

workers and laborers to engineers and scientists, and all of these are good-paying jobs. For every mile of road that is repaved from Houston to El Paso, we will be supporting roadway workers and construction workers. For every electrical line that is repaired to be more reliable in the cold, we will be supporting electricians and engineers. And for every lead pipe that is replaced to keep our children safe, we will be supporting plumbers, laborers, and other workers.

Altogether, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is just about that: rebuilding our infrastructure, investing in the future, and bringing jobs, jobs, jobs to our communities.

I am looking forward to seeing these projects come together in my home State, and I am grateful for the leadership of our President and this Congress in making sure that this can get to all communities in our country.

Together we will truly build back better for Texas.

HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Build Back Better Act.

Together with the historic infrastructure investments signed into law by President Biden earlier this week, working families like the one I grew up in will be able to get back on their feet and succeed in an economy that finally works for them.

Now, I have talked about my childhood on the floor of the people's House before. My dad was a union ironworker, and like his union brothers and sisters have done for decades, he worked long, hard hours to provide for my three sisters and me. When there wasn't work for him at home in Massachusetts, he would travel out of State erecting bridges and buildings in New York, Maine, and other places, sometimes for months at a time.

As a first generation American, a union job with benefits was better than most had, and it is certainly the reason I am standing here today. But the demands of my dad's job placed limitations on what my mom could do for work. Despite the wages and benefits secured by his union, my parents couldn't afford childcare for four girls. So my mom picked up jobs where she could to help make ends meet. Whether it was clerical work, cleaning homes, hostessing, or caring for kids, she did anything and everything possible to pay the bills while also making sure she was home to care for us when my dad was away.

Here is the thing: My family's story is not unique, not in the slightest. In fact, it is a story shared by millions of working families across our country who show up to work each day but

don't have the support they need to get ahead.

My mom's story is one that is shared by millions of working moms who want nothing more than to return to work and support their families but can't because the math doesn't work, giving them no choice but to stay at home and care for their families instead.

Mr. Speaker, under President Biden's leadership we are going to flip that script.

The infrastructure package he signed into law earlier this week will create millions of jobs with family sustaining wages and benefits by repairing our roads, our bridges, our water systems, and more.

But creating millions of jobs only works if workers are ready to fill them. That is why we are also working to pass the Build Back Better Act which will make unprecedented investments in working families. Families that continue to be the backbone of our country that we all have the honor of representing.

By expanding access to quality childcare, providing paid family and medical leave, establishing universal pre-K, and making home care affordable for our seniors, this legislation will propel parents—especially our working moms—back into the workforce and full participation in our economy.

By lowering healthcare costs and driving down prescription drug prices, the Build Back Better Act will ensure that families no longer have to choose between their health and their ability to put food on the table. By cutting taxes for low-income and middle-class Americans and extending the child tax credit payment that has served as a lifeline for so many, this package will keep money in families' pockets.

Passage of the Build Back Better Act will ensure that no one is left behind as we defeat COVID and rebuild our economy. That is why these provisions are supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans—Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. Like President Biden, they recognize that when we invest in working families, America wins.

Now, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to hear more about why they should support this bill, please let me know. My mom, Linda Loureiro, is happy to call you and tell you what the Build Back Better Act would have done for her and moms like yours 40 years ago and why we need to get it done for her children and her grandchildren today.

NATIONAL APPRENTICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who believe that the Build Back Better Act is going to make this country bet-

ter are trying to sell snake oil to the American people. There is an old saying, Mr. Speaker: You can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Frankly, the American people—some of them—have seen the light, and they understand that Build Back Better is going to bankrupt this country and that is not the way most Americans want to go. So we will see if the people who vote for Build Back Better have the real support of the American people next year if that bill passes.

Mr. Speaker, this is National Apprenticeship Week, and it is fitting that as the lead Republican on the Education and Labor Committee that we talk about the importance of apprenticeships.

As we know, apprenticeships have been around since the beginning of time and they have been much more used in other countries. They were much used in our country for a long, long time. Then the numbers of them decreased. However, in recent years more and more Americans have found that apprenticeship programs are an effective option to help achieve their career goals.

I have had people in my family go through apprenticeship programs, and I know for a fact how valuable they are. These earn-and-learn programs offer students and workers a viable path toward the American Dream, and it is very fitting that we should celebrate National Apprenticeship Week and highlight the apprenticeship programs across the country.

However, unfortunately, the Biden administration is proposing to end the program dedicated to expanding apprenticeships, cutting off this important pathway to sustainable and rewarding careers. By ending Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs, or IRAP, President Biden is hurting workers and businesses nationwide. This decision moves our country backward and will keep many Americans from being able to prepare for their future.

Instead of ending IRAPs, we should be working to inject innovation and flexibility into the apprenticeship model so that more Americans can get back to work and achieve the American Dream, no putting roadblocks in their way. Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more clear with every action of the Biden administration that the American worker is always going to take a backseat in President Biden's America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Keep us alert, O God, in body, mind, and spirit, that in all that the day presents, we would remain attentive and faithful to the calling to which You have called each of us.

Give strength to those among us whose bodies are burdened with the strain of long hours of weighty work, miles of travel to stay connected with constituents, or the vestiges of illness or injury.

Give inspiration to those whose minds are wrought with innumerable issues for which they are held accountable, facts and figures and derivative impacts that confound reason and tax the brain.

Give respite to those whose spirits are weary from the challenges to their integrity, misgivings of their sense of purpose, and threats to their moral and ethical underpinnings.

In You, O Lord, we find our strength, our inspiration, and our respite. May we turn to You throughout this day that we would find all that we need to remain steadfast and faithful in our service to You and to this Nation.

In the power of Your name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRIORITIZING LOCAL HIRES

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

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,

which includes a local hire provision that I offered to allow local transportation projects like the Los Angeles Metro to prioritize the hiring of local Angelenos for projects that are taking place in their own backyard.

My district has recently had two major construction projects. On the Westside, it is the Purple Line, which is going to connect UCLA to downtown L.A. In South L.A., it is the Crenshaw Line, which is going to bring a vital means of public transportation to neighborhoods historically neglected when it comes to economic investment.

It really didn't make sense that people living in the neighborhoods where the projects were going through could not be prioritized for the jobs. That is why this provision is so important.

With the local hire provision signed into law, people in Los Angeles neighborhoods can be prioritized for jobs in L.A. We are bringing thousands of well-paying jobs to Los Angeles and putting tax dollars back into the communities that paid for the projects in the first place.

THREAT TAGS

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, being a parent is a sacred responsibility, and every parent simply wants what is best for their kids. That is why, over the past year, we saw parents speak up at local school board meetings all across the country.

Whether it was pushing back against the radical teachings of critical race theory or voicing their opposition to mask mandates or allowing boys in girls' bathrooms, parents were standing up for their kids.

However, the National School Board Association deemed people exercising their First Amendment rights as domestic terrorists, and the Department of Justice used this narrative to launch investigations into parents.

Now we are learning from a whistleblower that the FBI was using antiterror tools to monitor parents and adding threat tags to files to track them. This is absurd. We should never criminalize parents for speaking up for their children.

To make matters worse, we now know the Attorney General lied under oath when he said there was no coordination between the DOJ and the National School Board Association. This administration has weaponized the DOJ for political gain and has chosen to stand with teachers unions over parents and students.

These actions are tyrannical, and Congress must know the extent to which parents were spied on.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA PUTS FAMILIES FIRST

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

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of President Biden's historic Build Back Better agenda.

Already, congressional Democrats have come together to pass part one of the Build Back Better agenda. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the largest investment in United States infrastructure in nearly a century, and it will benefit my State of Alabama in so many ways.

It will provide \$5.2 billion to repair Alabama's roads, \$225 million to fix Alabama's bridges, and \$100 million to connect every Alabamian to high-speed internet.

Now we have the opportunity to pass part two, the Build Back Better Act. That, too, will invest in Alabama by creating millions of good-paying jobs; providing affordable childcare for over 300,000 Alabamians; lowering healthcare costs for families, including 300,000 Alabamians who fall into the Medicaid coverage gap; and delivering universal pre-K to over 110,000 Alabama 3- and 4-year-olds.

As co-chair of the Ways and Means Racial Equity Initiative, I have fought to ensure that equity remains a central focus, and I am proud that these bills will uplift our most vulnerable communities in so many transformative ways.

It is fully paid for. I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the Build Back Better Act.

BIDEN INFLATION CRISIS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Biden inflation crisis has hit the poor and middle-income families the hardest.

Inflation just reached a 30-year high, and consumer prices have increased to an astonishing 6.2 percent compared to 12 months ago. This has serious impacts on hardworking families as they try to make ends meet and prepare for the holiday season.

Are you planning on buying a 16-pound turkey? Be prepared to pay 18 percent more this year. That does not even include the stuffing.

Are you planning on driving to visit family for the holidays? Plan on paying 61 percent more in gas prices than last year.

Instead of taking action to rein in wasteful government spending and address rising costs, the White House is claiming a vote for the Build Back Better plan will solve the inflation crisis, which is a complete lie any way you look at it.

Their socialist spending plan will add more fuel to the inflation crisis and worsen their self-made supply chain crisis.

It is no wonder a majority of Americans disapprove of President Biden's handling of the economy, and it gets worse every single day.

Americans cannot afford to fund the Democrats' liberal wish list, and it is