

I look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle when they are ready to take seriously the very real threat of political violence, condemning such violence in all forms, rather than using this issue to stir up more division, chaos, and ultimately more violence.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IS IN DIRE STRAITS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our postsecondary education system is in dire straits. Reforms are more necessary now than ever.

To start with, income-driven repayment plans have left millions of borrowers trapped under a mountain of interest. Many of these borrowers have done everything right.

They have been faithful to make their monthly payments, yet years later find they have made little to no progress on their principal. This can be extremely frustrating, especially for those who realize they have already paid back the original cost of the loan. This is the kind of problem that needs to be fixed.

It is critical that we address the structural problems that plague our postsecondary education financing system for the students of tomorrow, but it is also crucial that we address the problems it has caused for the students who have already been harmed today.

That is why House Republicans put in the work and offered a solution that fixes this broken system. That solution begins with the REAL Reforms Act.

This legislation protects the interests of students and taxpayers by providing targeted relief for borrowers currently struggling while implementing lasting reforms to ensure it doesn't happen to future borrowers.

This legislation also implements reforms to simplify the number of repayment options and caps unlimited graduate lending while ensuring college remains accessible and affordable to all Americans, regardless of their financial circumstances.

It also saves taxpayers billions by eliminating runaway forgiveness programs that disproportionately benefit wealthier households.

Together, these reforms will lower the cost of college for students, families, and taxpayers.

In contrast, President Biden's radical student loan bailout will exacerbate tuition inflation while encouraging students to go deeper into debt.

Blanket loan cancellation to the tune of \$400 billion and enacting retroactive free college by expanding what were intended to be limited safety nets is fiscally irresponsible and morally indefensible.

Republicans and Democrats agree on the problems, and we must come together to work toward a solution.

For example, everyone agrees that postsecondary education should provide students and taxpayers a positive return on investment.

There is bipartisan consensus that the cost of nonrepayment can no longer fall squarely on taxpayers.

For far too long, colleges have been more focused on getting students in the door and have paid little mind to what happens once they are there or once they leave.

Again, there is bipartisan consensus that this too needs to change. It is time for Congress to come together and fix the mess created by these failed policies.

My Republican colleagues and I stand ready to work with the President and congressional Democrats to do so.

REPUBLICANS STAND FOR LIFE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans remain undeterred in our mission to protect the sanctity of human life and the rights of the unborn.

Today, we will pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and H. Con. Res. 3, which condemns violence against pro-life institutions and groups. By passing these two pieces of legislation, we are fulfilling the commitment we made to the American people to preserve a future that is built on freedom.

Over the last 2 years, the American people witnessed unprecedented attacks both on the unborn and those who stand for life. Today, we are turning that tide. House Republicans are sending a unified message to the entire country and the world: Our new House majority stands for life.

WATER AND DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the devastating impacts of droughts and floods that have been exacerbated in part by climate change in California but also around the country and around the world.

California is being battered with major storms bringing flooding and high winds across our State. Normally, we need the water but not quite at this level and at this measure.

We need to be taking advantage of the heavy precipitation to shore up our water supplies, to fill our State's critical reservoirs, and recharge our aquifers that have been depleted not only over decades but the last 3 years as a result of extreme drought.

The fact is, California gets most of its moisture, unlike parts of the country, from November to March. If we don't get it then, we don't get it at all.

The acceleration of the cycle of droughts and floods caused by climate change and more demands in California's water system, more people, more needs, have made it more difficult for

farmers to put food on America's dinner table. I know. I am a third-generation farmer.

Now, the ongoing storms and floods threaten to damage our crops. California's San Joaquin Valley, which I represent a part of, grows nearly a quarter of the United States' food and has been bearing the brunt of it all.

Since 2019, farmland in California has shrunk by 10 percent, resulting in over 750,000 acres of fallowed land. Nearly 12,000 agriculture jobs were lost statewide, representing a 2.8 percent decline. A total of 1.3 million acres were left unplanted compared to 2019, most of it within the San Joaquin Valley. Sadly, we see that example here. And the surface water deliveries in the valley were cut by nearly 43 percent; a complex State and Federal water system. Zero percent were to agricultural allocations. You can't grow food without water.

Our farmers feed the world, and they can't do that without a reliable water supply. Forty-four percent of California's agriculture is exported.

Last year, Congress enacted the bipartisan infrastructure law, the largest infrastructure investment since the Eisenhower administration. These projects must be accelerated to develop additional water storage and to expand access to water for farmers in the valley and throughout the State.

In these efforts, we secured \$1.15 billion for western agriculture water storage, an important first step; \$25 million for the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Authority, which increases 130,000 acre-feet of additional water storage; \$30 million for Sites Reservoir to pursue off-stream storage that will provide 1.5 million acre-feet of water; \$82 million for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir that will expand another 115,000 acre-feet of additional storage; and \$15 million to construct the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, another 82,000 acre-feet of off-stream storage.

If all of those would be in place today, that would be an additional 2 million acre-feet of additional water supply for California during these flood times. Unfortunately, these projects are not built. We must get about that business.

These investments, along with the ongoing Friant-Kern Canal construction already underway, show that we can and will improve our water system to sustain our future with climate change and other factors.

For decades, sadly, we did not make these investments, and we need to do so to protect our communities and farmland against extreme weather events for our country and for the world.

Water will rival energy in the next 10 years as to whether or not nation-states can live together amicably. It is critical.

Finally, we took a large step by investing in this bipartisan infrastructure. But the flooding that we see here obviously is our current, ongoing problem. Our Federal agencies must work

quickly, and we must use all of the water tools in our water toolbox to prevent future disasters like this from destroying our State and for other water basins, like the Colorado River and the Mississippi River. All of these are known to experience periodic flooding and periodic droughts. We must act now.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BILL STEINER

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Bill Steiner, who devoted his career to making Orange County a better place.

He held many elected positions, serving on the Orange Unified School District school board, the Orange City Council, and the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

However, his true passion was his work for children. Mr. Steiner founded the Orangewood Children's Home in Orange and the Good Samaritan Boy's Home in Corona. He also served on the board of directors for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for over 16 years.

While we miss him dearly, his legacy lives on and his organizations will have an untold impact on countless children.

He is also an active member of the Rotary Club of Orange. In that capacity, Mr. Steiner epitomized the motto "Service Above Self," and we are all better because of his tireless work. We will miss him dearly.

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CELEBRATING VILLA PARK'S 61ST BIRTHDAY

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the incorporation date of the city of Villa Park. Villa Park, known as the Hidden Jewel, was incorporated on this day in 1962 but was first settled around 1860.

Despite being the smallest incorporated city in California's 40th District, in both land and population, Villa Park has an outsized impact on our community. It is home to four public schools and is known for its charitable organizations and programs, such as Villa Park Rotary Club, Villa Park Women's League, and the Marine Thanksgiving program.

Villa Park's quiet neighborhoods, tree-lined streets, and low crime rate make the city an excellent place to live.

As your Representative, I am committed to doing all I can to help Villa Park continue to be a haven for families and workers striving toward their American Dream.

Happy 61st birthday, Villa Park.

RECOGNIZING KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Korean American Day.

Since the first Korean immigrants arrived on January 13, 1903, Korean

Americans have made their mark from sea to shining sea and have found success in the classroom, workplace, and even right here in Congress to make our Nation a better place.

As one of the first Korean-American women to serve in Congress, and as an immigrant from South Korea, today, I reflect on the sacrifices my family made in the aftermath of the Korean war to have the chance at a better life here in the United States.

I remain grateful for those who came before me and paved the way for someone like me to have a seat at the table, and I will always fight for freedom and opportunity for all Americans.

OPPOSING EXTREME ANTI-ABORTION AGENDA

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the extreme anti-abortion agenda that my colleagues on the other side are advancing, despite clear opposition across our country.

In November, Mr. Speaker, access to abortion care was on the ballot, and the American people rejected the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe and refused to allow far-right extremists to take away their right to bodily autonomy.

Voters in Vermont, in the Speaker's home State of California, and in my home State of Michigan codified abortion rights in their State constitutions.

Voters in Montana, as well as Kentucky, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL's home State, rejected attempts to restrict their access to reproductive freedom. Still, they are advancing a policy agenda to criminalize abortion nationwide with no exceptions for rape or incest.

Let me be clear: Abortion bans impact and endanger the lives of many of our residents, including those who live with disabilities.

We will have many fights ahead of us, Mr. Speaker, and I will continue to hold the line to push back against the policy violence by those who want to continue to inflict on the American people the extreme right agenda.

We will continue, my colleagues and I, to mobilize and organize a movement to secure reproductive justice across our Nation, and I will continue to fight like hell until abortion rights are restored as the law of the land.

PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the only Palestinian American serving in the United States Congress.

I feel a strong responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to humanize the Palestinian people who are living under increasingly oppressive and racist apartheid policies.

2022 was one of the deadliest in memory for Palestinians. Dozens of children were killed by the Government of Israel, and many were targeted. Groups

like DCI-Palestine that monitor these killings were targeted.

We cannot look away, Mr. Speaker, and gaslight the oppressive and violent policies toward the Palestinian people, who are experiencing, right now, literally, the taking away of their human dignity and their right to be able to freely live and raise their children without this type of targeting.

We can't keep handing over billions each year to an apartheid state violating human rights. We are dealing with a far-right government there now promising to make things worse.

They are not even hiding it, Mr. Speaker. They are intentionally saying exactly what they are going to continue to do, which is the status quo, again, making it very dangerous for Palestinians to live and thrive.

No person—not one, Palestinian, Israeli, anyone—deserves to suffer or die for who they are, what they believe, or where they were born. The sooner we end unconditional support for Israel's apartheid government, the sooner we can begin making good on that belief.

Today, I am thinking of my Sity, my grandmother, who deserves to have human dignity. She should not be denied of who she is solely because she was born Palestinian, to be able to feel safe and to be able to have human rights.

I am also thinking today, Mr. Speaker, of the Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the countless Palestinians who deserved to live but whose lives were cut short.

I thank the Speaker for at least trying to listen and hear from someone who, again, is connected to so many folks on the ground there who deserve to be seen and heard in this Chamber.

RESPONDING TO CALIFORNIA'S WEATHER EMERGENCY

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the powerful winter storm systems that are currently impacting my district and much of the State of California.

Rainfall in recent weeks has been several times above average, which, along with severe winds, has had devastating and cascading impacts. This includes flooding in Folsom and Lincoln, avalanches, and mudslides. The Tahoe area and Mono County are currently under avalanche warning. There are localized mudslides occurring in Plumas County.

There have been road closures from downed trees, hundreds of downed trees that have disrupted travel plans; power outages affecting roughly 345,000 Californians, 4,500 people in the Third District; and hundreds of school closures, including all schools in the Lake Tahoe Unified District.

There have also been, tragically, at least 17 deaths in the State, including 5 in the Sacramento area.