

Our families don't sign up for the long hours and missed birthdays, but I have had their support every step of the way.

And thank you most to my husband, Gerry. Gerry and I first met when he was a rookie police officer and I was a rookie police reporter.

Two weeks ago, he retired after almost 40 years in law enforcement as the sheriff of Rock Island County. He has stood by me all of these years.

Finally, I say thank you to the people of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois. I am humbled that for a decade you put your faith in me. Thank you.

I have been honored to be your voice here in Washington.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is turning the Federal Student Loan Program into a titanic heading straight for an iceberg.

The Biden administration's changes to these programs will make a bad system worse.

For starters, President Biden's sixth extension of the student loan repayment pause brings the total cost of this unjustifiable policy to \$195 billion. This is foolish by every measure.

Most college-educated workers were not the ones to lose their jobs during the pandemic and were able to adjust to flexible work arrangements, so why are they getting special treatment from the Biden administration?

Would it be fair to force student loan borrowers to pay off the car and mortgage loans of the millions of blue-collar Americans who lost their jobs because of forced economic shutdowns? The answer is a resounding no.

To add insult to injury, President Biden is falsely promising a \$400 billion bailout knowing full well this illegal, disgraceful action will likely get struck down in court.

Using the livelihoods of 40 million borrowers to score political points at the expense of hardworking taxpayers and the next generation of students is politics at its worst.

President Biden's use of the executive pen to stab taxpayers in the back doesn't end there.

Since taking office, President Biden has been canceling massive amounts of loans under the guise of "fixing" broken programs. The very programs Democrats themselves created, including nearly \$50 billion through the administration's illegal waivers.

This is a blatant disregard for the rule of law. Our student loan system already operates in the red, and these changes will ensure it costs taxpayers even more.

Yet, it is only the tip of the iceberg.

Indeed, the Biden administration's new income-driven repayment plan,

IDR, will turn Federal student loans into untargeted grants costing taxpayers a fortune in the process.

Because President Biden couldn't get his radical agenda through Congress, he is dismantling the Federal student loan program and pushing Democrats' free college plan by executive fiat.

Between slashing payments for high-income graduate students to expanding the number of individuals who will receive forgiveness, economists and policy experts agree that the average student loan borrower will pay roughly half of what he or she owes if this plan is enacted.

This is not what taxpayers signed up for when the program was created, and it is certainly not the plan Congress wrote and passed.

These changes will have long-term consequences because they create perverse incentives for over-borrowing. Why would students make smart financial decisions when they know Uncle Joe or another administration will pay off their loans?

Instead of solving the problem for all borrowers, President Biden is sticking future borrowers in a ship with cracks in the hull.

These foolhardy changes will accelerate tuition, inflation. With taxpayer-subsidized tuition, colleges and universities will have no incentives to keep costs down. It will also turn more post-secondary institutions into degree mills.

The only thing loan forgiveness does is encourage colleges and universities to offer even more degree programs they know do not pay off once students enter the workforce.

Our country needs reforms that can right the ship, not sink it even deeper into a fiscal abyss. Republicans are proposing commonsense solutions that will make the Federal student loan program seaworthy.

The REAL Reforms Act provides targeted relief for those that need it most instead of stealing from taxpayers to provide ineffective and expensive bailouts.

This legislation also provides practical solutions for the underlying problems plaguing higher education.

These are the kinds of policies we need, policies that will make our Federal student loan program capable of serving borrowers without throwing taxpayers overboard.

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

HOT FERC SUMMER

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the work that we did to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, the single largest investment in climate action in American history.

Thanks to the IRA, not only will we see expanded access to lower energy

costs, but we will also lower emissions and give our children a better shot at an inhabitable planet. But if we are going to build all that clean generation and connect it to all those new loads from electric vehicles to heat pumps, we are going to have to enhance our electric grid, and that is not going to happen without an independent, fully staffed Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, as they say in the streets.

Now you all remember that last year, as we worked on what became the Inflation Reduction Act, the White House had not acted to fill a vacancy at FERC, and FERC was frozen into inaction. We needed a hot FERC summer, and this Chamber—along with Megan Thee Stallion, Fergie and Dolly Parton—delivered.

Yet now, we are on the verge of freezing again. This time, because the Senate has failed to act to reconfirm Chairman Glick.

Just at the moment when we need to expedite transmission permitting reform to ensure cheap, reliable energy and fix power markets, FERC is again on the brink of being deadlocked.

So with a little help from Rihanna this time, it is my duty to once again remind the legislative branch of our desperate need to FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC.

Climate change is urgent. Capital markets are mobilizing in response to the Inflation Reduction Act. There is no time to have us lurking.

To be blunt, Mr. Chair:

I do nuh like it, and you know I have dealt with it the nicest . . . but this delay is nuh righteous . . . and now we are in a crisis.

A deadlocked FERC would eliminate up to 80 percent of the emissions reductions created by the IRA. We need them working now to ensure that we can rapidly bolster interregional grid connections, shorten interconnection queues, and reform the siting and cost allocation processes that doom so many projects today.

Sing with me, Mr. Chairman.

We got to FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC.

You can do it. Come on.

To my colleagues in the Senate, the eyes of the Nation, and of this Chamber are on you.

We will never, no, never neglect you. We do not hold your past against you. But you need to get this done, done, done, done, done, done.

Our utilities, our electricians, our consumers, and our planet believed you when you said that failure to ensure comprehensive permitting reform was, "not an option." But now they are asking whether you really believed that.

Did you really mean it when you said you would give them "something that they'd never seen"? Or are they right now when they cry that this is just a dream of "something that you've never been"?

It is time for the Senate to give our energy markets reasons to believe in "all their dreams, their adoration".

They don't have "much more patience".

We need them to con-firm, firm, firm, firm, firm, firm.

A person who will work, work, work, work, work, work.

To ensure that we can FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC.

Mr. Speaker, "What else I say? I am tryin', babe."

FENTANYL

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, we have seen the devastating toll of fentanyl and its analogs all across America. A drug that is cheap to manufacture and, unfortunately, incredibly potent, to the point that it is now the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 49; over three decades of life.

Since July, the seizure of fentanyl at our southern border has averaged 2,200 pounds a month, meaning that our Border Patrol agents are now confiscating more fentanyl in a single month than they did in the entirety of 2018.

These are not just statistics in a government report.

Last week, I spoke to the parents who had lost a son to an accidental overdose. A vibrant, intelligent college student who had a mixture of cocaine and fentanyl sold to him, and he lost his life.

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As I speak today, the first responders, police officers, and coroners in Pennsylvania tell me stories about how potent these drugs have become and how a single dose of Narcan is often no longer enough medication to revive a person who is suffering from an overdose.

These drugs are increasing in potency and, unfortunately, in affordability as drug cartels in Mexico have begun to manufacture and sell these drugs for the cost of a cup of coffee.

The human cost of this epidemic has been staggering, and it is in our rural areas that constituents are suffering the most.

We must recommit ourselves to the unfinished work of addressing this crisis. We need to invest in our communities and give our police officers and medical professionals the tools that they need to save lives and protect our neighborhoods and communities.

Unless we in Congress act, the fentanyl analogues that have become so deadly will become legal on American streets in just 3 days. The clock is ticking.

Our constituents are counting on us to address this issue. They are counting on us to permanently ban fentanyl analogues that have claimed thousands of American lives.

We need to work together to address this issue and ban permanently the

fentanyl analogues that have taken such a grave toll on all American communities.

RECOGNIZING RAFAEL "RALPH" DUARTE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a champion for our local veterans, Rafael "Ralph" Duarte, and to thank him for his years of service to our communities.

Tomorrow, Ralph will transition after 10 years with the Riverside County Department of Veteran Services, where he has built a legacy as a fierce advocate, pillar of strength, and beacon of hope for Riverside County veterans.

Ralph was born in Delano, California, and graduated from Coachella Valley High School. He is a decorated Army veteran, having served for 4 years in Iraq and Afghanistan with the 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

After he returned home from the battlefield, he settled in Indio, California, and immediately got to work.

He has helped thousands of veterans recover their earned benefits that were denied to them by local, State, and Federal agencies over the years. In fact, it is estimated that he has helped local veterans and their families obtain \$55 million in monetary benefits. That is \$55 million to get them the care they need, the salary they have earned, and the recognition they deserve.

He truly goes above and beyond to serve others, even making home visits just to help elderly veterans fill out the necessary paperwork to get their VA benefits and care.

Ralph has participated in hundreds of community events. From community forums with the VFW, to our county's annual Veterans Expo, to my Veterans University, Ralph has always been there to greet veterans with a friendly smile, make them feel at home, and connect them with the resources they need.

His compassion, professionalism, and hard work has changed the lives of countless veterans for the better. His dedication, leadership, and advocacy have made Riverside County an even more welcoming place to those who served.

Ralph has always said that he is doing God's work in caring for those who have served and sacrificed to protect our Nation, and I couldn't agree more. Our local veterans have been truly blessed to have him fighting on their behalf.

So I thank Ralph for all that he has done. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I wish Ralph, along with his wife, Rachel, and children, Ralph, Abram, and James, the best of luck in their next adventure.

HONORING TRIBAL CHAIRMAN RICHARD MILANOVICH

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a visionary leader and trail-

blazer, Tribal Chairman Richard Milanovich, who served the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for nearly 30 years.

Chairman Milanovich was a powerhouse who came from humble beginnings. He grew up poor in Palm Springs, and his family survived on nutrition assistance.

He went on to serve our Nation as an infantryman in the U.S. Army for 3 years before returning to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians reservation.

In 1984, he was elected as Tribal chairman, ushering in a new age of prosperity for the Tribe. His impact spread far and wide, and he is still revered as a change-maker for Tribes throughout California and the entire Nation.

We celebrate Chairman Milanovich's memory and legacy by renaming the Palm Springs post office in his honor.

HONORING MARINE CORPS CORPORAL HUNTER LOPEZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, my constituent who was killed in action while serving our Nation at the Kabul airport on August 25, 2021.

Yesterday, this body honored his legacy by unanimously passing legislation to designate the La Quinta post office in his memory.

Corporal Lopez was the embodiment of service. He lived his life with a larger purpose in mind, a purpose of serving our country and contributing to something greater than himself.

With the Marine Corps, he aided the largest airlift in human history, evacuating over 120,000 of our fellow Americans and allies.

Corporal Lopez worked up until his last moment to save others. Now, his story is forever entwined with our Nation's, and it is my hope that with this legislation, future generations will come to know his legacy of remarkable service, compassion, and heroism.

OBSERVATIONS AND GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, it has been the honor of my life to serve in this distinguished body on behalf of the people of southwest Washington.

As I look around this Chamber, I am flooded with memories, thinking about everything that has happened in this room, both good and bad, in the 12 years since I first took my oath.

I can remember driving my 1990s vintage Ford Explorer across the country, with my husband of 3 months, in late December 2010 to get here in time for swearing in. I was ready to do my very best for my home region and Congress.

Some things haven't changed. I still have that Ford Explorer; my husband is every bit the rock now that he was then; and I have never compromised