

emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13757 of December 28, 2016, is to continue in effect beyond April 1, 2023.

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from, or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 29, 2023.

#### CONGRATULATING NORTHWOOD PANTHERS BOYS BASKETBALL 3A CHAMPS

(Mr. YAKYM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YAKYM. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate excellence in athletics and a very special group of Hoosier young men. March in Indiana is all about basketball, and this past weekend, the NorthWood boys basketball team out of Nappanee and Wakarusa reached the heights of basketball glory by winning the 3A State title for the very first time in school history.

The Panthers took home the hardware by outlasting Guerin Catholic in a 66-63 overtime thriller, with senior guard Cade Brenner leading the scoring with 28 points.

When they cut down the nets on Saturday night, it was a fitting end to a season in which the Panthers went a near undefeated 28 and 2. Their State championship win was the result of countless hours of hard work and practice that every player put in, what they call, The Pit.

Congratulations to Coach Aaron Wolf, who was just named coach of the year, and every single Panther on being the last team standing. Thank you for making your parents, peers, and the entire Wa-Nee community proud.

God bless you and may God bless America.

#### TRAGEDY AT THE COVENANT SCHOOL IN NASHVILLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY) is recognized for one-half of the remaining time

until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening as the convener of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Special Order hour.

We had been planning today to talk about the different budget priorities between Democrats and Republicans. Those are the things I care about. Those are the things I care a lot about. Those are the things I came to Congress excited to address, but we can't talk about those things today, because, once again, we are seeing our children slaughtered in their schools.

Monday morning, I dropped two of my kids off at their elementary school. I actually went in and talked to their class for career day. Their teacher let them give me a hug and walk me back to the front before I got in the car, got on the plane, and came to Washington.

While I was in the air, the tragedy at the Covenant School in Nashville unfolded. It makes me absolutely sick to my stomach.

Unlike in years past, from Uvalde to Newtown, I haven't been able to hug my own kids yet since the tragedy in Nashville, but those parents in Nashville and in so many schools across this country will never be able to hug their babies again.

We should be outraged. Outraged. Three 9-year-old children were ripped apart from their families by an assault-style weapon in their school, in the place we send them to learn, to grow, to be safe, and to feel safe.

What is more outrageous than three 9-year-olds being slaughtered by an assault-style weapon in their school? It is the 13th school shooting this year—this year—in 2023. It is the 13th school shooting this year.

It would be gut wrenching and awful if it were 13 school shootings in 13 years. It is the 13th school shooting this year.

Now, thank goodness for the courage, the bravery of the National Police Department and the first responders who kept this tragedy from impacting more families, but it should have never happened in the first place.

What are we doing? What are we doing here to stop this, to protect our kids? I heard one of my colleagues from the State where this happened say on the steps of this very building, "There is nothing we can do."

I can't accept that. As a policymaker, I can't accept that. As a parent, I can't accept that. You can't say there is nothing we can do when you are willing to do nothing.

I am a person of faith. We raised our family in the church. I believe in the power of prayer, and I am glad that our thoughts and prayers are with the families in Nashville, but thoughts and prayers will never be enough. We must look at legislation and take action so that there are no more school shootings, and we don't have to comfort families who have lost their kids because they simply went to school.

There are things we can and should do. Commonsense reforms that will keep our kids and our people safe. Let's start with universal background checks. Ninety percent of the American public wants us to have universal background checks, where to buy a firearm in this country, you have to get a background check so that we know you are not in crisis or otherwise ineligible to buy a firearm.

Instead, we see extremists in the other party willing to put gun manufacturers over people. We should ban assault weapons. These are weapons of war that have no place on our streets.

Just today, on the front page of The Washington Post, there is an expose on the AR-15. It goes into the detail we have far too often sanitized about what an assault-style rifle does to the body of a person and the body of a child. It has rendered kids unrecognizable in school shootings such as in Uvalde, Texas.

There was a product in the 1980s, lawn darts, that was dangerous for kids. We banned that; but we are not willing to ban these assault-style rifles? That is because extremists right now want to put guns over kids.

Let's talk about extreme risk protection orders. Measures that would actually keep people safe by temporarily removing a firearm from someone who is in crisis. We can't talk about gun violence in this country without recognizing that 60 percent of the gun deaths in America are death by suicide. It could help other people, as well.

I have a constituent, Whitney Austin. She was a mom. She was a project manager at Fifth Third Bank. She traveled up to Cincinnati from Louisville, Kentucky, to go to work. As she was walking into the office building, she was shot 12 times as part of what ended up being a mass shooting in Cincinnati. She never considered politics or gun policy before, because Louisville, like so many places in this country, is a small place. We call it "Louisville."

She was friends with a person I went to high school with, and before she got home from the hospital, she said, "What can I do to help? I met her in her house the day she came home. Her hair was still wet from having washed the blood out of it. We worked on legislation in the Kentucky General Assembly, legislation that I introduced with a Republican colleague from a rural part of our State that would keep people safe while respecting people's rights. Instead, we see, again, a party willing to put guns over people."

Let's talk about responsible gun ownership and laws that would encourage safe storage. Look what happened a couple weeks ago in Houston. A 3-year-old shot and killed her 4-year-old sister. A couple of days before that, a 7-year-old boy in Cleveland died from a suspected accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Just last month, a 3-year-old boy in Orlando and a 4-year-old boy in Nashville each shot themselves dead with guns they found. A month before that, a 6-year-old girl in Virginia accidentally shot and killed her teacher in Virginia.

These are toddlers; but we see people willing to put guns over kids. We must try to do something. Bring these measures to a vote. Bring these measures to the floor. Let us vote on them. Tell the American people that you believe in guns over kids instead of universal background checks.

We have got to do something. We have had 38 mass shootings this month alone, and so far, 130 in just the first 86 days of this year. More than 10,000 gun deaths, and we are not even out of March.

Bring this to a vote. Replace thoughts and prayers with legislation and action. Instead of legislation and action, what we are getting from extreme MAGA Republicans are slogans, not solutions.

We are hearing slogans like "Guns Make Us Safer." How can you say that when guns are now the leading cause of death for children in this country?

□ 2045

Will the measures I have mentioned end gun violence in America? No, of course not.

Will they save lives? Yes, absolutely they will, and they will make our children safer. There is no doubt about it.

Every day that we delay, every day that we continue to refuse to take action, to put guns over people and guns over kids, we will almost certainly cause unnecessary death.

I spent 10 years in the State Senate of Kentucky. During that time, I was in the minority. For 10 years, I worked to represent my constituents but always found common ground. That is what I came to Washington to do, to continue to try to find common ground.

We cannot compromise when it comes to our kids' lives. To all of my colleagues in this body, neither should you.

Today, I am just another dad in America who is sad for the parents who won't have their kids with them this Easter, sad for the parents who have lost their children to the senseless scourge of gun violence; angry, hurting, looking to Congress to act; pleading with my colleagues to bring these bills up for debate and to a vote to stop putting guns over kids.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE), my colleague.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the students, teachers, parents, and loved ones across western Pennsylvania who are still reeling from what we all thought was our worst fear come to life today.

Just days after families in Nashville went through an unimaginable hell of losing their 9-year-old children because they had the audacity to attend a school in America, we received word about an active shooter situation back home in Pittsburgh, first at Central Catholic High School, then Oakland Catholic, and eventually a dozen of our schools across Pennsylvania.

Imagine that you are a kid in Central Catholic. You have gone through the active shooter drills, and you saw the news Monday and heard about every school shooting prior. Today, you get a text that a gunman has entered your school.

You are wondering if you will be shot. Will it be your friends who are shot, your classmate, your teammate, your teacher? Can you protect them, or should you run? Do you have time to text your parents one last time?

Imagine that you are a teacher hysterically crying to the dispatcher a minute after you heard the news. You realize the lock on your door is broken, so you start building barricades with desks and chairs. You ask your students to protect themselves by whatever means possible, from the metal rod in the closet to the acid chemicals in the physics lab.

Imagine that you are a parent and receive that phone call or text. Your heart stops. Your world freezes, and your mind starts to race. Can you get to the school on time? Will you ever hug your baby again? Will they meet you at the reunification spot?

Active shooters, hoaxes, evacuations, active shooter drills—this is no way for our kids to live.

This is disgraceful, and no, to my colleagues across the aisle, this is not normal. Active shooters aren't normal. Shooting hoaxes aren't normal. The evacuations and the active shooting drills aren't normal. There is nothing about this that is normal.

Guns are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 18—not car crashes, not illnesses or accidents. It is guns.

Tomorrow, we will send our students back to those buildings where they experienced that immense trauma and fear. We will expect them to pretend it is a normal day. We will expect them to continue to learn, perform, and be attentive in the same classrooms that they were just barricaded in.

Thankfully, unlike the students, teachers, and families in Nashville, Michigan, Uvalde, Parkland, Sandy Hook, or too many others who were gunned down to count, they won't have to cry over their classmates' bodies or see their empty chairs when they return to school because this time, it was just a hoax—not a hoax. It was a swatting of children in schools in this era of

heightened fear and vigilance around an epidemic of school and other mass shootings.

Thankfully, today, it wasn't dead children back home in Pittsburgh. It was "just" traumatized children.

It doesn't have to be this way, and it wouldn't be this way, but it is this way because Republicans care more about guns than our kids, worshippers in a church or synagogue, or shoppers in a Walmart.

Republicans want to control what books you read. They want to control what history you learn. They want to control how you identify, who you can love. They want to control our bodies.

They want to control everything except that which could prevent preventable mass deaths of children and students and worshippers and shoppers.

In the only country on Earth where this is a problem, they will not control the proliferation of guns in this country.

For those of you who say it is too political to ask that we put an end to bullet-ridden babies in body bags and traumatized kids doing active shooter drills in their elementary schools, I ask you to stop putting your politics over our children's lives.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, the comments from my colleague from Pennsylvania make me think back to last spring after the Uvalde crisis. I said every policymaker in the country should have had to drop their kids off at school the day after that shooting.

It was all over the news, and we didn't know whether to show our twins, our fourth graders, what was going on. I wanted to talk to them about it and ask them if they were okay, ask them if they felt scared.

My son looked at me and said: "It's okay, Dad. We practice active shooter drills in school. We'll be ready."

No child should have to comfort their parents in that way. We should be working to protect our kids from this scourge. Instead, we see a party putting guns over our kids.

I got an email after the Nashville shooting from the dad of a friend of mine from law school. He wrote to me and said:

Thank you for such a heartfelt, meaningful comment on the Nashville school tragedy. Too bad others don't have the guts to say what you did.

I don't know if you heard from my son, but one of the three 9-year-olds who died was my granddaughter's friend and basketball teammate. Nine years old. Think about that.

This is something simply impossible for me to process, and how do you explain it to a child?

The boilerplate thoughts and prayers we still hear from those who refuse to do anything to stop the gun violence won't help my granddaughter understand why her friend had to die from a bullet.

The gun advocates are all about their constitutional right to bear arms, yet this grandfather wonders about a 9-year-old's constitutional right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, something which far too many of our children are being denied. It's just so sad.

Thank you again for saying exactly what needs to be said again, again, and again until this craziness comes to an end.

We control that, Madam Speaker. We have some say in whether this craziness comes to an end from common-sense, publicly supported reforms: universal background checks, banning assault weapons, extreme risk protection orders, making sure we have responsible gun ownership, making sure that guns are no longer the leading cause of death among our children.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### TAKING DEBT SERIOUSLY

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for the remainder of the time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, this evening, we are going to actually do a handful of things. Some of this is just sort of responding to some of the absurd conversations I have had this week.

This is my moment when I apologize to the stenographer and clerk. Much of this you will have already heard, but it bears repeating because I actually sat down with a group of congressional staff, and it was one of those sort of passing conversations where you sit down and the Republican and Democrat staff is there, and they didn't understand some of the most basic numbers of what is going on around us.

The first thing we are going to start with here—how many of you picked up a newspaper and heard anyone talk about the debt ceiling? Apparently, it is a really big deal. Fine.

Then, you hear them say things like it is default if we don't just raise it. No, that is not how it works. Default is when you do not pay back your bonds.

It is still really important. We are going to ultimately have to raise the debt ceiling.

Can we do something that is also going to be very important? Can we do it in a fashion where we message to the world debt markets that we are taking our debt seriously, that we understand the curve is unsustainable?

We are going to walk through a bunch of boards that basically show the scale of the debt that is coming. Once again, default is when you do not pay back your bonds.

We actually had a Treasury Secretary under President Obama. He and I, I remember, had this wonderful conversation when I kept correcting him, saying that is not default. He said, okay, we are going to create a new term. It is now called a "technical default," and that is when the 30 percent of government spending that is functionally borrowed every single day, we are not able to pay for that.

Fine. Call it technical default. Let's just be accurate.

The other thing that is really important, if there is anyone in Republican leadership listening out there, please hear this: 2011, the United States actually got a downgrade. Standard & Poor's lowered the United States from its AAA rating. They took us down a notch.

They did not lower our credit rating because of the debt ceiling. They lowered our credit rating because we didn't provide a credible path on managing the scale of the debt. This is 2011.

The numbers today are devastatingly more ugly, if you can sort of mix that in language.

□ 2100

Seriously, to 2011, we moved down to AA-plus. Fine. But it was because we were doing nothing about budget deficits.

I talked about this last week. Once again, I think it was yesterday, a Member of the left going: Well, they are going to get us downgraded if we just don't raise the debt ceiling.

That isn't why we were downgraded in 2011. It is because we did not demonstrate to the world markets that we want to buy—remember, we borrowed, last year, I think it was \$48,000 a second. Every second of every day, we borrowed \$48,000. Someone has to buy that debt to finance the 30 percent of our spending that we don't cover with our tax receipts.

Wouldn't the people that buy those bonds like to know we intend to pay them back?

Does just raising the borrowing limit, which is, functionally, just like you call your credit card and raise the borrowing limit, does that tell them we are going to pay them back?

What tells them we are going to pay them back is we are building a plan, saying here is how we are going to basically deal with the debt over the coming decades.

People say that we are just going to balance. Fine, I can get you to balance, but I don't think most folks have any concept of how bloody that would be.

So maybe the better way to think about it is, the size of the economy, we are going to maximize the economic growth of the economy and try to minimize the growth of debt so we stabilize what we refer to as debt-to-GDP. Great concept.

But this one, I don't know why it grates on me so much. We have people who think they are geniuses around here saying: They are going to ruin the credit rating of the United States.

The threat of the credit rating is we do not communicate to debt markets here and around the world that we are taking our debt seriously.

Once again, an oldie but a goodie. It is already out of date, but I wasn't going to kill another board and printer ink. This will hopefully make sense.

I need everyone to understand. Let's not even worry about 1965. This is last year. Seventy-one percent of all of our spending was, functionally, what we

call mandatory. Fine. It was Social Security, Medicare, veterans benefits, things of that nature.

But the punch line I want you all to understand is actually right here. Defense was 13 percent of our spending. The rest of domestic discretionary was 16 percent. So I have got a 13 and a 16, and I am going to show this on a couple more charts.

In 9 budget years, if you look at the CBO report from a couple weeks ago, it makes it very clear. In 9 budget years, you can get rid of this entire portion of government—all defense, all discretionary, it is gone—and the growth of this will be so big you still have got to borrow a couple hundred billion dollars, and the next year it is dramatically worse.

That is what, 2033, which isn't that long from now. But in 2034, the Social Security trust fund is gone.

Are we going to let seniors take a 23 percent cut?

Are you going to double senior poverty?

Remember, the Democrats have made it almost impossible to have an honest conversation about entitlements. You can't have a conversation about how we are going to save Social Security.

The President got behind that microphone there and made it toxic. A year's worth of our work, where we have been trying to come up with a way to save Social Security, and we have been doing it with the Senate, with Democrats, and he knifed us. That is real immoral.

So he stands there and says: I am going to protect Social Security and Medicare. I promise. We are not going to talk about it, there will be no cuts.

Everyone applauds, yes. Fine. There have never been conversations about cutting it.

For that year I was the senior Republican over Social Security in Ways and Means, not a single person ever spoke to me about cutting it. We were working on how to try to save it.

Now, those very people I had been working with run away from the issue saying, look, the President has made it toxic. The year's worth of work, all the money we spent with actuaries, everything else, it is over.

Democrats aren't serious. They are going to use it as a weapon. Fine. We walk away. Once again, we sit and let the problem fester. Every day we wait, the math gets more difficult.

Then we have the inane: Well, we will just raise taxes.

A few weeks ago, I did a presentation here on the floor where I showed what happens if you raise the caps. So the new tax cap for Social Security, I think, is what, \$160,200, you pay your FICA tax, if you are self-employed, or your employer pays half, you pay half.

Just raised it. Every dime of income above that, if you do the incremental benefits—remember, to be honest, Social Security wasn't a welfare retirement plan. It was sort of a forced savings plan. If you gave higher-income