

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I address you and this body because I know that you know more than most what it is like to have the impacts of illegal immigration in your State and across the border.

In the town of Yuma, a town of about 100,000 people, every day in their hospital, they get 11 people who go into the emergency room. They get an additional four or five women every day in Yuma, Arizona, who go into the maternity ward. Mr. Speaker, \$20.4 million in uncompensated care was provided by that hospital in just the first 6 months of this year.

Mr. Speaker, you and I both know that when the Vice President said on Sunday that our border is not open, she was not telling the truth. Our border is wide open, and it has inherent dangers and problems for the United States of America.

We can close it today. I encourage Members of this House to join me in getting my discharge petition out. We need to close this border.

#### RECOGNIZING JON VAN UTRECHT OF OTTUMWA

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jon Van Utrecht of Ottumwa.

Since its creation in 1854 in Fairfield, Iowa, the Iowa State Fair has been a yearly tradition for Iowans, attracting millions of people from across the country. With a wide variety of entertainment, food, and activities, such as the world-famous butter cow, it is not surprising why millions are attracted to the fair.

Each year, farmers across Iowa are encouraged to enter a variety of crops to be judged for size, weight, and quality. One of my favorite things to do at the State fair is attending competitions and seeing the impressive crops our farmers have grown.

That is why I was thrilled to see Ottumwa's Jon Van Utrecht's pumpkin as one of the winners of the big pumpkin competition. Jon's pumpkin came in sixth place and weighed 300 pounds.

Iowa's State Fair is filled with countless entertainment options for families across Iowa and shows why Iowa is the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family. I look forward to seeing what next year brings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish a happy birthday to Helen Friell. On September 23, Helen will become 100 years old.

Happy birthday, Helen.

#### STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS IS MISGUIDED

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, there are countless successful middle Tennesseans who did not go to college, yet President Biden expects them to pick up the tab for those who did.

It is simply wrong to take hard-earned dollars from blue-collar workers in Tennessee who have no student loan debt just to eliminate some or all of the student loan debts of usually higher paid college graduates. But it is also blatantly unconstitutional for President Biden to unilaterally take this cynical election year action without the required congressional authorization. He is, after all, the President, not our king or dictator.

Further, this misguided decision comes at the cost of more than \$500 billion, which will push inflation and the skyrocketing cost of everything even higher and add to the financial pain Tennesseans already feel from the record inflation caused by the President's other disastrous fiscal policies.

I ask the President to please join us instead of fighting us in trying to put our Nation's fiscal house back in order.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1431

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or if the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on the postponed questions at a later time.

#### ELIMINATING LIMITS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILD SEX ABUSE VICTIMS ACT OF 2022

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3103) to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3103

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Eliminating Limits to Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

Section 2255 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—There shall be no time limit for the filing of a complaint commencing an action under this section."

#### SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall—

(1) take effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to—

(A) any claim or action that, as of the date described in paragraph (1), would not have been barred under section 2255(b) of title 18, United States Code, as it read on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) any claim or action arising after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3103.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3103, the Eliminating Limits to Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims Act of 2022 is bipartisan legislation that would ensure that survivors of child sex abuse are not barred by a statute of limitations when seeking civil damages in court.

Data suggests that 86 percent of child sexual abuse goes unreported. Also common is delayed disclosure, or the tendency of survivors of child sexual abuse to wait many years before disclosing abuse to others.

This is because survivors of sexual abuse often take a long time to process their trauma, and many survivors who were abused as a child may not even recognize the abuse they suffered until much later in life.

Unfortunately, because survivors of child sexual abuse often delay reporting, any statute of limitations may prevent survivors from accessing justice and seeking damages in civil court.

The current Federal civil remedy statute for victims of child sexual abuse includes a statute of limitations requiring all claims to be filed within 10 years of the injury or not later than 10 years after the victim turns 18 years old.

These statutes of limitation can serve to protect the abusers and enable them to continue to exploit their power by allowing victims' claims to expire.

This bill will enable survivors who are victims of Federal child sex abuse offenses, including aggravated sexual abuse, sex trafficking, human trafficking, forced labor, and sexual exploitation, to seek civil damages in Federal court regardless of the amount of time that has passed since the abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) for joining Senator DURBIN in introducing this important legislation and recognizing that the challenges survivors face in reporting the trauma they have experienced should not bar them from accessing justice in the courts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3103 eliminates the statute of limitations for a minor victim of a human trafficking offense or a Federal sex offense, to file a civil action to recover damages.

Studies indicate that many of these crimes go unreported or victims sometimes wait years to disclose their abuse to others under current law. A victim may file a Federal civil claim up until when the victim reaches the age of 28 or up to 10 years after the discovery of the violation or injury.

This legislation would allow victims of human trafficking or sex offenses to seek civil remedies regardless of when the crime took place.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS), the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of the Judiciary Committee for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am heartened that today we will vote to send this bill to the President's desk to guarantee justice for victims of child sex abuse.

Experts estimate that more than 85 percent of child sex abuse goes unreported. Kids experiencing abuse face a variety of the barriers to reporting. Often they don't know how to recognize abuse, they don't know how to talk about their experiences, or they don't have a trusted adult they can contact.

Even when survivors do report their abuse, their experiences often fail to reach the people in the justice system who can stop the predator. For all of these reasons, the process of disclosure of abuse can take decades. The average age of reporting child sex abuse is 52 years old.

Tragically, statutes of limitations often prevent survivors who disclose their abuse as adults from getting their day in court. But justice systems are

slowly beginning to understand how delayed disclosure impacts access to justice.

In the past two decades, 48 States and Washington D.C., have amended child sex abuse laws to expand or eliminate statutes of limitations. Congress previously eliminated the Federal criminal statute of limitations for child sex abuse and sex trafficking and slightly lengthened the Federal civil statute of limitations.

However, this short extension of the civil statute of limitations does not reflect current data on just how long most survivors delay disclosure of their abuse.

All survivors deserve access to justice no matter how long it takes them to talk about the trauma they have suffered.

Today, 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience sex abuse before their 18th birthday. I have heard about far too many cases of child sex abuse in my home State of North Carolina.

A case currently before the North Carolina Supreme Court involves the wrestling team at a Gaston County high school where teenage athletes were sexually abused by their coach.

While the coach was convicted and sentenced to decades in prison, the athletes were initially unable to sue in civil court because of the statute of limitations.

This case is currently before the North Carolina Supreme Court because a three-judge panel ruled that the State law opening a window for adult survivors of sexual abuse was unconstitutional.

We cannot provide effective remedies to survivors while the Federal civil statute of limitations remains in place.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representative SWALWELL, Representative SALAZAR, and Representative RESCHENTHALER for leading this effort with me in the House, as well as Senator DURBIN and Senator BLACKBURN for leading this bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3103 is bipartisan legislation that would ensure that survivors of child sex abuse are not barred by a statute of limitations when seeking justice in the courts.

This bill recognizes that many victims of child sexual abuse delay reporting the trauma they have experienced. Therefore, it will enable survivors who are victims of more than a dozen Federal sex abuse offenses to seek civil damages in Federal court regardless of the time that has passed since the abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3103, the "Eliminating Limits to Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims Act of

2022," bipartisan legislation that would eliminate the statute of limitations for victims of federal child sexual abuse offenses to file civil claims against their abusers in federal court.

This legislation would allow survivors of more than a dozen federal child sex abuse offenses to have their day in court no matter the time it takes them to disclose their abuse.

Oftentimes victims of offenses, such as aggravated sexual abuse, sex trafficking, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and child pornography require years of treatment to process and disclose their victimization.

This is particularly true for young victims of these despicable crimes, who continue to process trauma inflicted upon them well into adulthood—only to be barred by statutes of limitations that prevent them from holding their abusers accountable when they are able to name them.

We have come to understand the effects of fear, depression, and shame that result from the trauma of sexual abuse, and the power dynamics between child victims and adult abusers, that explain why victims may not immediately report abuse—or delay disclosure for decades.

Although we extended the statute of limitations in 2018 for federal civil child sex abuse claims for damages until the victim reaches age 28 or until 10 years after discovery of the offense, that extension does not reflect current findings on the delayed disclosure of child sex abuse.

A study by the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (IDVSA) at The University of Texas found that, in my home state of Texas, there are almost 79,000 minors and youth victims of sex trafficking, while data from CHILD USA suggests that almost 90 percent of child sexual abuse goes unreported.

Countless examples of delayed disclosure—by adults victimized as children—fill the headlines of newspapers, televised news reports, and social media posts from every corner of the country.

One study of more than 1,000 survivors found that the average age of survivors at the time of disclosure was roughly 52 years old.

Historically, statutes of limitations have silenced victims and favored their abusers—allowing them to escape accountability.

However, since 2002, 49 states and 2 territories have amended their laws to extend, eliminate, or revive civil statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse.

Congress must take note of the available research, data, and trends before us, making certain that federal law does not deny survivors the ability to have their day in court or force victims into court before they are psychologically ready to do so, causing further victimization and trauma.

Instead, we are duty bound to ensure survivors of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking can seek justice against their abusers regardless of the timing and, through successful litigation, have the means to access life-sustaining treatment and other services necessary to make them whole.

Justice should never be denied to any person in this country, especially victims who have been robbed of their innocence and childhoods.

S. 3103 is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that will provide a pathway to justice and healing for many victims and survivors while holding abusers accountable for the harms they

cause. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3103.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4785) to extend by 19 days the authorization for the special assessment for the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4785

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "September 11" and inserting "September 30".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 4785.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 4785 is bipartisan legislation that would extend until September 30 of this year, 2022, the mandatory special assessment of \$5,000 imposed on those convicted of certain offenses involving sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 24.9 million people around the world and generates more than \$150 billion annually in illicit profits. It is a reprehensible crime that touches communities across the country—from major cities to suburban enclaves and rural back roads—and can cause devastating, sometimes irreparable harm to victims who fall prey to cunning traffickers.

The fight against human trafficking requires a comprehensive, multidisci-

plinary strategy that includes prosecution of traffickers so that they cannot harm again, protection of victims through services to increase safety and treat trauma, and prevention efforts to alleviate social vulnerabilities to exploitation.

From providing immediate, emergency care when victims are identified to long-term care that helps survivors recover from their victimization, victim assistance is vital to the Federal anti-trafficking strategy and efforts to combat sexual abuse and exploitation as well as child pornography, which continue to be a threat to our children and other vulnerable persons.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, commonly referred to as the JVT Act, requires Federal sentencing judges to impose a special assessment of \$5,000 on those convicted of Federal crimes involving sexual abuse, child pornography, sexual exploitation, or human trafficking.

The fees collected from the special assessment are transferred to the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund and used to fund and enhance vital services and programming that assist victims and survivors who have been abused, exploited, and/or trafficked.

This past Sunday, the provision that requires judges to impose the special assessment expired, which necessitates the passage of this extension until the end of the fiscal year when it can be renewed as part of other ongoing legislation to fund the government.

Congress must do all we can to ensure that resources are available to support the needs of victims and survivors of human trafficking, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation, who often have complex needs requiring a broader array of trauma-focused services and treatment.

Although we are considering the bill as introduced by Senators KLOBUCHAR and CORNYN, I must also thank Representative KAREN BASS for her work to introduce the House companion, H.R. 8684, and for her continued dedication to helping victims and survivors of human trafficking, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the extension of the \$5,000 special assessment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation extends the authorization for a special assessment for the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund for 19 days. The special assessment is a \$5,000 fine levied against someone convicted of certain Federal trafficking and sexual abuse offenses. These offenses include human smuggling, human trafficking, and sexual abuse of minors, among others.

This \$5,000 fine is in addition to other restitution or compensation that offenders might be forced to pay, such as court-ordered fines, orders of restitu-

tion, and other fines related to victim compensation.

Of course, an additional \$5,000 fine can never adequately deter criminals from committing these heinous acts. A much more effective solution would be to make it more difficult for criminals to traffic and smuggle people across our borders in the first place.

Unfortunately, House Democrats are flat-out unwilling to do anything to stop the Biden border crisis. For 21 months, we have seen how dangerous criminals have exploited our open borders to smuggle people and drugs, particularly fentanyl, into our country.

The blame for the border crisis, and also our crime crisis, lies squarely at the feet of the radical left's agenda and their anti-law enforcement agenda.

House Republicans are more than willing to increase penalties for human trafficking and human smuggling, but the House can and should do much more to address the catastrophic border crisis caused by President Biden's failures.

Literally, in 20 months, we have gone from a secure border to no border. It would help if we actually had a border again to deal with these issues that we are discussing here today.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

S. 4785 is bipartisan legislation that would extend the \$5,000 special assessment that provides funding to help victims and survivors of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child pornography, and human trafficking, through services, programming, and treatment tailored to their specific needs.

Each of us should make every effort to support programs that help rescue survivors of these reprehensible crimes and provide them with the resources they need to become whole again, while also holding perpetrators accountable for the harms they cause.

I urge all my colleagues to support S. 4785, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4785, bipartisan legislation that would extend the authorization of the \$5,000 special assessment for the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

Human trafficking is one of the greatest ongoing threats to human rights in the world—and in this country.

An estimated 25 percent of human trafficking victims are reportedly in my home state of Texas, with Houston being one of the largest hubs for human trafficking in the country. And although some populations are at greater risk of victimization than others, human trafficking spans all races, ages, genders, and every socioeconomic status.

In 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified more than 16,000 victims of human trafficking, who likely represent only a fraction of the actual problem.

In that same year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received more than 21.7 million reports, most of which were related to child sexual abuse material, online