

is no stranger to shattering glass ceilings and paving the way for the next generation of cleric leaders.

Under her guiding principle of unity, hope, and grace, Memorial Baptist Church has proven vital to the strength and resiliency of Harlem, and we are forever indebted.

With Pastor Gardner at the helm, I trust that this work is only the beginning, and the Memorial Baptist Church will continue their mission of uplifting our community's most vulnerable and ingraining the spirit of strength into the fabric of our neighborhood.

#### RECOGNIZING ALBERT EDWARD PELHAM

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Albert Edward Pelham, a beloved community leader and student advocate from my town, Montclair, New Jersey.

Al was known for bringing people together. His work aided and inspired generations of Montclairians, and he leaves behind a beautiful legacy.

Al was raised in Montclair and graduated from Montclair High School. He served our country in the U.S. Army before returning to New Jersey and graduating from Bloomfield College.

From his leadership in the Montclair NAACP, the Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Montclair African-American Heritage Foundation, and more, he dedicated himself to making his community a better and fairer place.

One of Al's many achievements was the creation of Project Oasis, which offers year-round educational and recreational opportunities for students. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Al adapted the program and organized a remote learning space so that all students had access to a computer to attend their virtual classes.

He also created a program for students who were suspended to provide them with academic training and counseling as an alternative to staying at home.

Al worked to ensure that all students, regardless of their background, had opportunities to excel.

Al fought tirelessly for racial justice and inclusivity, guiding both the Montclair NAACP and the Montclair African-American Heritage Foundation through especially difficult times in our country. In 2019, he was recognized for these efforts with the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award.

Al's dedication to his community was matched by his deep commitment to his family. Al took any opportunity he could to be with his wife, Audrey; his children, Dwayne and Rhonda; his grandchildren, Charles and Cameron; his sisters; and extended family.

On August 19, 2021, Al passed away after a battle with cancer. His selfless

commitment to making Montclair a better place will not soon be forgotten. I was honored to have known Al and to have called him my friend. The counsel he gave me and so many others over the years will continue to impact us and the entire Montclair community for generations to come.

#### WE CANNOT ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be able to further defend and add to my statement regarding H. Res. 730 recommending that the House of Representatives find Stephen K. Bannon in contempt of Congress.

It is well known that even from his own words and published reports, these are the words that Mr. Bannon told his listeners:

"All hell is going to break loose tomorrow."

"It is not going to happen like you think it is going to happen. Okay. It is going to be quite extraordinarily different. All I can say is, strap in. . . . You have made this happen, and tomorrow, it is game day. So strap in. Let's get ready."

"So many people through my life said, man, if I was in the Revolution, I would be with Washington at Trenton. Well, this is your time in history."

There is no constitutional provision that would deny the January 6th Select Committee the right to receive information from Mr. Bannon after he has been subpoenaed for information regarding the insurrection, the riot, the attack on January 6.

The idea of executive privilege is exerted by the existing President, limited on a President of the United States no longer in office. In fact, Mr. Bannon has been gone from the White House since 2017. He has no legitimate basis.

Based on three equal branches of government, we cannot allow an individual to undermine democracy. This is a democratic republic, and I expect that the referral to the United States Department of Justice will be handled.

#### INVESTMENTS TO BUILD BACK BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOWMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to talk about the importance of this historic moment indeed, this historic moment of where we will be investing—investing in our children, investing in our planet, investing in our future. We are talking about the Build Back Better agenda.

I want to begin by talking about my district, which is made up of beautifully diverse rural communities. My district is the size of Pennsylvania, but my communities in this district are rich in culture and rich in love. You know what? They have also been historically left behind with little investments made to improve their lives and to allow them to thrive.

New Mexican values are rooted in caring for each other. We know that we invest in what we care about. We know we invest in what we believe in. Well, we must invest in addressing the climate crisis because, in my district, we know that *agua es vida*, water is life. Our farmers and ranchers are depending on us to act and preserve their water resources.

Communities along our rivers, along our acequias, need us to pass a Build Back Better plan that tackles the crisis head-on so that we can preserve the water flowing from our mountains and cascading along our streams for decades to come—to feed our ranchers, to feed our farmers, and to quench our thirst.

In these same communities, people often come back home to care for their loved ones, their parents and grandparents. I have heard their stories. We asked them: Why did you come back? It is because there was nobody else available to care for my grandmother. There was nobody else to care for my tia. And we know that that care is a full-time job on its own.

What does it take to go to work in rural America? It is more than just roads and bridges. It is comprehensive paid family and medical care. It is investments in long-term care and affordable childcare.

□ 1630

In my State, 53 percent of people live in a childcare desert. Seventy-one percent of rural families live in areas without enough licensed childcare providers. We can change that.

The Build Back Better plan must invest in our rural communities. We are talking about empowering rural regions, including our Tribal nations, with the resources to grow their economies, expanding access to affordable healthcare, lowering prescription drug prices, and making housing affordable. We can do this for our communities now. We can make this happen. We made progress with the American Rescue Plan, but we cannot stop there. We must build back better.

It is not good enough to go back to where we were, because we know that where we were wasn't good enough. So

we need to make sure that the child tax credit does not run out. We cannot kick our children out who came out of poverty. Fifty percent of the children in poverty in my State came out, and I am not willing to tell them: I am sorry, the clock struck 12, and you must go back into living in poverty.

No. We must include an expansion extension of the child tax credit in the Build Back Better Act.

Mr. Speaker, those children who were living in poverty are coming out. We also need to make sure that those children in rural America get their early pre-K that they need, and that is what Build Back Better will do.

So the question I ask is simple: Do we want to keep an economy that serves only the wealthiest people and corporations?

Or do we finally give our families a fair shot to truly thrive?

As I said, we invest in the things we believe in. Well, we believe in our youngest children. We believe in our workers. We believe in the promise that lies in each of our communities.

I am glad to be on the floor with my Progressive Caucus colleagues this evening to shine the light on the brilliance of the Build Back Better agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for her leadership. I am very glad that she has emphasized the unanimity and the unity of Democrats as relates to all of our constituents, all Americans, whether we are in New Mexico, Texas, or whether, we are in New York, whether in Mississippi, Illinois, California, whether we are up in the New England States or down the coast in the Carolinas and down to Florida and all in between, it is important, again, to emphasize to the American people that this is about you.

Breaking news. Each of these elements that we are fighting for—and we take no discomfort in you saying at the bus stop, while taking your child to school, what are they talking about?

It is our responsibility to let you know what we are talking about and to let you know that the Congressional Progressive Caucus has been talking and working and talking and working. We now are at a point where we will say to you: We will not negotiate against ourselves.

But we are the engine to get it done working with the Quad Caucus, the Tri Caucus, and the Democratic Caucus.

So, Mr. Speaker, you have heard that there are numbers that may be different from \$3.5 trillion of which I still stand on. But we are working to see how we can respond to the American people, and that is you have indicated that there is a framework that will change my life. I want to see it sooner than later.

So here is where we are. There is the INVEST Act, though, we are talking tonight about Build Back Better. I want you to know that, Mr. Speaker,

as some would say, it is on the table. It is on the table for broadband. It is on the table for high-speed rail. It is on the table for electric cars. It is on the table for the trials and tribulations of your commute where there is a pothole here or a freeway that is out of commission or a bridge or a dam, it is there. So go home and be sure that we will have that framework.

But then Build Back Better is what I want to conclude my remarks on today. We will provide you with the kind of quality of life that gives you more time with your children, that gives you better wages, that gives you climate change response, and gives your child a universal pre-K and kindergarten to ensure that they are competitive around the world; and, yes, Medicaid for those who never lived in States where they opted into the public option or expanded Medicaid. So if you are working every day, we want you to have health insurance, and on Medicare we want that hearing, we want those eyes, and we want dental to be part of your life.

This is what is the bowl of fruit that is there for you. The next step as we work out for how these plans will be implemented is to get it done. My view is what I heard from a Member—I will give him credit—from Arizona. Put them together and let's move once we organize and analyze the pieces of it. And I will just leave, Madam Manager, my comment on the table.

Let us be meticulous and careful about what plans or what items can accept reduction because you don't want something that does not work because you have reduced it in time or dollars. Let's be meticulous, and that is what we are doing. And let's make sure that we are meticulous in ensuring that the final bill is an impactful bill on lives in terms of years of how long the program lasts and in terms of dollars of how much impact it will have.

We as the Congressional Progressive Caucus have been in the center and in the mix, and we will do the Nation's bidding. We will do it right because we stand for the people of this Nation, and particularly those who cannot speak for themselves. That gives me pride. I am delighted to be here on the floor with the gentlewoman to ensure that those voices can be heard.

I know working with the President we will get it done. Put it together, and let's move.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so much for her words. I do think it is important to remember what it actually means for a family.

In New Mexico, the average cost of infant care is \$8,617. That makes New Mexico one of 33 States and D.C. where infant care is more expensive than college. The Build Back Better plan will limit that to 7 percent of your income.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) on Build Back Better and what we have been fighting for and why we must get this done.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me to be able to address something that I think is so critical and is such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

There are so many elements of this Build Back Better agenda that touch us from the very youngest to the oldest to the middle class to the working class to those unable to work and those at greatest need.

I would like to speak on the aspects of the impact on our climate, the decisions that we must make.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Congress has an opportunity to address the climate crisis, yet some Members still refuse to take this issue seriously. Climate catastrophe is no longer some distant threat. It is here, and it is now. We are witnessing it firsthand, yet we continue to ignore its very real and very deadly effects.

This year we saw the single largest wildfire in California history. We saw temperatures surpass 100 degrees in the Pacific Northwest. And we saw Hurricane Ida devastate my home State of New Jersey as well as many others.

These tragedies were not inevitable. We could have avoided them had our country made it clear decades ago that climate change is not a political issue but a real issue that we need to respond to. We now face the consequences of our past and present decisions. This could be our last chance to take long overdue action and spare our children from having to raise their children in an increasingly hostile world.

The Build Back Better Act includes crucial climate investments. But these provisions are in jeopardy as some of our colleagues seek to eliminate them.

The Build Back Better Act must include climate action. It is nonnegotiable. We need to pass the President's entire agenda, and we need to pass it now. We might never get another chance.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for this opportunity to speak on such an important issue.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would also note that when we adjust for the climate, we are also creating jobs. We anticipate there will be 763,000 green jobs available to our communities when we pass Build Back Better and address the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. NEWMAN).

Ms. NEWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ. We are excited to be here. This is a really important evening.

Mr. Speaker, do you know why?

It is because we are talking about why this is so important that we get Build Back Better accomplished.

Like a great team that the Democrats are—and I want to talk about that, if I may, with our chair's permission.

We are a team. I am frustrated with the media and anybody who is saying

that we are not a team right now. We are ready to go. Ninety-nine percent now, as of today, and I do mean that number, 99 percent of us are on the same page. We just have to get a little bit more done. So I am asking the media to report accurately. I am asking all of the Americans who are watching me to understand we are ready to go. We are a team.

I want to talk about how big this package is. It is trillions of dollars. So think of it this way, Mr. Speaker, if two trillion-dollar companies came together, it would take probably 2 to 3 years to integrate it. We are doing it in a matter of weeks and months. We are going to do it well and precisely, and we are going to get it done. So teams get things done in an orderly fashion, and we are going to get this done.

But let me talk about something that is really frustrating to me and really irritating, and that is when folks talk about the labor shortage. The real issue is that we have a childcare shortage. We have a healthcare shortage. We have an affordable housing shortage. We have shortage of affordable pre-K. And there is a shortage of folks being paid properly for hard work.

This is particularly frustrating when I hear that there is a labor shortage and then our friends across the aisle block every single possible thing we can do to make that better and to boost our economy, so that is super frustrating for me.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, you can't say we have a labor shortage and then block immigration. It just doesn't work that way. You can't say immigrants are stealing jobs. It doesn't work. It is common sense. It is math. So it doesn't work.

But let me say something else, Mr. Speaker, if we do things like expanding paid leave and medical leave, if we make sure that folks have access to childcare and have free childcare, guess what?

Moms can get back to work because moms—let's be honest about it—moms are frequently the primary caregiver. We can get them back to work. Mr. Speaker, 300,000 of our moms in this Nation have been forced to quit so they can take care of their kids.

Someone mentioned something else that is astonishing, not that it is just 300,000 people who have left the workforce of the female nature, it is that in addition to that, about 70—when you take all of the sources of childcare, whether it is YMCA, moms and dads who are in other jobs and working three jobs at a time, or it is our school system, or just general daycare and childcare—about 70 percent of our childcare system was lost during the pandemic. So, of course, it is hard to get a break, because guess what?

The reason we had this amazing package set up this way that we had roads and bridges that will be repaired, and broadband delivered, as well as childcare and healthcare and in-home healthcare and all of the things on the

human infrastructure side, do you know why? Because when mom and dad go to fix a bridge, they need somebody to watch their kids all day. That is why this works so well together, and that is why we have to pass this. That is why we are doing this because it is a super practical thing to do.

Every dollar in this package will get infused right back into the economy—right back. So this is really brilliant in every way. It is very practical, and it is founded within our great principles, our economic principles.

And guess what, Mr. Speaker? It is founded in capitalism because supply and demand are working beautifully in this package, and we are going to get this done.

I thank the gentlewoman for having us tonight. It is a joy to have my friend and everything she does.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to just touch on a few points.

The gentlewoman mentioned the need for immigration. I would point out that when we pass our comprehensive immigration reform, we would have a \$1.4 trillion benefit to our economy. We need immigrants to help care for us. They help feed us. They are part of our communities, and the Build Back Better Act, as the House is looking at it, includes immigration reform.

Today, I was also reminded, during the remarks on something else, what today is. Today is sadly, and I say sadly, today is Latina Equal Pay Day.

□ 1645

I have introduced a resolution to acknowledge that it is Latina Equal Pay Day, and what that tells us is that it has taken this long, into the fall, into October, before a Latina earns the same as a White man. That is simply wrong. And the other thing we know is that Latinas in the recession, the secession, that was caused by that pandemic, 20 percent unemployment, the childcare that my colleagues are talking about, that would help those women get back to work. That would help them when we make sure that they are also paid what they deserve for the work they do, taking care of our children, putting food on our plates, and just taking care of those we love.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY), somebody who I have always looked up to and learned much from.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding and sister in service here, Congresswoman LEGER FERNANDEZ, for convening us here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of every worker, every parent, and every caretaker that has questioned how they will make ends meet and keep food on the table for their families; the parent that has felt that pit in their stomach, the anxiousness as they look over monthly bills with the growing costs of rent and childcare; the front-

line worker, who is terrified to stay home sick and lose their job because of our Nation's failure to provide paid leave; the family afraid of being displaced from their home due to extreme weather and the existential threat of climate change; the student living in a transit desert with unreliable access to jobs, food, community; the daughter who is a caregiver to her parent who is one of 820,000 people on a wait list for much-needed home and community-based services; and our immigrant neighbor who has been unjustly denied a pathway to citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, the Build Back Better Act will help us get one step closer to rejecting the unjust status quo and beginning to build a recovery that centers on the people. As Angela Davis once said: "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I can no longer accept."

Despite what some might argue, the needs of our communities go far beyond our Nation's roads and bridges, and we must ensure that our policies and our investments reflect that reality. Mr. Speaker, I refuse to choose between the union worker who builds our highways and the child worker who protections our babies and sets them on a pathway to a healthy life, to bring into bear their contributions to the world. I would ask every Member of Congress that they do the same. Reject the unjust, false binary choices that force us to choose between the livelihoods and well-being of the two that pit community member against community member. We have the opportunity and responsibility to finally make universal paid leave, home healthcare, and universal access to quality and affordable childcare a reality.

In my district, in Massachusetts, it costs \$21,000 per child for childcare. We have the opportunity and responsibility to address climate change to combat our housing crisis, and to finally establish a pathway to citizenship for millions of our immigrant workers. You know, those essential workers that you were all clapping for during the pandemic.

They don't need your applause. They need you to value more than just their labor, but their lives and the preservation of their families. We must rebuild stronger as a just Nation that takes care of its people. In order to truly build back better, we must truly address both the human and physical infrastructure needs of our communities. This is responsive to the needs of the people. We have to focus on impact, advance policies that will be felt by all families. Leave no community behind. This is how we set forth a just recovery and chart a new course forward.

This is the moment to repair generations of hurt and harm and what I would characterize as policy violence inflicted on our most vulnerable and neglected communities. This is our moment to legislate our values; to honor

the decisive mandate that we have from the people. This is our moment to make this Democratic majority—House, Senate, and White House—that that is more than a talking point that we are in the majority. We must affirm and codify once and for all.

Infrastructure are those things that are essential to the functioning of our very society. Care is infrastructure. Housing is infrastructure. Climate justice is infrastructure. Paid leave is infrastructure. Disability justice is infrastructure, and the list goes on.

Here is what I know. There is no deficit of resource in this country, only a deficit of empathy and political courage. Let's pass the Build Back Better Act so that we can deliver for the communities that for too long have been asked to wait. Justice delayed is justice denied. Our constituents deserve more.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so much for bringing to light and describing those individuals for whom we are working today, but it is they who are us. We are part of their communities and they have been telling us these stories and we are responding now because now is the time for us to act.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN), who co-sponsored the resolution I spoke of earlier for the Latina Equal Pay Day. We care for each other. That is why we look after each other.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I join my colleagues today in calling for Congress to pass President Biden's entire Build Back Better agenda. This is a plan that takes on the climate crisis and fights for environmental justice at a time when we have seen record heat waves, wildfires, and drought in California and across the country. It invests in things like the climate smart ports to invest in zero emissions technology that will reduce toxic air pollution in neighborhoods near our ports, like the communities of color that surround the Port of Los Angeles in my Congressional District.

The Build Back Better agenda we know will also invest in things like the construction of more than 2 million affordable homes to address the rising housing costs that have hit Los Angeles so hard and across the country, with more than 41,000 suffering from homelessness.

It is going to do things like lowering health insurance cost; invest in higher education to lower tuition for students at minority-serving institutions. It is going to cut taxes for families with children by extending the child tax credit and cutting poverty. How do we not invest in that? But today I want to focus more on climate because this is a crisis, and this is a threat that is happening as we speak. It is urgent.

It is urgent that we act boldly to respond to the threat of climate change and the climate investments in the Build Back Better Act which are crit-

ical to maintain, not cut. For example, there are two investments in the bill I have led on that are important for climate and environmental justice, climate smart ports. This includes a critical \$3.5 billion investment to reduce air pollution at ports by providing grants and rebates for the purchase and installation of zero emissions technology.

Nearly 40 percent of Americans live within 3 miles of a port and will benefit from these investments in clean air. In my district, the Port of Los Angeles is a major economic engine but it is also a major source of pollution. We have some of the worst air quality in the country and it disproportionately impacts communities of color in South Los Angeles. For decades, my constituents have advocated for zero emission solutions. This \$3.5 billion ports investment in the Build Back Better Act will deliver. It is a long-overdue investment in environmental justice, in climate action, in jobs.

So I want to urge us to fight to keep these long-overdue investments in clean air for our port communities. Environmental justice and climate justice grants, that is also in the Build Back Better agenda. There is a \$5 billion investment in environmental and climate justice grants, by far the largest-ever amount that we have invested in this.

Now, with this investment, we will empower environmental justice communities to lead projects that reduce pollution and bring climate justice solutions to communities hit first and worst by the climate crisis. This will mean climate-resilient solutions such as clean energy microgrids to keep the power on during extreme weather events like heat waves and hurricanes.

It means the community solar projects that create local jobs and save money on electricity bills, like the recent solar project in my district at the Wilmington Senior Center. It means green infrastructure to prevent flooding and to protect communities from extreme heat. These long overdue investments will give environmental justice communities the resources to fight for a safe climate and clean environment.

Of course, there are other investments, such as in-home care that will help provide care for our older Americans and those with disabilities so they could stay in their homes and get the care that they need. It will provide for things like paid family and medical leave. Imagine you are a nurse at a hospital and you help deliver babies and all of a sudden you get cancer and you have no paid leave.

How are you to go home and fight cancer, so that you can focus on that cancer fight instead of worrying about how you are going to pay the bills. That very thing happened to my sister just last November. She delivers babies at a military hospital, a Federal worker. You would think these are people we take care of, but this is happening

across the country day in and day out. People have to go ask their colleagues and their coworkers to donate their leave and their time, and that is wrong.

We need to invest in these and we have to fight to keep these priorities in the Build Back Better agenda. And it is time that these investments should be paid for by ensuring the wealthy and the corporations finally pay their fair share of taxes. Now is the time to make these once-in-a-generation investments in problems that have long been neglected. Now is the time to stand strong and deliver the promises we made to the American people.

Let's stand up for the people and the planet. Let's meet the moment and pass the entire Build Back Better agenda.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for leading this effort and thank the Progressive Caucus for being at the forefront of making sure that we are fighting for the people.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Representative for her courage. She has raised the issues of environmental injustice since the day I met her. I know she raised them and she leads them in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and she has now described what it means on the ground, what it means in terms of jobs, but also what it means in terms of the life that you live, the air that you breathe. Because we know that in our communities, our communities of color suffer from higher rates of asthma. And when something like COVID comes about that ravages the lungs when they have already been damaged, it hurts. And that is why we saw the level of death and despair in the communities of color, in the Native American communities and the Latino communities.

I would also point out that climate change is costly. When they don't want to spend \$3.7 trillion, or \$2.5 trillion, let's remember that failure to address climate change will lead to world instability. It is estimated that we would lose \$23 trillion, a \$23 trillion impact on our economy, our world economy by failing to address this.

I don't want to pass over the impact in terms of the creating jobs for the people in our community, for the people in America. We know that we are now coming back. The pandemic is hard. We are still pushing out of it. Today we heard some great jobs numbers. 290,000 is below what they had projected so we are feeling good. We know that the pandemic is something that we are working on, that this President has done such a great job working with Congress on that.

But still, it is estimated that the Build Back Better agenda would create 4 million jobs. That is 1.1 million caregiving jobs. That is not just a number. That is somebody that you are going to take your baby to. And you know that what we are going to do is make sure that that caregiver has the

kind of training that she needs or he needs to provide the best quality care; that because we are providing assistance, that their caregiver is going to be receiving the kind of pay that she or he deserves because they are providing the most valuable thing to you. They are caring for the most precious resource, our children. And that is what Build Back Better will do.

□ 1700

It will also create 556,000 manufacturing jobs, and those are going to be jobs with prevailing wages, good-paying jobs. That is what we need. When we talk about needing to bring manufacturing back, let's grow it here. And if you are for manufacturing in America, you have got to be for the Build Back Better Act, because that is going to create a half billion jobs. That is a lot of jobs.

But what does that job mean? It means that there is somebody who is going to go to work, who has a family, or wants to start a family, and is going to be able to buy a home. But we know that buying a home is hard. So the Build Back Better Act is going to provide assistance for those first-time home buyers. Because we know that the hardest thing for buying a home is having that down payment, and we have down payment assistance in the Build Back Better Act. That is what we are going to be bringing.

We have looked at what are the different levers of our economy that make a difference that are infrastructure, that help a community thrive, not just survive. That is what is in the Build Back Better Act, because we want our communities to thrive, not just survive.

Construction jobs, 312,000 construction jobs, doing the things that we need in America, building those bridges, building those health clinics, building those schools and those businesses. Because it takes all of that; it takes an investment in us.

And we do pay for it. There is not a dime—this is not about debt, because it is all paid for and it is paid for first by going after those who fail to pay their taxes, even when due. So, tax cheats, yes, we are going to make you pay your taxes, because that is only fair. We are going to make those corporations who have paid less in taxes than my child's schoolteacher, we are going to make them pay their fair share.

Not a single family that is earning less than \$450,000 a year—so if you are earning half a million dollars a year, then you will see a small increase in your taxes.

But if any of you are outside listening to this and saying, what will it do to my tax burden? If you are earning less than a half a million dollars a year, you are going to be just fine. In fact, you are going to have a tax refund, because we have the child tax credit in there. We are lowering taxes for working families and middle-class families.

We know that when we invest in creating jobs that pay fair wages, that include benefits like healthcare, paid family and medical leave, and retirement, we will help more people get those jobs and keep those jobs. Because when they are able to go home and help somebody they love who is ill in their family, then they don't have to leave that job. That is what we should be caring about.

So when is the time to get this done? As I say in my Nuevo Mexico, *ahora es cuando*; it is time now to get this done. Because that is right, that is good for our communities, it is good for America, it is good for our women, and it is good for our planet.

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

#### DEMOCRATS' PLAN TO PUT MASS AMNESTY IN RECONCILIATION PACKAGE

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, during my time this evening, my colleagues and I will be shedding light on the Democrats' illegal attempt to include mass amnesty in their multi-trillion-dollar spending package, their so-called Build Back Better bill.

Frankly, this entire bill is a disaster. It will permanently cause labor shortages, crush small businesses, raise taxes, lower wages, and expand the very worst parts of our government.

As one of the chairs of the House Border Security Caucus, a Texan, and simply as an American, I am stunned that in the middle of the worst border security crisis we have ever faced, Senate Democrats are using the reconciliation process to try and grant mass amnesty to millions and millions of illegal aliens.

We are up against more crises than any American has ever seen, too many to even keep track of anymore. But, folks, this is the worst one of all. Our open borders and the President's dereliction of duty to secure our southern border will unquestionably affect every single American in this country, every single State, for generations to come. Let that sink in.

My friends, this isn't a talking point. It is a fact. History has shown us that amnesty erodes the integrity of our immigration system, and it breeds contempt for the law on all sides. We are

seeing this happening and unfolding before our eyes in living color.

If we look back to 1986, which was the last time mass amnesty was granted, we have a clear view of what will happen if Biden and the Democrats push this plan through. Millions of jobs will be put at risk. We will see massive waves of new illegal immigration. It is happening as we speak. Our enemies will use this avenue to enter the United States and embed themselves into our society.

Listen closely: Our society, our country, our neighbors, us—America is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank him for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we learned that this year has broken all historical records for illegal immigration. The CBP arrested 1.7 million foreign nationals illegally crossing our border this year. That is the entire population of the States of Alaska, Wyoming, and Vermont combined. And it is a Federal crime. It is a misdemeanor for the first offense. It is a felony for reentry. Yet, this administration is not only not prosecuting this crime; it is actively assisting and encouraging it.

Today, the Attorney General, the official responsible for prosecuting Federal crimes, could not even give us a ballpark guess of how many are actually being prosecuted, and, I suspect, because that number is zero.

He couldn't tell us what is being done to enforce the Federal law that forbids hiring illegals. He wasn't aware of President Biden's inauguration day order to Immigration and Customs Enforcement not to faithfully execute the law.

Now, I ask you, is it just possible that the administration's refusal to enforce our immigration law might just have something to do with the fact that our country is now being overwhelmed by this unprecedented incursion on our border?

Ask any of the migrants. They will tell you the sole reason they are coming is because of the Biden administration's decision to open the border. Under Donald Trump's leadership, they say they never would have considered making the trip, because we had achieved control of our border for the first time in a generation.

Yet, on inauguration day, Mr. Biden reversed the Remain in Mexico policy, he ordered ICE not to enforce the law, and he abandoned the border wall.

This Attorney General has no idea if his department is doing anything to enforce those immigration laws. Well, Mr. Speaker, without immigration laws, we have no border; and if we have no border, then we have no country.

Gallop estimates that based on their polling, there are 42 million people living in poverty in South America and the Caribbean who intend to come to the United States now that they can.