

that we in Congress created, but others were left out entirely. They told me that between the pandemic and the supply chain and inflation costs that the pandemic has wrought, that those old relief programs are simply not enough. They need help, and they need it now. It is our job and it is not done yet.

The cost of congressional inaction is real. Small business owners across America are dipping into their personal savings and taking on significant debt. In Minnesota alone, almost 60 percent of restaurants have taken on debt during the pandemic, with an average of over half a million dollars per restaurant. Even in the best of times it is a tough industry, but particularly difficult right now.

We all know what will happen if we don't pass relief soon: many of those restaurants will close and many of their staff will be unemployed. Too many small business owners are simply running out of hope.

That is where we come in. I am encouraged by comments made by the President and lawmakers in both parties that there is an appetite to solve the problem and provide relief. In fact, I secured a commitment from Speaker PELOSI not long ago that a targeted relief package would get a vote on the House floor, which is an important step. We are not at the finish line, my friends, and I implore that we, together, work on such a package.

Small businesses like restaurants, hospitality, gyms, and live events companies, they make up the social, cultural, and the economic fabric of our communities and our entire country. We must fight to ensure that they can keep their doors open.

Mr. Speaker, we must meet the challenge of the moment with urgency and refill the RRF and include hard-hit industries in a future relief package. We must get the job done so that others can keep theirs.

RETURN TO PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss, unfortunately, yet another crisis. When Russia invaded the Ukraine in 2014, I was actually an Active Duty Air Force officer stationed in Europe in NATO. Assigned to a NATO unit, I saw this firsthand. This is much different.

I just returned from Kyiv where we met with many Ukrainian officials, including the President, the Foreign Minister, and the Defense Minister. While there, we heard a message that was loud and clear. Vladimir Putin is acting now because he senses an environment of weakness. Weakness from this administration in the approach to energy, in their countless failures, including the most tragic of all, the Afghanistan evacuation, and then the

lack of overall commitment to law and order, which can be seen so many places, including our southern border.

All these failures have created this environment of weakness that Putin is now acting on. To make matters worse, European countries are completely beholden and dependent upon Russia for their energy. Over 40 percent of the energy flow is coming from Russia.

Ukrainian officials told me directly that without Nord Stream II, Russia would not be acting out today. This was told to a bipartisan codel that heard this, both Republicans and Democrats alike.

Since the President took office, every policy failure he has steered our country into has signaled not strength but weakness. The President now promises to impose severe sanctions on Russia should they invade the Ukraine. This is not the way that deterrence works. Deterrence happens every day; it happens in every policy action. It doesn't happen after the fact.

Why would Russia expect the Biden administration to respect the borders of the Ukraine when we refuse to secure our own borders here at home? President Zelensky said this, "Border security matters. I will defend the Ukrainian borders." We need a President who is strong, who will not only protect the United States, but also will send a clear message to our allies and partners abroad that law and order will stand, that sovereign borders will be protected.

We need an administration that is capable of standing up to our adversaries. As I said before in this Chamber, we need a President who will choose Midland over Moscow. If President Biden is not going to take action, Congress must. I will be working to impose strong sanctions on the Nord Stream pipeline.

Energy security is national security. The Ukrainian people understand this, the European continent understands this, and the Russians now have a stranglehold on Europe by imposing their will with the Nord Stream projects. We need Democrats and Republicans alike. We were unified on this codel.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking my Democrat colleagues to understand the severity of this problem. In 2022, we have a sovereign country that could be invaded by an aggressor, that aggressor who has been emboldened by an environment of weakness. We must stand strong. So many people, including myself, have served overseas and have done the hard work. It is well past time that we end these crises, that we show strength in the face of an aggressor who would impose their will on the rest of the world and change world order that that greatest generation 80 years ago fought for.

Now is not the time to back down. As Putin goes to China and stands side-by-side with Xi Jinping in these Olympic Games and asks for his blessing to invade a sovereign country, it is time for

all of us to not identify by our parties but to identify as Americans, to come together and be strong on our actions.

HONORING DIANA JONES

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences to a public servant of Cresson, Texas. In August 2020, the city of Cresson lost one of its bravest servants, Diana Jones.

Diana was an EMT, a member of the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 5 years, and often traveled to California, to the West Coast, to offer her skills in firefighting. Tragically, Diana passed away during one of these firefights.

Last month, the Cresson community voted to name the volunteer fire department's training center the Diana Jones Memorial Training Center. Now all who step foot through that door will feel the sacrifice and the leadership that she has done in honoring her memory.

The Diana Jones Memorial Training Center will forever remind the community of the example she set—learning to better one's self to serve others. Her legacy is continued through her sons as well as the Cresson community. We are proud to honor the life that she dedicated to serving her community.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND THE GREENSBORO FOUR

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 1960, four young Black North Carolina A&T State University students began a revolution with the simple but fiercely significant act of sitting down.

David Richmond, Jibreel Khazan, Joe McNeil, and Franklin McCain, "The Greensboro Four," took their seats at the White-only lunch counter of the Woolworth Department Store in Greensboro, North Carolina. Despite being met with hostility and a store manager who refused them service, the Greensboro Four stayed seated at that counter, refusing to stand until the store closed.

The next day they returned to the Woolworth Store with 25 more students, including Bennett Belles from the neighboring Bennett College, an all-female HBCU. Their movement spread to 55 cities in 13 States. Protest signs read: Support North Carolina Students, in demonstrations outside the South. By the end of 1960, 400 demonstrations had taken place across the country.

By staying seated at that counter, those students inspired the Nation to stand up against the blatantly racist Jim Crow laws of that time.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize the Greensboro Four and the courageous students who joined their protest, sparking a national

movement for civil rights. Those students exhibited great bravery in the face of violence from counter protesters. All the while, they remained peaceful and undeterred.

Their peaceful protest left a legacy that shaped the Civil Rights Movement. That sit-in, and hundreds that followed, led to the 1960s Civil Rights Act, a crucial step toward dismantling segregation.

Today, that very Woolworth Building is the location of Greensboro's amazing International Civil Rights Center and Museum, which still contains that lunch counter and enshrines this movement in history, commemorating the actions of the Greensboro Four and all who joined them. That museum was recently denied a shuttered operator grant.

Last year, I joined my fellow North Carolina Representatives, ALMA ADAMS and G.K. BUTTERFIELD, in leading a congressional resolution to honor the Greensboro Four. The resolution encourages all States to teach the history of the Greensboro Four sit-in in their educational curriculum.

I was proud to reintroduce that resolution with Representatives ADAMS and BUTTERFIELD again this year on the 62nd anniversary of the sit-in.

This Black History Month, and all year long, it is vital that we recognize the countless contributions of Black Americans and the work that remains to end racism and ensure equality and justice for all.

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I am proud to be the representative of the city of Greensboro and all of North Carolina's Triad Sixth District. I will do everything I can to preserve this history, honor our civil rights heroes, and combat racism and discrimination in all forms.

As we reflect on this event, it is important to recognize that even with the odds stacked against these students, they never lost hope. They saw our Nation broken and segregated. They faced hatred every day, but they persevered and successfully led a movement that changed the Nation.

Today, we draw inspiration and hope from the Greensboro Four.

CHINA COMPETITIVENESS BILL

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

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with H.R. 4521. I want to talk for a moment not about China but about Licking County, Ohio, and the district I represent.

Licking County, located on the outskirts of Columbus, was cast into the national spotlight last month when a major U.S. tech company announced an initial \$20 billion investment to build the first phase of what they plan to grow into the world's largest semiconductor manufacturing facility. This investment will put Licking County at

the epicenter of a new silicon heartland and at the forefront of addressing the Nation's semiconductor shortage.

This investment will have an economic ripple effect throughout the region. Indeed, it will benefit our entire country.

Semiconductor chips are crucial components to products Americans use every day, including cars, computers, cell phones, and virtually every electronic device in our homes. Since the early 1990s, the United States' share of semiconductor manufacturing has fallen from 37 percent to just 12 percent today. Asian countries now account for more than 70 percent of semiconductor chip manufacturing globally.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its following supply chain disruptions have brought this issue to the forefront for every American. One concern for Americans in the market for a new car is the empty lots of dealerships as automobile production lines wait for chips from Asia.

Failing to address the shortage of semiconductor chips could have dire consequences for our national security. With production of U.S. military defense systems dependent upon access to these chips, overreliance on foreign countries leaves U.S. national security interests vulnerable, too. We cannot allow ourselves to be held hostage by the imbalance of foreign chip production.

The United States is not alone. Other countries are waking up to this reality, too. As I speak, the European Union is developing CHIPS legislation in an effort to quadruple their production of semiconductor chips by 2030. Falling further behind in chip manufacturing is a national security issue that we just can't afford.

I am honored to represent a community that will soon play a leading role in addressing the global chip shortage and producing these components vital to our modern economy. I am excited that we have an opportunity to help grow U.S. manufacturing of chips to epic proportions with a much-needed investment.

The CHIPS for America Act investment will level the playing field and let U.S. manufacturers compete in this market. But, once again, Democrat leadership is doing it the wrong way.

My constituents, and all Americans, were hopeful that the majority here in Congress had learned from their recent failures about what happens when these packages become too big, too costly, and too partisan. The CHIPS Act presents Congress with a golden opportunity to finally pass a bipartisan, commonsense investment that would bolster American competitiveness on the world stage. Unfortunately, the CHIPS Act constitutes a small fraction of the bill's overall price tag, which is over \$300 billion.

Instead, the House Democrats worked behind closed doors with no Republican input and managed to bury good provisions under a mountain of

unrelated policies that have nothing to do with American competitiveness.

In their hasty attempt at a partisan victory, the Democrats' bill funnels \$8 billion to the unaccountable U.N. Green Climate Fund, which has already given \$100 million to the Chinese Communist Party.

It pours billions of dollars into offshore climate change resiliency programs instead of holding China, the world's worst polluter, accountable for its own destructive emission standards.

It also creates unlimited visas and immigration pathways for Chinese nationals with STEM degrees. This allows the CCP to handpick which Chinese nationals apply for visas and opens the door for CCP to use unlimited visas to encourage espionage and the theft of sensitive technologies.

It also creates climate change officers within the Foreign Service, weakening our diplomats' focus on our core national interests.

In an effort to improve this bill, I offered commonsense amendments to encourage domestic manufacturing of critical products. I also offered amendments to remove the billions of dollars in partisan spending for global green new deal programs and shift focus on what this bill should be about.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today is proof House Democrats learned nothing from their disastrous Build Back Better blunder. Rather than allowing American economic competitiveness to be a rallying point for bipartisanship, the majority's all-or-nothing approach makes this yet another missed opportunity.

If this bill advances to conference committee, I am hopeful that the conferees will focus on areas of bipartisan, bicameral agreement like the CHIPS Act. It is past time to bolster this production here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stop with the messaging bills and bring a piece of legislation to the floor that can win strong bipartisan support. Together, we can ensure that the serious business of American competitiveness gets the careful consideration and support it deserves.

COMMEMORATING JAZZ AND FRIENDS NATIONAL DAY OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY READINGS

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, today for the Jazz and Friends National Day of School and Community Readings hosted by HRC's Welcoming Schools program, I am going to read from the book "Calvin" written by JR and Vanessa Ford and illustrated by Kayla Harren of Minnesota.

It is critically important to make sure that transgender and nonbinary youth not only feel supported but valued and affirmed for who they are.

I am reading from the book "Calvin."