

As a former Boy Scout, I believe in leaving the campground better than when you found it. I have worked with seven administrations, seven House Speakers. None of them would call me a rubber stamp. If it is good policy for Michigan, it is good enough for all of us.

As a vice chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, we have pushed the envelope to get things done, taking on some complex and often controversial issues that others may want to just sweep under the rug. Immigration reform, including border security, for our Dreamers and farmers, a real honest-to-goodness infrastructure bill that passed 69-30 in the Senate but then hit the rocks here in the House, barely surviving Trump's opposition, despite his call for a proposal twice as expensive with no pay-fors.

I have worked alongside real giants who put principle over politics: Greg Walden, Paul Henry, MIKE ROGERS, Pat Tiberi, Susan Brooks, Charlie Dent, John Lewis, Mike Castle, Henry Hyde, Amo Houghton, Dave Camp, Nancy Johnson, and Don Young were among the best.

I work daily on all things Michigan, particularly with DEBBIE DINGELL, and we have been hitting the road to push for civility. Hopefully, civility and bipartisanship versus discord can rule, not rue, the day.

Current colleagues like CMR, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, STEVE WOMACK, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JOSH GOTTHEIMER, BRIAN FITZPATRICK, TOM COLE, DAVE MCKINLEY, DAN KILDEE, JOHN KATKO, KURT SCHRADER, DEAN PHILLIPS, PETER MEIJER, and my friend Steny cut the mustard, too.

I have been blessed having wonderful, hardworking staff all these years. Yes, two of them—including my chief of staff, Joan Hillebrands—have been on my team 36 years, with another handful between 15 and 20 years. Our district team has worked on so many different casework issues, in the tens of thousands. Throughout the COVID nightmare, we worked with our local bankers to save dozens of small businesses with PPP, and we worked to get vital supplies to our wonderful health facilities and frontline workers, who are still so stressed today.

Even the best of stories has a last chapter. This is it for me. I have done the zillions of airline miles back and forth. I have signed "Fred" to over a million letters; cast more votes than anyone in this Chamber while here; and by most accounts, have succeeded in making a difference, accomplishing what I have set out to do, with more unfinished work still yet to come.

Arthur Brooks recently wrote about three traits most important in life—honesty, compassion, and faith. I would like to think those same yardsticks were passed along to me by my parents, watching on C-SPAN now.

Someone asked my wife, Amey, what would be the next chapter? She said, "and they lived happily ever after." In-

deed, we will. I thank Amey, our two kids, and three grandkids for giving me so much to look forward to.

Thanks again to the people of my district who placed their faith and confidence in me all these years.

God bless the USA.

FRED UPTON HAS BEEN A DEVOTED PUBLIC SERVANT

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, for 35 years, FRED UPTON has been a devoted public servant for southwest Michigan, all of Michigan, and our Nation.

Throughout his career, he has always put the people he served first. To him, bipartisan and compromise are not forbidden words. Fred knew well that if we are going to deliver real solutions for the American people, we need to come together and listen to all perspectives, no matter how complicated the issue might be. It is because of that thinking, he was able to get so much done in Congress.

I am especially proud of all that we have been able to accomplish together. Thanks to his partnership, we were able to pass legislation to protect the Great Lakes for future generations and lower the cost of healthcare for all Americans. Together, we have championed removing the harmful PFAS chemicals from our Nation's drinking water, and I am confident we are going to get this to the President's desk.

While we may not have found harmony on every issue, Fred and I always managed to disagree without vitriolic rhetoric and mean-spirited language. Even through our toughest discussions, Fred always found a way to make me laugh, except today. It is his civility that I—and Congress—will miss the most.

Fred really believed that he was an American first, that reaching across the aisle was important, that working together is how we get things done for the American people. His retiring is a loss for this country, and especially the people of Michigan.

Fred is a dear friend to me, was John's best friend, and was there when John died. The Dingell family loves him. He is one of the greatest Michiganders to serve our country. I wish him, Amey, and their family the best as they prepare for the next adventure. And there will be one. Thank you, Fred.

CONGRATULATING VMI'S CLUB BOXING TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to express my thanks to the gentleman from Michigan for his years of service to this country, to this body, and to the great State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Virginia Military Institute Club

Boxing Team, which recently won the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association National Championships in Atlanta, Georgia. This victory marks the program's second national title in seven years, the last of which came in 2015.

Throughout this year's tournament, the team amassed an impressive 20-8 record, scoring six knockouts, one technical knockout, nine unanimous decisions, and four split decisions. Of the 14 cadets competing, 5 won individual national championship belts, while another 7 took home silver medals. Each of these national champions and runners-up also earned All-American individual honors for their stellar performances in their respective weight classes.

The team's coach, Joe Shafer, credited their win to preparation, dedication, and hard work. Coach Shafer said, "We represented the Institute with a fighting spirit: honoring VMI's history, upholding the passions of our forefathers, and personifying the principles of excellence for VMI."

The cadets certainly showcased the very best of the Virginia Military Institute, and the team should be incredibly proud of their efforts. Congratulations again to these national champions. They made the Commonwealth proud.

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in the midst of an economic crisis, yet the Biden administration fails to take action to ease the burden on American families.

When inflation began to soar and hit a 40-year high recently, the President's own chief of staff shrugged it off as a "high-class problem," insinuating that it was only affecting the wealthy, which we know not to be true.

Instead of offering solutions, this administration offers excuses. Perhaps worst of all is the fact that when given the chance to combat soaring prices by reining in wasteful spending, President Biden went entirely in the opposite direction by proposing a \$5.8 trillion budget that is more of the same liberal, tax-and-spend policies that have led us to this economic crisis in the first place.

If Biden's budget were adopted, the national debt would reach a new record by the end of the decade, growing by over \$15 trillion, reaching \$45 trillion by 2032 or about \$350,000 per household.

Further, not only does his budget proposal include nearly \$2.5 trillion in new or increased taxes, it also increases the corporate tax rate to 28 percent, higher than even Communist China. As an American, I am offended by that. Every American should be offended by that.

The Tax Foundation estimated that this increase would kill 159,000 jobs, shrink the economy by \$720 billion, and cut wages for low-income workers.

President Biden's budget will leave the overwhelming majority of Americans behind, explode the national debt,

and cause inflation to skyrocket even higher. Our citizens deserve better than what their President is giving them.

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ALLEVIATING HEALTH DISPARITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the Democrats working with the Biden administration to achieve the best job creation record in United States history.

Together, we have created 7.9 million jobs and seen the largest decrease in unemployment in history. In March, the national unemployment rate fell to 3.6 faster than expected and reached the lowest level since February 2020.

The United States has now regained 93 percent of the jobs lost during the pandemic. There have been particularly strong gains in the industries integral to addressing supply chain challenges, including manufacturing, construction, transportation, and warehousing.

Despite strong economic growth and wage gains, global price increases make it harder for U.S. workers and families to recover everyday expenses. The higher prices deprive households of the full benefits of the strongest wage growth seen in years.

Investing in children and families, workers, and small businesses, as the building a better America agenda does, would address the root causes of inflation and reduce some of the biggest expenses in our households.

While we are making great strides in ensuring a thriving economy, we must also remain committed to ensuring access to healthcare for all Americans. There is no wealth without good health.

While the Affordable Care Act has been critical in addressing the healthcare gap, we know Black and Brown and low-income families across this Nation are still disproportionately impacted by health disparities.

Allow me to share some daunting data to paint the seriousness of my concerns.

In 2018, approximately 21.5 percent of Hispanic adults over age 20 were diagnosed with diabetes, compared to 13 percent of White adults over the age of 20.

Hispanic women are 40 percent more likely to have cervical cancer and 20 percent more likely to die from cervical cancer than non-Hispanic White women.

There are 11 infant deaths per 1,000 live births among Black women. This is almost twice the national average.

Alleviating health disparities will require a deliberate and sustained effort to address socioeconomic determinants of health, such as poverty, segregation, and environmental degradation.

Furthermore, regarding mortality health, I plan to vote in favor of H.R. 1218, the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act. This legislation will use data mapping to show where high rates of poor maternal health outcomes overlap with the lack of access to broadband services to help identify where improved access to telehealth services can be most effective.

According to the CDC, severe complications related to pregnancy, known as severe maternal morbidity, impact over 50,000 women in the United States each year. Unfortunately, Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women.

In my own State, Florida ranks 32nd out of the 50 States in the U.S. in terms of the highest maternal mortality rates.

As we continue to create a more robust economy, we must also address health disparities in our Nation, which, in many cases, have led to countless premature deaths.

CALIFORNIA WATER SHORTAGES HURT NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, just a short time ago, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) gave a heartfelt speech about his time in Congress. I want to pass along my appreciation for him, especially his hard work in shepherding through the 21st Century Cures Act just a couple of terms ago.

I appreciate that and his strong work in the Congress. God bless Mr. FRED UPTON.

Mr. Speaker, I get up here and speak a lot about the situation with food availability in this country, farming, the availability of food that comes from farming.

Just recently, President Biden basically promised food shortages around the world and even have effects here in the United States, the land of abundance with the capability of growing much more than our own food supply. There is no reason the United States should be running short of food in any fashion for our own people or in our ability to help other people around the world with exports or the food programs that aid those that are in poor, dire situations in some other countries.

Yet, indeed, my wife just told me a couple of days ago that she was in the market, and there was an entire freezer shelf that was empty in one of the large chains of grocery stores in northern California. How can this be? Why is it?

I know we are coming out of COVID. That caused some problems, but the essential workers were in there pretty much the whole time making it happen, making beef available to our store shelves, everything else.

The farmers probably never really left the fields. There is no reason we should be having shortages.

I still hearken back to the story about 30-something years ago when Boris Yeltsin, the President of Russia, came to this country. Along with President Bush at the time, he visited the Johnson Space Center in Houston. On the way out, they stopped at a grocery store there in Texas. Mr. Yeltsin just wanted to see that, I guess, and he was amazed by what was on the shelves of American stores, the bounty we have.

I think it moved him to become emotional about it, and it also moved him to give up his role in the Communist Party in Russia and try to start reforming his country.

Indeed, he was quoted as saying, If the Russian people could see what was on the shelves here, there would be a revolution. That is pretty amazing.

So, what are we doing here in this country? The regulatory agencies and policies that come out of this administration and, of course, the State of California are basically running agriculture off the map. Taking the water away from farmers in California is a big example.

Now, people around the country may be watching and wonder: "Why does that affect me, man, a bunch of California problems? They are all messed up out there anyway." What is important, though, is that so many of these products we grow in California benefit the whole country. There are at least a dozen crops that 90 to 98 percent of them that Americans consume are grown in my home State.

I went to this irrigation district meeting just recently in my district. A whole bunch of farmers were gathered with the district managers there, their board. Indeed, the district is doing everything it can to make a bad situation work just a little bit better. They are using innovative ideas.

But the bottom line is, the water has been taken from them when you are talking Lake Shasta, Lake Oroville, the other projects we have in California, the State project, the Federal project.

How has it been taken? Well, of course, we are going through somewhat of a drought situation, but a lot of it is a man-enhanced drought because so much water has been let out of our storage systems into the delta, ostensibly to help fish, ostensibly to help with water quality.

One of the delta fish we are talking about is known as the delta smelt. It is gone. They go out and take what they call trawls, looking for this species. It isn't there anymore, so they have shifted much of the narrative away from the smelt now to water quality, salinity, such as that.

We get that because some of the bay area intakes for city use are in the delta, and they need to not have saltwater coming into those. So, the freshwater coming down, basically, from the mountains washes that water away. They need some of that flow.