

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.

According to statistics I have seen, because I can hardly get a straight answer, six times the flow has been pushed through there as what it would take to maintain that salinity—six times the flow.

So much water is not being captured. California still has a lot of rain and snowpack that falls upon it that is not being captured.

What are we down to? That water district I met with, those farmers are going to receive 7 percent of their flows, 0.4 acre-feet. If you had 100 acres, you would get to plant 7 acres. Can you imagine in any kind of business atmosphere where you get to operate 7 percent of it?

We have to get this right. The Federal Government needs to come in and do its job, not just worship the Endangered Species Act.

BE CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICA, NOT OTHER COUNTRIES

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, right now, the American people are over \$30 trillion in debt because Congress is incapable of being responsible with the American people's hard-earned tax dollars.

Over \$30 trillion in debt and counting is a sum total that we will never be able to pay back in our lifetimes, our children's lifetimes, our grandchildren's lifetimes, our great-grandchildren's lifetimes, and so forth.

Our dollar is on the verge of crashing. We are also on the verge of being the competitive currency with another foreign country's currency, possibly China. We are not in good shape financially.

We also are looking at 7.9 percent inflation and rising, with nothing to stop it. We are looking at gas prices that are getting so expensive that people can hardly afford to fill up their gas tanks.

Crime is out of control, and there is no reason for that. But coming up, on May 23, the Biden administration is going to suspend title 42, which is going to allow approximately an estimated 18,000 illegal aliens to come across our border.

If you total this up, in over 5 months, we are looking at potentially over 2.7 million people coming in throughout the summer and into the fall. This is unsustainable. This is also against our Constitution and is completely irresponsible.

Now, we have something coming up that Congress is going to be voting on, a 41-page COVID-19 supplemental bill because, for some reason, we are supposed to be spending more money that we don't have on future COVID and future COVID variants and future COVID vaccines because, really, that makes a lot of sense.

Why is that an emergency? It is in the future.

This bill, at \$10 billion, of which up to \$9 billion is for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority—what is the purpose of that? It is in the future. Is this gain of function research? We have a lot of questions, but we don't have answers.

This is also—for future COVID, by the way—supposed to provide \$750 million in efforts to fight future variants to build future vaccine manufacturing capacity.

Haven't our vaccine manufacturers made enough money when COVID vaccines were mandated across the country? They are still making a lot of money.

We have already spent \$4.6 trillion in resources on COVID, \$4.16 trillion in obligations, \$3.63 trillion in outlays across 44 government agencies.

The U.S. has made \$825 billion in direct payments. The U.S. has issued \$845 billion in loans. The U.S. has given \$540 billion in grants, \$50 billion in contracts, mostly through HHS and Defense, and so forth and on and more spending and more spending. Again, we are over \$30 trillion in debt.

Currently, the death rate for COVID is 1.22 percent. By the way, this death rate has continued to go down, thankfully. We are all thankful for that. Yet, Congress wants to spend more money for future COVID, for future vaccines, and for future variants when there is no need to do so.

What we should be doing is we should be helping Americans get back to work. We should be helping small businesses.

Most of all, we should be securing our southern border to protect our country and our national security interests, and to protect our people, instead of being completely concerned and wrapped up in another country's border and their people.

While we are failing Americans here at home, we are too concerned about countries abroad.

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Now, we have other serious problems. We have things that more Americans have been ignored on. There have been approximately 11,943 deaths reported on VAERS, but no investigation. There have also been 1,676 miscarriages reported on VAERS; 5,592 heart attacks reported on VAERS; 5,164 cases of myocarditis reported on VAERS; 13,230 permanently disabled cases reported on VAERS, yet no investigation. But we are supposed to spend \$10 billion on future COVID, future variants, future vaccines?

If we are going to spend some money, why don't we spend some money looking into these cases reported on VAERS?

This is why I introduced the Justice for Vaccine Victims Act of 2022 because there needs to be an investigation.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES: THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver the next installment of my farm bill impact series—the state of agriculture.

We are at the end of the first quarter. National Agriculture Month just ended, and as Congress prepares to authorize the farm bill, we should examine the state of agriculture.

Agriculture is not just a business; it is a rich heritage and a lifestyle. Sadly, the distance from farm to fork has never been greater, and there are fewer legislators who have experience on the farm. Since Congress will reauthorize the farm bill in 2023, I am standing here today to remind Congress that for this legislation to be effective in ensuring the food security, and, therefore, the national security, of our Nation, we need to get in the field and consider the perspectives of farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers.

Last month, House Agriculture Committee Republican leader G.T. THOMPSON and I did just that on a tour of my district. We went to farms; we toured facilities; we ate at dinner tables; and we listened. We did it because hearing from producers is crucial to legislating well on matters that concern their livelihoods. Today, I will report to Congress on what they have been telling me about the economic, human, and natural resources surrounding their work, and what Kansas producers believe to be the state of agriculture.

A farmer or rancher's economic health depends on things like cash and assets on hand, protections against the government taxing the farm at transfer or death, and well-crafted farm bill programs like crop insurance.

You don't have to look far to know that producers are facing the highest input prices in 40 years. Fertilizer is four to five times higher than it was at this time last year, if you can even get it. Equipment is back-ordered for 6 to 8 months. Parts are at least double the cost. On our trip, Republican leader THOMPSON and I hosted a roundtable with Kansas commodity groups, and all of them told me that if we cannot get input prices and inflation under control, today's farm and tomorrow's crop will be in a much worse condition at this time next year.

The day-to-day trials of operating a successful farm, ranch, or agribusiness are challenging enough without worrying about these skyrocketing prices. Now, President Biden's budget proposal threatens the stepped-up basis and imposes capital gains taxes on farms or ranches that have been held in the family for 90 years or more. This new farm-killer tax would inflict hundreds of thousands of dollars in new capital gains taxes on hardworking Americans and jeopardize family-owned businesses.

The one saving grace for most farmers is that the 2018 farm bill protected