

Paraguay has been a valued ally in addressing regional challenges, such as the crisis in Venezuela, counternarcotics efforts, intellectual property rights protection, and combating illicit activities such as money laundering and human trafficking. Paraguayan commitment to combating illegal activity in the tri-border area and participating in anti-terrorism training demonstrates its dedication to regional security. I am confident President-elect Palacios, upon assuming office on August 15th, will effectively lead Paraguay and carry forward the positive momentum achieved thus far.

I am grateful for the commitment of the President-elect to continue to strengthen the historic ties between Paraguay and Taiwan, as diplomatic relations date back more than six decades.

Amidst pressure from the Chinese Communist Party, Taiwan continues to face adversities to keep their allies who acknowledge them as a sovereign nation. It is important that the United States and Paraguay remain devoted to our unwavering support of Taiwan. Paraguay stands with democracies promoting rule of law being opposed by authoritarians imposing rule of gun.

Paraguay is well represented in the United States by dynamic Ambassador José Antonio Dos Santos.

DEBT LIMIT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, one of the cardinal rules of negotiation is never to negotiate when you have a gun pointed at your head. The rationale is self-evident. One of the parties—namely, the party which is staring down the barrel of the gun—is more than likely going to either get the short end of the deal or, worse, end up dead.

In the case of the debt limit negotiations currently underway between President Biden and Speaker McCARTHY, the risk isn't just that one of the parties will be unhappy with an agreement. If the United States defaults on the federal debt for the first time in the nation's history, it will risk a devastating wound to financial markets at home and around the world, push our country into a recession, erase 7.8 million jobs, and wipe out as much as \$10 trillion in household wealth.

The crisis, of course, is a manufactured one. The national debt has increased under every presidential administration since Herbert Hoover. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, Congress has acted 78 separate times to permanently raise, temporarily extend, or revise the definition of the debt limit—49 times under Republican presidents and 29 times under Democratic presidents.

Republicans aren't interested in getting our fiscal house in order. They don't want to address entitlement programs, which are the big drivers of projected spending growth. They don't want to touch raising revenues or cuts to military spending.

Instead, Republicans are aiming their weapon at nondefense discretionary spending. They want to slash funding for our nation's schools, our national parks, our farmers, and

our police officers. Nondefense discretionary spending only accounts for 15 percent of the \$6.3 trillion the government is expected to spend this year.

Republicans even want to take money away from health care for our nation's veterans. Their Default on America Act would underfund programs that help our veterans exposed to burn pits by \$20 billion.

America must pay its bills as it has always done. At a time when America is facing many challenges at home and abroad—from inflation to competition with China to the ongoing war in Ukraine—we must ensure that our word is trusted. In the end, we must do what is right and raise the debt ceiling without any conditions and especially without a gun pointed at our heads.

MAGA REPUBLICANS DEFAULT ON AMERICA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to demand that Republicans fulfill their job and pay America's bills.

House Republicans have rushed out of town knowing that they are essentially forcing a default that will be extremely expensive for families.

We know what comes next: unemployment will double, retirement savings will be lost, and costs for everything from mortgages to vehicle payments will increase.

Extreme MAGA Republicans, though, are still to blame for America's current economic disaster. They have departed town, leaving behind working families.

Democrats have come together to resolve the debt without playing political games. Republicans who identify as "moderate" cannot hide. Either they side with Team Extreme, or they join us to end this crisis.

HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 467, the HALT Fentanyl Act.

Mr. Chair, this bill is not a solution to the proliferation of Fentanyl Related Substances (FRS) in America. We need legislation that will actually save lives while stopping illicit drug sales.

There are lifesaving, bipartisan bills like the SAFE Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative PAPPAS, that work with the medical community to protect medically beneficial FRSs. The SAFE Act also prevents harmful mandatory minimum sentences for people who may not even know they have a Fentanyl Related Substance in their possession. These are necessary guardrails that Republicans' HALT Fentanyl Act fails to include.

Congress should not be playing doctor, but instead pass a comprehensive bill that reflects

the input of medical professionals, addiction specialists, researchers, and law enforcement. Republicans are trying to present a "quick and easy" solution to a complex problem.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CLAIRE

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mike Claire, Chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District, upon his retirement after 34 years of dedicated service to our community.

Mike Claire joined the faculty at College of San Mateo in 1988 after working for a major public accounting firm, and just eight years after enrolling as a student at Canada College in Redwood City, and earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master in Business Administration degrees from California State University, East Bay. During his time as a faculty member, Mike Claire represented the Academic Senate on many college committees and served as chair of College of San Mateo's Curriculum Committee.

In 1997, Mike Claire was appointed as Dean of the Technology Division at College of San Mateo and he worked with faculty and staff to support the development of several new career and technical education programs including Digital Media, Network Cabling, Instrumentation and Process Control Systems, new curriculum for the College's apprenticeship programs, a Paramedic Apprenticeship Program, and a full POST-certified police academy.

Mike Claire served as the Vice President of Instruction at College of San Mateo from 2005 to 2006, and during that time, he worked with instructional deans to support new curriculum development, with faculty to develop the college's initial policies concerning the use of faculty computers and other technologies, and with high school and college stakeholders to expand the Middle College High School program.

In January 2007, Mike Claire was appointed as President of College of San Mateo and worked with stakeholders to guide the college through two successful accreditation visits. He currently serves as a Commissioner on the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). In addition, Mike Claire worked with college constituencies to develop several programs designed for underserved students, including learning communities and other programs that provide direct support to students. Mike Claire oversaw approximately \$350 million of new construction and renovation for the College of San Mateo campus. During his tenure, College of San Mateo was recognized as an Aspen Top 150 College, making the College eligible to compete for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

In August 2019, Mike Claire was appointed as the Acting Chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District, and as Interim Chancellor of the District in September 2019, serving in that capacity until his appointment as Chancellor in July 2020. Mike Claire skillfully guided the District and its three colleges through both internal and external challenges, most notably ensuring the District's

mission was fulfilled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mike Claire is a life-long San Mateo County resident, and he has engaged with and supported our community through his service on numerous boards including the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce, Notre Dame High School, the South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium and the San Mateo Credit Union.

A great leader leaves an organization stronger than when they arrive. By that measure, Mike Claire has not only been a great leader, he has been a thoughtful steward in protecting, preserving, and enhancing the San Mateo County Community College District and its three colleges, most notably his beloved College of San Mateo. Mike Claire has dedicated his career to serving students and he leaves a legacy of countless lives touched and improved through his efforts. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike Claire on his retirement, commending him for his tireless dedication of time and talent, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING MR. EARL D.
MCMILLAN, SR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine and Vietnam Veteran, Earl D. McMillan, Sr.

Today, Mr. McMillan will be rightfully celebrated when he receives an honorary diploma at Citrus County High School. Earl had previously earned his diploma at seventeen, before continuing his education and ultimately earning a master's degree in business administration and serving as a college professor for 28 years. However, Earl deployed for Vietnam before his high school graduation ceremony, beginning a military career spanning over 20 years, resulting in his inability to walk across the high school stage to pick up his physical diploma. Today, Earl will be able to walk across the stage and receive his diploma, and we will all be able to celebrate his life of service and accomplishment.

I thank Mr. McMillan for his many years of service to our country and am humbled to be able to help honor him for his accomplishments.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL
DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE
SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRON-
MENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RELATING TO "CONTROL OF AIR
POLLUTION FROM NEW MOTOR
VEHICLES: HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE
AND VEHICLE STANDARDS"

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, S.J. Res. 11 makes clear House Republicans are

only interested in fighting for baseless, dangerous pollution control rollbacks that benefit polluters, not the American people. The Biden Administration's Heavy-Duty NO_x standard is common sense, realistic, and the way forward to protect the American people's health. 1 in 3 Americans are living in counties with unhealthy air pollution. This includes more than 100 million people—including 23.6 million children and 15.4 million people 65 or older—living in areas with high levels of ozone pollution—which the trucking sector is a large contributor to. According to the American Lung Association, a widespread transition to zero-emission transportation by 2050 will generate over \$72 billion in avoided health costs, save approximately 6,300 lives, and prevent more than 93,000 asthma attacks and 416,000 lost workdays each year. Heavy Duty Vehicle pollution is dangerous and has been linked to numerous health concerns including asthma, heart disease, and cancer. Children, whose little lungs are still developing, are particularly at risk, as are the more than 72 million Americans—often communities of color and low-income communities—who live within 200 meters of Heavy-Duty Vehicle freight routes. Back home in my backyard, the Progress Village and Palm River communities have been facing the cumulative burdens of air pollution from heavy-duty trucks for decades. Dating all the way back to the historic systematic racist redlining that cut a thriving African American community in half with a highway. The standard would reduce exposure to traffic pollution that is linked to heart disease and lung cancer mortality, asthma onset in both children and adults, and acute lower respiratory infections in children. All of which, my constituents back home in Progress Village and Palm River have been battling for decades. In addition, NO_x emissions can cause lifelong lung damage, and interact with sunlight to form ground-level ozone and particulate matter pollution. The standard will significantly reduce nitrogen oxide emissions (by cutting it nearly in half) and prevent 2,900 premature deaths annually. This higher exposure burdens underserved residents with adverse health outcomes and higher healthcare costs. This Republican resolution will harm health of the American people and environment, and the health of American pocketbooks.

It is obvious, yet again, Republicans are too focused on protecting the profits of polluters instead of protecting the American people. The science behind this standard is clear—and the response by industry was even clearer. EPA engaged robustly with trucking, engine manufacturing, and other industry stakeholders throughout the rulemaking process. The period for filing a petition for judicial review closed on March 27, and no lawsuits were filed against this standard. Let me repeat that, no lawsuits were filed. The standard requires incremental improvement based on the same types of technology already deployed in heavy-duty diesel trucks. The biggest difference truck operators will see on new trucks is an increase in the required manufacturing warranty period from 100,000 miles to 450,000 miles, which should reduce their maintenance costs. The standard includes one of the most important transportation vehicles that every American is familiar with, especially our own children, the school bus. The Biden Harris Administration have been committed to protecting our environment, our children, and our future.

The Clean School Bus Program, created with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides \$5 billion over the next five years to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. This will provide cleaner air—through electric and alternatively-fueled buses eliminate or reduce school bus exhaust, which is linked to asthma. This will provide reduced health risks—especially for children whose lungs are still developing. This will provide—reduced greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change. This will even provide grid resilience. Through the usage of bidirectional chargers, school buses can store energy for distribution to the grid when needed. It is essential that we protect our children, our future. And if this resolution passes, we will be doing exactly the opposite—shouldn't we all want a future for our children? It is clear my colleagues across the aisle don't want to protect the American people, or our children, but only the profits of polluters. I urge my colleagues to not support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND NELL
FIELDS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Nell Fields and her commitment to both the Waquoit Congregational Church and the people of Cape Cod.

The youngest of five daughters, Nell was raised in Kentucky, where her father was stationed at Fort Knox as an Army officer. Nell attended the University of Kentucky and graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in journalism in 1981. Nell then went on to receive her Master of Fine Arts in English as a graduate fellow at Mills College in Oakland, California.

Nell worked in a variety of positions over the years in the publishing, financial services, and technology sectors, but after her bus was evacuated in Manhattan on September 11, 2001, Nell felt a strong calling to ministry. The CEO of Clickshare at the time, Nell started taking courses at the Andover Newton Theological School in 2002. After four years of attending part time, Nell enrolled in school full time and later graduated with her Master of Divinity in 2008.

During her time at the Andover Newton Theological School, Nell was required to serve as a pastoral resident in a hospital. Believing that it was important to increase the number of chaplains within the mental health field, Nell worked at the Westborough State Psychiatric Hospital and served as the chaplain for three years. Nell then worked at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, where she also helped to create an animal therapy program. Nell has continued her service in the mental health field at the Waquoit Congregational Church by collaborating with the Gosnold Center to set up a series of workshops addressing addiction.

Now the Rector of the Waquoit Congregational Church, Nell first joined the congregation in 2010 as the church's first female pastor. Throughout Nell's time at Waquoit, she has established herself as a pillar of the Falmouth community and has continuously worked to ensure that all who come to the