

country on the face of the Earth. It is. Therefore, it is not surprising that people who are in pain and grieving and are concerned for the future of their children want to come to the United States of America. But, clearly, we cannot take all of the people who would like to come to America.

Therefore, we need a system because America is made up of immigrants. It has been made strong by immigrants. It has been made successful by immigrants. It has been made a great country by immigrants.

My own father came from Denmark at the age of 32 in 1934. Almost everybody who serves in this House, some are immigrants themselves who came themselves to the country. Some at 2 years of age and some at other ages.

The gentleman is correct. We need to deal with this. We need to deal with it in a humanitarian way, in a way that honors our values and respect for individual lives and individual persons. That is one of the great, great differences that we celebrate in America, the importance that we put on the individual.

We said that we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal—today we clearly would say all men and women—and endowed not by us, not by our Constitution, and not by our laws, but by God. We have some of God's children who are fearful, scared, and running, running to a safer place. And that place for almost all the world is America.

So we have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to adopt a rational, comprehensive immigration reform regime where people will know the rules of coming to America. They will know the rules of how you apply, how you are processed, and how you are vetted. Whether you are coming here because you just want to come to America to succeed and to make your family live in a better neighborhood called America, or you are coming because your family and your are unsafe in the country in which you then reside, we need comprehensive immigration reform.

I would be glad to work very closely with my friend, the Republican whip from Louisiana, on seeing if we can get to that place because we have all been talking about it, all of us.

I think there is not a person in this room—I don't know about in this room, but over the years—who hasn't said our immigration system is broken, who hasn't said we need secure borders, who hasn't said we need secure borders and revealed in the fact that we are a nation of immigrants who have made us stronger so that we can get to a place where we pursue a rational policy for implementing that concept.

So I will tell my friend, I will look at those two or three pieces of legislation he mentioned and talk to the committee chairs about their status and let the gentleman know.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, and I look forward to having those conversations with the gen-

tleman from Maryland on that and all the other issues that will come before us next week.

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

□ 1245

ABORTION CARE IS HEALTHCARE

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, choosing whether to become a parent is one of the most important decisions a person will make in their lifetime. It is a decision we should be able to make for ourselves. But over the past decade, extremist anti-abortion politicians have passed more than 450 laws that undermine the freedom to make that decision.

Our laws should protect our rights, like the right to abortion, not control and dehumanize us. We aren't truly free unless we can control our own bodies, lives, and future.

As a nurse, I know that when people have access to a full range of healthcare services, including the full spectrum of reproductive health and maternity care, they are healthier and their families thrive.

Because abortion is healthcare.

The legislation that House Democrats passed today will protect access to healthcare and reproductive rights for all Americans. It ensures that, going forward, we all have the freedom to control our own bodies, safely care for our families, and live with dignity.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take it up immediately and send it to President Biden's desk.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LANCE CORPORAL KAREEM NIKOUI

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a fallen marine from my congressional district. Our Nation relies upon young men and women voluntarily stepping forward to defend and protect the liberties we hold so dear. As a young man growing up in Norco, California, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui was inspired to answer that call.

When he joined the Marine Corps, Kareem was following in the footsteps of patriots. Like his fellow marines, he was not signing up for glory or reward but out of a sense of duty.

In his final days, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui was on the front lines of a mission to secure freedom for desperate people. Kareem and our other fallen heroes conducted themselves with bravery and compassion. In those dark days, they shined bright.

Our community in Riverside County, California, has stepped up to support

and embrace the Nikoui family as they grieve this unimaginable loss. We should honor Kareem by carrying the torch of service, duty, and sacrifice he so proudly advanced until his final breath.

May God comfort the Nikoui family, and may God bless America.

TEXAS WOMEN ARE UNITED STATES CITIZENS

(Mr. RASKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, the women of Texas are citizens of the United States, but they are being treated like outlaws by their own legislature.

Under the Texas law, any person, including murderers, serial rapists, sexual harassers, January 6 insurrectionists, or Texas State legislators themselves, can sue doctors, nurses, mothers, fathers, medical personnel, simply for helping a woman in Texas exercise her constitutional rights under *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* for \$10,000.

You want to give \$10,000 to a total stranger for helping your daughter through a personal crisis caused by a rape? Move to Texas.

You want to join the GOP in turning America into a nation of theocratic busybodies and vigilante bounty hunters policing other people's families? Go right ahead.

But for me, I am standing with the Constitution of the United States. I am voting for the Women's Health Protection Act, and I am proud that we are passing it today.

UNPRECEDENTED GOVERNMENT SPENDING

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the \$3.5 trillion spending plan by the Democrats is the most expensive single piece of legislation in the history of this country. If passed, the Democrats will have added \$13 trillion in new spending since they took control of the House in 2019.

When combined with annual government funding and the \$1.9 trillion Biden bailout bill, the \$3.5 trillion socialist tax and spending plan would increase yearly government spending by over 73 percent each year for the next 10 years. To pay for these expensive and ill-advised policies, we would see the largest tax increase in American history, with two-thirds of employer tax increases being borne by lower and middle-income Americans.

This unprecedented spending spree is fueling inflation right now and hurting low-income and middle-income families the most, the very populations these policies purport to be helping.

Inflation is a tax on the poor, running at 7 percent on an annualized

basis since the Biden administration came in, the highest since the Carter era. Gas prices are up 41 percent. Used car prices are up 41 percent. Fish prices are up 8.5 percent. Steak prices are up 10 percent.

Inflation is hurting the purchasing power of everyday Americans.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MEREDITH MCGEHEE

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Meredith McGehee, the executive director of Issue One, who is leaving her post at the end of this month.

Meredith is one of the Nation's most knowledgeable and dedicated experts on Congress and ethics in politics. She is a true public servant and has devoted her career to making Congress and the Federal Government more transparent, more effective, and to making it work better for the American people.

In fact, she is among the leading advocates for many of the key laws that shape the way that Congress operates today, contributing to the formulation of the Gift Ban, the Lobbying Disclosure Act, the Congressional Accountability Act, the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, the STOCK Act, and the establishment of the bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, which I now have the honor of chairing.

Of all of the ways that Meredith has had an impact, she is first and foremost, a devoted daughter of Albuquerque, a wife, and mom to Timo who, himself, is now pursuing a career in service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Meredith for her service and wish her all the best in the days ahead.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, September 17, was POW/MIA Recognition Day. This important day is a time to remember the brave men and women who have yet to return home.

Currently, there are more than 80,000 American servicemembers who remain unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars.

Our servicemembers are the bravest among us. They answer the call to protect and defend our country in times of war and in times of peace. While many return home, some do not.

In May, I introduced the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Trade Agreement Resolution. This resolution urges our mutually beneficial trade agreements to include a commitment

from trading partners to continue the search and recovery efforts of our Nation's missing servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of POW/MIA Recognition Day, I urge my colleagues to join this resolution. We must uphold the eternal promise to our Armed Forces to always bring our men and women home.

In that spirit, I also want to say thank you to one of my alma maters, Penn State University, that in a stadium of about 110,000, they placed one seat that will never be filled until the last of all those who are missing will return home. That was dedicated in honor of Penn State graduate and Vietnam veteran, Major Louis Smith, who has yet to return home from that war.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ERICKA EDWARDS JONES

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember and mourn the life of a dear friend and sister, Ericka Edwards Jones of Algiers, Louisiana.

She lived a life of service and activism throughout her 48 years of life, as a longtime employee of the parish courts, and staffer of former Congressman William J. Jefferson, and as chief deputy of 2nd City Court under the leadership of clerk Darren Lombard. She served with compassion and honor.

She thoroughly enjoyed politics, but, most importantly, public service. She was an incredible wife, mother, daughter, and friend. We will sorely miss her incredible smile, her leadership, her compassion for service.

She had a smile that would light up the room. Ericka was passionate, and compassionate, and generous to a fault.

My thoughts and prayers are with her, our families, and the community on this tragic loss of a true public servant.

Ericka, we will miss you, but your fingerprints will long live in the great works that you leave behind.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, with all that knew her, and all that will remember her forever.

We will miss you deeply.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, the United States should not provide support to foreign military units that repeatedly commit human rights violations. That should be clear.

Yet, in Burkina Faso, Guinea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, military units backed by the United States did just that; terrorizing civilians in the name of security.

Backing these units is supposed to be against U.S. law, but for decades there has been one big loophole, and it is called section 127E, one specific DOD authority that authorizes support for these units without any human rights vetting.

This loophole means that we have no assurances that our operatives aren't working with partners who are in direct conflict with our values. And if we are truly focused on countering violent extremism, we have to acknowledge that abuses by security forces often propel victims into violent extremist groups.

That is why I brought forward an amendment to the NDAA to close this loophole, and I am proud to say it was adopted with bipartisan support.

My amendment ensures that we aren't contributing to the very same problems we aim to solve, and it sends a clear message. When it comes to human rights, there cannot be loopholes, exemptions, or exceptions.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we had a bill today regarding abortion; and when I think about saving lives of innocent babies, one name that comes to mind is Henry Hyde, and another name that comes to my mind is CHRIS SMITH.

We have some people that have worked tirelessly, selflessly on this issue, and one of those people is CHRIS SMITH. He is a leader.

I am proud to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his leadership. And I thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of the unborn. It has been, frankly, a team effort, and what a team.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation under consideration by the House today is deceptively titled the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021. Abortion is not healthcare, unless one construes the precious life of an unborn child to be analogous to a tumor to be excised or a disease to be vanquished.

This bill is far outside the American mainstream and goes far beyond Roe v. Wade. This bill constitutes an existential threat to unborn children and to the value of life itself.

For the first time ever, by Congressional statute, H.R. 3755 would legally authorize and enable the violent death of unborn baby girls and boys by dismemberment, decapitation, forced expulsion from the womb, deadly poisons, and other methods at any time and for any reason until birth.

A significant majority of Americans are deeply concerned about protecting