

FAILED BORDER POLICIES THREATENING AMERICA

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, upon returning to my office, I heard testimony from Secretary Mayorkas from Homeland Security saying that he inherited a mess at the border and that he is doing the best he can.

The American public ought to know what the numbers are. Two Marches ago, between got-aways who weren't vetted by the Border Patrol and people who were vetted by the Border Patrol, about 11,000 people a month were coming here. A year ago in March, it was around 60,000. We are right now at 153,000.

When you inherit a March with 11,000 and 2 years later you are at 153,000, you have not been doing the best you can.

This is threatening the end of America. It signals that America is very weak. I have felt all along the policies at the southern border are one of the reasons we have to deal with Ukraine right now, because no normal leader would allow this many people to cross the border.

In any event, I urge my colleagues, anybody who has the ear of Secretary Mayorkas or the President, to point out that when you go from 11,000 to 153,000 people a month in 2 years crossing the border, you have failed and something has to be done.

RISING COSTS OF HOUSING

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the increased cost of building materials, creating an affordability crisis for housing in America.

This is, in part, because the COVID-19 pandemic has played a significant role in harming our country's supply of lumber and building materials. In addition, tariffs with Canada, along with long-term reductions of domestic timber harvesting, have exacerbated the price increases.

According to the National Association of Home Builders, prices of materials to build houses, like oriented strand boards, are up more than 400 percent since last spring. The average price of lumber has quadrupled.

This supply cost has increased the price of a new house, a new single-family home, by nearly \$40,000 per unit.

I urge Congress and the Biden administration to take action to address the lumber supply chain, such as increasing domestic harvesting of timber and negotiating new lumber agreements with Canada. This is a way we can effectively reduce the cost of housing. We need to build more housing.

CONGRATULATING TEACHER OF THE YEAR KURT RUSSELL

(Mrs. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the 2022 National Teacher of the Year, Kurt Russell.

Mr. Russell teaches at Oberlin High School in Oberlin, Ohio. He is a 25-year veteran of the classroom.

Kurt Russell was first inspired to become a teacher in middle school when he encountered his first Black male teacher.

In addition to his classroom and extracurricular duties, Kurt is the head coach for the school's varsity basketball team. He sees basketball as an extension of the classroom and a place where young people can learn about working together and how to handle both adversity and success.

He provides an inclusive and safe environment for studying diverse groups and encouraging all students' voices to be heard.

Now, as the 2022 National Teacher of the Year, he plans to advocate for classrooms to better reflect the students within them.

Mr. Russell joins his cohort of National Teachers of the Year from every State and territory this week in Washington, D.C., to celebrate their achievement, the profession, and their dedication to students.

As a fellow National Teacher of the Year, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the entire cohort and all the teachers who are being recognized this week.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACOBS of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY).

RECOGNIZING MIDLOTHIAN INNOVATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I come before the House of Representatives to recognize the Midlothian Innovative Learning Experience, or MILE, as the nonprofit of the year in 2021 for the city of Midlothian, Texas.

This is a state-of-the-art educational facility that is providing high school students with additional learning pathways throughout the community. Nonprofits are a fundamental part of America, and I thank Midlothian Innovative Learning Experience for their dedication to teaching the future generation.

It is important that we bring awareness to career and technical education so that people can learn about many

different professions at a younger age. Career and technical education is a perfect way for students to apply what they are taught in school to a real-world environment.

MILE offers five career and technical education pathways: culinary arts, entrepreneurship, civil engineering, aerospace engineering, and cybersecurity. These programs provide students the opportunity to utilize industry-standard equipment and practices they have shown an interest in.

This unique learning space is able to replicate scenarios found in a professional, real-world working atmosphere. With the support from industry professionals, MILE is able to thrive and partner with Midlothian Independent School District.

It is an honor to represent this group of mentors who help contribute to the outstanding education found all around Texas' Sixth District. I thank them for all they do.

RECOGNIZING ORISE KOPNAK ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Orise Kopnak, who just celebrated her 100th birthday.

Twice a week, this Waxahachie, Texas, resident volunteers at Baylor Scott & White hospital to volunteer in the day surgery department waiting room. Since 2014, she has logged more than 2,400 hours of her personal time to encourage, serve, and assist people who are waiting for a loved one to come out of surgery.

Orise's faithfulness to stand with the families, friends, and caregivers of patients during anxious and often difficult circumstances is a testament to her character. Even during a pandemic, Orise continued to volunteer.

People like Orise Kopnak represent everything that is good about our country. America was built on the volunteer principle. It has been instrumental in our Nation's advancement and made us, as Americans, a strong and self-reliant people.

Ronald Reagan once said the volunteer spirit is the engine that drives the whole history of the United States. It is an extra dimension of faith, friendship, and brotherhood that makes us good neighbors and good people and made America a great country.

I thank Orise for showing us how it is done. There is a reason her generation has been dubbed the Greatest Generation. May God bless her as she continues to carry out one of life's greatest causes: serving others.

RECOGNIZING DEMOND DAVIS

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I take this time to recognize one of my constituents, Ellis County Sheriff's Deputy Demond Davis.

Deputy Davis was new to the sheriff's force when he responded to a 10-200, which is a drug-related incident. Once he arrived, he witnessed a drug overdose. The individual was struggling, barely breathing, and his conditions were intensifying. Deputy Davis rushed to help and quickly administered Narcan nasal spray.

According to the account, the individual immediately started coming to. They were transported to Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Waxahachie, where they received additional medical attention.

Deputy Davis' actions ensured another person did not fall victim to the opioid epidemic. Ellis County Sheriff Brad Norman awarded the Life-Saving Award commendation and pin to Deputy Davis for his heroic actions.

Drug overdoses, especially from fentanyl, have become more prevalent in the U.S. Deputy Davis and his fellow law enforcement officers are our front line in responding to this terrible crisis. We cannot thank our law enforcement and first responders enough. America needs more heroes like Deputy Demond Davis.

CONGRATULATING TIMOTHY REDHAIR

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate a resident of Waxahachie, Texas, Timothy Redhair, who was promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve this month.

Colonel Redhair has a long and distinguished career in the military while also being a steward of our community.

As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded the 2nd Battalion, 132nd Infantry Regiment of the Texas Army National Guard and later had the opportunity to lead the Headquarters Battalion of the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Infantry Division.

During the height of the pandemic, Colonel Redhair deployed with his division to Kuwait. After returning from the Middle East, Timothy joined the Army Reserve, where he serves as the emergency preparedness liaison officer for Texas.

When Colonel Redhair isn't protecting our community, he spends his time as an assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 520, Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where he trains young men and women to become our future leaders.

This commitment to our country and our community is outstanding, and I am glad to see such a worthy member of our community receive this honor.

I thank Colonel Redhair again for his service and congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion.

□ 1645

IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

Mr. ELLZEY. It has been over 2 months since Russia invaded Ukraine. We are witnessing a war crime forced upon the people of Ukraine.

But from this tragedy we have seen great strength from the Ukrainian people, as well as a great deal of kindness and support from our fellow Americans.

In fact, throughout Texas District Six, you will see support with Ukrainian flags being flown and people donating their time to help the people of Ukraine. For example, Waxahachie's very own Gregg Burdette went with a nine-person team from Texas Baptist

Men to assist with Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

Gregg's team spent 10 days volunteering in shelters and receiving and sorting donated materials. With volunteers from all over the world, they were able to help many families and children get food, supplies, and a good night's rest.

Gregg is not the only District Six native giving aid to Ukraine. Surepoint Medical Centers, a local free-standing emergency room chain based out of Mansfield, Texas, donated their own medical supplies to aid the people of Ukraine.

With the help of many District Six residents who work for Surepoint, they were able to send critical medical supplies that included tourniquets, bandages, and various other lifesaving items.

I am proud of the work and kindness not just from the people of District Six, but everyone else who has donated any time, supplies, or sent prayers to the Ukrainian people in their time of need.

My friend from Arizona, I appreciate you yielding me time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I am going to do something this evening that isn't sort of traditional for me because I mostly do economics. I tried to do that circle of how everything ties together, and I accept I get a little geeky. For those who are trying to keep an eye on the history of our words, wave at me if I start speaking too fast because I have had a lot of coffee today.

Today, I am going to try to talk about what I saw on the border last week, but I am going to try to do it in a slightly different way. You have had lots of us come up here—and I am going to do part of it; I am going to show the boards and the numbers and all that.

In economics, there is this concept of a second-degree effect, a third-degree effect. I wish I could come up with a definition for a misery effect. The fact of the matter is, let's pretend it is really done out of compassion. Let's pretend our brothers and sisters on the left, this administration, their approach to the border is because they are heartfelt, and they believe this is kind and compassionate. My argument here is going to be really simple: Please think through your definition of "compassion."

Now that we know there are functionally 700 migrants who have lost their lives trying to cross the river, or when I was with the Border Patrol last Wednesday in Yuma, Arizona, and the Border Patrol agent, she was telling me of the heartbreak of finding a couple of children dead in the desert just a few hundred yards from the border, how can that be our definition of "compassion"?

And then we are going to have to walk through the reality of the misery you have brought to my State, my community.

Last Thursday, we did a roundtable with the true experts in our community in regard to fentanyl and drug use. I was sitting next to a mother who lost her teenage son by taking a single pill.

You have us come here and talk about the fentanyl crisis. Do you understand the scale?

Phoenix has functionally become the distribution hub of North America. One of the reasons—and I am going try to show it in the numbers here. When the border is just crowded with populations coming across it—and I stood there for a good 3 minutes, and there were 30-something people coming across the border. Over here were some other migrants crossing over the dam. Over here is the Border Patrol agent saying, I am in the concierge business. I basically take people, I walk them over to the trucks, and we take them to processing, and when we do that, whole sections over here on the border are left unmanned.

Then you wonder why a sergeant who is a Phoenix police officer, my neighbor and friend, tells me a year ago it cost about \$112 for some poor soul to get high for the day. Today it is \$12.

If you believe in basic economics, when the price crashes by 112 to 12, do you understand the depravity, the cruelty that Democrats' definition of "compassion" has brought to our own communities?

I will try to do this—and I have done a version of this before—you have got to think of the effects of the policy that the left is engaged in. When you open up the borders, you get more drugs. If you get more drugs, you are getting more homeless. If you are getting more homeless, you have increased crime. And then you have deaths.

How many people in the last day or so have come behind these microphones and said, Well, according to the latest statistics, we have 112 Americans who died of fentanyl that we know of. Well, our problem in the Phoenix area is not only fentanyl, it is meth, and it is other things.

How do I get the left to be willing to understand, if you love and care about people, your version of compassion is cruel?

So let's actually walk through some of the obvious, and then try to add a little bit of color and see if we can make this sort of come together as an understanding.

First, let's just do the basic math. We are being told, Hey, we are heading in this fiscal year already to almost a million people.

I had the experience last Wednesday of standing there. I have some distant relatives who do some farming down in the Yuma area, so I am an Arizonan, and I am at the border dozens of times.

I went and visited the Border Patrol station, and I know some of the folks there, and I saw the faces of individuals who feel like they have just been crushed. They are law enforcement, and they are not able to protect the

border because they are functionally in the people management business. They are taking people here and moving them over here so they can be processed, so they can be let go, so they can get a return order 6 years from now. This is what is going on.

Then they turn to you and say, I am here to stop drugs and weapons and potentially horrible people, terrorists, coming across our border, and I am now functionally in the human transportation business. That is what we have turned our Border Patrol into.

Then you meet with some of the Customs and Border Protection officials, and they say, Yes, you know, fentanyl may be coming right through the borders, but they only have to go several hundred yards that way and there is no more Border Patrol because all of them are taking care of people; you can just walk across.

Somewhere here I am going to try to do the other part of the discussion, where we talk about potentially if that is a million in the first half of the year, is it a couple million? Will the left have an honest discussion with us of why their version of compassion has a level of human exploitation that is really uncomfortable to talk about?

The agent I was standing there with turns to me and says, You understand most of these people who are walking across right now are going to spend the next few years of their life paying off the cartels, those are the costs that they had to commit to to cross the border.

If they can't pay it off with a job that they are not allowed to have, do they have to pay it off with their body?

Do they have to pay it off with smuggling, moving narcotics?

Is anyone here willing to take a step back from sort of the radicalized ideology and say this is not compassion, this is cruelty?

We are functionally in the business of human exploitation right now, that is our border policy. Yet, when we see numbers of border encounters have increased 278 percent, it is just another guy coming behind the microphone here and sounding like an accountant on steroids.

These are people. And is it enough that several hundred of them will die at the border?

Is it enough that many of them are going to have to engage in activities that are just absolutely exploitive to pay off the coyotes?

Is it enough that the cartels are now said to be making billions of dollars on human smuggling? And they are using that money now to actually build their own little factories, so they can make the precursor chemicals for fentanyl and synthetic opioids because it is cheaper than getting them imported from China?

We financed their Industrial Revolution.

Think about this: The left says, Well, inflation, these things are supply chains. Well, dammit, they did a great

job. We solved the cartel supply chain. We financed them enough so now they can make their own drugs from precursor chemicals all the way up to stamping the pill. You have got to think about those second-degree, third-degree effects of misery that really crappy policy brings.

Why have there been so many on the right and now a handful of Democrats—who are obviously concerned about their elections and realizing what they have embraced, but they are not willing to sign the discharge petition on title 42—why are so many of us talking about this: The Border Patrol—if you have an honest conversation with them—will turn to you and say, We are maxed out. And if you double the populations that are approaching the border because you functionally have removed title 42 so they don't get sent back, they get processed, it is no longer being overwhelmed, it is just a catastrophe. There functionally will be no protection on our border, and once again, U.S. policy is functionally financing the cartels. Congratulations.

The misery, the murders, the exploitation, which is U.S. policy. That is functionally what we have done here, but you did it in the name of, Well, this was compassionate. It is an amazing definition of "compassion."

Now, let's actually get to some other bits of misery. This number is a fraud. The reason this fentanyl number is—saying we have had 133 percent increase of capturing, collecting, stopping fentanyl at the border—when you meet with law enforcement down on the border they say most people we can't catch; we are too busy taking care of these million—now 2 million potentially—people crossing the border.

What a great system.

Let's see. The cartels get to march people to the border. They may get a few thousand bucks a head, so they get financed there. And because Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection are overwhelmed, it creates these massive openings where you can just move lots of narcotics across the border.

And here is what should be ripping your hearts apart: I got to sit next to a mom who told the story of her teenage son taking a single pill, a single pill that was stamped as something completely different, and 2 hours later that mom didn't have a son anymore.

In Arizona, 95 percent of our kids that died in the previous year—out of the 60 who died, 57 of them were from these fentanyl pills. Is there any love and compassion and caring for these moms that have lost their children? What is going on here?

Is the ideology of this administration of the Democrats here in the House, are they so radically calcified that the definition of "compassion" is the death of 57 Arizonan children? Is that really where they are at? Because that is the outcome.

I don't know how else to humanize this story, but this is what we have

done. Yet, now we see some of our brothers and sisters on the left, once again, saying, Well, we are actually concerned now, too. But you notice they won't come sign the actual piece of legislation so we can vote on it to actually stop that increase.

□ 1700

Forgive me, I can't stop myself with the charts.

Part of it, when you start seeing the explosion of increase—and it is Arizona, it is my community that is the one that is crushed—when you start seeing Arizona having a 79.5 percent increase in, functionally, fentanyl pills crossing our border, and that is what is captured.

Remember, I mentioned before I did the ride-along with the Phoenix police sergeant? And in parts of the discussion he was saying, Yeah, it is about \$12 now for that heartbreaking, homeless person there sleeping in that alley to get high for the day.

That is what we have done.

We have ZIP Codes now, I am being told, that the homelessness has doubled in the last year.

And what is the consistent policy thing that happened in the last year? The Democrats opened up the border.

So let's play economist for a moment.

What are the couple of things you do to make the working poor and the poor, to make their life more miserable?

Okay. Inflation. We have done a great job at that.

Remember, one year ago, March, we functionally dropped another \$1.9 trillion on the economy. You look at the charts and, boom, there goes inflation. My community had functionally a 10.9 percent inflation increase. I represent the community that had the highest growth of inflation year to year.

Do you know how many people no longer can afford their apartment—functionally, can't afford?

You are crushing the working poor.

But you can do more. You can open up the border. And this was actually left-wing economists that wrote these papers about 10 years ago. If you want to crush the working poor, import millions of people with similar skill sets.

So one of the classic definitions of the profile of someone as working poor is they may not have finished high school, but they are selling their labor. They are out there hanging drywall, working their hearts out, they are trying to find a way to get out. And now they are going to compete against who knows how many people who are going to work in the underground economy.

You have added millions of people with similar skill sets.

So how are they going to get the money to pay off their smugglers? Don't you think they are going to be coming in the back door saying, I will work for cash; I will do this and that?

Now you have other things that make the poor poorer: Crime, drugs,

someone stealing their stuff because they need money. And you look at all those numbers. The Democrats are in their, what? Now, 15 months of control. Every single number. Income inequality, the poor getting poorer, misery, death, retirees getting poorer, the middle class getting poorer.

Great job, guys. Great job.

Tell me something you have done that hasn't increased misery in this country.

I know this is uncomfortable, but I am doing it on purpose. Sometimes the smartest thing is to just stop what you are doing. Take a breath. Maybe the ideology is a false ideology. Back up.

I am sorry the former President was into border security. But do you remember a decade and a half ago when it was the hallmark of Democrats that were concerned about illegal immigration?

Do you remember it was Republicans and Chambers of Commerce that wanted to flood the country with cheap labor?

Isn't it amazing what happened here?

It was only about 15 years ago that the left were the protectors of working men and women.

We will not flood the country with cheap labor.

We need our folks to be able to have a working wage.

Oh, we are going to open the border now because it is compassionate, and we are going to screw up everyone's life.

What happened?

When did the Democrats abandon the middle class, the working poor? Is it they weren't voting for them enough?

It is about the math. Now, we are moving beyond pounds, we are heading towards tonnage in the amounts of fentanyl coming through my State.

Let's put this in context.

You see this little picture right here, those few crystals there? That functionally is enough to kill you. So that is a penny. Those? That kills you.

When does this become terrorism? Because it is already functionally killing our children.

Does anyone care?

Now, we have got to go just a little bit further down the rabbit hole.

The border agents report over a thousand percent increase, and these are the ones in Texas. The argument I was given by our friends at Customs and Border Patrol is they are not catching much of it.

But it goes further. You have got to understand what has been happening in my community. This is just one of a dozen headlines when there is a bust and it is enough to functionally kill every single person in my State.

There was a bust the night before we did our fentanyl roundtable. There was enough to kill everyone in my county, and I have the third or fourth most populous county in the Nation.

Do you understand the scale? When you have the experts here saying, Well, David, you don't understand. Prices

have so crashed, a couple of years ago it would be several dollars a pill. Now it might be, at wholesale, 45 cents a pill. When it gets that cheap, you want to try to understand why it is in your elementary schools, your high schools, throughout your community, and the homeless campuses.

That is the cascade effect.

So I'm begging the majority to just take a breath for a moment, back away from the radicalized ideology and just take a breath and say, Do you actually love and care about people?

Will you accept the misery, the death, just the dystopian devastation that is happening in our communities right now because of an open-border policy? That is what it is.

And title 42 is not a solution. It is just trying to stop the catastrophe.

Sign the discharge petition. Prove that your rhetoric actually fits reality.

Or maybe the constituencies are now so gerrymandered and intellectually calcified that you can't tell the truth.

Another chart that absolutely proves we have turned, functionally, our legal apparatus to protect the Nation into, functionally, a transportation service, ICE. Immigration enforcement is, functionally, beyond the border in our communities. Those who got through, who were not stopped, it is up to law enforcement.

How do you catch someone and functionally remove them from the country?

You see where we were in 2019. And then you see where we were in 2020. And do you see the crash over here? These deportations?

Now, what is fascinating is this line way up here was actually even further up during the Obama administration.

Did the left basically just crash this because the last President was so hated by the left for protecting working men and women that if he said it is Black, you had to say White? You had to walk away from it?

We would be elated to get back to the actual law enforcement protection of the border numbers that were there during the Obama administration.

There is this weird irony, and I just show this so folks understand the bizarreness of Democrat management leadership of this government right now.

So illegal immigration goes up—well, it is not immigration, it is illegal captures at the border, presentations, those things—278 percent.

But legal, if the person had just got their Ph.D. in electrical engineering at ASU and they can't process the paperwork, legal immigration has crashed. So at the same time we get the complaints from businesses that they can't hire anyone, that we need talent to grow the economy.

As you saw the brilliance today, GDP actually fell pretty substantially in the last quarter. Yay, Democrats are doing a great job.

One of the factors of economic growth is when you bring in smart peo-

ple. Well, that has crashed but we are imparting massive numbers of poverty into the country. That is the left's version of compassion.

I accept that some of this presentation is a little bit on the aggressive, maybe slightly jerky side, but I don't have another way to basically say, Is this really the Democrats' vision of America?

Is this really how you think we are going to make poor people less poor, the working poor more prosperous, the middle class much more prosperous?

The thought experiment is very simple. Anyone out there, contact my office with something, give me a single thing in the last 15 months of absolute Democrat control of this Congress, this government, that the left has done that has turned out to actually be good for America, good for working people, good for poor people. You have made rich people a lot richer. Isn't that amazing?

Income inequality was shrinking dramatically in 2018, 2019, and the first quarter of 2020.

Pandemic; Democrats take over—boom. All the things they told us that they cared about basically have gone to crap. And the math is the math. But as you all know, we work in a math-free zone.

And maybe at some point we will tie our hearts, our compassion, to the actual facts. And when we do that, the really bad things that this Congress and this White House are doing to the American people will stop.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 270.—An act to amend the Act entitled "Act to provide for the establishment of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes" to provide for inclusion of additional related sites in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 29, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3838. A letter from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for fiscal year (FY) 2022 emergency supplemental funding for critical security and economic assistance to Ukraine, pursuant to Public