENNESSEANS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am concerned about the financial security of our Nation.

Whether you are standing in the checkout line at the grocery store or at the gas pump, it is clear that Tennesseans and Americans everywhere are facing a bitter reality. We are 6 months into the Biden Presidency, and we are feeling the effects of his reckless spending decisions as prices for everyday foods, goods, and even gas skyrocket.

According to a recent study, 83 percent of Americans surveyed said they noticed price increases in June and July. Right now, families find themselves paying 45 percent more for gas, 7 percent more for fruit, almost 6 percent more for milk, and 18 percent more for bacon just since Biden was sworn in.

Inflation is like a cruel and regressive tax hike on the working people of this Nation who can afford it the very least. For older Tennesseans on fixed incomes that often do not grow with inflation, high inflation is even more cruel.

President Biden's policies have caused inflation to grow every month since he took office and, often, at a rapid clip. This means Tennesseans and all Americans are paying more for groceries, more for prescription drugs, and more for household goods, and their take-home pay after taxes is worth less

than it was, as if they got a pay cut through no fault of their own.

What will the administration do to combat drastic rises in inflation? The answer to that appears to be absolutely nothing. In fact, they are doubling down and making it worse.

President Biden and his fellow socialist Democrats want to keep spending money on things we can't afford and increasing taxes on everyone, which, along with the inflation monster, creates a one-two punch to the gut of all Tennesseans and especially the ones who are most vulnerable and who can least afford it.

Another massive \$3.5 trillion spending package that will raise taxes and further fuel inflation is not what our Nation needs. We need to stop this spending spree on the backs of the taxpayer before it is too late.

The Biden administration can try to talk around it, but the reality remains the same: Their policies are hurting Tennesseans, and I will never stop working to hold them accountable.

#### INVESTING IN OUR FAMILIES, WORKERS, AND COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, the time is now to make bolder investments in our families, workers, and communities across the country.

For years, I have said that America is living off the investments our parents and grandparents made a generation or two ago.

Bringing Federal dollars back to my home in California's San Joaquin Valley is one of my highest priorities, as is the need to invest throughout the country, throughout our Nation, for our future infrastructure needs.

During this week, we will vote on new investments that will make a difference in our communities and the residents who live there. From water projects to funding jobs, healthcare and education programs, our votes this week are to improve people's lives. Thus, in this budget appropriations that we will be dealing with, these bills are critical to pass and send to the Senate.

But our work doesn't end there. We must also pass transformative infrastructure to build our roads, bridges, and transit systems and modernize our schools and hospitals.

Rural and underserved communities in our country, many that I represent, should never be left behind.

We also must expand and prioritize broadband access to these areas. This pandemic has taught us a lot of things, like telemedicine and tele-learning is difficult enough, but if you don't have access to broadband, good luck.

Repairing our aging water infrastructure to ensure reliable access to clean drinking water is critical for the richest Nation in the world. We are suffering from extreme droughts in California. We need to make these investments.