

key national and regional organizations that advocate for farmworkers who, despite carrying the burden of injuries and illnesses during the pandemic, kept our country fed.

We discussed injustices that our campesinos face when it comes to healthcare, education, housing, workers' rights, and immigration. Together, we are working together to craft meaningful solutions to these challenges that will help our Nation's farmworker communities thrive.

An immediate solution is for the Senate to pass the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act that the House has passed. We need 10 Republican Senators to agree and pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act out of the Senate to make this much-needed legislation into law.

Right now, from vineyards in California to fields in the Midwest and ranches in the South, growers are concerned about an unstable workforce and a labor shortage. Many farmworkers toil in the fields with uncertainty and fear of being deported and separated from their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened these concerns.

Unfortunately, this uncertainty and these labor disruptions are contributing to the destabilization of our farms and to higher food prices across America.

We need the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to bring certainty and solutions for growers, farmworkers, and their families.

Now, more than ever, we must stabilize and modernize our farm workforce, keep families together, and secure a pathway to citizenship for our essential and vital farmworkers.

This Congress, the CHC recognized these urgent needs and led the charge to get this bipartisan bill passed out of the House.

Now, I repeat, we just need 10 Republican Senators to get on board so that we can pass this out of the Senate and make it law.

To them I say, Let's get it done.

To our Nation's farmworkers, I say. We stand with you. We fight for you. The CHC is doubling down. We will never stop fighting for our farmworker communities. We will fight "with strength," "con puno y fuerza," to ensure that their labor rights, immigration status, and access to education, healthcare and housing are secure.

Together, we stand firm in our resolve and strong in our fight to protect farmworkers, our vital workforce, and their access to healthcare, education, housing rights, and citizenship.

As the proud son of farmworkers, I stand before this body today to let our farmworkers know, "Together, we can. Yes, we can." "Juntos podemos. Si se puede."

REMEMBERING PAUL LOVEZZOLA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the wonderful life of Mr. Paul Lovezzola of Bloomingdale, Georgia, who passed away on Friday, June 3. He was 79 years old.

He was the owner and operator of the beloved Lovezzola's Pizza Family Restaurant since 1978, which has proudly fed of city of Pooler for almost 45 years.

Above all, Paul was a devout family man who worked hard to support his family and spoil his grandchildren.

Paul was orphaned at the age of 12. From that young age, he looked up to our military servicemembers, which led him to serve in the U.S. Air Force.

He was communicant of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where he is remembered as a people person, a hard worker, and for always having a story to tell.

Paul served the people of Pooler for many years. In fact, he loved the city so much that he faced his restaurant toward Pooler instead of I-95.

My prayers are with his wife of 57 years, Juanita Lovezzola, and his three children, Steven, Sherri, and Tim, along with their nine grandchildren whom he dearly loved.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN SOUL BARBECUE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Southern Soul Barbecue for winning the Brunswick-Golden Isles Small Business of the Year for their superior barbecue and service to their community.

The Small Business of the Year award is awarded to a business that demonstrates excellent knowledge and integrity while providing a valuable service to the community.

Southern Soul Barbecue has continuously delivered their mission of support for the citizens and the local business community while exhibiting initiative, creativity, and a can-do attitude.

Businesses like this are what binds our precious communities together and keeps our economies moving in the right direction. Plus, it is always great to enjoy some exceptional southern-style barbecue.

I look forward to being in St. Simons for many reasons, but the pulled pork from Southern Soul Barbecue is certainly toward the top of the list. It is a must every time for me.

It is my honor to recognize a commendable business such as Southern Soul Barbecue, and I wish them great success in the future as they continue to set an example for other small businesses in the community.

IN MEMORY OF KIRK WARNER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the legendary and beloved Kirk Warner, a teacher, a coach, a mentor, a father figure, and a friend to so many in his community, who peacefully passed away last June 16.

Kirk was a football fanatic with an apparent gift for the game from a young age, which ultimately led him to

play tight end for the University of Georgia and then go on and spend 21 seasons as the head coach of the Liberty County High School football team.

From his first day at the school, he made Liberty County his home and was known for being a humble man with a true passion for inspiring the next generations through his coaching.

He was known for putting highly competitive teams on the field and took pride in his players being the best they could be, inspiring some to make it to the NFL.

The fact that his players respect him as much as they do, truly speaks to his character as a coach and as a man.

His legacy has been left for the rest of us to learn from and live by, to help guide the future generations of young student leaders and athletes through faith, love, and respect for others.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with transgender and nonbinary young people and condemn the relentless discriminatory, anti-LGBTQ+ bills and hateful rhetoric we are witnessing across the Nation.

In recent months, Republican State legislatures and elected officials have targeted the LGBTQ+ community for cheap political gain and referred falsely to anyone who opposes attempts to infringe on the rights of others as "groomers".

There are at least 206 active bills across State legislatures this year alone that target the LGBTQ+ community.

Here are some samples of this hateful legislation:

Excluding trans youth from participating in school sports.

Restricting trans youth from accessing the bathroom.

Banning curriculum to deny the existence of LGBTQ+ people in the classroom.

Criminalizing medical providers who provide gender-affirming healthcare.

Targeting parents of LGBTQ+ children who simply want to support their kids as best they can.

That is right: LGBTQ+ rights are being attacked from all angles.

In Texas, providing gender-affirming healthcare is now considered "child abuse," and parents of transgender youth face a real risk of being separated from their children.

This month, in Idaho, a group of extremists were arrested after plotting to riot and cause violence during a Pride event. In recent days, as people around the United States have sought out the joyous parades and events that come with Pride Month, including in my own district, GOP politicians and preachers have put out calls for killing LGBTQ+ people.

There is no doubt: Bigotry toward the LGBTQ+ community has grave and potentially life-threatening consequences. According to the Trevor Project, in the past year, 45 percent of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth. Similarly, 93 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth reported worrying about being denied access to medical care due to State and local laws.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as the dad of a gay son and a longtime ally of the LGBTQ+ community to say that these radical policies have no place in America and that this Congress must take concrete action.

In February of this year, I was proud to vote to pass the Equality Act, which protects LGBTQ+ people from discrimination in jobs, housing, and public accommodations. While it would not undo every single one of these horrible State policies I have mentioned, it would go a long way to enhance the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community and send the message that we stand against bigotry and hate.

Unfortunately, the filibuster is holding this bill up in the Senate. One thing is for certain: The filibuster must be abolished to create any viable pathway to send the Equality Act to President Biden's desk. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to hear the cries of the LGBTQ+ community members, and particularly trans and nonbinary young people, who need these protections desperately and are counting on your support.

Here in the House, our work is far from done. I am glad we are considering the LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act, which improves data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity to provide better resources for the LGBTQ+ community so that we have the data we need to make good law. We must also pass legislation to provide mental health care for LGBTQ+ people, offer hate crimes protections, and uplift and support the dignity of all LGBTQ+ individuals across this Nation.

All of us, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, must stand collectively against this hate and foster inclusion for all. Let's get to work.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES

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 twelfth installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series: The Second State of Agriculture.

We are at the end of the second quarter, and one of the biggest issues facing agriculture across the board is the cost of things. Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers are laboring under the skyrocketing input costs while they work hard to keep our country

fed, fueled, and clothed. They deserve workable solutions to this inflation crisis before the situation gets any worse.

The U.S. farm economy crashed in the early to mid-1980s due in part to surging inflation. From 2000 to 2020, the average annual rate of inflation was 2.1 percent, which economists consider a normal rate of inflation that helps drive overall economic growth. Last year, prices increased 7 percent overall throughout 2021, which was the largest December-to-December percentage change since 1981.

□ 1045

Inflation is a matter of life and death for the American farm. We saw it in the early 1980s, and now we are seeing it again. Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers are feeling the effects of inflation more acutely than almost anyone else in America.

In agriculture, commodity prices generally rise during periods of inflation, but input costs rise as well. Data collected by USDA shows that over the past three decades, on average, the input costs for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers tend to increase more than the rate of inflation and more than the prices that they receive for their products. To make matters worse, USDA estimates that input costs will continue to rise at least 5 to 6 percent throughout 2022.

In the last 12 months, feed, supplies, and repairs are all up 13 percent while ag chemicals, building materials, and machinery are all up 21 percent.

Most shockingly, just during the last 12 months, fuel is up 115 percent, natural gas is up 202 percent, and fertilizer is up 220 percent.

Think about that. This year it is costing farmers more than double what it cost last year to farm their land.

The farm bill contains relief safety net programs like crop insurance and livestock indemnity, but these programs don't account for the rising costs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and seed. Agriculture is a business, and business owners can't afford to lose money year after year, which is happening now thanks to skyrocketing inflation. We need to get this situation under control.

A Kansas wheat grower recently said to me:

“Fertilizer is one of the largest expenses on any commercial farming operation. My farm has already used more than 450 tons of fertilizer for this cropping season, which includes nearly 350,000 pounds of UAN, specifically. Even though we cut back on how much we use because of the increased price, it will still cost our farm almost \$70,000 more than last year. Looking forward, we will undoubtedly have to cut back on fertilizer again until prices begin to come down.”

Fertilizer cost is a major problem, but the rising cost of everything else is only compounding the issue further. For instance, if you are a Kansas

rancher looking to replace all the fence on your farm with 4-barb, Red Brand wire, last year you would have been quoted \$10,000 per mile. This year, quotes are coming in at around \$20,000 a mile, so it has doubled. Think about that.

From fertilizer to fuel to equipment to fencing, inflation is crushing producers across this country. How can small business owners keep up with this? How can we expect the people who bear the responsibility of feeding, fueling, and clothing the world to shoulder that burden while going broke from doing so?

The people who make sacrifices so that we can eat can't afford to buy gas to drive their kids to school right now. They can't afford to pay their mortgages. American farmers are perfectly capable of producing plentiful, healthy affordable food, but no matter how much they grow and sell, inflation is killing their margins and they are going out of business.

How does the Biden administration respond to this crisis? Well, the President's budget proposal dismantles the stepped-up basis and imposes new capital gains taxes like the farm killer tax on small businesses held in families for 90 years or more. These proposals would destroy thousands of American family farms overnight. House Democrats, for their part, would like to distract the Federal Reserve with social policy while inflation is at a 40-year high.

These ideas are a slap in the face to every American farmer, rancher, and agricultural producer. While this administration burns through money like there is no tomorrow, American producers are working tirelessly to keep America secure despite the effects of inflation on their businesses. We owe them not only a debt of gratitude, but also real solutions to the inflation crisis before it is too late.

SOCIAL SECURITY—A SACRED TRUST

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this global pandemic has impacted every nation in the world. But here in America, as we have seen, with just over a million people who have passed, 750,000 of them are over the age of 65.

Those seniors are also the people hurt hardest by inflation, as are all the individuals who are on a fixed income. Democrats have a plan. We have a plan to address all of Americans' rising expenses that they are experiencing. We have a plan to address them today, tomorrow, and into the future. It is called Social Security.

Social Security is the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty