

One of the things that most people don't realize is that when you go to the emergency room and are waiting in line behind a lot of people who came here illegally, you are not only waiting in line behind them but you are also paying for their bills. Many people are coming across the border to receive treatment for their chronic illnesses that cost millions of dollars per year, and those are several patients per hospital. We are talking about billions, even tens of billions of dollars, spent on people who come here illegally. It comes from taxpayer money, both out of your pocket and through your taxation, which adds to our debt, which, of course, is going to be paid for by our children.

To make it worse, we punish those people who come here the right way. In my district, we have a huge immigrant population, people who come here from all over the world, whether it be India, Europe, South America, and they have to wait in line with a glutted immigration policy that makes it very difficult for them to follow the law. Meanwhile, we reward those people who break the law.

I think we need to change our laws. I think we need to make it more streamlined for people who follow the law, who are good citizens, who paid their taxes, who have jobs, who create jobs, and make it more difficult for people who break laws.

I think, right now, when you talk about the overwhelming number of people coming across the border, and when you have the President go down there and have the borders cleaned up so he can view something that doesn't really exist, which is a problem where we don't protect our sovereign border, which is one of the President's main responsibilities; where you have people's property violated; where you have people's rights violated; where you have crimes.

Of course, as an emergency medicine physician, this last year I lost four patients who came in from fentanyl overdoses that I was not able to revive. Now, almost every single night, I do revive somebody, so it is something I literally witness almost every single shift, usually several times per shift.

The opioid crisis is real, and it is something that is killing over 100,000 Americans per year. Every year, we are setting a new record, and we have done nothing of consequence to really stem that tide.

I think it is with the greatest earnest appeal to my fellow Republicans and Democrats that we watch after our own house. It is okay to be compassionate. It is okay to reach out and help people, but we have to do it the right way.

Most importantly, we have to make laws that encourage good behavior, that people coming here are rewarded for following the laws. They are rewarded with citizenship when they do the right thing, and we are punishing people who come here with ill intent.

Finally, I would like to point out that we are experiencing diseases here

in America we haven't seen in decades. Where is it coming from? It is because we don't have good screening procedures.

It used to be, to come to America, you couldn't even come here if you had glaucoma. Now you can come here with every kind of disease process there is, and we will never even know that you are even here.

If you look at the terrorists coming across the border—we know that we have at least nine terrorists we have caught in the last month, but we don't know how many got away. It is because we have poor border security.

So, it is not just for one thing; it is for many things that we need to secure our border, make sure that we are a sovereign Nation, and follow the law.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MARK BUTLER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark Butler and his service to the State of Georgia as our Commissioner of Labor.

Mark has dedicated his entire life to serving the great State of Georgia. He served in the Georgia State House of Representatives for 8 years, where he had the distinct honor of being my suitemate.

In January 2011, Mark became Georgia's ninth Commissioner of Labor, and the first Republican to head the department.

Since Mark's first election, he has implemented many programs designed to improve the agency's relationships with employers, jobseekers, and Georgia's future workforce.

In 2013, he formed the Business Service Unit. This program was designed to foster mutually beneficial relationships with Georgia's employers and economic developers.

□ 1030

In 2014, he developed the Labor Department's newest program, Customized Recruitment. This program bridges the gap between employers and job seekers.

A committed public servant, statesman, and friend, I thank Mark for his leadership and his hard work.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JON BURNS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my friend, Jon Burns, for becoming the new Speaker of the Georgia State House of Representatives.

Jon has dedicated his entire life to serving the great State of Georgia. He was elected to the Georgia State House in 2004. During his first session in the Georgia State House, Jon and I were suitemates. Since then, I have enjoyed getting to know Jon and his family and he has become a dear friend.

In 2015, Jon was chosen to serve as the Georgia House majority leader and would eventually be elected as the 74th

Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives. During his time in the State legislature, Jon has worked to bring environmentally balanced economic development, world-class healthcare, quality education, and improved education to Georgia.

There is no one more deserving of the speakership than Jon Burns. I look forward to seeing all that he can accomplish and wish him a long and successful tenure.

On behalf of myself and the First District of Georgia, I thank him for all he does.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Georgia's Archway Partnership on their recent award, the C. Peter Magrath Award for Community Engagement.

This award is the highest award for public service bestowed by the national Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The University of Georgia's Archway Partnership is nationally recognized for the resources and expertise it provides to rural communities.

Since its founding in 2005, the program's partnership has attracted hundreds of faculty and over 1,500 students to help Georgia communities secure more economic development opportunities. Programs like these are critical to ensuring that all areas of the State, rural and urban, can grow and take advantage of their unique situations.

They also give students the opportunity to face real-world problems. From economic development to preventative healthcare to broadening access and more, this partnership works to solve the most pressing issues of our time.

Additionally, this award comes with a \$20,000 prize, which will be used to broaden the scope of what the partnership can take on.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jere Morehead on his leadership at the university and in this program. I am proud of the work that the faculty and students at my alma mater have done to build up the rural communities around our State.

On behalf of the entire First District of Georgia, I thank them for their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THIAGO ALMADA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thiago Almada as the first Major League Soccer player to win the World Cup.

Thiago was on the Argentinean team that won a thrilling 4-2 penalty shootout over France to win the World Cup. Argentina's win gave Lionel Messi his first World Cup trophy, which has eluded his storybook career.

When he is not representing Argentina, Thiago plays for Georgia's Atlanta United. During the 2022 season, Thiago started 25 of 29 games and scored six goals. He also had 12 assists and 77 on-target scoring attempts. In

2022, he was named the MLS Newcomer of the Year.

During the World Cup, Thiago made one appearance playing 6 minutes against Poland in the Group C finale. At just 21 years old, Thiago has a long career ahead of him.

Congratulations, Thiago. Continue to make Georgia proud.

PROTECT BORN ALIVE BABIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the unborn; for the protection and the defense of the most vulnerable among us.

I stand here today because this week the Republican majority is doing what the previous Congress refused to do, and that is uphold the right to life.

For far too long we have seen pro-life facilities vandalized and broken into. For far too long we have watched as Democrats refuse to protect born alive babies. Think about that for a moment. These babies are born alive, breathing outside the womb, and the Democrats want to kill them. They do not protect them.

This week, we right those wrongs and we defend life in America. It is well past time for the United States Congress, for this body, to uphold the guarantees laid out in the Declaration of Independence that we are endowed by our creator with the unalienable right to life.

WATER SUPPLY IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as we have observed, Western States are receiving much welcomed rainfall and snowpack. Indeed, some of the side effects are flooding and there are many mudslides that are affecting communities and transportation corridors.

This is on the heels of short rainfall years for at least the last 3 years. This year, rainfall numbers are good. They are at a pace where they are at their historical average or a little above in some areas. This is historical average long-term over non-drought years.

The last 3 years have seen dire water supplies for many people and allocations for farmers. In 2019, our lakes in California were basically full. You may recall in 2017, in my district, Lake Oroville had the spillway collapse due to lack of maintenance and checking its integrity over the years, but it was plumb full, 101 percent full, in 2017.

Our water projects in California were designed with the idea that they withstand 5 years of drought. With Lake Oroville being full as recently as 2019 and Lake Shasta nearly full as well, how is it that our State water projects and our Central Valley projects which are run by the Bureau of Reclama-

tion—being at these high levels—that Lake Oroville, for example, in 2021, only 2 years after being full, was basically so low on water that for the first time in the history of that lake it did not make hydroelectric power because the water levels were so low.

Lake Shasta, in 2022, an unprecedented cut in water supply, including to its neighbor right there in Shasta County, Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, received zero allocation because they couldn't deliver enough water to make it worth their while. In over 100 years of the existence of that district, this is the first time that they did not get to irrigate it.

These two dams were designed to withstand 5 years of drought, being full as recently as 2019. We had one running out in 2021 and the other basically being useless almost to agriculture in 2022, with drastic cuts all up and down the Sacramento River system.

What is going on here?

What is the State Water Project doing on the Feather River side, et cetera?

What is the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and CDP doing on the Sacramento River side that has changed?

They are not doing everything they can to hold water, even in drought years, that they could be holding. Why?

It is a mystery. We have the opportunity right now with these high flows. We have areas of California right in the Sacramento Valley that are being flooded out. They are running the pumps that are at the south end of the delta at about 18 percent on the State side and about 67 percent—not so bad—on the Federal level instead of taking full advantage of running those pumps as hard as they can and taking this excess water and relieving some of the flooding and putting it into a reservoir that will help our whole State withstand possible drought in the future.

Is this a drought year?

No, not as defined by lack of rainfall, as indeed we are at average, or we are above average in some areas. With the projection in January for a lot more rain coming, we might have a full normal water year or above. That would be good.

Our leaders in government in the agencies don't seem to feel the same urgency. At the same time they are talking that we have flood emergencies, they are still maintaining we have drought emergencies—not with this kind of rainfall.

Yes, we have low-lake problems, but that isn't how you define a drought. That is how you define lake management. That is how you define water management. It is not helping. We need to be running, at least, those two sets of pumps at 99 percent or 100 percent at the delta and filling up the San Luis Reservoir and allocating water to those recharge basins so the subsidence we are having in the San Joaquin Valley that everybody is worried about wouldn't be happening.

No, they want to just keep chugging along the way they are doing, especially on the State side. This is a disservice to all water users in California. At the same time, they don't really see a whole lot of need to cut back on environmental water that is very dubious in nature, if it is helping fish in the delta or anywhere else.

Indeed, they need a change of attitude at all of these levels of water management. These agencies don't seem to be on the side of growing food. I always bring this poster along so people can understand how much of their food is grown in California, a high percentage of these crops that only come from California that Americans consume.

If it is not grown in California, either you are not going to have it or you are going to have to import it from somewhere else.

Look at this: walnuts. Walnuts are having a devil of a time right now in their market. Tomatoes. If you want tomato paste for your pizza and your pasta, where is it going to come from? We are going to have to import all this stuff.

We need to have a much stronger and much smarter water policy, and that starts right in California, and it benefits the whole country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

On this day, O Lord our God, give us a fresh anointing, a sure sense of purpose and protection, as we execute the responsibilities You and the American people have entrusted to us.

And with Your Spirit in our midst, may we each walk in humility, with a healthy sense of our strengths and our weaknesses, our unique gifts and our vulnerabilities.

May we walk in gentleness, with the power we could wield under the authority of Your purpose. Guard us against our own inclinations to dominate or defend. But spur us to engage in kind disagreements and civil conversation.

Help us to walk in patience, to bear one another in love, a love born of selflessness and mercy, respect and forbearance.