

trumpeting from the rooftops that vitamin D can save your lives, you are unquestionably disproportionately causing people of color to die of this horrible disease. I realize there are other things that could be done.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I will repeat here: insufficient vitamin D levels, 25.6 mortality rate compared to 2.3 percent with adequate levels. People with vitamin D deficiency are 14 times more likely to have a severe or critical case of COVID.

Why does the average person not know this?

I tell them when I run into them, but I can't talk to everybody. It would be nice if the public health establishment would talk a little bit more about that.

One other thing, by the way, I was hoping on COVID he would do, the protocol of a lot of hospitals is to determine the drugs they prescribe by what is recommended out of the big agencies in the government. And there are a lot of very intelligent people who feel that we would have saved a lot of people if we could have used off-label drugs rather than the \$3,000-a-day remdesivir. In other words, they felt there were better drugs that would probably cost one-hundredth of the amount of the drug that was being pushed out of CDC. It would be nice in America, the land of the free, if we would allow doctors in hospitals to use these other drugs. I think, again, Mr. Speaker, you would have significant savings compared to where we stand right now.

These are some of topics that I think were not addressed and should have been addressed and would save lives if appropriately addressed in the State of the Union.

We will mention one more because we have a little bit of time here. President Biden, to his credit, pointed out that a lot of people are dying from illegal drugs. He didn't exactly have any concrete proposals as to what to do. When I got this job 7 years ago, 47,000 Americans were dying every year from illegal drug overdoses. Fifty-seven thousand people died in 12 years in the Vietnam war. And they made a big deal about that when I was a child. Now you have 47,000 in 1 year, Mr. Speaker, when I got elected.

Do you know what it is now, Mr. Speaker?

One hundred thousand. It is as if we are having two Vietnam wars every year, and the politicians hardly talk about it.

Now, I think one of the reasons President Biden wouldn't come up with anything concrete is that almost all the fentanyl—a drug which he wouldn't even mention by name which is responsible for most of these deaths—almost all of the fentanyl is coming across the southern border, and, of course, our President doesn't like to talk about the southern border because we have a largely open southern border in which 90 to 100,000 people every month are coming across.

It also may mean a little bit more of an aggressive law enforcement going after the people who sell the fentanyl. But, of course, we can't say we should have more aggressive law enforcement, and we can't say that more drug dealers should wind up in prison because then we would have more in prison.

So rather than doing these things, why don't we just let 100,000 people a year die?

Some people can say drug possession and sale of drugs is a victimless crime. I say if you think about the parents or the spouses or the children or the siblings of the 100,000 people who die, I don't know how we cannot do more to address this problem.

I would hope that next year in the State of the Union speech President Biden does a little more to address the 100,000 people who are dying of drug overdoses and does a little more to address the perhaps hundreds of thousands of people whose lives could be saved if we freed up doctors to prescribe whatever drugs they wanted to and if we would have pushed a little bit more vitamin D.

I think we would have a much more well-informed electorate if the educational system and the journalist establishment did a little more to educate the public about the Holodomor.

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

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, certainly this is a moment in history for many, many ways. I have heard of the—really the constant—how do we say in the country—ranging and tanging, the constant refrain of our friends on the other side of the aisle, and I am going to take somewhat of the approach of the President of the United States who gave really one of the most historic, dynamic, and pointed speeches to the American people that I have ever heard.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank President Biden on the floor of the House for speaking straight to the American public. All those who were willing to hear their President who recognized that we are a nation of the United States of America, that we are truly, truly a nation that rises to the occasion of defending democracy together as the United States of America.

That speech covered the pain and the joy that we face today. And I want to start with his concluding remarks, and I can almost hear his resonating voice, his passion, and his true reach to the American people. This was the State of the Union, the first, and so when the question was asked, President Biden said my report is this: "The state of the Union is strong because you, the American people, are strong."

Who could not fall under the strength of that statement?

The mothers of soldiers who are in faraway places; fathers who go out and work every day who look to hope from their country to make sure they can provide for their family; the senior citizens; the students who fight against tuition increases; and the vulnerable people seeking homes and houses; they heard him.

"We are stronger today than we were a year ago, and we will be stronger a year from now than we are today. Now is our moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time, and we will as one people, one America—the United States of America. May God bless you all. May God protect our troops."

From the beginning he spoke to the American people without divisiveness and certainly with an understanding that we have gone through as a people a most historic and devastating moment in our lives. I know that because more than once I have visited the area on the Mall that showed the little white flags. If you have visited Arlington National Cemetery, then you know the sacrifice of our soldiers, you know the rows and rows and rows and rows and rows of tombstones from wars beyond our historical time.

But when you went to that exhibit, if it was that commemoration, that tribute, that acknowledgment, that place of mourning to know of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who died because of COVID 19, and some dying in the early stages, some families having six, seven, and nine people their family. So you know this was an enormous time.

Let me thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus who just yesterday Congresswoman LEGER FERNANDEZ spoke of our next steps in the work ahead.

I didn't want this time to end without responding to day after day refrain from our Republican friends with no plans, no solutions, no next steps, just criticism over and over again just so their voices could be heard.

There is no doubt of the magnificence of the work that has been done by the President of the United States. Let me read, if I might, again, into the RECORD from the Wall Street Journal. And let me acknowledge that in my district where there are persistent or even permanent economic problems such as long-term unemployment, weak labor markets, inexperienced workers, evictions and foreclosures, these are what come about through a catastrophe like the pandemic. And, also, as the Wall Street Journal referred to: "The painful truth about economic recoveries is not that everyone bounces back financially after a downturn."

There are always going to be Americans, as I said, in long-term unemployment, weak labor markets, inexperienced workers, evictions and foreclosures, and people trapped in difficult economic conditions because there needs to be a reimagining of their job.

There are always going to be those people. But there are policies that can limit this scarring, as economists sometimes refer to it.

Our President Biden, the President of the United States, his American Rescue Plan has led to less of it than any recovery in the last 50 years. If there were good-thinking people on this floor, they would rise to a standing ovation as we did on Tuesday night.

Long-term unemployment. While most jobs will return after an economic downturn, the number of people struggling with long-term unemployment—without work for at least 6 months—often remains relatively high for months after general unemployment peaks.

While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 helped avert an economic depression, the persistence of high long-term unemployment 2 years later led President Obama to press a Republican House for a second stimulus.

But in this instance, we can assure that the American Rescue Plan of President Biden—and, by the way, through no fault of President Obama who did not have a cooperative Republican Congress—this has been the least impact and the greater recovery in at least 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, don't you think that is worthy of celebration?

But no. There is a whining and whining and whining as if the President does not recognize the importance of pressing forward on behalf of the American people.

So let me, first of all, indicate that in a few days we will be honoring and recognizing those foot soldiers who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, not once but twice, led by John Robert Lewis, our late colleague, and Martin Luther King, Jr., because the ultimate gift of democracy comes out of the voices of the people who vote.

Isn't it a shame that 100 years post the Emancipation Proclamation for the second time in 1865 after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 that 1965 had to be the year that President Lyndon Baines Johnson that again we reinforced the 15th Amendment of the right to vote.

And here we are today in a primary that was held in Texas, the first primary in the Nation, and it was a disaster because of SB 1 led by Republicans to take the vote right out of the mouths of seniors, African Americans, Hispanics, veterans, soldiers, and students, gleefully so that they would have an upper hand rejecting 30 to 40 percent mailed ballots.

This is a picture of John Lewis on that bridge. We will commemorate that march this weekend because we believe in democracy. We believe in the forthrightness of the democratic Republic being held up, being held up by the shoulders and the strength of those foot soldiers of 1965, un-named, as there were those who fought for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, held up the very Constitu-

tion and the very Nation that we have because of the vote. And we will march to commemorate.

But, sadly, as we march, the destruction of democracy in this country is, I believe, the ultimate results of these radical right bills that are trying to destroy the right to vote after the false statement of the big lie and 2020 when the most amount of Americans voted for the Presidential candidate and our President, the President of the United States of all the people was elected, Joe Biden, and KAMALA HARRIS as Vice President.

Can we not just accept that and be happy about that?

And can we not join in the words of John Lewis of the beloved community?

That is why I stand here today and salute him and acknowledge the beloved community.

□ 1315

Then I want to proceed, as a member of the beloved community, to thank our soldiers, some of whom I saw, if you will, when I was in the Ukraine area, meaning, I was in the area of Lithuania, Belarus, on the border.

Now, acknowledging the strength of the President to have upwards of 100,000 troops around in the NATO ally countries, making sure that those countries that are NATO allies are well-protected while providing, as the President has indicated, substantial support, if you will, to our friends, the Ukrainians, to give them strength even in the face of brutality and terrorism by Vladimir Putin, whose war this is—no vote has been taken in Russia. This is his attack.

Even though, as I was in the region, we continue to work with the OSCE to push for diplomacy and peace, asking Putin to come to the peace table and to not destroy the Ukrainian people and the democratic republic that it is, or nation, and to sit with President Zelensky, as he reminded us this week that light will win over darkness.

Putin would not have it. Even though his soldiers have surrendered, and they are without food, they are still a major threat. They are without knowledge, as one dead Russian soldier had texted he did not know why he was there.

Isn't that a shame to take young kids and destroy their lives because of your own power hunger and the lack of understanding of what the world order is and to kill recklessly human beings?

But the President of the United States held together this wonderful alliance of NATO countries around peace.

I want to be very clear: I want peace. I am not an offender; I am a defender. I want us to use diplomacy. I want us to embrace the migrants or the immigrants, African immigrants and others that are coming out of Ukraine, treating everyone to the opportunity of being able to escape as a refugee, if you will, from the violence, now a million displaced persons. But I want diplomacy and peace.

Yet, as the President spent months building a coalition of freedom-loving

nations from Europe, the Americas, to Asia and Africa, to confront Putin, he wanted peace. He spent countless hours dealing with the allies.

His backdrop was another world war, and World War III, for this is the greatest threat to Europe since World War II. The geography lends itself to Putin's violence. He remembered those who fell in Normandy and elsewhere so that Europe might be free, and the Marshall Plan, and a strong Europe today, our allies, correcting the mishap of the past 4 years when Europe was put to the side and the President that had this job gave accolades and flowers to Vladimir Putin and, even today, has called our President dumb and Putin smart. How shameful.

But I am glad I am being led in this country by President Biden because he knows how we fought for freedom, expanded liberty, defeated totalitarianism and terror, and built a strong and the freest and most prosperous nation.

I just repeat these words because I think it is important to realize how we have helped and how he has worked to ensure that help is coming through our ability. Though our forces are not going to Europe, he made it crystal clear that we will stand with our NATO countries and that we remain strong for Ukraine as they fight back.

As has been said, light comes after darkness. As we provide them with the resources that are to be heard around the world, and that we, as well, forge with Ukrainian Americans and work to be able to help their relatives through the State Department.

Even as Putin circles Kyiv with tanks, he will never gain, as the President said, the hearts of the Ukrainian people.

We want to make sure that it is known that we are providing the necessary support with weapons that are able to be sent with intensity to Ukraine.

But the human cost is evident, and I will just take you down memory lane, that you have seen. This is the violence of Putin, the violence of Russia. America has been a defender in all the crises that we have faced, the violence. This is the Putin who said this is an operation but is not attempting to hurt the Ukrainian people.

Look at this person who is harmed. Look at them praying, their hands up. The despair of destruction, but that destruction is not going to weaken the Ukrainian people—the despair, but not defeat; the violence, but not defeat.

In the course of the work that we have been doing, I recommended last week that America's efforts to stop Russia should be in the financial pockets. The ruble is down. It is in the midst of rubble, by the way, but the ruble is down.

People are suffering. It is shameful because the American people care about people, and it is shameful that the currency is impacting Russians who have not voted for this war.

But it is important, as well, that, as I called for in my district, the need for Putin to be charged as a war criminal. That is an imperative, and now an investigation has been opened.

This is not a family that has—this is an example of mothers with newborn babies fleeing. Just think of you holding a newborn baby safely in the United States. But mothers are fleeing with 1-week-old babies. It is a tragedy.

A surrogate had twins, and that family in the United States is struggling to get those newborn twins to safety.

This is what Vladimir Putin has rendered. I would say to you, we are not going to let him win, and the Ukrainians will not let him win. The United States will not let him win.

Thank you, President Biden, for bringing our allies together as we continue to try and stand strong.

But we are not unmindful of what has to be done for the American people. We are not unmindful for inflation. And so I hope that his announcement of Make It In America, of the 65,000 highways and infrastructure that is going to be fixed because of the enormity and the importance of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, along with the final passage of the COMPETES Act, that we will see Americans getting back to work and that we will work extensively to bring down the cost of living.

And I, frankly, believe that that can be brought down with the passage of Build Back Better, where we will guarantee that you spend no more than 7 percent for childcare. That is why women are not in the workforce during this pandemic—which is still existing; we are at the end of it, we hope and pray—because they could not pay for, with not having a job, childcare.

Why can't we move on childcare? We will. That is the work ahead. That is what I know the Congressional Progressive Caucus wants to see. That will help bring down costs, along with the continuation of the child tax credit.

The work to be done is to respond to your needs, dealing with inflation, which includes the 11,000 jobs that will come about through implementing—as the President said, we have announced and now are going to work on the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

You will see no more collapsed bridges in America's cities. It is the first and most historic infrastructure bill, I think, in the last 50 years or more.

We must make that child tax credit permanent because that is going to help our families.

We must recognize the importance of the COMPETES Act because, in fact, we must overcome that import of the semiconductor industry and the tools needed. We cannot rely on China. We must bring it home. The COMPETES Act will help us bring it home.

We must recognize that social justice is imperative, as well. We just finished Black History Month to reemphasize the importance of the history of African Americans in this country who

first came in the bottomless belly of a slave boat.

It is important that we acknowledge with dignity. Race is not toxic and so toxic that we cannot discuss it with benevolence and through the beloved community.

How dare someone get on the floor: Oh, he didn't talk about that racism thing.

You walk a mile in our shoes. Walk a mile in our shoes. We don't carry racism as an anger tool. We don't walk around and dislike people. We embrace our brothers and sisters.

I am on the floor with colleagues from many different places. I relish the interaction. I know they are with me, as I am with them.

But when someone comes and continues, as Republicans have done, to take this, as led by their leader, their guide, their god, which is what President Trump has become, and he has decided that the critical race theory is a fake argument—it has a basis in analyzing law, as it has impacted groups like African Americans and promoted racism.

It should not be where we are raising our children on it. I agree. It is not a lesson for pre-K, elementary school, maybe even middle school. But understanding that there have been differences and that we seek to heal them is crucial.

I take great umbrage to the demeaning of Black Lives Matter, which fatefully brought to our attention the heinous killing of Trayvon Martin and have stood alongside families time after time after time because no one, including America's best law enforcement agencies across America, wants to have the treatment of their neighbors unfairly.

Those who have done so, they stand with us for accountability. They see the value in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. They see the value in the original George Floyd bill that I introduced that was about police training and investing in the 18,000 police departments.

We have an array of positions, but the President indicated that he was looking to work with communities to bring down crime—good for him—even to the extent of being a champion for provisions that came from the Judiciary Committee, along with other committees, about bringing down community violence.

We are not afraid of going right after it because we know our families are suffering.

□ 1330

Is there any attention to gun violence? The rampant, unbelievable, reckless laws of Republican Governors, like permitless carry in the State of Texas, that have simply brought us down to our knees because guns are everywhere, stolen out of cars, people buying guns like they don't have any conscience, buying them off of streets.

Where do they get them? They can originally start in a legal system, but

then you add, really, salt to the wound and talk about the poisonous and really difficult manner of trying to ensure that there is no restraint on guns.

I introduced the Kimberly Vaughan storage bill that I hope to see pass and to work with other Members who, likewise, are working hard to get Americans to understand the necessity of storing their guns.

I continue to work on the healing legislation that deals with H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals, supported by the NAACP, the National Urban League, the National Action Network, and the Congressional Black Caucus, not out of anger but out of a sense of understanding and restoration and repair, humbly saying: Let's take a look. Let's make sure that we have a pathway to do better, as we have a pathway for economic development, as we have a pathway for childcare, as we have a pathway for creating the care economy that was proposed by the President and in Build Back Better, as we have a pathway for getting our voting rights, as we have a pathway for helping with police-community relationships, as we have a pathway for bringing down crime and helping our families and protecting victims, as the almost \$1 million that I was able to get for the Houston Police Department to restore their crime victims' office. What a celebration we had. We are waiting for those resources so they can get to work and make sure victims are not left alone, as we know that they are.

I simply want to conclude my remarks by saying we are strong and also to indicate we have solutions like in the Build Back Better, not one of you will be left out of having healthcare. Work needs to be done. For the 12 States, we have expanded Medicaid to a Federal program, and that must be where we ensure and assure that we can make it work. Wouldn't that be a relief for young families, single Americans, students, to be able to access a Federal Medicaid program, health for everyone.

Let me remind my hometown: We are in the Gulf region and, yes, we flood. We are still fighting from Hurricane Harvey, the looks of this, and the kind of loss of homes, the largest catastrophic loss of homes in the history of the State of Texas, from flooding, from the hurricane. Our citizens, this is what they face.

But guess what? Between the Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County Flood District, 18th Congressional District, the infrastructure bill, and the funding that we hope will come from the omnibus that has been so carefully negotiated, we will be confronting these as the President signs the omnibus, but more importantly, as the infrastructure bill is implemented.

We are going to address the crises of disasters in America all over, the fires to the hurricanes because the President is leading, and the Congress, under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI

and CHUCK SCHUMER, is answering the call of the American people.

Remember what I said. The President has announced that the State of the Union is strong, that America is strong, that we are united, and that we will not fail. He will lead by example.

Social justice is not off the table. And the respect for people's advocacy, as young people, like Black Lives Matter, NAACP, Urban League, National Action Network, Congressional Black Caucus, American Civil Liberties Union, League of Women Voters, LULAC, and an array of others, Asian-Pacific friends, and everyone around, southeast Asians, I have named them all, and, of course, our Native American friends. And all those whose names may not be called, we are united with all of America. And if you came over or Pilgrim's Pride and were part of the founding 13 Colonies, you are part with all of us as the beloved community. Strong we are and strong we will be.

I am delighted to say the work ahead is in good hands. Together, with this Congress and the President, America is in good hands.

God bless you and this Congress, God bless the United States of America, and God bless our troops.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to participate in tonight's special order on "The Work Ahead" following President Biden's powerful State of the Union address from last night.

I thank Rep. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ for anchoring tonight's Congressional Progressive Caucus special order.

Last night's State of the Union Address by President Biden provided an encouraging account of what all this Administration and Congress have achieved for the American people.

Democrats have many legislative achievements to be proud of, beginning with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Since the dawn of his campaign, improving American infrastructure has been at the center of the President's agenda.

As the President recalled, before this act became law our infrastructure was ranked 13th in the world.

Worn down infrastructure also greatly impacts the lives of working-class Americans trying to complete simple tasks; like going to and from work, picking up their kids from school, or going across town to care for an elderly family member.

Not committing to infrastructure significantly decreases our ability to fight climate change; without friendly EV infrastructure or access to mass public transit, our emissions will only increase, failing to meet our goal of helping decrease global temperatures by 1.5 degrees Celsius.

During my tenure in Congress, I have watched many infrastructure weeks pass by without results despite what I believed was an ardent commitment, but this administration has finally broken the trend.

As the President said, because we have passed this legislation into law, we're done talking about infrastructure weeks.

We're going to have an infrastructure decade.

Because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will build a national network of 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, begin to replace poisonous lead pipes so every child and every American has clean / water to drink at home and at school, and provide affordable high-speed internet for every American in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities.

4,000 projects have already been announced.

We will also begin to improve over 65,000 miles of highway and 1,500 bridges in disrepair.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in our Nation's infrastructure and competitiveness, and when its full scope is realized and implemented, all Americans will benefit regardless of socioeconomic status.

Another landmark piece of legislation from this administration is the American Rescue Plan.

COVID-19 brought about sweeping change at an unprecedented rate, much of this change had drastic impacts for Americans.

People were laid off from their jobs, evicted from their homes, and in the worst cases passed on despite the heroic efforts of our medical professionals.

But the American Rescue Plan provided a plan our country so desperately needed.

It fueled our efforts to vaccinate the Nation and combat COVID-19.

It delivered immediate economic relief for tens of millions of Americans.

It helped put food on their table, keep a roof over their heads, and cut the cost of health insurance.

And unlike the \$2 Trillion tax cut passed in the previous administration that benefitted the top 1 percent of Americans, the American Rescue Plan helped working people—and left no one behind.

Our economy created over 6.5 million new jobs just last year, more jobs created in one year than ever before in the history of America.

Our economy grew at a rate of 5.7% last year, the strongest growth in nearly 40 years, the first step in bringing fundamental change to an economy that hasn't worked for the working people of this Nation for too long.

American children also greatly benefitted from the American Rescue Plan, considering the great impacts of the newly revamped Child Tax Credit.

The American Rescue Plan increased the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children over the age of 6 and from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under the age of 6, and raised the age limit from 16 to 17.

It is the largest Child Tax Credit in the history of our Nation, pulling an estimated 3 million children out of poverty.

Despite the momentous impact the Child Tax Credit has, it will expire in the next fiscal year.

It is therefore of the utmost importance to make these changes to the Child Tax Credit permanent.

The CPC is determined to make this happen in this legislative session.

We cannot delay this critical action by being privy to political dog whistles blown by Republican members of Congress, claiming this policy is socialist, communist, or whatever the outlandish claim of the day is.

We must make the Child Tax Credit permanent to ensure the prosperity of America and its children.

What should also pique the interests and spark the hopes of Americans is the House's recent passage of the COMPETES Act.

This remarkable piece of legislation will take on inflation and rebuild U.S. supply chains that have been eroded by monopolies that stopped investing in America, bringing down costs for working people.

Because of this bill, the American semiconductor industry will take our reliance off the likes of China and allow us to chart a new course forward with economic self-sufficiency being the centerpiece.

The America COMPETES Act will spur greater American production of chips, strengthen U.S. supply chains and strengthen American manufacturing, and advance U.S. scientific excellence and research.

Thanks to CPC members' amendments, the bill will also include policies to track carbon emissions and increase green climate funding, ensure women and workers of color are not left out of job creation in manufacturing, prevent U.S. funding to countries with histories of human rights abuses, and insert guardrails against corporate self-enrichment.

Through the amendment process, the Caucus also secured the first vote in Congress on U.S. sanctions policy in Afghanistan and its humanitarian effects on civilian mortality and refugee outflows.

The House has also in the past week overwhelmingly passed the Emmitt Till Anti-Lynching Act.

Though long overdue, the Act is sweeping in the respect that it makes lynching a hate crime, subjecting violators to criminal penalties like a prison term, a fine, or both.

This legislation is critical in realizing a criminal justice system that prioritizes racial justice so no American so unjustly sees their end like Emmitt Till.

Although it just concluded, Black History Month was established to teach the history that too often has not been taught: the history of Black excellence and leadership in America and also the history of resistance and resilience in America.

And let me be clear: Black history is American history. It is living, breathing history—history we create every day, across this Nation and on this Floor.

And today, of course, our Nation faces many great challenges.

Among the greatest is the assault on the freedom to vote—the freedom from which all others flow.

It will take an all-hands-on-deck approach to safeguard and strengthen the freedom to vote.

A hero in strengthening this right was my dear friend and colleague John Lewis.

His passion was unending, symbolized by his leading of that Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to Selma in March of 1965.

Despite knowing he and others would be beaten, bloodied, bruised, and even arrested, he nonetheless marched onward.

To highlight that pivotal moment history and pay homage to John Lewis, I and other members of Congress will be making that same march later this week.

Again, furthering his honor, the House passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

This act would bolster voting rights by enlarging the government's capability to respond to voting discrimination.

This piece of legislation is absolutely necessary to ensure the right to vote is had by all Americans, a right our Founding Fathers envisioned from the inception of this great Nation.

The legacy of Congressman Lewis, a dear friend and colleague, and with us in spirit, must be dutifully honored.

The Senate must immediately take up this legislation and pass it to truly fulfill Congress' mandate of serving the people of this Nation.

Despite the immense progress made so far in this administration, there is still work yet to be done.

As the President emphasized last night, we must pass legislation to lower the costs of Pre-K, health care, home-based care, and housing, and to ensure that childcare doesn't cost families more than 7 percent of their income—all by finally making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

He underscored the need to take meaningful action to address the climate crisis and deliver a roadmap to citizenship for immigrant communities.

And as he said, "capitalism without competition is exploitation"—and the Progressive Caucus is similarly committed to taking on corporate profiteering and monopolistic abuse.

President Biden has significant power to effect immediate, meaningful change for people across America, and we urge him to use it aggressively.

The President can use his executive authority to bring down the costs of prescription drugs and stop Big Pharma's price gouging; decrease carbon emissions to fight the climate crisis; cancel student debt and bolster our economy; protect workers' rights and raise their wages; and provide immigration relief and rebuild our refugee system.

In the coming weeks, the Progressive Caucus will release our executive action agenda for the President that details these steps, and more.

"Democrats in the White House and Congress have shown how much we can accomplish in a year.

If we remain steadfast to our commitment to providing relief our communities need, lowering costs, and making life easier for working people, we can deliver."

One step that must be taken to again seek racial justice is the passage of H.R. 40.

H.R. 40 was initially introduced by the late Michigan Representative John Conyers, and I have introduced it in this Congress.

This bill establishes the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

The commission shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

The commission shall identify the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and lingering negative effects of slavery on living African Americans and society.

This bill is the first step in righting the historical wrong that was slavery.

The United States have given reparations to Japanese Americans who were wrongfully interned, The Ottawas of Michigan, the Chip-

pewas of Wisconsin, the Seminoles of Florida, the Sioux of South Dakota, the Klamaths of Oregon, and the Alaska Natives all received some form of reparations from America because of the genocide they underwent.

It is therefore only right that Black people receive reparations because of the history and oppression we have weathered and continue to.

Who are also not strangers to oppression are the Ukrainian people at the bloodied hands of the autocrat Vladimir Putin.

Black Americans underwent violence in the name of fully realizing their democracy, and now Ukrainians are doing the same.

We fought in our own way, and though regrettable, now Ukrainians must as well.

They will persevere, and President Putin will learn that democracy will never falter in the face of cowardice and senseless aggression.

In summation, while much has been done by this Congress, the CPC, and the administration, we must continue to fight and secure a just, equitable, and prosperous future for the American people.

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

#### FURTHER MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Further messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-98)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2022.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanc-

tions against Iran to respond to this threat.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-99)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2022.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 321.—An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 854.—An act to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

S. 1543.—An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

S. 1662.—An act to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

S. 3706.—An act to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021.