

this bill will raise energy costs for Americans.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, these amendments improve on the underlying legislation but cannot ultimately fix this legislation. So while I urge my colleagues to vote for these amendments, I remain opposed to this sprawling partisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, once again, I urge opposition to this en bloc amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my Amendment No. 45 that would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from altering the designation of uranium as a critical mineral until completing a report assessing the effects of a loss of domestic uranium production. The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of Energy and Commerce, is to conduct the assessment of the national security impact of removing uranium from the list and submit a follow-up report. The U.S. Geological Survey, which updates the critical minerals list every three years, published its revised methodology in May noting that "Fuel minerals, including uranium, were explicitly excluded from consideration in this analysis." Removing uranium from this list, as the Biden Administration is proposing, is another effort to cave to the whims of environmental groups. The impact of this is not exclusive to national security. Domestic uranium production has almost completely idled and foreign state-owned entities have increasingly become the source of uranium for our reactors. Keeping it as a resource on the list will go a long way to restoring and securing American uranium production.

As we produce less energy at home, our national security enterprise is forced into further reliance on our adversaries for critical resources, emboldening them and weakening our global standing as they attempt to undermine our interests. The United States requires U.S.-origin uranium and nuclear technologies for use in the production of uranium-based products for U.S. defense systems, critical to national defense for the purpose of nuclear weapons and the naval fleet, providing propulsion for 11 aircraft carriers and 70 submarines. The Chinese are buying up mining operations across the globe. Removing uranium from the critical minerals list would be a dangerous and misguided decision as it is a vital component to both our national security and energy security. As China and Russia utilize their state-owned enterprises for energy dominance, we must endeavor to leverage our own resources for geopolitical security. This bill is fundamentally flawed and will not be more competitive or secure. However, the inclusion of this amendment would mark a sincere step in addressing diverse challenges to our national security. I urge adoption of my amendment and the Republican amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 900, the previous question is ordered on the

amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX further consideration of H.R. 4521 is postponed.

THE BIDEN CRISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, once again, an opportunity for bipartisan work on behalf of the American people has been blocked by the House Democrat leadership.

Madam Speaker, you might have seen last year, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill to help counter the rise of China, and we all recognize that this is the existential threat of our generation. The rise of China is something that should keep all of us up at night and we ought to be acting upon it.

And you might have also seen this year that the House was negotiating in good faith a companion bill to that Senate bill that passed in bipartisan fashion last year. But that was all before the rug was pulled out from underneath all of us by the House Democrat leadership just a few days ago. And it is as if the Democrat leadership here has forgotten how a bill becomes a law.

Now, look, these are the facts. There is not a mandate for radical legislation here. In the election cycle of 2020, what we got was a divided House. We got a divided Senate. The Senate is 50/50.

The Democrat majority in the House has the slimmest margin since World War II, but they seem to have forgotten that. So they are trying to act unilaterally. They are trying to bypass regular procedure. They are trying to skip over the regular committee process to have amendment and debate to legislation. And they are defying the opportunity for Republicans to work

with our colleagues to address these great crises.

Madam Speaker, so we are here to remind the American people tonight—my colleagues will be speaking over this hour—that there is a failure going on here and there are huge consequences to that for the American people. And of course, the failures are not limited to what is happening in this Chamber. It is the Biden administration itself. So we will be talking about these crises tonight.

My colleagues will come up one by one representing people from all across the country to talk about these great dilemmas that we are facing, unprecedented crises because of the policy choices and the actions of the White House and the Democrat leadership in Congress.

□ 1745

One of those that we will be talking about tonight is the passivity that we have seen in addressing the border crisis.

Madam Speaker, I was in my office for the last couple of hours, I got multiple calls from constituents back home who are deeply concerned about what they are watching play out on the television in the news every night. They are seeing the border completely overrun. They are seeing the number of illegal crossings at the border, which has risen, at a faster rate under President Biden than at any time in recent history. The result is truly catastrophic for the country.

We have an historic amount of illegal drugs coming across the border. That is just one aspect of this crisis that affects every American. Today, fentanyl overdoses—listen—fentanyl overdoses are now the leading cause of death for Americans age 18 to 45—the leading cause of death.

What are the Democrats doing to address this? Nothing. They are not allowing us to do anything about it because we can't move our legislation. So we are here to talk about this issue and to raise the alarm, to let the American people know what it is we are facing.

The Biden administration is asleep at the wheel when it comes to their number one job. The first job is to keep this country safe, to secure our borders, to maintain our sovereignty, to protect the American people. If you are an independent voter, it is becoming very clear that these Democrats cannot be trusted to fulfill even the most basic functions of government at any level.

Many public schools remain closed or they are operating part-time. Defunding and demonizing police is leading to crime in our streets, and many Americans can't even get their own tax returns or Social Security checks or veterans benefits because of the Biden administration's Federal Government staffing policies.

Democrats like to call themselves the party of competent government, but it is obviously clear to everyone who is paying attention that the last 12

months have shown us that unified Democrat control is just incompetent. If you put this simply, the Democrats have failed to do their job. I believe, we believe, we are certain, that there is going to be a reckoning for this in the election cycle before us.

Madam Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for being here tonight to discuss this disastrous House Democrat agenda and the Biden administration's shameful management of our government.

Madam Speaker, for the next hour you will hear about a number of crises.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden stepped foot in the White House, over 2 million illegal migrants have invaded our southern border, making the last 12 months an all-time record high. Even DHS Secretary Mayorkas recently admitted that the border is "worse now than it, frankly, has been in at least 20 years, if not ever." Well, that "if not ever" part is certainly the truth. I couldn't agree with him more.

The difference is that my Republican colleagues and I actually want to bring an end to this nonsense, not gaslight the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents who are tirelessly working around the clock to keep Americans safe.

Unfortunately, the reach of Biden's self-inflicted border crisis extends far beyond our southern border. Illegal migrants, including those with criminal records, are being transported all across the country. I am sure you have seen the videos from this past week of illegals being released with GPS ankle bracelets. You don't put a GPS ankle bracelet on anyone but a criminal.

In fact, TSA is allowing illegal migrants to use arrest warrants as an alternative form of ID to board airplanes. This negligent policy defies logic by allowing criminals to fly across the country at a time when illegal migration is out of control and crime is surging throughout most major cities. We must stop this insanity.

Shame on the Biden administration for putting illegal migrants, human traffickers, drug smugglers, dangerous criminals, and terrorists above the American people. It is long past time that we put an end to this chaos and lawlessness.

Mr. President, what will it take to shut down the illegal border crossings? America is waiting for your answer, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Georgia. You are right, the American people are still waiting, and it appears that they will have to wait much longer if we are relying upon this White House.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, my Democrat colleagues have made it absolutely crystal clear that they have

no intention of holding Communist China accountable, for anything. Whether it is stealing our intellectual property, flooding our colleges with Communist propaganda, committing academic espionage, or unleashing COVID-19 onto the world, this malicious regime does whatever it wants to and with zero consequences.

Most shocking of all, is that much of their treacherous behavior is being covered up by the Democrat Party, who are more interested in Beijing's success than our very own American success. Let's be clear, the American COMPETES Act is not about contending with China; it is about surrendering to the Chinese Communist Party.

While our country deteriorates from skyrocketing inflation, raging crime, open borders, crumbling supply chains, over 100,000 American deaths from overdoses on Chinese fentanyl, the Democrats spend their time empowering our adversaries with bad policies and American tax dollars.

Democrats claim to care about human rights, but they will not make the Chinese Communist Party answer for its atrocities against the Uyghurs. Democrats prioritize climate change above everything else, but make no effort to call out China, the world's biggest polluter. Democrats fight to keep COVID-19 in the spotlight, but refuse to hold a single hearing about the virus' origins. Shameful. The list goes on and on.

Americans can see this is hypocrisy, and as my friend from Louisiana said, there will be a reckoning this coming November. The American people deserve better from those that they elect to keep them safe.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for his recognition. The madness of this bill—it is a climate change bill that is masquerading as a China bill. It mentions coral reefs more times in the bill than the word China. Doesn't that say enough? I thank my friend for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, America's drug epidemic hit a mild sobering milestone recently when last year over 100,000 people died of drug overdoses. There are 275 Americans dying every day. That is the highest level ever.

My home State of Tennessee experienced some 3,400 fatal drug overdoses, which is a 49 percent rise from the previous year.

Having served as a community pharmacist for over 30 years in East Tennessee, this is personal for me. Every one of those people are someone's parents or someone's children. The main driver of this increasing death toll is illegal synthetic fentanyl, which is inexpensive to manufacturer, can be 50 times stronger than heroin, and people can die from doses equal to only a few grains of sand.

Most illegal, counterfeit fentanyl is developed in China and trafficked into the U.S. across the border with Mexico by drug cartels and other criminals. As a Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I have been to the border to see things firsthand.

Customs and Border Protection officials outrightly admit that increasing amounts of illicit fentanyl being smuggled, infecting our communities, and fueling overdoses is largely due to the Biden administration's chaotic open border policies. When you have the drug totals up higher than what the cost is—you can get a dose for \$20 on the street, which is unbelievable right now.

These open border policies are effectively a green light to Mexican drug cartels—looking to exploit an increasingly overloaded immigration system—to trafficking alarming amounts of counterfeit fentanyl across the border.

President Biden must take immediate action to reverse the border crisis his policies created, secure our southern border, and stop the influx of fentanyl pouring into our country and wreaking havoc on our communities.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so much for her expertise, especially in pharmacology. This is something that everyone needs to recognize. This fentanyl problem is a problem that is avoidable.

I said in the opening that it is a leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45. We could stop this. This is a policy choice that is perpetuating this crisis, and it is absolutely outrageous that the White House and the Democrat leadership in this House will not address this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and hosting this Special Order, it is so important.

Madam Speaker, I rise to bring needed attention to the ongoing overdose crisis in our country that is ruthlessly taking lives. I can't speak on this without focusing on a major culprit: fentanyl. The CDC recently announced 101,263—again, 101,263—Americans died of drug overdoses during a 12-month period ending June 2021. The number of deaths is going up, not down.

The vast majority of these preventable deaths were caused by fentanyl and illicit fentanyl analogs, which are 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. From October 2020 to September 2021, Customs and Border Patrol seized 11,201 pounds of fentanyl, which is enough to kill 2.5 million, or the entire United States population seven times over. This is what they were able to interdict. We don't know how much more got into the country.

Fentanyl is temporarily scheduled as a Schedule I drug, but that is set to expire in just a few weeks on February 18. Congress must act to provide a permanent solution.

That is why I am co-leading legislation with my friend, the gentleman from the Ninth District of Virginia. Our bill, the HALT Fentanyl Act, would permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances as a Schedule I and cut red tape enabling researchers to continue to study Schedule I substances for the purposes of identifying any possible medical benefits.

Let's put politics aside and do what is right. I encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and help us provide immediate assistance to those in need. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting tonight.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, those statistics are shocking indeed, and the fact that we had over 101,000 overdoses in a 12-month period and we hear nothing from the White House about this is just unforgivable.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, when we come to the floor to talk about the border crisis, it is a lot like the film *Groundhog Day*. If you listen closely, I think you can hear "I Got You Babe" by Sonny and Cher, and it is probably echoing through this Chamber as we speak. We expect President Biden to do something about this disaster, Madam Speaker, but just like in the movie, he does the same thing every dadgum day—absolutely nothing.

Two million, thirty-five thousand, ten, that is how many migrants our border agents apprehended at that southern border since President Biden took office last January—over 2 million people. Hiding among the massive crowds of people are smugglers working for drug cartels. They are smuggling in children for all kinds of deviant things. In 2021, over 860,000 pounds of drugs were confiscated from smugglers. More concerning are the smugglers who are not caught.

Fentanyl is among the drugs flooding through the gaps in our southern border. Just a tiny amount of this drug—as small as a pinhead—is enough to kill everyone in this Chamber right now. Opioid-related deaths in the United States topped over 100,000 for the first time last year. 100,000 souls lost. Experts believe fentanyl is responsible for this tragic milestone.

□ 1800

There should be severe punishments for fentanyl trafficking and smuggling this stuff across our borders.

The Fentanyl Trafficker Elimination Act, legislation I recently introduced, oddly enough, sends a clear message to these cartel thugs about their fate if they are caught. Under my bill, convicted smugglers would be locked up in an American prison for the rest of their lives.

More Americans will overdose on fentanyl and die if nothing is done to deter drug smuggling activity or secure our southern border, Madam Speaker,

and our Vice President, the so-called border czar, is, frankly, a joke.

Time is not on our side. President Biden cannot waste another day ignoring the border crisis.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his, as always, more than a lackluster attempt at governing.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for keeping me humble.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), who is the Republican leader on the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for leading the Special Order.

Madam Speaker, President Biden is devastating Pennsylvania families. One year into Joe Biden's Presidency, Pennsylvania voters are concerned about the highest inflation in over 39 years, decreasing real wages, and a supply chain in crisis.

Rising prices are causing families in Pennsylvania to shell out an average of \$3,500 extra a year just to maintain their same standard of living. It is an inflation tax that disproportionately hurts lower income households.

The supply chain issue fueled by Joe Biden's inaction is affecting Pennsylvanians in every corner of the State. Even Vice President KAMALA HARRIS admitted that these crises are "a big issue for western Pennsylvania, throughout the Nation, and actually a global issue."

Madam Speaker, Joe Biden and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's policies are wreaking havoc on Pennsylvania families and on families across America. Their authoritarian mandates have created a labor shortage that is wreaking havoc on Pennsylvania's economy.

Pennsylvania is in the bottom half of States for the percentage of lost jobs recovered from the coronavirus pandemic. As of the latest Pennsylvania State unemployment report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. Forty States have an unemployment rate equal to or lower than Pennsylvania.

December's Consumer Price Index rose by 7 percent compared to last year. This is the largest annual increase in over 39 years. In the mid-Atlantic region, prices rose by 5.8 percent, and Pennsylvania families and workers are feeling the squeeze of inflation.

Madam Speaker, Pennsylvania families and families in this great Nation deserve better, and it is not like better is out of reach. What I just shared with you are the statistics provided by the government's own government agencies. It is just an honest evaluation of the failed policy of the Democrat Members of this Congress and of President Joe Biden.

Once again, American families and Pennsylvania families deserve better.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for

that insight. He has been in Congress a while, and he has seen a lot of leadership come and go. But I will tell you, Madam Speaker, what we are having right now is causing these crises. Once again, these crises are created and perpetuated by bad policy choices, and it is hurting the American people.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), who is a gentleman with a lot of seniority in Congress.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, my question is: Why hasn't Speaker PELOSI called for a vote on the HALT Fentanyl Act, which would make the dangerous fentanyl derivatives illegal permanently?

Drug overdoses from fentanyl and derivatives have skyrocketed, hitting a tragically high level. Madam Speaker, 100,000 people died in America last year.

Law enforcement officials in West Virginia are frustrated. From Clarksburg, Parkersburg, and Martinsburg, they are all saying the same thing, Madam Speaker: Enough is enough.

A slap on the wrist, and these fentanyl dealers are back on the street, pushing their deadly poison into the hands of our children.

What is Speaker PELOSI waiting for? Close the border. Put traffickers in jail. Increase sentences for dealers. Keep them out of our neighborhoods.

Madam Speaker, enough is enough. Children are losing their mothers; wives are losing their husbands; and parents are losing their children.

How many more people will lose their lives from fentanyl derivatives before Congress—the Democrats—take action on this legislation?

I will say it one last time: Enough is enough.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, West Virginia is a long way from the southern border, but these drugs make it all the way across the country, and it affects everyone in one way or another. We all know people who have lost their lives because of overdose. I thank the gentleman for his insight.

Madam Speaker, I will go from West Virginia to the other side of the country.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA), who served this country so valiantly.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, the Chinese Communist regime under Chairman Xi is certainly our greatest opponent. His vision and mission is to eliminate the United States by 2050, and his investments are aimed toward this end.

The CCP is not on our team, and we should not encourage competition from China, as the White House has stated. In many domains, they are outpacing us.

In lower altitude hypersonic weapons development; in the advancement and proliferation of high-altitude nuclear ICBMs, such as the DF-41; in the space

domain; in the cyber domain; in ship-building—they are currently building two ships per month; in the construction and networking of UAVs, or unmanned aerial vehicles; and in the advancement of low observable fighter jets both in terms of capacity as well as quantity, China certainly is our greatest threat.

They are not on our team, and their progress and their advantages are designed to be used against us in a coordinated fashion in all of those domains. But the single biggest threat to our Nation is not China alone. It is our own weaknesses within—weaknesses from people who are supposed to be on our team and weaknesses from those who seek to cooperate and profit from the CCP's behavior that ultimately enables the CCP in their atrocities.

Those who may chastise the CCP with Twitter posts in the same day enable them with joint ventures, small words compared to large supporting investments or bills such as the ones brought to the floor this week. This is exactly what Chairman Xi wants: big carrots and small sticks.

We must disentangle all of our interests from China. But above all things, we must disentangle our corporate interests from China as soon as possible.

Disentanglement takes courage, which is often not present in most boardrooms and certainly not present in our own Treasury Department. American corporations and our own Treasury are exchanging their own long-term security and our collective security for the short-term high of profits and business in a market they have been seeking for a long time.

These corporate leaders think they are fishing in knee-high water in a trout farm. But in reality, the water, that market space, is filled with piranhas, leaches, and sharks. The bare and bloodied ankles of our economy and our intellectual property and technology are now fully exposed to these very intelligent predators.

The Chinese Communist Party is not on our side, and our own greed and a willingness to compromise the integrity of our business ethics system in order to profit from endeavors with China are our greatest weaknesses and, I would say, our greatest threat.

We cannot afford to profit from selling the rope to China that will ultimately be used to hang us by 2050.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, these are harsh words about China. The gentleman is correct. It is the number one threat.

This bill that they are proposing and advancing right now—we call it the America concedes act—mentions climate change more than twice as often as the phrase “national security” in the bill. I think that says a lot.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), who is our Republican lead on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the gen-

tleman for bringing us together to highlight such an important issue, the issue of fentanyl and fentanyl substances that are surging on our southern border. We must take action.

We have legislation, the STOP Fentanyl Act. Why it is not moving forward is the question before us tonight. There have been over 1 million years of life lost because of teenagers and young adults who have died due to overdoses—1 million years.

I think about a 23-year-old young man from Spokane, Washington, Carson, who lost his life. He had his entire life ahead of him. His mom, Molly, told me that all he wanted to do was to make this a better place. When his dad passed away, it was Carson who helped maintain their home. He lent a hand to those in need and did not expect anything in return.

The day after Thanksgiving, he took one pill from a drug dealer on Snapchat who told him it was Xanax. It was laced with illicit fentanyl, and it killed him instantly.

His mom, Molly, is pleading with us to stop fentanyl and stop these weapons-grade poisons so that other parents, other people, and other family members all across this country do not have to feel her grief and pain. She deserves justice.

Let's help end this crisis, save lives, and pass the HALT Fentanyl Act.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, that is so well-said and such a tragic story. Our prayers go out to that family. What a loss, and losses like that are all over the country. Fentanyl is weapons-grade, as Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS said. It is a weapon of mass destruction.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who has a deep background in pharmacology.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and hosting tonight. This is extremely important, as we all know.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to hold this administration accountable, to hold them accountable for fueling a public health crisis, and it is not COVID-19.

It is no secret that we are dealing with a serious problem at our border. As apprehensions spike, so is the availability of fentanyl, which is largely coming from South and Central America.

Fentanyl is an extremely potent and deadly chemical that is used to cheaply enhance the highs of other drugs.

Early reports indicate that 2021 was the deadliest year on record for overdoses in my home State of Georgia. As of April 2021, we experienced a 110 percent increase in opioid-related deaths, and that number is expected to climb in 2022.

The neglect at our border has only enabled drug traffickers who wish to do our people harm and make every State a border State. The Biden administration's refusal to act on this crisis has

resulted in thousands of lives lost, including children. As a matter of fact, one of the only things to get cheaper during Joe Biden's term as President is fentanyl.

I am a proud supporter of the HALT Fentanyl Act, which will permanently schedule fentanyl and prevent future mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons from murder at the hands of this lethal drug. The longer we wait, the more people will die from this poison. The time to act is now.

We must commit to those Americans whose families have been forever altered by this administration's unwillingness to even acknowledge the crisis at our border that is quickly becoming a public health crisis.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his insight.

We were told, and we heard this morning in a briefing, that there are more than 140 derivative drugs that this poisonous fentanyl is being used with, and it is such a crisis.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

Madam Speaker, Democrats marketed the America COMPETES Act as a bill that would decrease our economic reliance on China and ramp up our domestic production. However, as we have already heard, a more appropriate title for this bill is the America concedes act.

Unfortunately, the Democrats employed the same strategy with this bill as they did with the Build Back Better Act. They used the legislation as a vehicle to ram all their far-left social policies through Congress without any Republican input.

Democrats claim this bill would crack down on the Chinese Communist Party, but it does nothing to prevent them from growing their influence here in the United States and around the world, nor does it hold China accountable for their role in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The America concedes act does more to answer the Democrats' radical social agenda and further their massively expensive climate change schemes than it does to improve domestic production.

Why does this bill, which authorizes or appropriates hundreds of billions of dollars, include \$2 billion in foreign aid to combat climate change or \$8 billion for the United Nations Green Climate Fund?

These provisions, along with many others, have nothing to do with our economy but everything to do with Democrats' obsession with furthering their leftwing agenda. This bill is just another attempt to move toward changing our great Nation into a mythical socialist utopia.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop thinking about their woke political agendas and start focusing on getting our economy back on track.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend so much for highlighting that. As Mr. ROSE said, there is \$10.3 billion in this bill for climate funding over the next 2 fiscal years. But there is also \$2 billion in there for a climate program, and it is authorized every fiscal year with no sunsets—no sunsets.

I know that upsets my good friend, Mr. GROTHMAN.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

□ 1815

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. I don't know why the public tolerates President Biden's energy policy. Okay. I think the policy is predicated on the idea that we have some new or booming pollution problem in this country, and that is just not true.

I particularly ask young people to pull up pictures of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, or Los Angeles, California, 50 years ago, and you will see how much better things are than they were a relatively short period of time ago. The overall air pollution in this country in the last 40 years has fallen 73 percent.

Meanwhile, in the last 10 years, carbon dioxide, which everybody likes to talk about, has fallen 7 percent. At the same time, CO₂ emissions in China went up 38 percent and, in India, they went up 56 percent.

Right now, what is going on is our European allies make it that much more expensive to produce any energy. Steel plants are flooding to India and China, and China isn't backing off. They are making 43 new coal-fired power plants, as we speak.

So what is the net result of chasing energy-related jobs out of this country and out of western Europe? It means the metal-producing foundries are headed to other countries with their jobs. And as the U.S. and Europe becomes economically weaker, those jobs go to higher polluting countries like India and China. And the clean countries with the clean air and clean water, like the United States, get penalized.

So it is time to treat U.S. as number one again; for President Biden to change his energy policies; and get some more of that good air pollution-free or almost free plants in the United States, and not have the manufacturing done in the polluting countries of India and China.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, what great points. I thank my friend for highlighting the problem. These energy policies from this White House are not only making fuel more expensive, more expensive for every American to put gasoline in their vehicle; it is also harming the environment, harming American interests, and benefitting China and India. What an incredible thing.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, the so-called America COMPETES Act is not a genuine attempt to hold Communist China accountable for its aggressions toward American security and prosperity.

If you ask the Democrats, they will say this bill takes strong action to combat the Chinese Government. But in reality, this bill includes zero measures to hold Communist China accountable for the cover-up of COVID-19, human trafficking, torture, forced sterilization, or slave labor. Yes, slavery is alive and well today in Communist China.

This bill provides no resources to enforce our sanction laws or increase our military strength. It omits provisions on export controls, security assistance, to our allies, and it fails to curtail Communist China's military modernization and weapons development.

If there was ever a bipartisan issue, this should be it. This \$325 billion, 3,000-page do-nothing bill developed behind closed doors fails in multiple ways to protect America's interests.

I call upon my colleagues to support meaningful legislation that will achieve enforceable laws and show real results.

This should be called the America Concedes Act; no question; another spend and waste of taxpayer money.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for those comments. He is exactly right. If the Democrats are serious about countering China, they would have worked across the aisle. They would have worked in a bipartisan fashion. They would have sent some of our bipartisan legislation to a committee to work out real solutions.

But instead, they are trying to jam together this massive package full of partisan wish list items that they know the American people don't want, and we don't need, and we are not going to have any part of it.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield next to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank my very good friend from Louisiana for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, the Biden administration has created a crisis at our southern border. And instead of addressing the problem, they are empowering it.

The administration has been flying illegal immigrants into my home State of Pennsylvania and across the United States on "midnight express flights" in the middle of the night. HHS has conducted these flights with zero forewarning in order to facilitate the Biden administration's open border policies.

After meeting with the Biden administration, Madam Speaker, regarding these flights, I was told—this is incredulous, but I was told it is simply a coincidence that each one of these flights came in in the dark of night.

Madam Speaker, I was born at night, but it wasn't last night. I questioned

that answer. And when questioned regarding these specifics, the administration refused to answer.

This is not right, and the American people deserve better. To address this, I will be introducing the Immigration Transparency and Transit Notification Act, which will bring light to this process, ensuring that the States have a say.

This bill will:

Number 1, require DHS and HHS to notify the appropriate Federal, State, and local officials of the placement and transportation of illegals in their State before the process begins.

Number 2, grant Governors an opportunity to question the placement of illegals in their States.

Number 3, ensure the safety of unaccompanied minors from human trafficking by requiring agencies to provide information about the sponsors of where these young people are being placed to the Governor and other relevant officials.

Madam Speaker, it is time for Congress, all of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to act. We must control the southern border and take control of the crisis that is truly deteriorating our country.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for highlighting that critical issue. That is a big part of the border crisis that all these illegals are being brought to cities near you.

My hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana, has had dozens of busloads of people dropped off over the last year. They send me a notice from ICE because I demanded it. But this legislation is so important because everyone needs to know what is happening right under our noses.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the rising number of drug overdoses. It is one of our greatest public health threats, and illicit fentanyl is the main driver.

The class-wide ban of fentanyl analogs expires February 18, and if Congress does not act to extend the ban on fentanyl analogs, many of these illicit drugs would essentially become street legal.

For context, fentanyl analogs have been found to be four to five times more potent than fentanyl, and fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin.

In Kentucky, fentanyl was responsible for over 70 percent of all drug overdoses in 2020, and even tragically, took the life of a 2-year-old who ingested opioids laced with fentanyl that he found in his mom's purse.

More recently, a 13-year-old overdosed from fentanyl in Connecticut, and authorities recovered around 1,000 bags of fentanyl in his bedroom.

The purpose of permanently scheduling in a class-wide ban is to save lives by reducing a criminal's incentive to develop new variations of fentanyl analogs to try to evade law enforcement. And we have seen fewer new fentanyl analog encounters during this ban.

I am working to permanently schedule fentanyl analogs by passing the HALT Fentanyl Act. And I am disappointed that today the Democrats blocked consideration of the HALT Fentanyl Act.

Now is not the time to scale back our fight against these deadly drugs. We need to permanently schedule fentanyl analogs and secure our southern border to stop these poisons from reaching our communities, or else thousands more American lives will be at stake.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for highlighting this terrible tragedy. It is just unimaginable the scope and the scale of this, and it goes on every day.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, the fine gentleman from Louisiana, for organizing this Special Order on such an important topic.

It is no secret that our country has been ravaged by the opioid epidemic for years. Families and communities across the country have been destroyed by opioid abuse and addiction and, unfortunately, Iowans are no exception.

I, and other healthcare providers, correctly predicted in the spring of 2020 that our actions by locking down, social isolation, and shuttering jobs, would lead to increased drug use, drug addiction, and drug overdoses.

The Iowa Department of Public Health recently estimated that fentanyl deaths rose from 31 percent of all overdoses in 2016 to 87 percent in 2021. The CDC reported that from April 2020 to April 2021, more than 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses, and that nearly 64,000 were related to fentanyl. This is up from 2,000 overdose deaths in 2011.

These numbers are shocking and saddening, and truly underscore the impact the opioid epidemic has had on this country. U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized over twice as much fentanyl in fiscal year 2021 than in fiscal year 2020, and nearly four times as much fentanyl, compared to 2019.

Madam Speaker, 11,201 pounds of fentanyl were seized in fiscal year 2021 alone, enough to kill 2.5 billion people, or the entire U.S. population over seven times.

While it is great we are apprehending so many drugs before they reach our communities, and Border Patrol is doing amazing work, we know so much more is coming across our borders undetected and impacting our communities.

I have visited the border twice and have spoken to law enforcement about

what we can do to help them. The administration needs to address the border crisis as it is and take it seriously.

I have been proud to see this Congress work in a bipartisan manner to pass commonsense and simple bills, like my DUMP Opioids Act, to help curb this epidemic. But we can all agree that there is more work to be done.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to help make this country safer for the American people.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for highlighting that critically important issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, since his first day in office, President Biden's decisions to halt construction of the border wall and reverse effective Trump border policies have had disastrous consequences. Every day, we see new videos and reports of humanitarian and national security crises at our southern border.

On top of the massive influx of illegal aliens, President Biden's open border policies have also created an equally concerning crisis, the overflow of fentanyl into America. Tragically, every community in our Nation has been impacted.

President Biden's failed policies have turned every State into a border State. This is not a rural or urban issue, it is an American issue, and one that requires the full force of the Federal Government to address.

Fentanyl seizures increased 134 percent in fiscal year 2021. That is enough fentanyl to kill every American, not once, not twice, but seven times.

President Trump's policies were effective. During his administration, Washington Democrats tried to politicize border security. Now that President Biden's policies have created a crisis, they are trying to ignore the issue.

These crises will continue to worsen until the Biden administration is forced to re-implement the Trump policies that worked. We will continue pressuring this administration to do exactly that.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Pennsylvania has so much wisdom. We are going to bring you a one-two punch.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted next to yield to another gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his leadership on this important issue.

Right now, the clock is ticking. Do you hear it?

Our communities are being destroyed by the illegal fentanyl that continues to pour across our southern border and, tragically, it pours into the hands of many unknowing Americans.

In just 2 weeks from now, the emergency class-wide order that makes it il-

legal to possess this deadly drug will expire, and many forms of fentanyl will become legal on American streets. If this happens, police officers will be powerless to stop this drug from wreaking havoc on our communities.

We know the consequences of leaving this drug. Sadly, fentanyl overdoses are the leading cause of death among 18- to 45-year-olds, the leading cause of death.

Just a half a mile from where we stand here in the Capitol, the fentanyl crisis claimed three more lives last week.

In my district alone in Pennsylvania, over 400 men, women, and children lost their lives to opioid overdoses.

Being a part of a community means taking responsibility for one another. By not bringing this vote to the floor, liberals in this body are failing their responsibility to the American people. Our communities cannot wait any longer.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to permanently ban this deadly drug. Now is the time to give law enforcement the tools that they need to keep our neighbors, our families, and our communities safer. Americans are counting on us.

Can you hear the clock ticking?

Now is the time to act. I thank the gentleman for leading this Special Order Hour this evening.

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Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. JOYCE for his comments. His insight and expertise are so valued and appreciated here.

This is a crisis just of unspeakable proportions. I mean, over 100,000 people lost their lives to overdoses just in a 12-month period. The White House is doing nothing about it. They seemingly are unconcerned about this, so we have to draw attention to it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN), the youngest Member of Congress maybe ever.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. JOHNSON, the great conservative champion we have here.

Madam Speaker, the sons and daughters of America are not foot soldiers for your party's inept, geriatric despot. They are not expendable pawns to be dispatched at the whims of an idiot, tossed carelessly around the world to godforsaken caves and bloody sandboxes. They are Americans, worthy of honor and dignity. The only salute from them Joe Biden deserves involves one finger.

American blood is not the currency of the world. It cannot be borrowed, exchanged, or lent to any man or any nation. Its worth is immeasurable. American patriots in uniform all signed a blank check to their Nation, and already under this administration in Afghanistan, Joe Biden cashed it for 13 patriots through his reckless incompetence.

The path to American national security does not lie in American international interventionism. It lies in securing our southern border, not the Russia-Ukraine border.

Our greatness is forged in our resistance to interference. The war lobby has no ally in the America First Republicans. We will preserve our strength through nationalism. We will champion America First today and America First forever.

Madam Speaker, we earned our greatness. Let others earn theirs. If Joe Biden hasn't prostituted our preeminence to the military-industrial complex by the time Donald Trump returns, we will preserve this great city on a hill for the descendants of our grandchildren.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. CAWTHORN and appreciate his insights.

Madam Speaker, what we have heard here tonight are Members from across the country, across the Republican Conference, who represent Americans all across this great land. They have expressed the people's deep concerns about the multiple crises that we face.

We have pointed out here and made the case and presented the evidence that these crises are the direct result of policy choices by the White House and the Democrat leaders in Congress. It is unconscionable. From the fentanyl crisis to the border crisis to the energy crisis to this mockery of a bill that they are trying to jam through Congress this week, the American people recognize this for what it is.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I would just make a couple of reminders about what we call the America concedes to China act.

This is a 2,900-page bill patched together in a back room somewhere with no regular order, no debate, no amendment process, no committee hearings, no input from the other side of the aisle at all. The Democrats went to the back room, put together a 2,900-page bill.

It has a price tag of \$325 billion. It is filled with unvetted policies, partisan poison pills, and provisions totally unrelated to China. It doesn't do anything to address the threat from the Chinese Communist Party as advertised, and it does more harm than good.

Madam Speaker, we could be here all night. We could be here for multiple hours, highlighting all the crises. We don't have to because the American people can see this for themselves. They see China as the greatest threat to our national security and sovereignty and everything else of our lifetime. They see the border. They see the energy. They see the COVID crisis. Everything this White House touches has been a disaster.

Madam Speaker, it is time for a change. I think the American people will let their voices be heard in the next election cycle this fall. I am de-

lighted that will happen. I would say, as I conclude here, it cannot happen soon enough.

Madam Speaker, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SUPPORTING CHIPS FOR AMERICA FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, you are in luck. I heard a lot of complaints but no solutions. That is why my colleagues across the aisle lost the 2020 election miserably.

We know what they are against. President Biden said it best. What are the Republicans for? What are they for?

Some of them joined us in some of the bills I am about to outline. The rest of them, it has been nothing.

Meanwhile, Democrats delivered the American Rescue Plan, shots in arms, and money in pockets, and we stopped another Great Recession. Can you imagine how we would be able to respond to delta or omicron without passing future relief?

Now, unemployment is below 4 percent. We created nearly 7 million jobs last year. In my district, we were devastated by the Great Recession. Foreclosures devastated central Florida. In 2021, this time around, foreclosures are down from 2020.

Americans in central Florida lost their homes last time around. This time around, we put a stop to it.

House Republicans voted no, yet Republican Governors took the American Rescue Plan money and responded to our Nation's crisis. That is what we should all be doing.

Next, we go to the bipartisan infrastructure framework. There is huge support among all Americans to upgrade America, our roads and bridges, our ports and airports, our clean water, clean and resilient energy, rural broadband. I have urban, suburban, and rural areas in the district. Everyone in my district, regardless of their party background, is excited about this infrastructure. We have had meetings with local officials across the area, and they are looking to work with us to upgrade America.

According to Republican Senator ROB PORTMAN, it helps fix supply chains and is counterinflationary. That is why 22 Senators from the Republican side voted yes and why 10 Republicans colleagues here in the House voted yes.

We applaud these 32 Republicans for joining all Democrats in voting for the infrastructure bill. What did the radical House Republicans do? They attacked their own over infrastructure. What a sad, sad legacy that is.

It didn't stop a few of them from trying to take credit, though, trying to take credit for projects, despite voting no. If you vote no and you try to take credit now, the message is clear. America will shame you every day, every time.

Now, we turn to the America COMPETES Act. Madam Speaker, 32 Republicans joined with Democrats to vote for the Senate's version of this, boosting domestic microchip manufacturing, which we do in our district, and I am going to go into that a little more in a moment; improving supply chains for medical supplies like PPE, like vaccines, telecom, solar, all these critical issues; and, yes, enabling us to compete against economic rivals like China, like Russia, and others who don't share our values.

In the Senate, the vast majority of them are able to come together. In the House, I hope we are. I hope we have a few of our colleagues.

Then, there is going to be a conference. We are going to conference this, make some deals between the House and the Senate, and we are going to get something together. That bill is going to come back.

That is going to be the last shot, the last shot for both Democrats and Republicans to come together to ensure we produce millions of new jobs in domestic manufacturing.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend the America COMPETES Act for including \$52 billion to incentivize private-sector investments and continued American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing and microchip manufacturing to help address supply chain disruptions and to ensure more microchips are produced here at home.

I have heard from my local auto dealers. I have heard from local manufacturers. We need to make these microchips at home, and this bill helps us do that.

Within our district in central Florida, we have the NeoCity technological campus, which is recognized as an emerging microchips, microelectronics, and advanced manufacturing hub. We have ready-made synergies with institutions of higher education across Florida and key partnerships with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Commerce under both the Trump administration and now under the Biden administration.

NeoCity is home to BRIDG, a nonprofit public-private partnership specializing in domestic semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing.

Imec, a world-renowned international research and development organization active in the semiconductor design and architecture space, also has a presence there.

SUSS MicroTec, a leading supplier of equipment and process solutions for the semiconductor industry, is working at NeoCity.

Then there is SkyWater Technology, the only domestically owned and operated pure play trusted foundry that