

The Inflation Reduction Act tackles rising costs and inflation by ensuring big corporations pay their fair share of taxes which will, in turn, reduce the national debt. The legislation also makes the largest investment ever in fighting the climate crisis by investing in clean and secure energy production and manufacturing, while creating good-paying American jobs for the future.

Congressional Republicans are too busy trying to score political points rather than working with us to solve today's challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in working for the people.

BIDENFLATION IS A TAX ON ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, inflation is at the highest in over 40 years. Yet, by passing the inflation expansion act, Biden and the Democrats are further plunging American families into debt and destroying jobs.

Signed into law by President Biden, the Congressional Budget Office reports this bill will increase the deficit through 2026 and cost working families an additional \$60 billion.

Families are paying 14 percent more at the grocery store, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics—the largest 1-year jump since 1979. Eggs are up 40 percent. Milk is up 17 percent. Bread is up 16 percent.

Since Biden took office, inflation has surged 13 percent, while wages have only risen 8 percent over the same period. The inflation crisis has cost the average American worker over \$3,000 in annual income.

Bidenflation is a tax on all Americans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from a safe haven in Afghanistan to America.

God bless victory for Ukraine.

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RECOGNIZING FRANCES TIAFOE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, there is always time to celebrate extraordinary Americans, which is why I rise today to recognize American tennis star and proud son of Maryland's Fifth District, Frances Tiafoe.

Last week, he became the first American man to reach the U.S. Open semifinals since 2006 and the first African-American man to do so since Arthur Ashe in 1972.

Indeed, Tiafoe is one of the only three African-American men in the history of tennis to advance out of the rounds and into the finals of the U.S. Open.

Of course, we have been very proud to cheer Serena Williams and Sloane Stephens, who together won 4 out of the last 10 women's titles in the U.S. Open, not to mention an extraordinary young woman, Coco Gauff, who made it to the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

Tiafoe's accomplishments in the men's tournament are especially impressive, Mr. Speaker, considering his extraordinary story. Born in Maryland's Fifth District—mine—to immigrant parents who fled civil war in Sierra Leone, Frances grew up living in a spare office at the Junior Tennis Champions Center in College Park, Maryland, where his father worked as a custodian. Indeed, earlier, his father had been part of the construction crew that built that tennis center.

Noticing young Frances' upbeat attitude and love of the game, the coaches and staff of the center took him under their wing and helped him train to become one of the most promising American tennis players in recent memory. How proud they must be.

We saw that training bear fruit last week when he made it to the semifinals by defeating one of the greatest tennis players in history, Rafael Nadal, from Spain. Although Frances ultimately didn't win the title, he showed the world that the future of American tennis is bright indeed.

I had the opportunity of talking to Frances just a few minutes ago. I am inviting him down to the Capitol, and I want all the Maryland Members to meet him. But I am going to invite all of you to meet him, as well, Mr. Speaker.

He is an extraordinary young man. I congratulate him, I congratulate his family, and I congratulate those coaches who saw a promising young man and took him under their wing not because he was paying them but because they saw great promise in Frances Tiafoe.

Boy, were they right.

HONORING PATRICIA ZAJAC OF UTICA, NEW YORK

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Zajac of Utica, New York, who passed away earlier this year.

Patricia was born on February 1, 1947, and spent her entire life in Utica except for a brief period when she attended Golden West Community College in California. Upon her return to Utica, she worked as a nurse's aide at Faxon Hospital in Utica.

Affectionately known as the Mayor of Frances Street, Patricia was notably active in the Utica community. She was a graduate of the Utica Police De-

partment's very first citizen's police academy, was a strong supporter of block associations, and was also active in local politics and projects that advocated for the betterment of her West Utica neighborhood. Patricia was also an active parishioner of Holy Trinity Church and a vital volunteer with the American Red Cross.

Patricia was also known for her efforts to care for homeless animals and pets and her strong support of our Nation's veterans. She was extremely proud of her daughter Mary's service in the United States Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Patricia so much for her lifetime of compassionate service to our wonderful community. Her memory will live on forever. I extend my sincerest condolences to friends, neighbors, and, of course, her loving family, whom she left behind.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF IAEA

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency, commonly known as the IAEA, and to urge Congress to continue its support so it can continue its mission to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The primary task of the IAEA is to verify that countries comply with their commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by monitoring and upholding standards for nuclear safety and security.

But it is more than that. Earlier this month, we witnessed shelling and damage to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine, the largest nuclear power plant in Europe. The persistent fighting in the area and the occupation of the nuclear plant by Russian forces have raised concerns about the safety and the dangerous conditions that plant workers face.

So, who are you going to call? The IAEA. Its response to the situation in Ukraine demonstrates the crucial importance of its mission.

The IAEA stands as a trusted and stabilizing influence and reduces the danger of potential nuclear disasters worldwide.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY JAMES LEE

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of one Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Deputy James Lee, who tragically passed away on July 9, leaving behind a legacy of service to Jefferson County.

Deputy Lee was a former marine. Maybe I should say is a marine because once a marine, always a marine. Deputy Lee was one who started with the

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in 1973 and was 71 years old when he passed.

He was known as someone who enjoyed going to work to protect his community and who was tough but always showed compassion. He leaves behind a wife and a son, who will follow in his father's footsteps at the sheriff's office.

Though he may be gone, I know that Deputy Lee is still watching over his beloved community and family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and service of one Deputy James Lee.

He will be missed.

DEMOCRATS REIN IN INFLATION

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, families in my district and across the country have struggled with rising healthcare and prescription drug costs. So, I am pleased to report that relief is on the way, thanks to Democrats' passage of the Inflation Reduction Act this summer.

This act reins in out-of-control healthcare costs and will make a real difference in family budgets by extending tax credits for health insurance, capping prescription drug costs for seniors at \$2,000 a year, capping insulin costs for seniors at \$35 a month, and allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices with drug companies.

A family of four in Ridley Park could save more than \$2,800 in annual health insurance premiums. A senior couple in Media could save more than \$13,000 in yearly healthcare costs.

If the Inflation Reduction Act's \$35 insulin copay had been in effect in 2020, a Springfield resident who uses NovoLog could have saved \$1,300 a year.

Importantly, all these benefits are fully paid for by making the biggest corporations and billionaires pay their fair share.

REMEMBERING MARY FREEMAN KELLER ZERVIGON

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, the dearly departed Mrs. Mary Freeman Keller Zervigon, an outstanding, cherished public servant from my home State.

A lifelong New Orleanian, Mrs. Zervigon was a policy advocate, philanthropist, and beloved civic leader who held posts in two mayoral administrations and spent countless hours working to improve the city of New Orleans as a member of many boards and commissions.

She lived her life doing what she believed in and in doing what was right. Raised with civic activism in her DNA—her mother played a key role in

desegregating New Orleans' public libraries—her ability to cut right to the chase made her an ideal lobbyist representing the city of New Orleans during rough legislative sessions.

She was an incredible lady and an incredible leader, one who will be sorely missed.

Rest in peace, my friend. God bless.

PREVENTING A PATRONAGE SYSTEM ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1339, I call up the bill (H.R. 302) to impose limits on excepting competitive service positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1339, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Reform, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 302

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 "Preventing a Patronage System Act of 2021" or the "PPSA Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON EXCEPTION OF COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No position in the competitive service (as defined under section 2102 of title 5, United States Code) may be excepted from the competitive service unless such position is placed—

(1) in any of the schedules A through E as described in section 6.2 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 30, 2020; and

(2) under the terms and conditions under part 6 of such title as in effect on such date.

(b) SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS.—No position in the excepted service (as defined under section 2103 of title 5, United States Code) may be placed in any schedule other than a schedule described in subsection (a)(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the bill before us.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 302, the Preventing a Patronage System Act, introduced by Government Operations Subcommittee Chair Gerry Connolly along with Representative BRIAN FITZPATRICK.

This straightforward bill affirms Congress' role in making major changes to the civil service system and ensures that no President can do so unilaterally.

Now, that may sound simple, but this is critical to upholding the merit system principles that have been in place for almost 140 years and fortify the civil service of America.

Career Federal workers serve both Democratic and Republican administrations. They do their jobs guided by their expertise and best judgment, not by allegiance to any political agenda.

In 2020, former President Trump issued an executive order creating a new Federal employee classification in the excepted service called schedule F. Employees transferred to schedule F would have been stripped of workplace protections and converted to at-will employees. If the order had been fully implemented, it could have harmed tens of thousands of Federal employees.

Agencies were directed to identify civil service positions with a policymaking function to convert to schedule F who would be more easily removed from their jobs for not rubberstamping the President's political agenda. Presumably, those positions could then be filled with people who would be more loyal to the President.

Fortunately, one of the first things that President Biden did upon taking office was to revoke the schedule F executive order. But the order still shocked the Federal workforce.

Such an attack against the integrity of the civil service should shock us all, particularly as Members of Congress. We depend on the Federal workforce to serve impartially and in accordance with the law. Schedule F would have instead put immense pressure on Federal workers to bend to the political whims of the President, even if it meant violating the law or Federal regulations.

But this bill is not just about the past. It applies the lessons we learned from schedule F to prevent similar efforts to undermine the Federal workforce in the future, whether from a Republican or Democratic President.

There are some who are ready and waiting to reinstitute a system like schedule F if given the opportunity. We must prevent that, and we can take a big step toward that today by passing the Preventing a Patronage System Act.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chairman CONNOLLY for his leadership on this bill and for making it a bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.