

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HANNAH CASTILLO WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS HONORING AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor exceptional female leaders throughout our Nation who have recently been recognized as “Christian Women of Distinction” by She Leads America.

While I strive to lead by example for my constituents back home in Michigan, I understand that not everyone looks to Washington politics for role models. Thankfully, we do not need to look far to be inspired by individuals led by their strong faith, moral values, and unwavering dedication to their communities. Today, I am proud to honor some of the women who through their hard work and tireless dedication have brought great inspiration to many throughout the world.

As a United States Representative, it is both my sacred and constitutional obligation to remain steadfast in my commitment to the defense of religious freedom. Now more than ever, we must safeguard religious liberty to ensure that each of these women and those I serve never have to compromise their religious beliefs.

One of the women honored by She Leads America, Hannah Castillo, has dedicated much of her career to promoting Christian causes nationally. In the world of politics, Hannah is one of the youngest to have served a senior role on a presidential campaign. In 2016, she was named Campaign Manager of the Year by the San Diego County Republican Party and has contributed valuable advice to many. Today, Hannah is with Prayer House DC, a ministry dedicated to worship and community.

Mr. Speaker, these women, including Hannah, have left an indelible mark on countless lives. They are pioneers whose examples have—and will continue to—inspire many. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering dedication. This honor is truly well-deserved.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this extreme MAGA measure. The 260,000 dedicated men and women who served honorable on the frontlines protecting our Nation’s borders,

skies, waterways, and critical infrastructure are watching the House with great anxiety. They are just days away from being told that they will have to work indefinitely without pay or alternatively, will not be able to work at all and support their households. And when they turn their eyes to this chamber, what do they see? And what are House Republicans doing about it? Are they taking decisive action to forestall the devastating impact of the shutdown on DHS’ ability to carry out its vital missions? Regrettably, no.

Instead, consumed by infighting, they have decided to rally around an extreme MAGA DHS funding bill that will most certainly never be transmitted to the Senate. Yes, you heard that right. With the passage of the rule, at the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 4367, the Speaker will set aside this bill until H.R. 2, the “Child Deportation Act” is enacted. H.R. 2 will never be law.

Forcing the House to engage in prolonged debate on dozens and dozens of extreme MAGA amendments instead of a continuing resolution to avert a catastrophic government shutdown is a terrible waste of the little time we have. The most extreme wing of the Republican party has hijacked what was supposed to be an orderly appropriations process.

House Republicans go on and on about wanting to save money but they pay little mind to the hundreds of millions of dollars in costs, lost revenue, and late fees associated with shutting down and restarting the government. The U.S. travel sector alone is projecting economic losses in excess of \$140 million a day during this impending shutdown.

House Republicans say they care about the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol yet are asking them to work without knowing when their next paycheck will come. A government shutdown will negatively impact the Department of Homeland Security’s ability to address everything from cybersecurity threats posed by China to supporting disaster preparedness at the local level.

Mr. Chair, we do not have enough time to get into all the damaging effects of the forthcoming shutdown on DHS. They are too numerous. I will, instead, use my remaining time to talk about House Republicans’ proposed Homeland Security funding bill. It is so loaded with hyper-partisan culture war nonsense that I almost don’t know where to begin.

H.R. 4367 includes policy riders to restrict inspections on immigration detention centers to ensure that facilities that they want to fill to the rafters are providing appropriate care. Catering to the fringe elements in their base, it prohibits gender-affirming care for immigrants held in detention and slashes funding from critically-important oversight offices intended to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of Americans.

Mr. Chair, my Republican colleagues assert that their extreme MAGA bill would give more money than ever, but they have little interest in ensuring that that oversight mechanism are actually funded to make sure the money is not wasted. I urge my colleagues to vote against

this toxic, short-sighted, and needlessly cruel bill.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4365—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

As with all the additional appropriation bills up for consideration on the House Floor, I strongly oppose the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons—including the following:

It is disappointing this bill does not include funding for a new Southwest Border Contingency Fund. This fund would enable DHS to respond more effectively to changing conditions on the Southwest border and fulfill its critical and complementary missions of securing the border, performing efficient and effective screening and processing, and meeting the Nation’s humanitarian obligations.

It also shameful that this bill seeks to eliminate the Shelter and Services Program, a priority grant program for DHS that provides temporary food, shelter, and other services to state and local entities and nongovernmental organizations that provide support to migrants who are released from DHS custody. This grant program is a key mechanism for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to relieve overcrowding in short-term holding facilities.

This bill further fails to provide appropriations for USCIS application processing and grant programs. Without this funding, USCIS would be unable to improve its operations and the application processing backlog would continue to grow in FY 2024.

It is absolutely abhorrent that this bill eliminates the TVTP grant program. TVTP provides funding to nonprofits and to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop multidisciplinary targeted violence and terrorism prevention capabilities in local communities, to pilot innovative prevention approaches, and to identify prevention best practices that can be replicated in communities across the Nation.

Targeting violence and terrorism at our borders and throughout our Nation is the only way we will be able to combat the incredibly intricate and widespread webs of trafficking run by violent gangs and terrorists.

The ability to combat human trafficking and missing and exploited children depends on the ability of jurisdictions, organizations, and programs to receive government funding and support.

I also stand with the Administration in strongly opposing section 220 of the bill, which would prohibit U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from using appropriated funds to carry out the Administration’s immigration enforcement priorities, as well as the

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

requirement in the bill for ICE to fill 41,500 detention beds and enroll all nondetained migrants in Alternatives to Detention. These requirements are unrealistic, pose implementation challenges, and would dilute the Department's focus on protecting America from security threats.

This bill wrongfully eliminates funding for the Young Adult Case Management Program, as well as for Operation Horizon, and grant funds for a case management pilot program. These restrictions would simultaneously strain limited resources and remove valuable flexibilities in managing low-risk populations.

Prohibiting the transport of noncitizens to interior locations risks overcrowding at border processing sites and other DHS facilities, threatening to exacerbate life and safety concerns of those in custody.

Section 222 of the bill is also particularly harmful, which would make it more difficult to access lawful reproductive healthcare. I stand in strong opposition to this section, which targets LGBTQI+ individuals who are in ICE detention.

This bill further prohibits the use of funds to implement the Administration's Asylum Processing Rule—which serves as a key part of the Administration's efforts to streamline the immigration system, allowing USCIS Asylum Officers to hear and decide certain asylum claims in the first instance.

I further oppose the bill's prohibition on using funds to implement the Administration's Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Rule. The Rule encourages migrants to use lawful, safe, and orderly processes for entering the United States; imposes conditions on asylum eligibility for those who fail to do so or fail to seek protection in a country through which they transit; and supports the swift return of migrants who do not have valid protection claims. The bill would undermine DHS's continued ability to safely, effectively, and humanely enforce and administer U.S. immigration law.

I also strongly oppose the bill's restrictions on using the CBP One application. A key part of the Administration's efforts to foster fair and orderly conditions at the border, the CBP One application allows border officials to screen migrants seeking asylum along the Southwest border, and issue them a document to appear in court upon their arrival.

Lastly, I oppose the homeland security appropriation bill for its rescission and reappropriation of \$2.1 billion in border wall funding. Building a border wall is not a serious policy solution nor is it a responsible use of Federal funds.

In addition, certain provisions of this bill raise separation of powers concerns, including by conditioning the Executive's authority to take certain actions on receiving the approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

This bill does nothing to advance our ability to fund our government appropriately and responsibly. And it also does nothing to prevent a shutdown, which is what we should be focusing our time on preventing.

Aside from being built on a foundation of reneging on the budget agreement that was just signed into law, the 2024 Homeland Security funding bill squanders billions of dollars on misguided border measures, while disregarding the threats presented by terrorists, transnational criminals, and violent extremists.

As outlined above and summarized below, this legislation:

Wastes over \$3.7 billion on ineffective border security and immigration policies, while failing to address the ongoing fentanyl and opioid crisis and doing nothing to address the growing requirements at our ports of entry and interior Border Patrol checkpoints—thus, providing a false sense of national security by spending billions on outdated and expensive border wall, leaving our ports of entry and interior Border Patrol checkpoints vulnerable to the trafficking of fentanyl and other illicit narcotics.

Eliminates critical funding for CBP's border management requirements, \$2.4 billion below 2023 levels, and fails to fund a third Joint Processing Center—thus, cutting necessary funding to manage the border safely and securely, putting our DHS workforce and our border communities at risk.

Cuts requested funding to combat terrorism, extremism, and cybersecurity attacks by over \$232 million—thereby, weakening our national security through inadequate cybersecurity and infrastructure security investments, opening the U.S. to increased cyberattacks and foreign adversary influence and failing to protect our communities from violent extremists, underfunding programs that enhance regional preparedness and response capabilities, making our communities less secure.

Guts funding for climate-change, climate-resiliency, and facilities transformation initiatives by over \$748 million—thus, leaving Americans vulnerable to the growing number and increasing severity of natural disasters by failing to deliver needed resources to mitigate the loss of life and property, combat climate change, and support climate resilience.

Reverses our commitments to the TSA workforce cutting funding for workforce pay and collective bargaining initiatives by over \$469 million from the request—thus, undermining the Transportation Security Administration workforce by unfairly implementing the pay restructuring we committed to last Congress.

Slashes funding for humanitarian programs by over \$796 million, including family reunification efforts, immigration detention oversight, the Citizenship and Integration Grant program, and refugee processing—mandating ICE maintain no less than 41,500 detention beds and requires all individuals on the non-detained docket enrolled into the Alternatives to Detention Program be on GPS monitoring program throughout the duration of their immigration proceedings without the funding to implement.

Reduces funding for diversity and inclusion efforts by over \$12.5 million—thereby, setting us back as a nation not only in critical recruitment and retention, but in our morals, standards and liberties as Americans representing and fighting for and on behalf of a nation that can only elevate through advancements in diversity and embracing inclusivity.

This offensive and irresponsible appropriations bill is a shameful effort to target underserved, underrepresented, and vulnerable populations while only weakening our Nation's defenses and resiliency.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

RECOGNIZING CHARMAINE HEDDING WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS HONORING AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

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OF MICHIGAN

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One of the women honored by She Leads America, Charmaine Hedding, is a global development manager in the non-profit sector. In this role, she focuses on the protection of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East and Africa. A fierce proponent of religious freedom, she has also assisted in many humanitarian projects, including the evacuation of over 9,000 people from Afghanistan. Today, she also consults for government agencies, authorities, and faith-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, these women, including Charmaine, have left an indelible mark on countless lives. They are pioneers whose examples have—and will continue to—inspire many. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering dedication. This honor is truly well-deserved.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF RICHARD CALABRESE

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Chief Richard Calabrese who is being honored by Temple Sinai in Cinnaminson, New Jersey, for his unwavering commitment to community safety and combating antisemitism.

Richard has been the epitome of service both in his professional and personal life. After serving our country in the United States Marine Corps, he began his long career in law enforcement with the Camden County Park Police before eventually joining the Cinnaminson Township Police Department in 2004. For eight years, Richard took the time to enhance his skills within the computer forensic