

As a physician, I have seen her dedication to this mission firsthand. In the summer of 1996 during a summer fellowship as a medical student, Rosa taught me the well-child exam. I will never forget her passion to care for at-risk newborns, and I knew then that she would be a great partner in the fight for health and social justice.

Sure enough, in 2007 when I returned home from medical school, we saw patients together and provided free medical care to the poorest farmworker communities with the Flying Doctors.

Together, we joined the founding board of directors for a new nonprofit called Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine which is the only free clinic in the Coachella Valley that provides free healthcare to the medically underserved. In fact, we started the street medicine program and launched that in order to take care to the people and to the homeless under bridges, at the parks, and in the homeless camps. Wherever they find themselves, we took care to them, and she still does that.

□ 1015

In fact, Volunteers in Medicine was the first in the valley to implement the street medicine model during the pandemic. We took tests directly to our most vulnerable populations, including farmworkers and the homeless. This model later grew into a collaborative approach to vaccinating at-risk populations at work sites, schools, churches, and local trailer parks.

On top of that, Rosa feeds the hungry. She battled food insecurity throughout the pandemic, partnering with local organizations to coordinate food delivery for the hungry and the food insecure, partnering with local promotoras organizations.

Rosa's compassion and incredible service have touched every corner of our communities. She has transformed care delivery in our desert and opened doors for many.

As a member of the clinical faculty at CSU San Bernardino, Palm Desert, and the UCR School of Medicine, Rosa has helped shape a new generation of healthcare providers. She has inspired our communities' young people on the advisory boards for the Head Start programs at Desert Sands Unified School District and Coachella Valley Unified School District.

For her outstanding service, Rosa has received numerous accolades, including the 2019 Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County, and most recently, the 2021 Hometown Heroes Award from the city of Coachella.

Rosa is relentless in her advocacy and never takes no for an answer when advocating for the medically underserved and her patients.

Rosa has been an incredible adviser to me and has had a profound impact on the entire Coachella Valley. In fact, I respect Rosa because she delivers. She delivers her heart, she delivers her mind, and she delivers food. She deliv-

ers tests, she delivers vaccines, and she delivers healthcare with every inch of her soul and body. Rosa delivers herself for the people.

We are all indebted to Rosa because she is the person who has led the charge for so many years and has been a consistent voice. When there was none, there was Rosa. When there was none, she provided care and delivery.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I thank Rosa for her incredible service. I am so privileged to have her in my life, and I am honored to call her a friend.

HOLDING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American taxpayer to clarify that the Federal workforce exists to serve them, not the other way around.

During the COVID pandemic, Americans faced uncertainties as businesses literally struggled to survive. While these Americans wondered whether or not they would receive the next paycheck, there was one group, Federal employees, who did not face these type of concerns. To the contrary, since President Biden took office, there has been a nonstop effort to ensure that Federal workers are treated like a protected, privileged class.

Democrats like to talk about the need to rehabilitate Federal workers after the Trump administration's so-called war on civil servants. That is absolutely ridiculous. The Democrats' road to recovery apparently includes shielding government workers, workers whose positions exist to serve the American people. The Democrats want to shield government workers from accountability; from any concern of discipline; from the obligation to actually perform the duties that they were hired to do; and from their duty to serve the elected Representatives of the people.

But guess what? Despite the claims of trauma during the Trump administration, Federal workers were happier during his time in office. Why? Simply because the Federal workers were held accountable.

Let's face it: No one likes working in a situation where you can't do anything about poor performers, where you can't do anything regarding people who simply refuse to actually do their jobs. The consequences of that type of environment is that the actual conscientious workers have to pick up the slack, which only adds to their own workloads and creates an extremely toxic work environment.

Nevertheless, Democrats want to continue the false narrative of an abused Federal workforce. They want to curry favor with the core union constituency by looking for as many ways as possible to increase pay and bene-

fits, all under the name of making the Federal Government a model employer.

But model employers hold their workforce accountable. Model employers put the customer first. In this case, that is the American taxpayer. We don't hear any of this from the Democrats, but you do from the Republicans.

Today, along with a number of my Republican colleagues, I am introducing the Accountable Federal Employees Act, which codifies a suite of executive orders that President Trump issued, but, unfortunately, President Biden has repealed.

This bill includes a number of commonsense provisions, such as making sure Federal employees actually do their jobs rather than spend time on union activities. It makes sure that poor performers are held accountable. That is something even Federal employees say is sorely lacking in the workplace. It creates a process to ensure collective bargaining agreements are negotiated in a timely manner and in a way that looks out for the best interests of the American taxpayer. It makes sure that Federal employees in policy-making roles actually work to help implement the policies of the people who were actually elected to office.

This bill represents a platform of sanity and fairness in civil service policy and in the workforce of the Federal Government. Frankly, any serious effort to modernize the Federal workforce has to start with ensuring the best possible level of service for the American people. That is what this bill does. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

MAKING HEALTHCARE MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate our Nation's actions to make healthcare more affordable. Together, we provided more resources for the CDC and State and local health departments to ensure they are prepared and equipped, implementing lessons learned from the pandemic.

We confronted our most urgent health crises while taking strides to reduce unacceptable health disparities. We invested in our veterans, focusing on the mental health needs of those who served our Nation.

We strengthened biomedical research, providing more funding for the National Institutes of Health and establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health to cure the previously incurable. We protected the safety of our food and medicine by funding the FDA.

The pandemic taught us that no one is safe unless everyone is safe. That is why we increased funding for global health, to work to prevent the next pandemic.

With this budget, Democrats are not only making healthcare more affordable for all Americans; we are building a healthier and safer Nation.

HELPING WORKING FAMILIES WITH THE COST OF LIVING

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the significant investments we enacted to help working families with the cost of living.

In a time of great uncertainty and change, people are living paycheck to paycheck or on fixed incomes. Many are struggling just to pay basic bills.

Our investments represent a lifeline for working families. By increasing funding for childcare, public schools, and providing high-quality job training, this bill gives more tools to help Americans succeed.

Government must serve the people, not the biggest corporations. We provided resources to small businesses and entrepreneurs as they pursue the American Dream. We invested to connect communities to the internet and expand access to affordable housing and homeownership. We strengthened our core services and tackled the root causes of rising prices.

One example is by providing \$158 million to support the production and delivery of small- to medium-size manufacturers, helping detangle the supply chain and lower costs to consumers. We paid for it by cracking down on big corporations and the wealthiest who are not paying their fair share. This government funding legislation truly delivers for the people.

OUR SENIORS NEED HELP NOW

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, Martin Luther King famously said in a speech in Memphis that there is always a need to act, but especially, as he noted there at the time, with the fierce urgency of now.

The fierce urgency of now, as it relates to Social Security, has been underscored by a global pandemic, a global pandemic that has hit the world and our country especially hard.

More than 940,000 Americans have lost their lives. Of those who have perished, over 700,000 of them are over age 65. I bring this to the attention of the body because COVID has specifically underscored a problem that existed amongst our elderly before the outbreak of this international pandemic. Over 700,000 over the age of 65 have died. This is the same group that is worse hit by the effects of inflation.

As you know, Madam Speaker, everybody who is on a fixed income and has to marshal their resources understands how inflation can be crippling. All the more reason that we need to provide relief, and relief is on the way. Relief is on the way with the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, currently in

the process of being marked up in the Ways and Means Committee.

Our seniors need our help now, as they struggle both with COVID and as they struggle being on a fixed income.

The last time that the United States Congress did anything to enhance Social Security was more than 51 years ago. Richard Nixon was the President of the United States, and the cost of a gallon of milk was 72 cents.

A lot has transpired since then, but what hasn't taken place is Congress and its responsibility to make sure that Social Security keeps pace with the changes that are needed. The last time Congress did anything substantial with Social Security was 39 years ago, in 1983. It increased the solvency, but it did so by cutting benefits and taxing the elderly.

Social Security 2100 seeks to enhance benefits, that hasn't been done in more than 50 years, and eliminate a burdensome tax on people who have to work after they have retired in order to make ends meet.

I want to especially commend the Congressional Black Caucus and Mr. CLYBURN for their efforts in this area, underscoring, again, and knowing what happens to people of color.

As Mr. CLYBURN so eloquently says: Not only is it people of color, but people in rural America. All across the South and all across this country, rural Americans are forced to live on fixed incomes that haven't been adjusted in more than 50 years. In the midst of COVID and this inflation, they are the ones who are hurt the most.

Congress can no longer afford to kick the can down the road and, once again, not address the preeminent program that prevents the elderly from living in poverty and the preeminent program that prevents children from living in poverty. It is time for Congress to act. It is our responsibility to do so.

As the chair of the Subcommittee on Social Security on the Ways and Means Committee, I am proud that Chairman NEAL and our membership are moving this legislation forward and onto the floor. It wouldn't happen without the best efforts put forward by Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I commend JOYCE BEATTY for her efforts as well.

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FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the fifth installment of my farm bill impact series where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve Congress' awareness and support.

If America is going to thrive, the people who feed, fuel, and clothe America must thrive.

The farm bill strengthens our country's national security because it strengthens our food security by supporting the tireless efforts of farmers, ranchers, and our agricultural producers.

Agriculture is a risky business, and Mother Nature can be a tough business partner. Almost no other American industry faces such volatility from forces like pests, disease, wind, drought, and fires like the ones in Reno County, Kansas, and Paradise, Kansas, over the last few months.

Natural disasters are make-or-break situations for the people who ensure that America remains the most food secure country in the world. That is why emergency programs within the farm bill are so critical.

The Livestock Indemnity Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish provide benefits to producers for livestock deaths caused by disease and adverse weather.

A veterinarian from Ashland, Kansas, told me that during the Starbuck fire back in 2017, to which he was an emergency responder, Clark County, Kansas, alone lost 6,000 to 9,000 head of cattle right at the beginning of calving season.

One producer suffered \$1.8 million in cattle losses during this disaster. The Livestock Indemnity Program helped producers who lost cattle in this disaster put their livelihoods back together.

However, LIP only covered cattle mortality at the time, not severely injured cattle. Rather than watch badly injured cattle get euthanized just to trigger LIP program payments, this veterinarian helped make changes to the program that are still in place today which provide better protection for producers and their livestock.

These programs, and many more, are investments in the future of our country, and they must remain strong in the 2023 farm bill if America is going to remain food secure and self-determining as a Nation.

Natural disasters, diseases, and weather emergencies, unfortunately, do happen, and America cannot afford to have these factors cripple the businesses of the men and women who keep us fed, fueled, and clothed.

That is why we need to think carefully and critically about the degrees to which we support emergency programs within the 2023 farm bill.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America.

FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL PROJECTS IN ILLINOIS

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