

and how the distance to a health center can be the difference between whether or not someone seeks treatment.

That is why I joined Congresswoman SUSIE LEE in introducing the MOBILE Health Care Act, which will help community health centers expand their services with mobile health units. This means taking healthcare to the people, often the hardest to reach, and often left out, and the most medically underserved.

So I urge President Biden to sign this bill into law without delay to improve health outcomes across the board and make a positive difference in people's lives.

VA PROVIDES ABORTIONS AT TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, as a direct result of the Dobbs decision, which was recently handed down by the Supreme Court, the VA issued an "interim final rule." The VA states that they are "taking this action because it has determined that providing access to abortion-related medical services is needed to protect the lives and health of veterans."

The VA expects to provide about 1,000 abortions per year at taxpayers' expense. The Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 prohibits the VA from providing abortion, and no law from Congress has ever changed that.

So now we have two problems. The VA is providing abortions with taxpayer dollars, and medical professionals being forced to perform these procedures against their will.

The VA states "employees may request an accommodation to a work requirement based on religious belief." However, almost no religious exemptions were honored for vaccinations, and 60,000 Army reservists were separated for refusing the vaccine.

How many VA doctors will be released for refusing to perform abortions?

Why are taxpayers being forced to pay for the VA to perform abortions in clear violation of the 1992 law?

CONGRATULATING TOMMY BRANNEN

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to represent Augusta, in the 12th District of Georgia, which is home to the Masters Golf Tournament.

The Georgia Golf Hall of Fame was founded in Augusta, and among the very first inductees were Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, founders of the Masters.

I rise today to congratulate the newest inductee into the Georgia Golf Hall

of Fame, PGA Master Professional Tommy Brannen.

Tommy has served as our head pro at Augusta Country Club for the past 22 years. In that time, I have come to know Tommy and his family well, not only through golf, but through our church, club, and community projects.

There is a quote which Tommy lives by: Whatever you are, be a good one.

Among his many accomplishments, Tommy has won the State title at Marietta High School. He was an All-American at Columbus State University, and in the decades since, he has qualified and played in multiple PGA professional competitions.

Tommy has already raised nearly \$100,000 through an annual golf tournament benefiting area veterans.

Over the years, Tommy has been many things: A husband, father, friend, and mentor. In all these things, he has endeavored always to be a good one.

Congratulations, Tommy, on this momentous and well-deserved achievement. Well done, my friend.

HONORING WILLIAM N. ECKERSON

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. William Eckerson of Crozet, Virginia, who celebrated his 100th birthday on August 20, 2022.

Mr. Eckerson currently resides in Virginia's Fifth District but, as a young man, he faithfully served the United States marines during World War II, even serving in Iwo Jima.

Following his time in the Marines, he worked in the private sector but maintained his commitment to the Marines by participating in the Marine Band, various parades, and many World War II marine reunions.

Mr. Eckerson has further demonstrated his commitment to the Marines and this country by spending years of his life cleaning up veteran cemeteries.

When he is not serving others, Mr. Eckerson is also an avid golfer and cheers for his beloved Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots.

It is a great privilege to honor my constituent following his 100th birthday and thank him for his many years of service to the United States of America and his local community.

Mr. Eckerson, I certainly hope that you and your loved ones enjoyed a great day and celebration. May God bless you, and happy 100th birthday.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FAILED OPEN-BORDER POLICIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, thanks to President Biden's open-border policies, human smuggling is now a \$20 bil-

lion business for criminal cartels. In barely 2 years, the Biden administration and House Democrats squandered the progress that had been made to secure our border and have enriched criminal cartels.

What is the Biden administration doing to correct this? Nothing.

Instead, when Republican Governors DeSantis from Florida and Abbott from Texas bused and flew a dozen illegal immigrants from their States to Democrats' so-called sanctuary cities like Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York, and even Martha's Vineyard, Democrats were outraged.

Some politicians who earlier claimed they would welcome illegal immigrants with open arms have threatened legal action against these Governors, accusing them, laughingly, of human trafficking.

Are they really trying to claim that a free ticket to Martha's Vineyard is human trafficking; but the criminal cartels smuggling people into our country is not?

Democrats don't seem to care that their policies are enabling criminal cartels to abuse women and children who are seeking a better life.

The humanitarian crisis we are seeing at the southern border is a direct result of President Biden's failed open-border policies. The negligence of this crisis by the Biden administration and House and Senate Democrats and their refusal to fix it is inconceivable.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENNIS SALTS

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dennis Salts, who was a dear friend and leader in the Buena Park community in my 39th Congressional District.

Dennis had a passion for service as a member of Rotary International, and president of the Buena Park Rotary Club. He was instrumental in founding both Interact and Rotaract Clubs for high school and college students.

He had a special passion for mentoring our youth to get involved in community service and was dedicated to making sure our students received the best education possible as a trustee on the Centralia School District.

Dennis was recognized for his distinguished service as a Buena Park Citizen of the Year, Buena Park Rotarian of the Year, and Rotary District 5320 Business Rotarian of the Year.

Dennis' kindness and passion will be missed, and I pray for God's peace for his wife, Christiane, his daughter, Carrie, and anyone who knew him.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ECONOMY

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, President Biden likes to brag about his handling

of the economy: “I am responsible for the strongest job creation economy in modern times.

“The stock market has hit record after record after record on my watch.

“Since I took office, families are carrying less debt, their average savings are up.

“Our economy had zero inflation in the month of July. Zero percent.

“We’re not in a recession.”

Stop lying to the American people, Mr. President. Here is the reality of your economy. Americans are facing the highest inflation in 40 years, up 13.7 percent since President Biden took office, a recession.

In fact, inflation has increased by 13.7 percent since Biden has become President.

Year after year, prices are up more than 12 percent, the largest increase ever. Nearly three in four employees say the cost of living is outpacing their salary and wages.

Gas prices have risen 55 percent since President Biden took office. The average mortgage payment is up 42 percent higher than a year ago. One in six households are behind in utility payments.

Democrat-ruled Washington has spent trillions of your hard-earned dollars for liberal priorities that Americans don’t want and can’t afford.

House Republicans have a plan to get our country back on track and to put an end to the wasteful spending that has crippled our economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2022.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: On September 29, 2022, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider one resolution included in the General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

I have enclosed a copy of the resolution adopted.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,
Chair.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 1,623,500 rentable square feet of space, including 25 official parking spaces, for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, currently housed at 600 Dulany Street in Alexandria, VA, at a proposed annual cost of \$57,439,430 for a lease term of up to 5 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 128 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 128 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost-effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.