

They really are two historic districts within the 13th Congressional District. Today, we mark a new day for those two communities with regard to transit access.

This week, President Biden announced and submitted to Congress a strong and visionary budget. It included \$4.5 billion for the Capital Investment Grant program, which includes \$400 million for the construction of the second phase of the Second Avenue subway extension.

The first phase was completed not too long ago, several years ago, and it went from 96th Street south to 72nd Street, touching some of the most affluent ZIP Codes in the country.

This phase, the second phase, will go north to 125th Street. Some people have categorized it and called it Uptown Grand Central. It would connect East Harlem, El Barrio, and Harlem at 125th Street to the rest of the world.

These stops will connect a transportation desert where over 75 percent of its residents use public transportation to the Lexington Avenue line, which is the most overcrowded subway line in the city, if not the country.

East Harlem, as I said earlier, is currently a transportation desert, and this second phase will change the lives of over 100,000 New Yorkers who will use it on a daily basis.

This phase will extend train services to 96th Street and 125th Street, a 2-mile stretch, and benefit thousands upon thousands of New Yorkers. But it would also connect to Metro-North, a total of 124 stations in seven different counties in upstate New York, suburban New York, as well as Connecticut. As such, it will also connect folks to LaGuardia Airport via bus and future water transportation in the Hudson River and Harlem River.

This is truly a regional project that will connect Harlem and East Harlem, El Barrio, to the rest of the world.

I am happy and proud that President Biden included \$400 million for the second phase of the Second Avenue subway.

The first phase saw 160,000 people benefit on a regular basis, \$842 million in wages, and \$2.87 billion in economic activity in that region.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see this new initiative.

I thank President Biden for bringing the second phase of the Second Avenue Subway to the 13th Congressional District.

□ 1100

#### SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States takes an oath, promising to faithfully execute the office that he holds. That is a promise to uphold and defend the laws of this country and to protect our Na-

tion's citizens. But President Biden seems determined to violate that oath when it comes to enforcing our immigration and asylum laws.

There is an undeniable crisis at our southern border, and it is a direct result of President Biden's halting of the construction of the border wall, ending the remain-in-Mexico policy and re-implementing catch and release.

Now, instead of taking steps to rectify the situation that he has created, President Biden is preparing to pour fuel on the fire by lifting Title 42. Title 42 is essential to ensuring the immediate expulsion of illegal aliens. And officials within the President's own Department of Homeland Security are sounding the alarm. Officials have said that if this policy is revoked, it would cause a massive run on the border, even worse than we are seeing right now, resulting in upwards of 18,000 illegal crossings a day. That is 6.5 million illegal immigrants crossing every year.

State and local governments, especially school districts across the country, are being overwhelmed. Customs and Border Protection can barely keep up as it is, let alone with that kind of surge. President Biden is failing the American people and his neglect at the border is having catastrophic consequences.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Social Security and its importance to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, everybody is alarmed by the fact that we have been dealing with a global pandemic. That global pandemic, commonly referred to as COVID, has taken close to a million lives in the United States of America. Over 700,000 of those lives are individuals over the age of 65.

The COVID pandemic has also turned the economy upside down and has led to a period of inflation. And during that period, the group that is impacted the most as well are seniors in America. It is people that are on fixed incomes that need our help directly.

There are more than 10,000 baby boomers a day who become eligible for Social Security. And for about 40 percent of senior beneficiaries, Social Security provides the majority of their income. And for one in six Americans, it provides more than 90 percent of their income. And yet, shamefully, the United States Congress has not taken action on this in more than 50 years.

Today, and every day, you can hear Members come to the floor and talk about their concern for our constitu-

ents; most notably, the elderly and even more poignantly, the veterans. More veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA. And yet, Congress has not addressed this issue in more than 50 years. The last time Congress addressed this issue, milk was 72 cents a gallon. Everybody knows that those prices have become so high today that it causes seniors to have to put food back on the grocery shelves because they can't afford it. This is especially true for people of color.

Mr. Speaker, I commend our former leader, John Lewis, who pointed out and said that Social Security is the next Civil Rights Movement because of the discrimination that is taking place within Social Security. And because also, people have come to rely on it because it is a guarantee.

We don't have to go back to 1929 and the great crash. We only have to go back as far as 2008 and 2009 to look at what happened in that recession and find out that people's 401(k) became a 101(k). And yet, during that same time period, Social Security never missed a payment—not a pension payment, not a spousal payment, not a dependent coverage payment, and not a disability payment.

This is not something the President can do by executive order, nor is it anything that the Supreme Court is going to adjudicate. This is the responsibility of the United States Congress, and help is on the way. People are going to have an opportunity to vote on Social Security 2100, bringing Social Security into this century and then also rectifying the discrimination that has taken place.

Recent polls show this: That 64 percent of Black adults say securing Social Security should be the top priority for the President and Congress to address this year. Martin Luther King had a better way of saying it. He called it the "fierce urgency of now."

In the midst of this pandemic, remember this, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: These are your brothers and sisters. These are your parents. These are your aunts and uncles. These are your co-workers. These are people you worship with.

Over 5 million Americans get below-poverty level checks from Social Security. Why? Because Congress hasn't taken on its responsibility and stepped up to the plate and done what is expected of them.

I commend JIM CLYBURN, our leader here, who has come out strongly in favor of making sure that we address this inequality.

#### RECOGNIZING ODESSA AND MID-LAND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Odessa and Midland Chambers of Commerce during

their fly-in to Washington, D.C., this week. It was incredible to host nearly 70 business and community leaders, elected officials, students, teachers, and staff from all throughout the Permian Basin, including the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, engaging with lawmakers, advocating for their community and advocating for energy independence. Thank you to the Odessa Chamber president, Renee Earls, the Midland Chamber president, Bobby Burns, and all the fantastic staff, leaders, and volunteers who helped make this fly-in successful.

#### TITLE 42 RESCISSON

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's handling of the border crisis is not humane. It is heart-breaking.

Yesterday, the White House confirmed their intention to rescind Title 42, one of the only policies in place that is helping quell the border crisis.

This decision will have disastrous consequences on the already several million illegal immigrants who have flooded into this country. Human trafficking and smuggling across our border have reached historic highs, and our border States are paying the price. In fact, every State is a border State.

Texas is suffering from record-high levels of fentanyl and drugs pouring across the border, increased crime, high-speed chases, and more.

DHS already lacks the capacity to process, retain, and apprehend illegal immigrants along the border. Rescinding Title 42 will only double down on the amount of people that are illegally crossing the border, making it that much more difficult for those in the Border Patrol and Customs, and other agencies, who are trying to do their job to keep this country safe.

The small communities along the border are already overwhelmed and they cannot withstand a surge of hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants reportedly waiting on the other side of the border to get in once Title 42 is rescinded.

Migrants will pour into this country in a flood as our communities experience the catastrophic results. Patrol facilities and local communities will once again be forced to absorb at least double the current number. Title 42 is the only policy that is helping.

The administration has abandoned Texas, has abandoned other border States, and has abandoned its duty to secure our country. Making any changes to this policy will have disastrous consequences.

And get this straight, I remind everyone in this House that we still have a mask mandate on board aircrafts in this country to keep us safe from COVID. Yet, we are rescinding Title 42, also in place because of the pandemic. Think about that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stand with us and to help come up with a reasonable solution. Title 42 rescission is not that solution. President Biden must not rescind Title 42.

#### RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH ANN MAFFORD

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a staple in the Odessa, Texas, community, Ms. Elizabeth Ann Mafford, also known as "Ms. Ann".

Ms. Ann recently celebrated her 10th work anniversary at Chick-fil-A in Odessa, Texas. And while this was a special occasion in and of itself, it comes on the heels of Ms. Ann also celebrating her 90th birthday.

Ms. Ann is a constant in Odessa, Texas, bringing joy and light to everyone she encounters. From working the drive-through and the front counter and just greeting customers on the way in, she continuously spreads light throughout the entire community.

In a testament to Ms. Ann's life, her celebration of her 10th anniversary on the job was recognized community-wide. Folks posted online in recognition of Ms. Ann's kindness and love, and I would like to personally thank her for living the American Dream, for showing everyone throughout this country that even at 90 years young that she can still work and be a productive member of our community, bringing so much light and joy throughout Odessa, the Permian Basin, and Texas.

Ms. Ann, thank you for what you do for our community and the joy you spread.

#### OIL AND GAS REBATES

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Orange County families are feeling the squeeze of higher gas prices. As a single working mom, I share their concern when I fill up my minivan. We can provide relief by holding oil companies accountable.

These corporations are making record profits, the highest they have been in over 7 years, even as Americans are struggling. And as the price of crude oil falls, oil and gas companies have refused to pass on savings to customers. Especially as Big Oil engages in profiteering, they should not get our taxpayer dollars to line their pockets. Each year, the industry receives roughly \$650 billion in direct and indirect subsidies, financed by taxpayers.

This week, I am leading an effort to bring legislation to the House floor that ends these giveaways to a profitable industry and instead puts these dollars toward helping families make ends meet.

Last week, I introduced the End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act, which would eliminate nearly a dozen long-standing egregious tax breaks to the oil and gas industry. Healthy capitalism requires a level-playing field. For far too long, Big Oil has manipulated the market in its favor by lobbying Congress for sweetheart deals. Then, they raise prices while simultaneously rewarding their executives with huge bonuses.

Their record profits are proof that they can do without market-distorting government subsidies.

Eliminating these tax breaks would provide approximately \$60 billion in help to families feeling the squeeze. If my colleagues have the political courage to stand up to Big Oil, we can quickly relieve the pain that Americans feel at the pump. I am ready.

□ 1115

#### CRACKING DOWN ON PORCH PIRATES

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, porch pirates steal packages and make our communities less safe. Over 1 in 3 Americans, myself included, have been a victim of this theft, which costs us billions of dollars each year.

I joined Democrats and Republicans to introduce the Porch Pirates Act, which will crack down on this crime. This bipartisan bill expands Federal protections for mail and parcels to cover deliveries from private carriers.

Porch pirates are committing crimes of opportunity, and online shopping—especially during the pandemic—has dramatically increased these opportunities. I recently met with the Irvine police chief who described to me how sophisticated these bad actors have become.

Our Porch Pirates Act modernizes Federal law and helps keep families safe.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY IS A PROMISE

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is a promise. It is a promise that we make to older adults and disabled Americans, people who count on our support.

One of Social Security's most important features—one not found in traditional pensions—is that benefits automatically adjust for inflation each year. The current level of adjustment isn't working. As corporate profiteers drive inflation to new highs, people on Social Security are not even treading water, they are sinking.

Democrats have a solution. The Social Security 2100 Act fixes the inflation adjustment. It would put more money in the pocket of older Americans and people with disabilities so they can afford higher healthcare costs and other expenses.

It would also eliminate waiting periods for people with disabilities, reducing disabled poverty. More than 200 Members of Congress support this bill, and I am proud to be among them. By passing the Social Security 2100 Act, we honor our promise to older Americans and disabled Americans.

#### AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, when the Biden administration learned Iran was just weeks away from enriching enough uranium for a weapon, this administration's response was to rush to a deal to