

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write in support of President Biden's recent declaration that the COVID-19 pandemic has come to an end. In accordance with this important announcement, I formally request the Speaker bring an end to the House proxy voting system and all pandemic related House rules enacted as part of House Resolution 8. It is far past time this legislative body returns in person to fulfill our constitutional duties on behalf of our constituents.

As you are aware, House Resolution 8 provided unprecedented authority for Members of Congress to designate a colleague as a proxy to cast votes on the House floor on their behalf. For the first time in our nation's history, this body allowed a sitting Member of Congress to defer their constitutional responsibilities to a Representative of another district. Since then, more than six thousand letters designating a proxy voting member have been submitted to the House Office of the Clerk bearing an official statement of a member's inability to physically attend proceedings in the House chamber due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since President Biden rightfully declared an end to the pandemic, it seems fit to end a practice specifically put in place to accommodate the logistical challenges posed by COVID-19.

The voting card entrusted to us here in Congress belongs to the people we represent. Over the course of one hundred and fifteen sessions of Congress, this body convened in times of war, pandemics, and national crises alike to fulfill our constitutional duties. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic two and a half years ago, essential workers, blue collar employees, first responders, food and restaurant industries, and many more have shown up to work each and every day to do their job. We in Congress should find the courage to do the same.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

GREG PENCE,
Member of Congress.

DEMOCRATS ARE INVESTING IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the good-paying jobs that will be created by the historic investments Democrats have recently made in America.

What are the investments, you may ask?

Well, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act. These are three key laws that will power America forward by creating jobs, jobs, and, yes, better-paying jobs.

Since President Biden took office in January 2021, over 9.4 million jobs have been created. I will repeat that: 9.4 million jobs.

If we look closely at the numbers and reports of these three new laws, we get a preview of how many more jobs will be created under President Biden's leadership.

First is the Inflation Reduction Act. This bill has the power to create 9 million new jobs over the next decade, nearly 1 million jobs each year, and 5 million of these jobs will likely be new clean-energy jobs across America.

Second, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will add 2 million new jobs per year over the next decade.

Third, the CHIPS and Science Act will create more than 1 million construction jobs over the next 6 years to build America's semiconductor factories.

All these laws work to create good-paying union construction jobs for plumbers, pipe fitters, electrical workers, steel workers, laborers, electricians, and other trades for working people.

These are the types of jobs that residents across my district, Texas 29, and millions of Americans across our Nation proudly work to help keep their families together, to feed their children, and to look to the future. These are the kinds of jobs that power America and its economic engine.

House Democrats and President Biden understand that growing the middle class means creating better-paying jobs right here in our country. That is why we passed these monumental laws.

Under the leadership of President Biden, who is the most pro-worker and pro-union President in American history, we have also invested hundreds of millions of dollars in registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships to provide new opportunities for working people to get good-paying union jobs.

President Biden knows it is not only about providing opportunities for Americans today, but it is also about planning for tomorrow's generation of workers and having a better life for our children.

I am proud President Biden is building a better America for generations to come by putting people over policy politics. Sadly, as House Democrats and the President are working to create better-paying jobs, the Republicans are job killers. They oppose this legislation because they only focus on controlling women and their bodies. Democrats trust women.

So while Republicans are focused on their own power, House Democrats and President Biden remain laser focused on producing results for the American people, and Democrats are delivering big-time.

SUPPORT FOR BE PRO BE PROUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, workforce development programs are spreading across the country because of organizations like Be Pro Be Proud.

In March of 2016, Be Pro Be Proud was launched by the Arkansas Cham-

ber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Arkansas to serve the future leaders of America's workforce more effectively.

Thanks to Be Pro Be Proud, more young people know that they can find a good-paying job and have a successful career without going to college. They have learned that there are alternatives to a baccalaureate degree—alternatives that can produce equal, if not better, outcomes.

In June of this year, I had the privilege of traveling to Arkansas and attending the national Be Pro Be Proud conference alongside Representative FRENCH HILL and Senator JOHN BOOZMAN.

The progress that has been achieved to date by this organization is remarkable, and in the realm of workforce development, its gains are second to none.

In February of this year, officials in North Carolina signed a contract that established a Be Pro Be Proud pilot program within the State. This is wonderful news indeed.

As you can probably tell, Mr. Speaker, this is truly a State-led effort that is a model to other States and becoming a national movement, and it is one that is a force to be reckoned with.

States need to know that the power is in their hands to implement strong and effective workforce development programs. They need to know that they, in fact, are in the driver's seat.

I thank everyone who has worked so diligently to make Be Pro Be Proud what it is today. The work they are doing will go on to leave a positive impact on America's future leaders for generations to come.

AMERICANS ARE NOT CELEBRATING

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder the American people believe that Washington is out of touch. Last week President Biden held an event on the White House lawn to celebrate the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

He took a victory lap in front of the entire country alongside his allies on live television.

But, Mr. Speaker, do you know who was not celebrating with President Biden?

Hardworking taxpayers and their families who are being pummeled by the President's inflation catastrophe and inflation tax. That same day, new numbers were released showing that inflation continues to surge.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden couldn't read a room if he tried. The rising cost of goods and services will cost the average American household over \$700 a month. When added up, that is over \$8,000 that they will be forced to fork out in a year.

Grocery prices are up 13.5 percent, and food prices are up 11.4 percent since last year. This is the largest 1-year increase in prices since 1979.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who believes that these numbers are worth celebrating needs a serious reality check. The Biden administration's fiscal irresponsibility put us in this mess. Come

November, Republicans will be the ones to fix it.

NO ONE IS ABOVE OR BENEATH THE LAW

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Mr. Speaker, a monumental motif of American jurisprudence is the basic premise that no one is above the law. It doesn't matter your station in life, it doesn't matter whether you are the President of the United States, and it doesn't matter how much money you have. No one is above the law.

I would also remind us, Mr. Speaker, that there is a compelling corollary to this premise, and it is that no one is beneath the law. No one is above the law, yes, but no one is beneath the law. It doesn't matter how poor you are. It doesn't matter what kind of job you have. It doesn't matter whether you are a janitor or you are a sanitation worker. It doesn't matter. You are not beneath the law in this country. Even if you are an asylee coming here from another country, you are not beneath the law.

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I'm so proud, Mr. Speaker, to announce to my colleagues that the D.C. Council will vote on a migrant bill today. It seems that on Tuesday there will be an emergency bill to establish an Office of Migrant Services for the thousands who are being brought here by Governors of Texas and Florida.

These persons in Washington, D.C., they are doing the righteous thing. They are trying to help lawful asylees as they traverse to their destiny. The Governors of Florida and Texas, they would have derailed the Underground Railroad. They would have been the persons who were out looking for those who were seeking freedom.

I am proud of the Mayor of Washington, D.C. I don't know how efficacious the program will be, but I do know that they are making an effort. For this effort, I not only commend them, I will do whatever I can to help them. It is time for us to realize that no one is beneath the law. Asylees are not beneath the law. They are law-abiding persons. The mere fact that they have submitted themselves and seek to have this opportunity to live in this country means that they have broken no law.

I have a question for the Governors of Texas and Florida. Here is my question: You are spending millions to bring people out of their way and to some extent put them in harm's way. I have a question for you: How much will you spend to help them get to their hearings? How much will you spend to help them continue their journey?

Yours is not a righteous cause. Yours is a cause to do what you can to prevent lawful, law-abiding asylees from

having their day in court. History will not be kind to you. You ought to be ashamed of what you do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

WE MUST NEVER BE ENEMIES

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, as the tensions of the Civil War reached a boiling point, President Lincoln vainly reached out to Democrats with these words: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies."

The contrast with Mr. Biden's September 1 speech in Philadelphia is jarring. In it, and many remarks since, Mr. Biden clearly addresses the 74 million Americans who voted for Donald Trump as enemies who "threaten the very foundation of our Republic." He condemned us as "extremists" who "do not respect the Constitution," and who "do not believe in the rule of law" and who "refuse to accept the results of a free election." In other forums, he has called us "semi-fascists."

Mr. President, we revere our Constitution and the structure of individual liberty that it was designed to protect. We do not understand how a government established under that Constitution could use the FBI to pressure social media platforms to censor and suppress free speech or to intimidate parents concerned about their school boards with threat tags or to instruct its field offices to regard anyone who displays our founding American flag as a political extremist.

Mr. President, we revere the rule of law and our Nation's promise of equal justice under law. We do not understand how our immigration laws can simply be ignored as millions of foreign nationals illegally enter our country. We do not understand how a dispute over records justifies an armed raid on a former President who is also a political rival.

We do not understand how public health officials can order our schools and businesses closed or suspend our fundamental rights to worship and assemble with no vote of the people's Representatives. We do not understand how obvious influence peddling by the son of a President can be ignored for years.

Mr. President, of course we accept the results of a free election, but we do not understand how the safeguards to protect the integrity of our elections can be torn down to benefit one party. Replacing in-person election day voting with mail-in ballots, ballot harvesting, month-long voting, accepting ballots after election day, printing ballots on home computers—all of these changes undermine public confidence in the process that is essential to democracy.

We wonder how you can call MAGA candidates a fundamental threat to our

Republic while your party spends millions of dollars to nominate them when you believe it may help you in November.

Mr. President, we can condemn all forms of violence and especially political violence in the strongest possible terms. The riot at the Capitol on January 6 was a disgrace and an abomination that you are right to condemn, and we join you in doing so.

But we don't understand how you can at the same time turn a blind eye to prosecuting the political violence that burned our cities the year before or how you can refuse to enforce the laws that protect our Supreme Court Justices from intimidation at their own homes.

Mr. President, we, too, fear for our democracy. We fear armed bureaucracies that seem increasingly disconnected from the results of our elections. We remember that the IRS singled out ordinary Americans because of their political views, yet no one was held accountable, and now we are adding 87,000 new agents to that bureaucracy.

We fear arbitrary changes in our election laws calculated to skew results. We fear an executive branch that is increasingly taking over the legislative powers of Congress and judicial powers of the courts. We fear the powers of government wielded by officials who view half of our people as dangers, threats, and extremists—your words, Mr. President.

Lincoln spoke of the mystic chords of memory tracing back to the founding of our Nation that must hold us together as Americans. As friends and not enemies. Yet we see these chords increasingly strained by an alien ideology that seems hostile to the flag, the principles, and the heritage of our Nation.

We have only one President, Mr. President, and that is you. I didn't vote for you, and I won't vote for you again, but you are still my President. And the 74 million Americans who voted for Donald Trump are still your fellow citizens.

As the person most responsible for the policies we now live with and the future that is unfolding before us, I ask you to engage us as a friend and not an enemy. We must not be enemies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE FAIRVIEW FIRE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the communities affected by the Fairview Fire and thank the first responders who heroically battled the flames.

The Fairview fire started on September 5, and within a matter of hours