

Members are aware when new bills potentially duplicate existing programs in areas which have already been identified by the GAO.

I urge all Members to support passage of the Fiscal State of the Nation act today and renew our commitment to putting our Nation on a sustainable fiscal trajectory.

VACCINE MANDATE UNDERMINES ESSENTIAL SERVICES

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, when the coronavirus shut down this country, first responders and healthcare professionals kept our communities going and safe. The essential services they provide can't be done from behind a computer screen, Madam Speaker.

Joe Biden's vaccine mandate undermines the preparedness of these services. The Americans we celebrated for the last 20 months are now forced to get the coronavirus vaccine or be fired from their jobs. It is disgusting that the Biden administration is threatening these public servants' livelihoods over these issues.

Our country cannot afford labor shortages in essential services. Look at law enforcement, for example. The defund the police movement continues to embolden criminals and lower morale among the law enforcement community.

On top of these problems, thousands of police officers are facing termination thanks to Biden's vaccine mandate.

This is a recipe for disaster amidst rising crime. I guarantee that if you are in danger of or a victim of crime, the last thing on your mind will be the vaccination status of the responding officer.

Congress needs to stand up for these essential workers under attack from Joe Biden's vaccine mandate. This week, I will introduce legislation allowing these workers to decide for themselves on taking the coronavirus vaccine, free from threats of termination if they decide against getting the shot, Madam Speaker. No American citizen should be fired for making a healthcare decision they believe is in their best interest.

□ 1215

HEALTH EQUITY PROVISIONS OF BUILD BACK BETTER

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass the Build Back Better Act.

The Build Back Better Act will bring transformational change to the Amer-

ican people, create a more equitable healthcare system, and save lives.

One of the greatest ongoing injustices in our country is just how many people do not have access to affordable healthcare. That population is overwhelmingly made up of people of color and rural Americans.

Policymakers and medical institutions have not prioritized the healthcare needs of communities of color and rural communities. The Build Back Better Act will help these communities by closing the healthcare coverage gap, create more affordable coverage options, expand benefits for seniors, invest in improving access to mental health and substance use disorders, attack the gun violence epidemic with public-health focused interventions, invest in addressing the Black maternal mortality crisis, and lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

Investing in affordable care, preventive care, and targeted reductions in violence will result in fewer extreme health scenarios, fewer emergency room visits, and over time, will save us money and reduce the burden on our healthcare system.

Healthcare is a human right. Passing the Build Back Better Act is a step in the right direction.

RECOGNIZING FFA NATIONAL PRESIDENT COLE BAERLOCHER

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Eastern Washington's finest young men, Cole Baerlocher.

Cole is a student at Washington State University, and he recently was elected to serve as the next national president of the Future Farmers of America.

For Cole, his family, and our entire community, this is a huge deal. Cole is from Colfax, the county seat of Whitman County, the top wheat-producing county in America.

Having him serve as the face of this organization is a tremendous honor. The FFA has more than 735,000 members; 37 candidates were considered for the honor of serving as president. Only one was selected to lead, and that person was Cole.

Cole, I know I speak for our entire community when I say congratulations on this incredible achievement. We could not be more proud. Go Cougs!

BUILD BACK BETTER CHILDCARE

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the inclusion of universal childcare and early education as part of the President's Build Back Better legislative agenda.

In Massachusetts, a family with two young children spends on average 28

percent of their income on childcare for 1 year. The Build Back Better Act will provide universal, high-quality, free preschool for every three-and-four-year-old in America. It will ensure that a four-person Massachusetts family making up to \$170,000 pays no more than 7 percent of their income on high-quality childcare.

Investing in the health and education of our children is the best long-term investment our country can make. With our future in mind, we must provide access to as many families as possible, as soon as possible. This will require raising provider wages to a living wage immediately and ensuring that more families can benefit in year one when we pass the Build Back Better Act.

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, this time last year, America was energy independent. Now our Nation is facing a full-blown energy crisis, leaving the American people to ask, "What changed?"

Well, the answer is simple.

Unlike the Trump administration, the Biden administration is determined to make it more difficult for American energy producers to develop affordable and reliable energy here at home.

On his first day in office, Joe Biden canceled the Keystone pipeline. Soon after, he banned all new oil and gas leases on Federal lands. As a result, Americans are paying exponentially more at the pump with gas prices reaching a 7-year high. And this winter, the cost to heat our homes is expected to jump 54 percent.

As the top Republican on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, I have been disappointed to see Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress double down on their failed agenda by pushing a \$5.5 trillion tax-and-spend package that will only increase our energy prices.

Instead of canceling commonsense energy projects, let's empower American energy workers to do what they do best. Instead of targeting American energy companies, let's make it easier for them to increase domestic oil and gas production.

If we do this, the next century can be an American century.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Build Back Better agenda.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make transformational change for women, transformational change for families, and communities

of color. From affordable childcare and eldercare to raising the pay of care workers and providing universal pre-K to expanding the child tax credit, this agenda will lift women out of poverty, educate our children, and lower costs.

We can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good, because there is so much good in this bill. This agenda is about who we are as a country and the values we represent. The Build Back Better agenda will build back better for women and families.

CONGRATULATING SOLON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of young women who have made history in a small town in my district.

Last week, the Solon High School Girls Cross Country team defied the odds at the 3A Iowa State championship and brought home their first girls cross country title after upsetting last year's champion, Ballard High School.

Led by top ten finishers, Kayla Young and Emma Bock, every Solon Spartan finished in the top 54 in a crowded 133-member field, earning a total score of 77 points.

Congratulations to Kayla Young, Emma Bock, Anna Quillin, Meghan O'Neill, Mara Duster, Gracie Federspiel, and Kaia Holtkamp. This is a great achievement for both Solon and the Second District, and I could not be prouder to represent all of these young women in Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND IMPACT OF JOHN H. JOHNSON

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 605, to honor the life and impact of John H. Johnson.

Though he was born in Arkansas, and known for his work in Chicago, Johnson's impact isn't limited by geography. In fact, in the village of Harlem, his work is beloved. He was a trailblazer of African-American media, starting his first magazine at 24, going on to have an internationally acclaimed career in publishing, with magazines like *Ebony* and *Jet* being globally renowned and internationally recognizable to this very day.

Madam Speaker, Johnson said that you have to change images before you can change acts and institutions—and changing acts and institutions, he did.

The impact Johnson had on his community and the world of media cannot be understated, and still serves as a role model of perseverance and success to this very day, inspiring the next generation of Black and Brown leaders.

November 1 is celebrated in Arkansas as John H. Johnson Day. With great pride, I rise today to support this resolution, but he is also revered and loved in the village of Harlem.

CONGRATULATING ATLANTA BRAVES AS 2021 WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2021 World Series champions, the Atlanta Braves.

After a stunning six-game World Series against the Houston Astros, culminating in a shutout victory last night, the Braves brought home the Commissioner's Trophy for the first time since 1995.

I, along with millions of Georgians, am incredibly proud of this Braves team for their unparalleled talent, electric team spirit, and unwavering determination.

Candidly, last night's victory was poetic justice after the Major League Baseball commissioner caved to the woke left and stole the All-Star game from Georgia earlier this year over Georgia's new election law reform that made it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

While ill-advised political ploys fade away, World Series championships are forever.

Chop on, Atlanta Braves.

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the historic deal reached by the House Committee on Ways and Means to include paid family and medical leave in the Build Back Better Act.

For decades, the United States has fallen behind the rest of the world in the support that we provide for working families. Without a national paid leave policy, families have been forced to make an impossible choice between caring for their loved ones and putting food on the table.

Across the Nation, there are millions of Americans like my constituent, Tameka Henry, who has lost \$200,000 in wages over the course of her lifetime while caring for her chronically ill husband. Those lost wages mean lost contributions to Medicare and Social Security that push working Americans further behind in our economy. This shouldn't be a partisan issue.

Paid leave levels the playing field for our small businesses and lifts up our entire economy. I hope that my Republican colleagues will come forward to help us deliver this historic change for the American people. But if they fail,

make no mistake, Democrats will deliver for their constituents and for our own.

DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Texas heartbeat case.

I pray that the Justices find wisdom and compassion to defend the rights of the unborn.

So many of my constituents were horrified to learn that the FDA was actually purchasing fetal tissue to surgically implant baby skulls into mice. Thank God President Trump defended life and stopped this horrific practice.

We opened this session with a prayer to "Creator God." God is the creator of human life, which begins at conception. Abortion is an offense to God, and we are bringing the wrath of God down upon our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge us as lawmakers and Americans to repent and change course. Every child is made in the image of God, and every child is precious.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CARR CENTER

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Carr Center in Detroit, Michigan, as they celebrate 30 years of preserving, presenting, promoting, and developing African and African-American cultural arts traditions in southeastern Michigan.

Founded in 1991 as the Arts League of Michigan, the Carr Center has worked to fulfill its mission of bringing artistic excellence by offering a wide array of programming.

Building upon its initial creative placemaking, the Carr Center has become a destination and hub for the performing arts in the city of Detroit.

The Carr Center has implemented three pillars of programming: Carr Center Presents, Carr Center Contemporary focus on performing and visual arts, while the Carr Center Arts Academy offers in-school and intensive summer arts education opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the Carr Center's many contributions to southeastern Michigan over the past three decades as we wish them well in the years to come. They are a true gem of Michigan's 13th District.

□ 1230

SKYROCKETING INFLATION

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1