

For people sitting in traffic on U.S. 69 or waiting for the bus in Wyandotte County or wondering why that one road floods every single year no matter how many times we fix it, this cannot wait. Not to mention, if we fail to act, critical surface transportation authorizations are going to run out by Friday.

I urge my colleagues to set aside gamesmanship and not see this as an opportunity for political points but instead an opportunity to deliver for our communities, the opportunity that our communities have been asking for us to deliver on.

THE BIDEN ECONOMIC AND SPENDING CRISIS

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

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue sounding the alarm on the Biden Administration's economic and spending crisis that is hurting families in my district and killing American jobs.

This Big Government, ultra-inflation, and massive spending agenda has a big problem: the economy. It is spiking the price of groceries, gas, lumber, and everything in between.

Gasoline is up 42.7 percent. Chicken is up 7.2 percent. Eggs are up 9.9 percent. Public transportation is up 8.4 percent.

As I have heard from my families all across my district, Americans cannot afford this.

Utahns say they are paying more for just about everything. In fact, a recent statewide poll found that 85 percent of Utahns are very or somewhat concerned about inflation and rising costs.

Inflation is a tax on every single American.

With consumer prices reaching a 13-year high, it is clear this administration's agenda is bad for economic recovery and unsustainable for working-class Americans trying to make ends meet.

The Democrats' solution? Rush through the most expensive piece of legislation in the history of our country.

Another startling fact: This \$3.5 trillion spending plan is more than the GDP of Canada and Mexico combined.

While the White House continues to spread false realities to the American people, let's talk about the facts: The true cost of the bill is \$5.5 trillion, not \$3.5 trillion, and certainly not zero. It is going to increase the national debt by \$2.4 trillion. It will lead to 5.3 million jobs lost nationwide. The median family income will drop by \$12,000. Each American household will be burdened with \$35,439 of debt.

Americans across the country and Utahns in the Fourth District want to see fiscal responsibility restored at the Federal level. This out-of-control spending must stop.

HONORING LIVES LOST TO SENSELESS VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the lives of those lost due to senseless violence in my district:

Leon Wayne, age 26, gun violence.
Chevor Williams, age 28, gun violence.

Cori Lowe, age 31, stabbing victim.
Richard Black, age 39, gun violence.
Joseph Ramirez, age 43, gun violence.
Wray Harding, age 55, gun violence.
Aliyah Waiters, age 18, gun violence.
Marilyn Cotto Montanez, age 18, gun violence.

Guy Vanlew, Jr., age 18, gun violence.
Jeremy Logan, age 32, gun violence.
Omari Ellis, age 18, gun violence.
Warren Clahar, age 35, gun violence.
Olivia Green, age 15, fentanyl overdose.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we observe a moment of silence for the lives lost in my district due to senseless violence.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the pandemic of senseless violence is not new. If you live in a poverty-stricken community and if you are Black or Latino in these communities, you are more susceptible to acts of senseless violence.

When I was in high school, trying to just be a good student and play on the football team, I ended up caught up in a situation where I was almost shot and killed. A few months later, at a party with some friends, just trying to go out and have a good time, I ended up in a situation where I was almost shot and killed.

If it weren't for sheer luck, I would not be standing here as a Member of Congress today.

Thankfully, at that time, I was able to move out of my community and move to a suburban community where it was much less likely for me to end up in a situation where I could be shot and killed.

I have so many friends and family members who did not have the luxury of moving out and the privilege of moving out of their community. As a result, they ended up dead at some very young ages, some 18, some 21, some even younger.

Oftentimes, when we have these conversations, we point to the perpetrators of these acts of violence and of these crimes and we identify them as bad individuals and we say that we need law enforcement to respond to remove those bad individuals from these situations, and we think that that method is enough to end the violence in these communities.

But we have invested in law enforcement for decades; the 1994 crime bill being one example of how we have made such investments and targeted highly violent communities. But the violence hasn't gone away, and the violence has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has isolated

many and has also created a mental health crisis.

So I ask and I beg this Chamber to recognize that this is not just about individual bad actors in communities. Poverty is a policy choice, and the trauma related to poverty and the lack of opportunity in so many of our communities will continue to lead to increases in violence that we see in poverty-stricken communities.

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We have to invest in education, healthcare, jobs, housing, mentorship, and so many other programs that could literally save the lives of our children before they ever decide to pick up a gun.

Lastly, and very quickly, we passed H.R. 8, commonsense gun reform legislation, in the House this year, and the Senate still has not acted on that legislation. Seventy percent of the incidents of gun violence that take place in New York are done with guns that come from outside of New York. So we have to move this gun legislation in the Senate.

BIDEN'S CRISES

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, this week we learned that either President Biden ignored the advice of his top military advisers and lied to shift the blame for his disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal or that those advisers lied to Congress under oath.

General McKenzie and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Milley both informed the Senate and House Armed Services Committees that they recommended to President Biden that we keep 2,500 troops in Afghanistan. Yet President Biden has adamantly claimed that he never received such advice.

Americans have been abandoned, left to the mercy of a terrorist regime that wants to destroy Western culture and institutionalize widespread and systemic gender apartheid.

Our military weapons and equipment have been turned over to our adversaries for their use against us.

And our President continues to negotiate with terrorists after our servicemen and -women have been murdered.

Every last American must make it home. Anything less is inexcusable and a dereliction of his sworn oath.

The President's lack of leadership is not only failing us abroad, but it is also threatening our safety here at home. Just this year more than 1.3 million people have illegally crossed our border, including known terrorists.

An open southern border threatens our national security and the safety of all Americans, and I hope we can all agree that we must do something to stop this disturbing trend.

The President has a duty to act. Our Federal Government must enforce our

Nation's immigration laws, reimplement successful policies from the Trump administration, and commit further support for our Border Patrol agents and our Customs enforcement officers.

That is why I signed on to a resolution calling for the President to fully enforce our immigration laws in light of the current surge at the border and the ongoing self-created border crisis.

Lastly, the President and his far-left Democrats are racking up debt that Americans cannot afford, exacerbating the current inflationary crisis that we are facing.

The proposed \$4.3 trillion tax-and-spending spree is a continuation of the Biden administration's reckless policies that have created an unstable outlook for our economy, for our Nation's future, and for the next generation of Americans.

Not only does this package unravel the progress we have made to encourage work and raise wages, but it increases the national debt by up to \$17 trillion, putting our national security further at risk.

The Speaker and the far left are wildly spending tax dollars on their socialist priorities, while increasing taxes on small businesses, on family farms, and by raising the corporate tax to a rate higher than Canada, higher than Italy, higher than the U.K., and even higher than Communist China, which we know will directly hurt job growth and wage growth for men and women across our communities.

Our economy is already running at the highest rate of inflation in 13 years. To recklessly increase our spending is fiscally irresponsible and downright dangerous. As Senator MANCHIN even said, it is truly the definition of fiscal insanity.

Madam Speaker, it is clear to me, just as I know it is clear to my constituents, the President, time and time again, is failing to display the leadership America needs and deserves. He must uphold the promises he made to the American people, and I call on him, I ask him to put an end to the era of crisis that we are now under.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month and the histories, cultures, and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans throughout the United States.

Growing up in Sunnyside, Washington, I have witnessed firsthand how Hispanic Americans contribute to our communities through entrepreneurship, military service, and cultural diversity. They are our friends, our family, our neighbors, and our coworkers. They are small-business owners, doctors, police officers, and soldiers.

In central Washington and across the country, we are proud of our Hispanic friends and neighbors who prove that the American Dream is alive and well. Because of them, we are a stronger, more diverse, prosperous society.

Today I ask my colleagues, join me in honoring our Hispanic-American neighbors and in recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month.

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

SMALL BUSINESSES IN COVID-19

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the small business. I rise today in support of the hardworking man and woman who has bootstrapped an enterprise, a barber-shop, a gym, a manufacturing firm that isn't often represented by a large lobbying firm that is able to knock on the doors of the Halls of Congress and demand what they need. These people deserve to be heard.

The pandemic resulted in the permanent closure of roughly 200,000 U.S. establishments above historical levels during the first year alone.

Individual companies, the small ones, account for about two-thirds or roughly 130,000 of the extra closures. The gym across the street from my house, an independent enterprise run by a cancer survivor, closing today. The Milford House Bar & Grill, where people celebrated anniversaries and graduations, closed.

We hear you. Your voice and what you do and the hard work that you represent matters in this body.

A May 2021 Federal Reserve report found 35 percent of service-based businesses that closed during the pandemic were still closed. The report also estimated that just 3 percent are likely to reopen.

What does this mean? Poor neighborhoods getting poorer. Less jobs. Open storefronts. A blight toward economic development.

Absolutely this body acted when we needed to: PPP, \$800 billion; \$14 billion in grants and forgivable loans at the local level. In Michigan we acted quickly. We have seen tough times.

Our manufacturers, the small ones, were the first to put up their hands: How can I source the protective personal equipment? I have got it in my back pocket. I am ready to act.

And yet we are getting whacked by a chip crisis. We don't have what we need to meet the demand, and people are suffering as a result. It is not just the billions of dollars, a loss of profit at the top. It is the jobs. It is the single moms who want to get back to work. And yet they are at \$15 an hour, and no one is watching their kid for under \$16.

Here in this Congress, we have been working to reorganize the tapestry of this country so people can succeed, individual hardworking Americans can succeed.

They are not following every line of our debate, but they are counting on us. Invest in daycare, give us paid family leave, support the small business.

That is what this week is all about, Madam Speaker. That is what compels me to come to work every single day, and we are not going to stop until the job is done.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FAILING TO LEAD

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the President's complete and utter failure to lead our country effectively over the last 9 months.

Despite the optimistic vision he portrayed in his inaugural address, President Biden has created crisis after crisis—from our economy and energy independence to national and border security.

Back in February my Republican colleagues and I warned Democrats' reckless spending would have a devastating inflationary effect. In fact, many experts at the time, including former President Obama's top economist, warned spending trillions more would devalue our dollar and cause prices of goods and services to increase.

Sure enough, just one month later, we learned that the Consumer Price Index had its highest monthly jump in nearly 10 years. The Producer Price Index has also skyrocketed by 8.3 percent, which is also a record.

While the Biden administration continues turning a blind eye to inflation, top economists are warning inflation is here to stay for years to come, and it will only get worse if the Democrats pass over \$5 trillion in additional spending.

This is a hidden tax hike on every American family, on top of their historic tax increases that are part of the \$4.2 trillion tax-and-spending spree that we will be discussing over the next several days. This is completely reckless for our businesses, our farmers, and our families.

Instead of reining in spending, President Biden and his Democrat colleagues are leaning into the economic crisis they have created. In fact, the President has attempted to gaslight the American people by making the false claim that their \$5.5 trillion so-called infrastructure package will cost zero dollars. Even the leftists at The Washington Post aren't buying it, calling the claim truly misleading.

The crisis at our southern border, which the Biden administration has gone to great lengths to ignore, has continued raging on.

In May I went to Texas with Congressman GONZALES to see the border firsthand. I received an aerial tour of the Big Bend sector, a remote part of the border where apprehensions of drugs, weapons, and other contraband are at record levels.

Law enforcement on the ground told us directly that they needed more support from the administration. Sadly,