

From the outside looking in, catalytic converter theft may seem like a small problem, but law enforcement, auto dealers, and the growing number of victims of these crimes will tell you otherwise. In communities across the country, thieves are targeting families, schools, and businesses, disrupting transportation plans and leading drivers to shell out hundreds or even thousands of dollars in repair costs.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with catalytic converters, this auto part is required to reduce the potency of toxic emissions from internal combustion engines and is usually made up of precious metals like platinum, rhodium, and palladium, which can be sold to scrap dealers for hundreds of dollars on the black market. The value of these materials, combined with a thief's ability to remove them from a car in a matter of seconds, makes them a prime target for criminals looking to earn cash with little risk.

My bill takes a multipronged approach to tackling this epidemic and by including traceable identifying features on catalytic converters, addressing how parts are purchased, and strengthening enforceability of catalytic converter thefts. By creating a system where law enforcement can link stolen catalytic converters from their vehicles of origin, prohibit the purchase of disassembled catalytic converters, and codify catalytic converter thefts as criminal offenses with criminal penalties, it is my great hope that we can curb these costly thefts.

I am deeply concerned about the costly impacts that these thefts have on Americans, especially at a time when American workers are taking home less and families are paying more for everything thanks to soaring inflation rates. I recognize the strain this has put on so many victims of this crime, and I want to do all I can to empower law enforcement so we can address this problem.

Americans have enough to worry about. Spending their hard-earned paycheck to replace stolen car parts shouldn't be one of them.

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I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have joined me in this effort to empower law enforcement and deter future theft by joining the PART Act. I believe that this widely bipartisan issue can be an easy win for Congress by offering a straightforward and impactful solution for law enforcement struggling to address these rampant crimes across the country. I hope you will join me in putting an end to this issue by supporting H.R. 6394, the PART Act.

MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about H.R. 3588. This is an important piece of legislation that I was proud to introduce with my friend from Pennsylvania, Congresswoman CHRISSY HOULAHAN.

The Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act provides a much-needed solution to improving the quality of STEM education in America. This legislation advances mathematical instruction by incorporating modern tools and context, including data, statistics, and computation.

Mathematical modeling is currently taught on a limited basis yet is the foundation for the important work our Nation is addressing within research, development, and technological innovation.

In addition to being both a bipartisan and a bicameral piece of legislation, this bill has the support of several organizations, including the American Mathematical Society, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics; and I am proud to lead this effort in providing for the security of America's global competitive edge.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill.

REMEMBERING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK AT THE OAK CREEK SIKH GURDWARA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) for 5.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10-year anniversary of the horrific attack at the Oak Creek Sikh Gurdwara on August 5, 2012. I rise to honor the memory of those we lost in that attack.

On August 5, 2012, a shooting took place at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, killing seven worshippers.

I also rise to honor Lieutenant Brian Murphy, who responded to the scene and was shot at 15 times at close range.

This senseless act of violence should have never occurred and, in particular, in a house of worship. Nonetheless, the Oak Creek community came together. The Sikh community responded with compassion and stayed true to the Sikh principle of Chardi Kala, translating to relentless optimism.

I join the Oak Creek community to remember and honor the victims of this tragedy.

IMPACT OF RISING PRICES

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, every day I am home in Wisconsin, I hear about the impact of rising prices and the impact that they are having on families' budgets. Wisconsin's families and seniors have continued to share their concerns with me about rising costs.

A 79-year-old woman in Janesville, Wisconsin, told me: BRYAN, I drive less and am more careful about what I buy in the grocery store because I am on a fixed income.

A woman in Oak Creek said: BRYAN, I am on a fixed income and with the increased cost of medication, groceries, and gas, it is difficult to stretch money until the next month's payment.

A 68-year-old woman from Kenosha, Wisconsin, said: BRYAN, I am delaying

my retirement. Food costs and energy costs are out of control.

Madam Speaker, we need to change course. It is time we unleash American energy, get spending under control, and address the issues American families are facing every day.

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM ILLICIT FENTANYL

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, illicit fentanyl is devastating our communities. In Racine County last year, 68 people died from an illicit fentanyl overdose. In Kenosha County, 48 people died of an illicit fentanyl overdose death.

Illicit fentanyl is the leading cause of death for individuals aged 18 to 45. We must keep working to keep these drugs off our streets.

I am pleased to announce two of my amendments passed the House last week.

The first amendment will support funding to combat fentanyl from entering the country and strengthening border security. The second amendment will support funding for high intensity drug trafficking areas. This will be used to combat the increase in overdose deaths from fentanyl and related substances. These amendments are an important step in keeping these dangerous substances off our streets.

In order to stop the illicit fentanyl flow, we need to secure the border, fund law enforcement, and make fentanyl-related substances a permanent schedule I drug.

I encourage Congress to take the steps necessary to protect our communities from this illicit substance.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 shutdowns exacerbated a worsening crisis in our country. What I am talking about is our children's mental health.

I recently sent a letter to the CDC regarding our youth's mental health. The CDC has not released data on suicide rates among children. Why?

The data on suicide rates in children is an important tool needed to strengthen our mental health infrastructure across our country.

As we approach the coming school year, this critical data will help us make informed decisions to support our children and improve their mental health. I urge the CDC to release this important data regarding our children's mental health.

QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR VETERANS

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I will discuss an issue impacting veterans in my district. I am continuing to hear stories from families in Wisconsin about the quality of care at the State-run Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported in May that the State-run veterans home ranks among one of the worst State-run veterans homes in the entire country. This is unacceptable. The substandard care veterans have

suffered at the Union Grove facility is abhorrent and must be addressed immediately.

Two months ago, I asked for a Federal review of the State-run facility. Our veterans and their families should be receiving the highest-quality care at any facility in Wisconsin. The quality of care at that facility has long been a concern of mine.

It is abundantly clear that the veterans home at Union Grove has much larger issues than many imagined. We need to ensure our veterans are receiving the care they deserve. I continue to call on the Department of Veterans Affairs and CMS to provide a Federal review of the Union Grove Veterans Home.

HIGH PRICES AND RISING INFLATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this time last year, President Biden claimed that high prices and rising inflation were temporary; that if we continued down this administration's path and trusted their policies, then prices would go down again.

Well, last month's Consumer Price Index score came out and revealed that inflation has soared to 9.1 percent, the highest rate in 41 years. So obviously, his statement that inflation was transitory, temporary, what have you, is false. The numbers aren't bearing up.

Now, the Commerce Department is days away from releasing its first estimate of the economy's output in the April through June quarter. The economy already shrank 1.6 percent in the January through March quarter, and many economists are forecasting another negative output rate.

Two outputs in a row means that—the "R" word, the one that the Biden administration and his Cabinet don't want to say—it could mean the recession.

Now, that will validate the feelings of Americans across the country who are struggling to afford the basic necessities amid rising prices.

Despite record-high prices, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is trying to spin the definition of a recession, claiming that since our Nation's unemployment rate isn't that high, then our economy must be doing great. That is not being felt at home. That is obviously false.

The American people are feeling unprecedented financial pain in all aspects of their lives. Fuel, electricity, their healthcare, homes, everything is going up. It is becoming unaffordable for lower-income and middle-income Americans.

Wholesale prices have surged 11.3 percent. Small business confidence has dropped to a 48-year low with businesses struggling to hire new employees and fill open jobs.

These high-up bureaucrats in the Biden administration aren't suffering the financial consequences that their policies are causing average Americans. They don't feel them the same as regular people do.

This is the same administration who, when gas prices hit an all-time high, told people to go out and buy brand new electric vehicles. Sure, no problem; \$50,000 \$65,000.

Our Secretary of Transportation says it will require more pain to benefit electric car drivers and owners at \$65,000 vehicles with Chinese-made replacement battery packs.

Our Nation is facing a recession, meaning that the sales of new homes, consumer confidence, spending, and real wages are dropping, and inflation is still rising.

President Biden has allowed the American people and Main Street businesses to suffer while his reckless spending policies continue to make things worse. I have heard this firsthand from my own constituents, real people out there that deal with this every day.

The price of everything at the cash register, at the supermarket, is all going up, and their wages, effectively, are going down.

In a telephone town hall I hosted recently, I asked participants, have rising costs impacted your spending habits? Ninety percent said yes. They can spend less; they can do less.

There are similar figures across the board. A new FOX News poll revealed that 75 percent of Americans reported experiencing hardship because of inflation.

We need to work to repair our economy through cutting wasteful spending, burdensome regulations, our dependence on foreign oil. Why are we going to Saudi Arabia and asking for their oil when we have so much in our own backyard, our own energy, that we could make ourselves completely self-sufficient, as we were a couple of years ago, and help our allies around the world with that as well.

Focus on things that help the American people, lower-income and middle-income families especially, instead of helping more illegal immigrants come to the country; instead of helping China become richer with more and more of our assets and more of our business.

I keep having to ask the question: President Biden, and your Cabinet, whose side are you on?

DYSLEXIA

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, today, one in five Americans are affected by dyslexia, making it the most common learning disability. Yet, there are still children in U.S. school systems that go without being diagnosed.

Instead, they are written off as having a lack of effort, or a plain lack of intelligence.

Despite misconception, dyslexia is not connected to one's level of intelligence. In fact, where students have a difficult time reading, they often excel in creative thought and critical thinking. My bipartisan legislation, the 21st Century Dyslexia Act, will Federally define dyslexia and label proper treatments and diagnosis, enabling teachers, students, and parents to assist aspiring students to achieve successful academic careers, and to ensure that all children are granted equal opportunity in the classroom.

SAVE OUR SEQUOIAS

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, 3,000 years; that is how long some giant sequoias have been alive. To put this into perspective, these trees started growing before the concept of democracy, the English language, and the birth of Christ.

The Mariposa Grove, the largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park has been a source of inspiration for generations. When the Washburn Fire recently hit the Mariposa Grove, the fire's intensity dramatically decreased, thanks to 50 years of thinning and prescribed burns.

There is a stark contrast between areas that have a history of proper management and those that have been disregarded. While the fire subsided in the Mariposa Grove, surrounding areas that did not receive sufficient management were destroyed.

As a licensed forester, I take it upon myself to seek science-based solutions for the conservation of our forests. The Mariposa Grove serves as a prime example of how mechanical thinning and prescribed burns are necessary tools for proper forest management.

It is my hope that the grove continues its legacy of inspiration by encouraging a new generation of proactive forest management that will protect these iconic trees for the enjoyment of generations to come.

It is past time for the Natural Resources Committee to mark up the bipartisan Save Our Sequoias Act, and for the House to pass it to protect these iconic national treasures.

GREAT BASIN BRISTLECONE PINE TREES

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, recently, we have talked a lot about the dire situation of some of California's most iconic trees, the sequoias. But we have yet to discuss the condition of California's oldest trees, the Great Basin bristlecone pine trees.

Great Basin bristlecone pines signify resilience, longevity, and perseverance. To cope in difficult times, they almost completely die off, leaving but a few strips of bark that can continue to grow along the ground or skyward for thousands of years. To ward off pests, bristlecone pines trap pests in their thick resin.

Due to severe drought, in mixed forests, bark beetles have been able to build up broods on other tree species