

that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, income, or ZIP Code, have access to quality, affordable healthcare.

I am proud that our draft of the Build Back Better Act takes a step toward that goal. We have included several key investments that are going to make a real difference in healthcare available to folks. These investments will prevent chronic illnesses like heart disease and diabetes, ensure earlier detection and treatment of certain cancers, and tackle the Black maternal health crisis.

There is so much good included in the Build Back Better Act, but today I want to highlight just three of the most urgent health equity issues this bill will address.

The first of those priorities is saving the lives of mothers. The Build Back Better Act provides for a mandatory extension of postpartum care for new mothers utilizing Medicaid. In the American Rescue Plan, we included an option for States to extend postpartum care for 12 months after delivery. While some States have taken up that option, it will expire in 5 years.

The Build Back Better Act goes a step further in making that expanded postpartum coverage mandatory and permanent. Research shows that one-third of all pregnancy-related maternal deaths occur between 1 week and 1 year of delivery, and Black women are at an increased risk of experiencing severe complications or death. No more.

New mothers should have access to postpartum care, regardless of which State they live in. Extending postpartum care under Medicaid will save lives and ensure that mothers are able to see their babies grow up.

Additionally, the Build Back Better Act includes a solution to permanently close the Medicaid coverage gap. There are still 12 States that have refused to expand Medicaid, and as many as 4 million people currently lack access to healthcare because of the coverage gap. No more.

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Ensuring that Medicaid is available to everyone who needs it will reduce emergency room visits, allow for an increased focus on preventive care and save us money in the long run. Closing the coverage gap will also help address the Black maternal health crisis.

Because of the Medicaid coverage gap, many women are not eligible for care until they become pregnant, and by the time they get approved, they have missed out on weeks or even months of prenatal and early pregnancy care during these critical early days of pregnancy.

Access to healthcare in the early days of pregnancy is crucial in detecting and treating pregnancy-related complications with both mother and baby. Closing the coverage gap will ensure that new mothers have access to care when they need it most.

With Build Back Better, we are tackling health equity issues from babies to

older adults. Once we pass the Build Back Better Act, we will begin including dental, vision, and hearing coverage for seniors through Medicare Part B.

Dental coverage will include cleaning and x-rays, extractions, oral disease management services, and dentures—all vital dental procedures and care that seniors both need and deserve. Many people may not realize it, but oral health has significant impacts on your overall health, and poor oral health has been linked to heart disease, kidney disease, and dementia.

Including dental coverage will help so many people, but it will be especially important for people of color. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation study, 71 percent of Black Medicare beneficiaries and 65 percent of Hispanic beneficiaries went without a dental visit in the past year, compared to 43 percent of White beneficiaries. No more.

Ultimately, these policies are not just about saving lives, but improving lives. We are investing in the health and safety of our constituents and their ability to live long, happy, and healthy lives with their families.

Our healthcare system has been pushed to its limits throughout the past 18 months, and we have been shown, under a bright light, the cracks in its foundation. But it is not beyond repair. Through meaningful investment, we can rebuild our healthcare system in a way that works for everyone and addresses centuries-long challenges to achieving health equity.

The Build Back Better Act presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for us to advance health equity. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CHARLESTON AIR WING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 3 weeks since the U.S. withdrew troops from Afghanistan. Today, I rise to pay tribute to the heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice in carrying out Operation Allies Refuge, and I would like to especially recognize the members of Joint Base Charleston Airlift Wing and their spouses who supported the overall mission.

I begin with a moment of silence for the 13 soldiers who selflessly gave their lives Hamid Karzai Airport on August 26.

I also am recognizing this morning the courageous effort of our service-members stationed in Charleston as they evacuated U.S. citizens, Special Immigrant Visa holders, and vulnerable populations from Afghanistan.

With one of the largest C-17 fleets in the country, the Lowcountry of South Carolina is proud of our soldiers at Joint Base Charleston that were tapped to support our airlift efforts. Reservists in the 315th Airlift Wing even

helped deliver a baby on board one of their flights.

Back at home, Joint Base Charleston spouses put together pallets of supplies, sending over 10,000 pounds of food, baby wipes, drinks, and clothing overseas.

The Taliban now have control over Afghanistan. It has led many to question what we have accomplished there over the last 20 years.

But there is no question of the unbelievable effort put forth by our airmen and airwomen, our veterans who served in Afghanistan, and those that loved and supported them and their families during the war.

Today, I think about the 124,000 people who now have freedom and the thousands of Americans and allies who have been safely returned home, and I am proud of the difference the Lowcountry has made in those efforts. God bless our troops, God bless the Lowcountry, and God bless America.

PARRIS ISLAND

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, as the House continues to consider the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the Parris Island Protection Act. This critical bill will preserve Parris Island Marine Corps Recruiting Depot for decades to come. Parris Island is responsible for training over a million brave marines, including every enlisted female marine that has ever served in our Marine Corps.

Not only is Parris Island critical to our national defense, but it is also an integral part of the Lowcountry community. It is responsible for the creation of over 6,000 jobs and generates almost \$800 million in economic activity every year.

Sadly, this Congress' version of NDAA is one of the first authorizations not to include any protections against base realignment and closures. I was disappointed to see that absent these usual protections, my amendment to protect Parris Island was not made in order this week as we went through amendments for the NDAA.

I look forward to working with the House Committee on Armed Services to ensure Parris Island remains open, functional, and continues to contribute to the best and brightest in our national defense.

CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, as National Clean Energy Week comes to a close, I rise today to bring attention to a spectacular environmental protection effort in my district and the efforts of the 32nd annual South Carolina beach and river sweep, which brought volunteers down to clean up Old Town Bluffton and the May River.

This was the single largest statewide volunteer cleanup of beaches, marshes, and waterways. We know how to take care of our environment in South Carolina's First Congressional District. In fact, across the State we have thousands of volunteers participating every single year. South Carolina's residents

along the coast are passionate about keeping our sparkling waters pristine and our beaches pure.

This year we had an untold number of kids that participated and showed up for the community cleanup. This impact was immeasurable. Seeing our youngsters, our students, and our children participate in environmental cleanups, we are setting ourselves up for success in the Lowcountry and our future by educating our kids who have a passion and love for the Lowcountry, who love our ecosystems, and want to keep them clean. We love seeing our students serving in their community.

RECOGNIZING THE THREAT OF EXTREME HEAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the threat of extreme heat in the United States and applaud the action of President Biden in mobilizing an all-of-government effort to protect our vulnerable populations from this increasingly common disaster.

Climate change threatens everyone on this planet, and it will continue to do so for generations. While some regions will experience scorching droughts and wildfires, others will experience catastrophic hurricanes and flooding.

Environmental activist Wendell Berry said, "The world is not given by our fathers, but borrowed from our children." The consequences of our past and present decisions are creating a dismal and desolate future for our children and for our children's children.

Unfortunately, even if we rapidly reduce our carbon emissions today, our planet will continue to warm for some time.

Heat threatens the lives of children, the elderly, outdoor workers, and more, as prolonged exposure leads to health risks, such as heat cramps, heat stroke, and of course death.

This summer we experienced this new, hotter than normal heat across this country. In late June, the Pacific Northwest region experienced an abnormal heat wave that led to unprecedented numbers of deaths and hospitalization.

July was the Earth's hottest month on record.

In early August, over 80 million people across 20 States, from Washington to Florida, were under excessive heat warnings and advisories. Simultaneously, States along the East Coast experienced triple-digit heat indexes as a combination of heat and humidity created hazardous and deadly situations.

Most recently, following Hurricane Ida, 10 people died from heat in New Orleans after vulnerable residents lost power, and temperatures climbed to over 90 degrees.

Disadvantaged communities suffer the most from these frequent heat occurrences. Communities of color and low-income communities disproportionately experience higher temperatures than their White and wealthier counterparts.

Decades of discriminate urban planning, like reducing tree cover or increasing hard surfaces, have led to temperature disparities in our most vulnerable communities.

Moreover, in many of these communities residents struggle with significant preexisting and chronic illnesses, like heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure, which become fatal in extreme heat.

For some Americans, higher temperatures are not merely a nuisance, they can be deadly. I applaud President Biden's recent decision to address extreme heat.

From protecting outdoor workers by establishing OSHA standards to expanding cooling centers and cooling assistance amidst heat waves, President Biden's commitment to the health and safety of the American population is vital to ensure that fewer lives will be lost to increasing temperatures.

Earlier this year I was proud to introduce the SHADE Act, which aligns with the ambitious goals of President Biden's extreme heat initiatives and addresses the heat disparity experienced in disadvantaged communities. The SHADE Act would create a grant program to plant trees in formerly redlined districts and overburdened communities.

Thanks to the research of Dr. Jeremy Hoffman, Dr. Vivek Shandas, and Nicholas Pendleton, we now know that historical discriminatory housing policies have long-lasting consequences, making formerly redlined neighborhoods hotter than non-redlined neighborhoods.

Climate change is not a distant or slow moving threat. It is here now, and many Americans are battling the consequences of it alone. Too many are losing that battle.

While efforts to combat climate change must be a priority, we must also mitigate the impacts we are already facing. We must ensure that all Americans can adapt and can survive in this new normal.

RECOGNIZING AGNES MAY MEYER DRISCOLL

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the greatest code breakers in American history, Agnes May Meyer Driscoll.

At the age of 29 Driscoll enlisted in the United States Navy in 1918 and was assigned to the code and signals section. While in this unit, she helped develop the machine called CM, later a standard enciphering device for the Navy in the 1920s.

She continued her work into World War II, where she was a vital part in breaking the Japanese Navy's JN-25b code, which gave Admiral Nimitz a crucial advantage at the Battle of Midway, a turning point in the war in the Pacific.

Nicknamed Miss Aggie and Madame X, Driscoll retired in 1959 at the age of 70. When she passed away in 1971, she was buried amongst fellow American heroes in Arlington National Cemetery.

Driscoll forever changed the field of cryptology and was rightfully inducted into the National Security Agency Hall of Honor in 2000.

It is a pleasure to recognize her service on behalf of the Colonel Thomas Hughart Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and her great nephew, retired U.S. Navy Captain Victor Meyer, who resides in Staunton, Virginia.

Our country is immensely grateful for Miss Aggie's service.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the most immediate, but still underpublicized, crisis facing America today.

No country can afford unlimited immigration.

In 2018, 830,000 people were sworn in as new citizens, as they spent years in America proving they were the moral citizens John Adams said were necessary to keep our Republic.

Now record numbers of unvetted immigrants, including, we believe, over 10,000 Haitians at the border, are flooding in our country. We have been processing over 200,000 immigrants at the border each of the last 2 months, many of which are turned around; but in July over 100,000 immigrants were let in. That is in comparison to 8,000 immigrants being let in a year earlier. It appears in August we will be at another 90,000 people coming in.

Because of the flood of refugees, the Border Patrol must do paperwork so that 224 miles of the Texan border is largely unguarded. People I talk to in Border Patrol believe that the official number of 31,000 got-aways is probably understated.

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It is hard not to conclude that this is happening by design. Recently, the Biden administration extended temporary protective status, causing drug cartels to inform people all around the world that the border is open.

I should point out, by the way, when people talk about the Haitians, these are not people who are coming here from Haiti. These are Spanish-speaking people who already were in places like Chile, for example. They are not coming here because they have nowhere