

several months later, it is still clear that no help has been on the way.

In August, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced that they have made over 200,000 apprehensions of drugs, up 317 percent from just a year ago.

Biden's failure to lead and take control of this situation has created a devolving humanitarian crisis, a national security crisis, and a public health crisis at our southern border.

Biden has also failed to lead on our world stage. Our tragic and disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan is the sole responsibility of President Biden and his colossal failure to lead as Commander in Chief.

The administration still owes the American people answers. Why were billions of dollars of military equipment left behind for the Taliban? Why did we cave to the Taliban's timeline? Why did we fail to evacuate every single American before leaving?

Just this week we learned Biden lied to the American people regarding the advice he received from his top military generals. The commander of the U.S. Central Command testified under oath that he recommended keeping a small force of 2,500 troops in Afghanistan, yet Biden previously told the American people that no one recommended keeping this limited troop presence.

Biden has been silent as the far left wing of his party has attacked Israel and their right to defend themselves. Abandoning our allies, abandoning and lying to the American people, this seems to be the Biden leadership doctrine.

Under the President's leadership, we are no longer energy independent. On his first day of office, Biden killed the XL pipeline, eliminating 11,000 great jobs. He put Paris over Paullina, Iowa, and other communities in my district by rejoining the climate accords, which will cause electricity to skyrocket.

Yet this same woke progressive administration that pretends to care so much about the climate is about to give a huge win to the oil industry. They are undermining clean-burning biofuels by attacking the renewable fuel standard, leaving crop growers and my biofuels producers behind in the dust.

It seems the Biden leadership doctrine in a nutshell has been to ruin this economy and is undermining our independence.

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

□ 1045

#### AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Chair, from the very first day I was sworn

into Congress in January of 2019, I have been on a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable healthcare for people in my northern Illinois district and Americans across the country.

It is actually a mission that started long before I came to Congress. In fact, it started when I was in elementary school. That is when I was first diagnosed with a heart condition that I have lived with ever since. Because of that preexisting condition, I spent most of my life at risk of losing healthcare coverage.

That all changed when the House passed the Affordable Care Act and it was signed into law in 2010, protecting people like me with preexisting conditions and eventually extending coverage to more than 20 million Americans, many for the first time in their adult lives.

These historic gains have always hung in the balance, subject to more than 50 attempts from Republicans to repeal the law over the past decade.

But the ACA didn't just survive; it is now stronger than ever before, thanks to the 2-year version of my Health Care Affordability Act that was included in the American Rescue Plan.

Thanks to the advanced premium tax credit expansion that I championed, marketplace enrollees are seeing savings of more than \$40 per person per month, a 40 percent reduction in their monthly spending on healthcare. That means more money for groceries, school supplies, and essentials that families depend on.

Medium plan deductibles for new enrollees have dropped by nearly 90 percent, from \$450 to \$50.

Half of eligible uninsured Hispanic adults and 45 percent of eligible uninsured Black adults are now able to find a zero-premium plan.

In just 6 months since the American Rescue Plan was signed into law by President Biden, we have cut our Nation's uninsured rate, provided substantial savings for individuals and families, and taken the most significant step toward health equity since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law.

But if we fail to act now and make the American Rescue Plan's advanced premium tax credit plan permanent, all of this progress will be wiped out in just 2 years. Americans will lose the coverage they are now protected by or once again face premiums that render coverage unaffordable and lead them to forgo insurance altogether. The gains that we have made in closing coverage gaps in communities of color will be reversed. The millions of people who might now have health insurance for the first time in their adult lives will once again lay awake at night wondering if they are one illness away from bankruptcy.

We cannot afford to backtrack on the historic progress we have made for the American people. This is our moment to stand on the right side of history and finish the job to reach universal

coverage that was started by the Obama-Biden administration more than a decade ago.

We must make the advanced premium tax credit from the American Rescue Plan permanent and close the Medicaid coverage gap in the Build Back Better Act.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make high-quality healthcare affordable and accessible to all. The American people are counting on us to get this done, and we must deliver.

#### DAYS OF BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS FEW AND FAR BETWEEN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great disappointment as we await a vote on a secretive budget reconciliation package.

I am incredibly proud to serve as the Republican leader of the House Agriculture Committee, and it is an honor to work on behalf of the farmers, ranchers, and foresters who feed, clothe, and power our Nation. I am equally proud of the bipartisan work the House Committee on Agriculture has done on behalf of rural America.

Sadly, though, since the start of the 117th Congress, it seems the days of bipartisan, commonsense solutions are now few and far between. The most recent reconciliation process for the Agriculture Committee is especially concerning, if not utterly bizarre.

On Friday, September 10, my Republican colleagues and I participated in a 9.5-hour markup only for the committee Democrats to recess until the following Monday to gain the votes they needed to ram through an incomplete and unvetted budget reconciliation package to the tune of \$66 billion.

Noticeably missing from the package was a whopping \$28 billion—\$6 billion more than the committee's instruction—in additional spending, left out due to the Democrats' ongoing problems with the Congressional Budget Office and the Byrd rule in the Senate.

During the markup, both Republican and Democrat members asked repeatedly when the committee would know more about the missing funds and whether the committee would be able to engage, review, and mark up the provisions. The committee's majority indicated the \$28 billion would be added at a later stage.

This was a stunning admission and a departure from regular order for the House Agriculture Committee. This amount of money would traditionally demand dozens of public hearings, testimony from stakeholders, and rounds of technical assistance from USDA, all conducted by the committee of jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, that was not the case for this bill, a package that rivals

many titles of a 5-year farm bill in size and scope, I might add.

Now, I wish I could say I was surprised, but given how Republicans have been so brazenly ignored throughout the first reconciliation and this newest sham reconciliation, this dereliction of process has, sadly, become par for the course.

As for the \$28 billion of missing mystery funds, members of our committee remain in the dark. Initial summaries leaked to the press by the stakeholder groups and Senate Democrats told one story. A draft leaked this week told a very different one, including what appears to be \$34 billion beyond the Democrats' own instruction.

This past weekend, the Budget Committee spent time moving the total package forward, and now it looks as though the Democratic chairman of the Rules Committee gets to decide the fate of the Agriculture package.

This is absurd.

This sham of a process is an insult to the 201 years of the House Agriculture Committee's bipartisanship. I refuse to stand idly by as this committee is driven into the ground by a partisan process that leaves rural America behind.

Enough is enough, Madam Speaker. Congress is a circus, and Democrats in leadership are the ringleaders.

This process is an absolute farce, and it has only further devolved into chaos as the press, lobbyists, and the Democratic leadership aides know more about the policy than committees of jurisdiction. Leaked documents and secretive briefings should not be the way Washington does business.

Process aside, this is simply a bad bill, and it does next to nothing for rural America. It is shameful that in the nearly \$100 billion of excess spending that claims to be for agriculture, there isn't one penny for the commodity safety net, crop insurance, broadband, or disaster assistance.

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on about how this bill fails rural America. Five minutes simply is not enough time. So, I will close with this: Democrats can either force this sham of a bill through and pat themselves on the back for explosive spending and lack of transparency, or we can start over and work together to put real solutions on the table for rural America.

#### SUPPORTING OVERLOOKED UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as I do every day in strong support of the millions of undocumented immigrants whose contributions to our communities cannot continue to be overlooked.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide sound immigration reform through reconciliation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in

prioritizing this timely and long-overdue effort. We must find the collective will in this House, in the Senate, and in the White House to finally resolve this pending issue.

The American Dream is for all of us, Madam Speaker. It is for TPS recipients. It is for Dreamers. It is for farmworkers and essential workers who put their lives on the line during the pandemic.

How can we build back better without providing real reform for our undocumented immigrants? Or are we to abandon a nation of immigrants? That is the question.

Let me be very clear, Madam Speaker: Including immigration reform in budget reconciliation is not without any precedent. While the Senate Parliamentarian's decisions have not gone our way, we must forge ahead and continue to bring solutions to this community.

If not now, then when? How many times will we be able to tell vital members of our communities to wait in line to be treated fairly and equally in our country?

These are our neighbors, Madam Speaker. These are folks who helped us through the pandemic. These are the food delivery people who came to our homes while we shivered in fear during the pandemic. These are the over 400,000 farmworkers who picked the fruits and the vegetables that we put on our table during the pandemic. These are the home care workers that took care of our very frail seniors, that scrubbed themselves clean before they went to work, and when they went back home, had to do the same not to infect their children.

They are heroes. These are American heroes who kept us alive during the pandemic.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to pass much-needed legislation that reforms our broken immigration system. More than two-thirds of all undocumented immigrants work in front-line jobs and are essential workers in industries such as healthcare, home care, transportation, agriculture, food production, and construction, among others.

Including sound immigration reform would advance our economic recovery from the pandemic, reduce our national deficit, raise wages, add a cumulative \$1.5 trillion to the GDP over a decade, and create more than 400,000 new jobs.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to pass immigration reform and have expressed strong support for including immigration reform in our budget reconciliation process. It is also broadly supported by the American people.

Congress has not passed substantial immigration reform in more than 35 years, Madam Speaker. Due to the Senate filibuster, a cynical remnant of Jim Crow, budget reconciliation provides the only glimmer of hope that will turn this into a reality.

It is an unfortunate truth that the other side of the aisle has rejected every proposal, Madam Speaker, every single proposal, and obstructed every single piece of immigration reform legislation that we have put forward. The filibuster has once again blocked our progress every step of the way.

For decades, we have failed to sign into law permanent legislative solutions to this problem. Budget reconciliation is the only tool we now have available.

Millions of immigrants in our country have lived their lives in fear and uncertainty for far too long. They are counting on us to get this done, and I am committed to making it happen. I will always stand behind asylum seekers, refugees, and families who come to this country to make a better life for themselves, just as I once did. That is the promise of America, Madam Speaker.

□ 1100

#### HONORING DAVID J. RYDER

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

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of U.S. Mint Director David J. Ryder as he prepares to depart the Mint.

As a Boise State Broncos alum, Director Ryder has served with distinction in both the government and corporate worlds.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated him to serve as the 34th Director of the U.S. Mint. He served until 1993. In 2017, he was nominated by President Trump for a second tenure as Mint director.

Madam Speaker, that was something the Bushes and the Trumps agreed upon.

Under Director Ryder's leadership, the Mint has introduced more new products than ever before. The Mint's bullion and numismatic programs reached their highest levels of revenue in over 10 years. The Mint's customer base grew to more than a half a million people—530,000, an increase of over 100,000 in 2 short years.

I was particularly impressed by Director Ryder's leadership when we worked together on the 2021 Morgan and Peace Commemorative Silver Dollars program, which produced 875,000 Morgan silver dollars and 200,000 Peace silver dollars, all under the 2021 date.

Carson City and New Orleans mintmarks were resurrected for the first time in years, even though those Mints had been closed by using them in a privy mark. Collectors went nuts, and rightfully so. The program netted over \$30 million for the U.S. Treasury and profits from this program when they all sold out in less than 20 minutes.