

All the while, Washington has trudged onward with more spending schemes and irresponsible policies that are poisoning America.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot overstate the severity of the catastrophes that this administration has created. From the southern border being overrun to inflation that has robbed hardworking Americans and their families, no matter where you turn, the carnage is palpable.

Republicans are taking a stand to end this madness and move America in the right direction. That starts with our Commitment to America. The American people deserve an economy that is strong, a Nation that is safe, a future built on freedom, and a government that is accountable.

These are the tenets of the Commitment to America.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear, the American people can no longer afford one-party Democrat rule in Washington.

Under one-party rule, Americans are bearing the brunt of 40-year high inflation.

Crime has exploded in major cities across the entire country.

Millions of illegal aliens have poured across the southern border.

Gas and grocery prices are growing by leaps and bounds.

The list goes on and on. Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that.

Americans are not witnessing progress under one-party rule, they are watching our Republic crumble by the second.

It is time for a serious change in leadership in Washington.

No more reckless spending. No more policies that are antithetical to the will of the American people.

No more bureaucratic assaults on the freedoms and values that this country was built upon.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve much better than the hand that Washington Democrats have dealt them. In a few short weeks, Americans across the country will make their voices heard, and I can guarantee you that they will not speak softly.

The disarray, incompetence, and negligence in Washington must be put to an end. It is time that Washington truly delivers on the priorities of hardworking taxpayers and families across our country. There is not a second to lose.

NEW SAVINGS FOR MEDICARE PART B

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, a couple days ago, Medicare beneficiaries all across America received very welcome news. For 2023, Medicare announced that the part B premiums, which are deducted from seniors' Social Security checks, will actually be reduced by \$6 a

month. That is the first time in 11 years that the Medicare program has actually cut the premiums that erode month by month Social Security checks.

There is a reason for this, which is that last year there was a spike in terms of the part B premiums. It was driven by the fact that a new drug, Aduhelm, was approved just about the same time the actuaries were calculating the part B premiums.

Aduhelm's cost, when it was initially approved by FDA, was about \$58,000 per patient. That one medication resulted in half of the increase last year in terms of Medicare part B premiums. There was a hue and cry about the cost of that drug after the new premium had kicked in. They cut the price from \$58,000 per patient to \$26,000. Medicare also limited the use of that drug in terms of experimental, controlled settings because it was so brand new.

Unfortunately, the premium had already kicked in, and a number of us were working with the Department of Health and Human Services saying that the premium should be adjusted because it was based on data which had been overtaken by events. At that point, it was too late for Medicare to readjust the premium in the last calendar year, 2022, but next year they will make the adjustment, and those premiums will go down.

In about a week or so, the government is going to be announcing the COLA for Social Security for 2023 for seniors, which is obviously a very intensely watched event. Right now, the projection, based again on the market-basket system that they use to calculate COLA, looks like it is going to be an 8 percent increase for Social Security for 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that in past years some of those COLA increases have been eroded, as I mentioned earlier, by increases in the part B premium. In 2023, the opposite is going to happen. There will actually be, not only a COLA increase but a reduction in the premium, and that means more money in the pockets of seniors and people on disability.

Again, this is very welcome news. Obviously, inflation has been really tough for a lot of families, and particularly seniors on fixed incomes, but in 2023 there is going to be, again, more relief coming their way.

It also coincides with the new Inflation Reduction Act, which will be capping the cost of insulin, starting in January, at \$35 a month. For seniors who are on Medicare today who need insulin, which is a life or death drug, insulin roughly costs about \$160 per month.

There will be savings, not only in terms of a new COLA and a reduced part B premium, but also the cost of insulin will be capped at \$35 a month. In 2024 and 2025, under the Inflation Reduction Act, because of savings resulting from price negotiation, which the bill finally enabled and empowered, we

are going to see an overall cap on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs at \$2,000 for seniors through the part D program.

If you talk to anybody who has an MS condition or an MS patient in someone's family, the mere infusion of a monthly MS treatment basically forces most seniors onto Medicaid because it is thousands of dollars per treatment.

Starting with this new program, their overall cap for a year will be \$2,000. That is why the Multiple Sclerosis Society endorsed this bill, as did many other patient advocacy groups. As valuable as Medicare was for prescription drugs, the existing system still is way too expensive.

With the Inflation Reduction Act, we are going to cap insulin, we are going to cap the overall cost of medications. Unbelievably, just a few days ago, the minority came out with their commitment for America where they actually want to repeal the law on which the ink is barely dry, that is going to provide a ray of hope for seniors to pay for the cost of lifesaving drugs. We can't let that happen.

Starting in January, we are going to see the real benefits of that law, as well as welcome news in terms of a higher COLA and a smaller part B premium.

RESIDENCY AND RURAL HOSPITALS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, fourth-year medical students submitted their applications to residency programs across our country, preparing to enter the workforce as surgeons, specialists, and family doctors.

As these students begin the process of choosing the hospitals where they will work, I urge them to consider working in rural communities. Working in facilities that are struggling right now to recruit new physicians, and these new medical students—these new, highly-trained individuals—will be able to serve communities that desperately need them.

For too long, a lack of doctors has been a significant barrier to care for families in rural Pennsylvania. To address this critical shortage, I am proud to have created the Homegrown Healthcare Initiative, which pairs third- and fourth-year medical students with hospitals across Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

So far we have been able to place nearly 30 students in hospitals in Blair, Cambria, Fulton, and Franklin counties. It is time to ensure the students who were raised in rural communities return to these communities to live, to work, and to practice medicine.

To all of the medical students applying for residency today, good luck, and

I thank them for all the work that they will do on behalf of their patients.

OUT OF CONTROL INFLATION

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize the problems that we are facing with a country that has spiraling out of control inflation. We have an opportunity with the Republican Commitment to America, the commitment that the Republican Party has put forward, to make a Nation that is safe, to make a Nation that is accountable.

As Republicans, we have brought forth a four-part statement that will have the necessary oversight to control and have the citizens have the ability to have their voices heard.

The Commitment to America is the path forward throughout this spiraling inflation that is affecting each and every American today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to look at this valuable commitment that we as Republicans will bring forward.

HAWAIIAN HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to honor September as Hawaiian History Month in my home State of Hawaii.

Today, in "olelo Hawaii", "Hawaiian language", I will honor Joseph Kaho'oluhi Nawahi.

Joseph Kaho'oluhi Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u was born on January 13, 1842 in Kaimū, Puna on the Island of Hawai'i.

Keaweolalo was his true mother. Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u was his true father. Joseph Pa'akaula was his foster father. Joseph Pa'akaula was a teacher at Ke Kula 'Aiakalā.

Nāwahī attended 4 schools, Ke Kula 'Aiakalā, Ke Kula Hānai O Hilo, Ke Kulanui O Lahainaluna and ke Kula Ali'i O Kahehuna.

Ua hānau 'ia 'o Iosepa Kaho'oluhi Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u ma ka lā 'umikūmūākolū o Ianuali makahiki 'umikāmāwalu kanahākūmālua ma Kaimū, Puna, Moku o Keawe.

'O Keaweolalo kona lūau'i makuahine. 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u kona lūau'i makua kāne. 'O Iosepa Pa'akaula kona makua hānai. He kumu 'o Iosepa Pa'akaula ma ke Kula 'Aiakalā.

'Ehā kula a Nāwahī i komo ai. 'O Ke Kula 'Aiakalā, Ke Kula Hānai O Hilo. Ke Kulanui O Lahainaluna a me Kula Ali'i O Kahehuna.

Mr. Speaker, these words that I just shared are a simple recitation of biographical facts regarding Joseph Kaho'oluhi Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u, who was a Native Hawaiian nationalist leader, legislator, lawyer, newspaper publisher, and painter.

This speech has been memorized by hundreds of elementary school students—my own keiki included—who attend the Hawaiian language immersion school, Ke Kula 'O

Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u. These keiki not only honor these Native Hawaiian heroes but ensure that their names are heard, and their work lives on through them for generations to come. "E ola kou inoa e Nawahi."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Hawaii will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

□ 1230

SHOULD WE HAVE RURAL TOWNS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am pointing to a map here showing the several fires we have had in Northern California. This is only a small snippet. There is much more besides that that I could show you.

This is mostly in my district, the First District of Northern California here over several years. The Dixie fire being the big one here last year, about a million acres. The Camp fire that a lot of people have heard about that consumed the town of Paradise back in 2018; but there are many others.

So what am I talking about here today? The idea that rural America isn't worth saving; isn't worth having. So as we contemplate fire after fire and the recovery from there, there are those who are questioning should we have rural towns anymore; should we have people living in them; should we help them recover?

I go back to the root of the problem. First, I think the answer is yes because we need rural towns. We need people out there that are the productive people that used to do amazing things before regulations and environmental groups shut them down; we would not have the products that come from these areas.

So, not only rebuild them, but let's do the things that help them to thrive. Because it isn't just about some jobs in a rural town, it is also about everybody in this country prospering from the products that come from there.

What am I talking about? In this area, timber, lumber products, paper products. Heaven knows, we use a lot of paper around here. Do we want that to come from the United States, from our workers, from our productive lands, or do we want to continue as the United States, for some reason, is the Number 2 importer of wood products in the world. And yet, we are burning millions of acres across the West every year. Why is that?

I could also say mining used to occur more heavily here and in other parts, anywhere from Minnesota all through the Western States, as well.

And farming, which is under attack. The water is being taken away from many of the farmers in my district and in California in general because it is going for environmental purposes.

So yes, rural America feels under attack. So a recent Los Angeles Times article comes out saying, should billions continue to be spent rebuilding burned towns? This is the case for calling it quits.

I appreciate the L.A. Times is covering the fires that affected California; most recently, the Dixie fire in the town of Greenville, which is 75 percent wiped out from that fire; the town of Paradise 4 years before, 90 percent wiped out.

But I wish they would tell the whole story. They didn't tell my part of the story. Yes, it is difficult to keep asking for money back in D.C. to come help, whether it is one of my disasters—I am sure my colleagues in the South like right now are dealing with in Florida. Do they enjoy having to come back to help get rebuild money for Florida after the hurricanes they are dealing with, or flood or what have you?

No, they don't enjoy that, and I don't think we want to have to ask taxpayers for it.

But fire is something we can manage. We can't manage the weather. We can't stop hurricanes. We can't stop other things like that. But do we have the ability to manage our forests in such a way that towns would not be subject so much to immediate wildfire; harvesting buffers around them; putting fire breaks up, things like that.

And then when you do rebuild the town, they are building them with newer, better materials for the housing and things like that. There are underground power lines, so it is not going to be the same town that went up a hundred years ago that started out as a timber town, as a mining town, or even an ag town.

So it does improve. It does get better. It is worth the value because, the bottom line is, even though we want to blame climate change and say that is the big problem, we have got to kick people out of rural areas; we have got to kick them out of these communities because of climate change.

Well, if the climate is changing, then what are we going to do about it? Are we going to not have timber products? Are we going to not ensure the safety of those areas? Because we still need these people out there producing these products. If you want to have electric cars, someone has got to do some mining somewhere, right?

And the mandate keeps coming down the pike in my own State and more and more around the country, and we are not going to have those products. We are not going to have wood and timber products, paper products coming from somewhere besides being imported; and you know what happens when we get too dependent on import. Ask anybody getting natural gas in Europe what that looks like.

Our food; everybody is seeing food prices skyrocketing at the shelves, and sometimes that very shelf is empty. With all the acres that got left out because the water got taken away this