

majority led by Speaker MCCARTHY, we have the leadership for this critical moment in time.

In 1963, the nuclear submarine, the USS *Thresher*, was conducting engineering trials off of Cape Cod when they encountered an engineering problem. The crew was able to bring the boat to within 100 feet of the surface, but they lost their battle as the submarine descended below what is called “the crush depth,” all hands were lost.

Americans have voted for a Republican majority in this House to reverse the policies of the current administration and to start to relieve the pressure that is all around us. The commitment to America is exactly that plan for exactly that purpose—to unite this Chamber and to lead America back to safer waters.

A typical submarine crew would be about a quarter of the number of seats in this Chamber. Imagine for a moment that many people together in a steel tube, hundreds of feet below the ocean for months at a time. I have spent 500 days at sea, and I can tell you that after so many days not everyone on the boat is going to like each other. The thing about submarines is there is no easy way off. No matter what we think of each other at the end of the journey, we arrive in the same place together.

Let’s talk about where we want to end up. For starters, when something is broken on the submarine you don’t scuttle the boat with the crew aboard. You keep fighting to fix what is broken, triaging critical systems, and getting the boat to a safe depth. That is exactly what we witnessed last week as we chose Speaker MCCARTHY. He has been chosen to restore faith in this Chamber and unite our party.

Freedom is a fragile thing. We saw that under Democrats’ one party rule. A strong Republican Conference is key to securing a better future for our children, our grandchildren, and for generations to come.

#### RESTORING NORMALCY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Restoring Normalcy in America Act.

In a little over a week, we will be 3 years past the first recorded case of COVID-19 in the United States, and over 2 years since the COVID-19 vaccine has been available, thanks to the rapid development under Operation Warp Speed.

Despite the time elapsed, President Biden and his administration continue to prolong the pandemic—promoting policies that are destroying our economy, burdening small businesses, and hurting Kansas families.

Just yesterday, the NFIB announced that their Small Business Optimism Index declined 2.1 points in December, making it the 12th consecutive month below their 49-year average.

The December jobs report was the worst of 2022 and the worst during the entirety of the Biden administration so far. With out-of-control spending in the name of COVID relief, rampant inflation has made real average hourly earnings fall 1.9 percent since last year, the 20th month in a row that inflation has outpaced wage growth following the implementation of the so-called American Rescue Plan in March of 2021.

While Washington was under total Democrat control, President Biden increased Federal spending, continued lockdown procedures for far past their effectiveness, and held the country hostage until his self-chosen vaccination rates were reached. Receiving the vaccine is a choice, a choice made with careful consideration between a person and their doctor; not an action that can be forced by the Federal Government.

When the Biden administration failed to achieve their vaccination goals, they forced through unconstitutional vaccine mandates. We are currently experiencing near historic lows of COVID hospitalizations and 41 States have ended their states of emergency.

Yet, the Biden administration has decided to extend the COVID-19 public health emergency—despite in September President Biden stating that the pandemic is over. The continuation of the public health emergency significantly strains State and Federal budgets when we are already combating inflation and rising prices.

These actions by President Biden and the administration have hurt the American people and stunted our recovery. It is long past due that Washington is accountable for persistent pandemic restrictions placed on the Kansans I represent.

The legislation I am introducing today holds the Federal Government responsible and is a step toward restoring normalcy through five objectives of research, accountability, process, access, and restoration.

The American people deserve answers from the Federal Government on the effectiveness of the forced Biden administration COVID-19 policies. My bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct research on the effectiveness of vaccines and current treatments, the rate of transmission of COVID throughout the public health emergency, and more importantly, an investigation into the origins of COVID-19.

We also need accountability. Over the past several years, trillions have been allocated to combat COVID-19. To ensure that taxpayer dollars are not being wasted, my legislation would audit the Federal agencies that received COVID-19 funds, and whatever finances can be recouped should be returned to Treasury.

Returning to our standard processes is also critical. In the early stages of the pandemic, using the Emergency Use Authorization, the EUA, was nec-

essary to develop vaccines and treatments. Now, with years of information and time, we should return to the normal approval process.

This bill ends the use of EUAs for COVID vaccines and treatments and requires any vaccines or treatments without full FDA approval to go through the process like any other medication or vaccination.

The choice to be vaccinated is personal, and whether it be for religious or medical reasons, vaccination status should not be the cause for discrimination and access.

My bill strengthens personal freedoms by preventing businesses from prohibiting entry or refusing service based solely on COVID vaccination status.

Lastly, my legislation reverses the damage done by President Biden’s destructive, unconstitutional vaccine mandates and brings restoration to the individuals harmed. Any servicemember or Federal employee fired or discharged due to failure to comply to Biden’s vaccine mandate will be reinstated with their record expunged of this incident.

The Restoring Normalcy in America Act provides the American people with answers and accountability for how this administration has prolonged the COVID-19 pandemic and works to reverse some of the damaging policies that have been put in place.

#### PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania kicked off one of my favorite events: the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

For more than a century, 170 years, farmers have gathered each January at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This week-long event is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the Nation, showcasing more than 6,000 animals, nearly 12,000 exhibits, and more than half a million visitors.

Each year, I host a listening session at the farm show, and we cover a range of topics during the public forum, from raising awareness about agriculture education to hearing very real concerns from our farmers, ranchers, producers, processors, and many more key rural stakeholders. This year, the listening session will take place on Friday, January 13.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show brings together so many different agriculture advocates from all different corners of the industry. It is an event like no other. I am very proud that this takes place in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show provides an atmosphere for everyone to walk through, observe, and educate

themselves about different areas of agriculture, the Commonwealth's largest industry, which brings nearly \$6.9 billion annually in agricultural cash receipts. Almost half a million jobs are tied to the industry, which positively impacts all Pennsylvanians.

Undoubtedly, one of the most popular attractions of the Pennsylvania Farm Show is the food court. Located in the Expo Hall and Main Hall of the complex, the food court offers visitors a variety of Pennsylvania products, which generates income to support the non-profit Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodity Organizations.

Mr. Speaker, more than a century ago, the first Pennsylvania Farm Show was a 3-day exhibit. Today, the event is a week-long celebration of how the agriculture industry touches our lives every day. Proudly, this event draws visitors from across the country to highlight everything our State has to offer when it comes to agriculture.

I have been hosting this listening session as a Representative of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District for 13 years. Like every year, I am looking forward to hearing directly from the backbone of our Nation, the hard-working men and women of American agriculture.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show goes through this Saturday, January 14. Like I said, we look forward to 3 o'clock in the banquet hall to be hosting this year's listening session on Friday, January 13. I certainly invite and encourage my colleagues and actually anyone that would like to join us for this event.

It is 24 acres under roof, almost a million square feet. It represents not just Pennsylvania's number one industry, but agriculture is the industry that touches the lives of American families more times a day than any other.

#### CONDEMNING RECENT ATTACKS ON PRO-LIFE FACILITIES, GROUPS, AND CHURCHES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 3, condemning the recent attacks on pro-life facilities, groups, and churches.

New York is home to so many compassionate and committed pro-life pregnancy centers, such as CompassCare in Amherst, New York, and CareNet Centers dotted around New York State.

Pro-life pregnancy centers across our State and our country provide women with critical care, such as free pregnancy tests, pre-natal care, referrals, education, mentoring, and material support, including diapers, car seats, and clothing. They also provide love and support to these women in a time of need. From 2016 to 2020, these pregnancy centers saved over 800,000 lives by providing a compassionate alternative to abortion.

Tragically, on June 7, 2022, a CompassCare facility in western New York was maliciously firebombed by a violent anti-abortion group called Jane's Revenge. The perpetrators left graffiti: "Jane was here." Those responsible have still not been held accountable.

Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident. Over 100 pro-life facilities and churches were attacked in 2022 alone.

I was honored to join CompassCare's CEO, Reverend Jim Harden, and the CompassCare team at its reopening just a few months after the violent attack. As Reverend Harden said best, CompassCare now has 21st century telehealth tools to compete head-on with the billion-dollar abortion empire by reaching and serving every woman in America.

□ 1045

Pro-life pregnancy centers play a key role in helping pregnant women all across the country, but Democrat leadership has been silent on the unprecedented amount of violence leveled against these compassionate advocates for life. House Republicans are united in our condemnation of the political violence these wonderful caregivers and those who choose life have always faced.

I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 3, condemning the recent attacks on pro-life facilities, groups, and churches; and I will not back down to violent extremists.

#### SAVING LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I guess the opportunity to serve in the United States Congress with a little over 10,000 Members over the decades, and for the years of service that I have been given this privilege, and at the decision of my constituents allows me to look over the landscape of the journey that we have taken.

I was here when medical procedures for parents who wanted nothing more than a healthy baby were then characterized as a criminal act and called partial-birth abortion when a mother had to make a decision with her God, her doctor, and her family.

I remember the hearings in the Judiciary Committee where mothers were crying because of the medical procedure that was necessary to save their life.

We have now come full circle, and the extremists want to again demonize parents who are desperate—desperate for a healthy child.

I have seen this before: extremist views criminalizing a medical choice that has to be made, criminalizing abortion from east to west and north to south. I will not have it.

I know that this is a most personal decision and one that families do not

want to make. But as a person of faith, I believe it should be that woman, that family, that God, and that doctor.

So, unfortunately, today we will have the effort to criminalize these actions of doctors. You see, Mr. Speaker, I come from a State where the State legislature and Governor passed a bounty hunter bill to go after doctors and nurses who would be giving medical care to innocent women and to individuals who were seeking that care.

How outrageous in a constitutional democracy, Mr. Speaker, that you want to injure people and you want to undermine doctors and undermine nurses. What an outrage that, again, this extremist agenda continues.

Yet, in the face of a 13-year-old being shot to death in the District of Columbia with a gun, the guns are rampaging across America, guns of a 6-year-old who shot a teacher; mass murders are more extensive in this last year, 2022, than ever, there is not a real effort to ensure that guns are not proliferating in the hands of those who should not get them, guns that should actually have penalties for those who do not store it; penalties for manufacturers who do not indicate, label, and insist that the guns be stored; or, in fact, the universal background check that has not been able to be passed. These are things that could save lives of living individuals who are now at the brunt end of gun violence.

Yes, putting guns in the hands of people who should not have them, having better mental health services and red flag laws. But the way the bill was written, you have to opt in. States like Texas will not opt into a red flag law to protect people. And all I see in my area is—not because police are not working as hard as they can—domestic violence with guns day after day after day and week after week because guns are in the hands of the wrong people.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to say there is a lot of good work we can do together, there is a lot of good work that Democrats have done. We are seeing it in the bipartisan infrastructure bill and dealing with climate change which is evident by the tragedy that is happening to our friends in California.

But I am glad to stand up here today and announce something really good that today, because of Democrats, the Social Security recipients will have an 8.7 percent increase in their COLA. I will go home over the weekend and over the days and into Martin Luther King celebrations where he believed in lifting the least of those and be able to say to those Social Security recipients: You got an 8.7 percent increase in your COLA because of Democrats and President Biden.

We intend to do things and to be active on behalf of the American people. We intend to cure problems and not make problems. We intend to help our schoolchildren, help our teachers, help our nurses, help our doctors, and help those senior citizens whom I see in the