

gun violence epidemic that we have in our country, an epidemic that continues to be a stain on each and every one of us.

We have to acknowledge the complete absurdity that Republicans are more comfortable sending their children to school to participate in active shooter trainings than they are having their children play alongside a trans teammate.

The leading cause of death of children in this country, in our country, is gun violence. Yet, Republicans are here trying to prevent trans children from participating in sports.

The GOP's title of this bill is Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023, but have we not asked ourselves about the children that this bill seeks to target? Who is protecting them?

When will we remember that we show our true strength by concerning ourselves with the most vulnerable amongst us?

We are supposed to be the ones who are guided by President Lincoln's encouragement to have faith that right makes might. Being on the side of those who others seek to marginalize is the right side of history and shows true strength.

Mr. Speaker, on the topic of strength, let me be clear about one thing. Every single trans individual in this country who continues to be their true and authentic self in the face of constant bigotry and hate has more strength and courage than anyone who chooses to vote for this bill.

As the Book of John reminds us: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

As a father, I know that the single greatest gift that we can give our children is the love, support, and encouragement they need to be the truest and most authentic versions of who they are because we as adults know that this life is hard and that giving our kids that support is the least we can do.

Instead of trying to make life just a little easier, especially for those individuals who have found the bravery to be open about who they are, Republicans are trying to put out their inner light by making them feel different, by ostracizing them from their peers.

As I have said before and will say so long as it needs to be said, I love every single trans individual in this country because they are my brothers, my sisters, my neighbors, and my fellow Americans.

This bill is wrong. Targeting the trans community is wrong, and I won't stand for it.

Mr. Speaker, I am a "no" on H.R. 734, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING THE 2023 GRADUATING CLASS OF THE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AT TOURO UNIVERSITY NEVADA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SPARTZ). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2023 graduating class of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Touro University Nevada.

This week is National Osteopathic Medicine Week, and I cannot think of a better way to celebrate than by highlighting the incredible success of our future doctors of osteopathic medicine.

Not only did these graduates achieve a 100 percent residency match rate, but I am also proud to say that 50 of them will be staying in Nevada where they will help fill critical healthcare needs in our State by helping combat our dire shortage of physicians.

Nevada ranks 48th in the Nation in doctors per capita. These future healthcare providers will fill in the gaps across our healthcare system from family medicine and pediatrics to emergency medicine, neurology, and psychiatry.

Too many Nevadans in rural and underserved communities do not have access to specialists in their area, which significantly restricts their ability to access healthcare services.

I am so proud that these doctors will be filling those critical needs, and I congratulate Touro University.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Nevada Air National Guard for their 75 years of service to Nevada and the entire country.

In that time, our servicemembers have supported national security, combat operations, and humanitarian efforts across the globe.

The Nevada Air National Guard began as a small fighter squadron comprised of World War II-era P-51 Mustangs. Its units have since evolved: flying in the Korean war, aerial reconnaissance throughout the Cold War, and numerous deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Here at home, the Nevada Air National Guard has also carried out significant humanitarian operations such as Operation Haylift, a daring supply drop to farmers and miners trapped by winter storms in 1948.

Today, the Nevada Air National Guard is perhaps best known for its continued use of our military's workhorse, the C-130, which, among other impressive capabilities, has been routinely deployed for firefighting operations with the U.S. Forest Service.

In 2021 alone, the Nevada Air National Guard made 331 flights, dropping more than 8 million pounds of fire retardant to help contain wildfires, preserve our public lands, and save lives.

Looking ahead, I look forward to working with the Nevada Air National Guard on their priorities, including a well-deserved upgrade to their fleet of C-130s, as they take on an even better 75 years ahead.

From Carson City to Reno and the 232nd Combat Training Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, I again thank everyone who has made Nevada Air National Guard strong for the past 75 years. Our State and country are safer because of it.

RESTRICTING ABORTION

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the frightening recent developments concerning the personal freedoms of millions of Americans.

A single judge in Texas has dramatically restricted decades-long access to safe and effective abortion medication in all 50 States.

Anti-choice extremists have made it clear that this is not the end. They did not stop at overturning Roe v. Wade. They will not stop at preventing women from accessing FDA-approved medications like mifepristone.

They have made it clear about their intention to restrict control and ban a woman's right to choose with Federal legislation. From the courts to Congress, a woman's right to choose is under attack. We will not be intimidated, and I am doing everything in my power to stop this.

My home State of Nevada, where voters decided by a 2-to-1 margin in 1990 to protect a woman's right to choose and just last fall voted to reject the extremist politicians leading this crusade to ban abortion nationwide, has made it clear where it stands.

I have made it clear that I am here to represent my district and my State.

Last week, I joined hundreds of my pro-choice colleagues in signing on to an amicus brief that has been filed with the Supreme Court, asking the Court to reverse the Texas judge's radical decision.

I am not giving up and neither should you. I support choice. The majority of Nevadans support choice. The majority of Americans support choice.

It is time for Congress and the courts to do the same.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I am the only Democrat Congressperson from Tennessee, so in some ways I represent the entire State on issues of concern to Democrats and people of progress.

Tennessee and New York, unfortunately, have been shameful in their conduct recently in the way they relate to government and in the lack of the way they relate to meaningful gun reform to protect our citizens from mass shootings.

In Tennessee there was the Tennessee Three. Three legislators who went to

the well to protest the fact that after a murder, a terrorist act killing six citizens at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, there was no response from the supermajority Republicans in the general assembly, nor at the time from the Republican Governor.

They went to the well, while the galleries were full of people protesting the lax gun reform laws or gun laws in Tennessee, to protest and say, we should have some gun laws to protect our children and to protect people all over our country who are victims of mass shootings.

They expelled two of the members and tried to expel three for simply raising an issue that otherwise would not be raised by a supermajority and that was favored by a majority of the people in Tennessee by far—red flag laws.

No more weapons of war should be sold, the weapons that people used to do mass shootings at Covenant Presbyterian Church; in Louisville, at the bank; and almost everywhere where there are mass shootings in this country.

That was shameful for the Tennessee General Assembly to try to expel three and to expel two, and not to take up gun reform.

Governor Lee later took up gun reform and said he was for red flag laws, but a red flag law was proposed this week, and it didn't even get a motion or a second.

In New York, the House Judiciary Committee adjourned to New York, a recess there, to have a hearing yesterday allegedly concerning a State official, the DA, Mr. Bragg, and his record that they call pro-crime and anti-victim.

What they really went to New York to do was to act as Donald Trump's public relations firm and defense firm, something the United States Congress is not empowered to do for any individual. They are not empowered to go into another jurisdiction where federalization laws say that the States have their own prosecutors, and the Federal Government is not supposed to go in and ask for information that they can then give to the defense, and attack Mr. Bragg.

The facts were well-pointed out that New York is a safe city, and safer than most of the major cities in Mr. JORDAN's State of Ohio. They attacked Mr. Bragg and said he was supported by George Soros.

What does that have in common with Tennessee?

The people they went after were minorities.

Mr. Bragg, the first African-American-elected DA in the borough of Manhattan and in Tennessee the two youngest members of the general assembly who happened to be African American, a minority group by far in Tennessee and the Tennessee General Assembly.

They accused Mr. Bragg of being supported by George Soros, which he was. We know that is a trope for anti-Semi-

tism. They go after a minority religion, a minority DA, and try to appeal to their base and try to help Donald Trump. That is shameful, as well.

Shame on the Judiciary Committee of this House. Shame on the General Assembly of Tennessee.

Do your job. Protect your citizens. Pass meaningful laws to restrict weapons of war and impose red flag laws, so we can stop people from committing crimes—mass murders in this country, which have become too commonplace. Let's uplift our political dialogue to where we don't attack minorities to get away with obfuscating our real purpose, which is supporting Donald Trump, who committed two of the worst crimes in this country: one, trying to steal the 2020 election and telling people it was a steal, fraudulently, and getting campaign contributions; and, two, in 2016—if Mr. Bragg is right—covering up payments to a porn star to win the 2016 election illegally.

Madam Speaker, the worst crime in New York was 9/11. Then there was the Central Park Five. Five Black youths who were alleged and convicted of killing a jogger in Central Park. This was back, I think, in the 20th century.

Mr. Trump took out full-page newspaper ads in three papers and said all of those five should get the death penalty. They got sentences, they didn't get the death penalty. Later they were exonerated, and it was shown that somebody else committed the crimes—but not after they spent 41 years in prison, an average of 8 years a piece, and not after the State had to pay \$41 million for their time in prison.

Did Donald Trump apologize?

No, he doesn't apologize. Shameful.

#### 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 56 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

Today, most merciful God, we remember those 6 million Jews and other minorities who cried to You, fearing that in the face of the horrendous genocide of the Holocaust, You had forsaken them. For years You seemed so far from saving them, so distant from their cries of anguish.

Yet, amidst the horrific experiences, the heartbreak of innocent lives lost,

the threat of torture and cruel suffering, nevertheless, they held fast to You and to their Jewish faith. They did not disavow their divine heritage, even in the face of death. Even now, as the Jewish community recites Kaddish for the generations lost, they proclaim their belief in the Sun even when it isn't shining.

Use this annual commemoration to inspire in us such faith in the face of adversity, but at the same time remind us, warn us, how seductive is the desire for power, how natural the inclination toward hate, how insidious the culpability of apathy. Lead us not into the hands of our enemies, neither allow us to perpetuate or ignore the injustice to our neighbor.

Remind us that You will not forsake Your people. You will not hide Your face from us, for in You do we find strength to live justly. In You do we find reason to live rightly.

In Your most holy and merciful name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALDERSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS' SPORTS

(Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a former female athlete, mother of two daughters who are athletes, lifelong runner, and former coach of girls' sports teams. This week we will vote on a bill to protect women and girls' sports. I led a similar bill in the Virginia Senate and look forward to supporting this measure in the U.S. House.

I feel passionately about this issue and want to convey how important it is to protect women's sports for future generations.