

We need apprenticeship programs that prepare workers for the open positions today, not the positions that were open yesterday. We need cutting-edge programs. One-size-fits-all, Washington-knows-best models are not the answer.

While President Biden touts his support for apprenticeships, his cancellation of employer-led apprenticeship programs tell a different story. President Biden supports only apprenticeships he can control.

Since terminating employer-led apprenticeship programs, the Biden administration has doubled down on support for the registered apprenticeship model.

Because this system, founded in 1937, has not been substantially updated in eight decades, it is not easily adapted for innovative industries. Using this model to expand and modernize apprenticeships would be like starting on a journey on an already-leaking ship. We can push as hard as we want, but in the end, the vessel can only take us so far before we sink.

It is time for a new system, one with employers in the driver's seat. Job creators know the tools workers need to be successful. Washington swamp dwellers, on the other hand, are clueless.

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Why the Biden administration believes bureaucrats in Washington are more equipped to run apprenticeship programs than those on the ground is beyond me. It is no surprise that the vast majority of successful and thriving apprenticeship programs are led by private industry.

Take Kentucky FAME, for example. The Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education is a partnership of regional manufacturers that creates a pipeline of highly skilled workers through an earn and learn program. By the time participants are done with this program, they will have an associate's degree, an advanced manufacturing technician credential, and years of work experience, all with no student loan debt.

This organization operates in 12 States and has an 85 percent employment placement rate. This is an excellent workforce development model that other industries can learn from.

The more employers embrace apprenticeships, the better off our economy will be. The best way for our workforce to thrive is for the Federal Government to get out of the way and for industry leaders to lead the way.

So, for this National Apprenticeship Week, let's tell the Biden administration to stop putting special interests ahead of workers; let's recommit ourselves to empowering job creators to provide their own solutions; and let's support those jobseekers who want an opportunity to learn and earn at the same time.

#### PASSING ELECTORAL COUNT ACT REFORM

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that the 117th Congress and, indeed, this body is on track to surrender its last chance to safeguard American democracy.

It has been 1,045 days since this Capitol, this very building, this very Congress, was attacked on January 6, 2021, in a violent insurrection orchestrated by President Trump in an attempt to stop the transfer of power to the legitimate winner of the 2020 election.

Former President Trump tried to use violence and the flaws of the 1887 Electoral Count Act to overcome his loss in the 2020 election. That was 1,045 days ago.

By contrast, there are less than 20 days during which this Congress can still pass legislation to reform, amend, and clarify the 1887 Electoral Count Act and ensure that events like January 6 never happen again.

We must act. We cannot fail. Former President Trump has set the stage for his supporters to use the flaws in the 1887 law to put aside the electors that reflect the will of the voters in key States and, instead, send forward electors loyal to Trump.

In 135 years since the Electoral Count Act of 1887's enactment, the United States was fortunate to experience continuous, peaceful elections and transfer of power. Former President Trump shattered that cherished norm on January 6.

My colleagues, the fact that we came back into the House Chamber to formally confirm the 2020 electoral college count, despite the violent threats made against our lives, is a source of immense pride not only to us but to America.

We now know that the previous transfers of power took place despite the law and its failings, not because of it.

Tragically, President Trump and his antidemocratic allies' efforts to exploit the loopholes in the Electoral Count Act did not end on that infamous day. Over the last 2 years, unscrupulous MAGA Republican officials have been carrying out a deliberate and coordinated plan to build on the big lie by enacting State laws that allow partisan lawmakers to reject the will of the voters and undermine American democracy.

During the recent 2022 midterm election, 170 of Trump's endorsed election-denying candidates running for Congress and critical State offices have been projected to win their races.

Finally, last night, we watched former President Trump carry out the next step in his plan by formally declaring his candidacy for Presidency in 2024.

The stage is now set for these actors to once again exploit the ambiguities

of the Electoral Count Act as early as 2024.

These dangerous actions have already undercut public trust in our electoral system and their elected officials. If left unaddressed, they could prove catastrophic and bring about an end to America's 245 years of democratic tradition.

Congress must now reform the outdated 1887 law to ensure that no State legislature controlled by any party can subvert a Presidential election by ignoring the will of the voters in that State.

Fortunately, the House recently passed the Presidential Election Reform Act, which would significantly improve the Electoral Count Act. I applaud Chairwoman ZOE LOFGREN of the House Administration Committee and Ranking Member LIZ CHENEY, who brought the legislation forward.

Additionally, the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration recently marked up the Electoral Count Reform Act, a competing proposal.

I call upon my colleagues in the key committees to promptly bring forward compromise legislation that we can enact into law.

Democracy is fragile, and it is our responsibility to protect it. Americans have upheld this responsibility for more than two centuries of challenges and adversities. If we fail to seize this opportunity to fix the broken Electoral Count Act, I fear that our democratic system will not get another chance.

Congress has waited 1,045 days, and there are only 20 remaining. Time is running out.

#### ADDRESSING THE DIESEL SHORTAGE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, every few weeks, we read headlines of another crisis: baby formula; fertilizer; and now another important input, diesel fuel.

This administration not only continues to turn a blind eye but perpetuates harmful policies that worsen these crises.

From day one, President Biden has launched a war on American energy, and now it must end. Through executive actions, the Biden administration paused domestic production of oil while limiting and disincentivizing investments in American energy infrastructure and refining capacity.

On his very first day in office, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, thus declaring war on our domestic energy production. Seven days later, he paused new oil and gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters. Then, in November 2021, the EPA proposed new source performance methane standards on the oil and natural gas industry, tying the hands of smaller producers.

Just last week, at COP 27, President Biden doubled down on this proposal and announced even more burdensome requirements on U.S. oil and gas sources. Meanwhile, Americans were pumping away their paychecks as prices for gas and home heating skyrocketed.

This administration needs to refocus its priorities by increasing domestic energy production, expediting pipeline permitting, and abandoning burdensome rulemakings that are harming American agriculture.

Let's face facts. America's farm families and consumers have struggled with fractured supply chains, skyrocketing input costs, and historic levels of inflation, economic woes exacerbated by congressional Democrats' excessive spending and the Biden administration's burdensome regulatory agenda. Under this administration, farm production expenses are up nearly \$80 billion, led by an 84 percent, or \$21 billion, increase in fertilizer expenses and a 65 percent increase in fuel expenses.

As the Biden administration's self-inflicted energy crisis surges into a diesel shortage, they continually pass the buck by blaming domestic energy producers.

Further, Biden's regulatory assault destroys any incentive for domestic energy producers to invest in energy infrastructure, which worsens energy market volatility and increases costs for vital farm inputs such as diesel fuel and fertilizer.

In October 2022, EIA reported the distillate fuel oil inventory at 106 million. This is the lowest stock since 2008; the lowest stock for this time of the year since 1982; and, in some regions, the lowest inventory since 1950.

Diesel fuel is used every day to power farm and ranch equipment and deliver goods to the marketplace. This Biden-inflicted diesel crisis further exacerbates record inflation, skyrocketing farm input costs, and consumer prices. The national average price for diesel fuel per gallon is \$5.36 a gallon, an increase of \$1.71, or 50 percent, from this time just last year.

By gambling away American energy and resource independence in the name of climate change, the Biden administration has harmed the very industry, U.S. agriculture, that contributes to 13 percent of the annual greenhouse gas sequestration.

Just this past summer, President Biden went to the Saudis and begged OPEC+ to increase production. Instead of relying on our adversaries and asking them to produce more, we should be focused on the responsible development of America's own abundant natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have solutions focused on reversing industry-crushing regulations and market signals, unleashing production of crude oil, streamlining permitting and environmental review processes, and restoring refining capacity.

We must reverse this self-inflicted crisis and unleash our domestic energy production.

#### DELIVERING STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

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

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today in full support of President Biden's student debt relief plan in the face of Republican efforts to block economic relief for millions of people.

The \$1.9 trillion student debt crisis has cost people more than just money. It has stripped countless people of the opportunity to start a family, buy a home, start a business, or further their education.

My office has been collecting heart-breaking stories from constituents across Missouri's First District about how student debt relief would impact their lives for the better. Here are some of their stories.

Michelle H. writes: "The ongoing gloom and constant worry of student loan debt will lessen significantly. Even if some of the debt I have accumulated through student loans was forgiven, my entire quality of life will drastically increase, and my mental health would also increase. This would be absolutely life-changing."

Amy V. notes: "We will be able to buy a house, my first mortgage. This will allow me to pay off other bills and increase my credit score. I cannot afford the monthly payment of over \$900 per month."

Alison M. writes: "I have been swimming in debt since I graduated college with a degree and a job. At one point, I couldn't even afford to move out of my parents' because my student loans were over \$1,000. Sallie Mae ruined my credit score, and now that I finally have somewhat of a stable income. If this debt relief comes through, I can actually see a light at the end of still a long tunnel. But, before, I never even thought there was such a light."

These are just three of the 43 million borrowers who are depending on transformative student debt relief measures that will change their lives forever.

I share my own personal story of my journey grappling with immense student loan debt. As a single mom of two, working an hourly job that made less than \$10 an hour, even after working there for 10 years, I struggled to provide for my family and myself. I knew I needed a change, a career change, but that meant I would need to go back to school and that I would ultimately incur student debt.

I thought that once I graduated and got a steady job, I would be able to pay it back quickly. So, I enrolled in nursing school, took out loans, and a few years later, I was a registered nurse.

□ 1030

For the most part, everything went as I expected, and it wasn't until I was

faced with that first payment that I realized just how astronomical this debt burden became. Even with a job that paid more money than I had ever made before, it still felt impossible to be able to pay it off.

Ultimately, I was able to pay off my student loans, but it took years. During those years I struggled to pay these loans, I faced multiple eviction notices and was evicted, had difficulty feeding my two babies and affording childcare as I worked long and odd hours as a nurse. It was hard, and at times it felt impossible. I would have welcomed debt relief, and it is why I am pushing so hard to remove that economic burden for current and future generations.

Education should be affordable, equitable, and accessible to absolutely everyone. It should lead to prosperity and opportunity, not debt.

I share these stories with you, my colleagues, and implore us all to continue supporting the Biden administration in backing down the dark money and right-wing attacks on student debt relief and to continue standing with borrowers by extending the payment pause beyond December 31st and using every single legal authority to deliver student debt relief. We have a responsibility and an obligation to cancel student debt now.

#### WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AND KANSAS FOOD AID LEGACY

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the American farmer and to deliver the 15th installment of my farm bill impact series.

The United States is the most food-secure country in the world thanks to the strength and determination of American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers. With America's robust resources, we have been committed to ensuring food security at home and around the world, and Kansas has been on the cutting edge of that effort for nearly a century.

In September of 1953, Peter O'Brien, a farmer from Cheyenne County, Kansas, stood up at his local county farm bureau meeting to share an idea. He wanted to use Kansas grain to help hungry people around the world. Over the next several months, today's Food for Peace program was crafted. The following year, one of Kansas' favorite sons, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed parts of the program into law. That was the beginning of what is now a longstanding Kansas tradition of commitment, care, and leadership in the international effort to address global hunger.

Two weeks ago, I hosted David Beasley, the executive director of the World Food Programme, in Kansas for an event to thank the American farmer. Executive Director Beasley had just been in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Rome, but he came to Kansas because he understands the impact that farmers in my