

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, as parents, we only want the best for our kids. That is why I speak before you today as not just a Member of Congress but as a mom who is terrified about sudden cardiac arrest and its impact on our young people.

Together, we have the ability to protect our kids before it strikes. The odds of surviving cardiac arrest remain low when occurring outside of a hospital setting such as in the classroom or the soccer field.

I can't even imagine what it would feel like to get that call about my children. Here is where AEDs come into play in saving lives in a moment of crisis.

I am proud to announce that I have introduced the Access to AEDs Act, my bipartisan legislation that will reduce deaths from sudden cardiac arrest.

My legislation would establish a grant program for schools that they can use to buy and maintain lifesaving AEDs, develop cardiac emergency response plans, and provide crucial CPR and AED training.

Our children's well-being is not up for political debate. All children's lives are put on the line when sudden cardiac arrest hits.

We have a responsibility as Members of Congress, as parents, and as American citizens to ensure that every child has a chance to survive sudden cardiac arrest.

FORCED ARBITRATION CONCERNS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that this week I am reintroducing the FAIR Act, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.

Forced arbitration has been a concern of mine for some time because powerful corporations have stripped away Americans' right to have their day in court.

These forced arbitration clauses are everywhere. Americans sign away their rights when they buy a cell phone or sign an employment contract.

They are forced into arbitration, a private for-profit dispute resolution process that bans claimants from banding together and where the deck is stacked against the little guy.

That is why I have been championing this legislation since 2007, and momentum has shifted in our favor. Just last year, President Biden signed a law invalidating forced arbitration clauses in disputes about workplace sexual harassment and assault.

That is progress, but we have more work to do. We need to restore Ameri-

cans' right to use the court system, and in doing so, reinvigorate important civil rights, employment, and consumer protections in this country.

VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2017, my district experienced the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history after a gunman opened fire at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, 58 lives were lost and two victims have died since then. The shooter injured thousands, and more than 800 survivors sustained severe injuries and unimaginable trauma that stays with them the rest of their lives.

In the years that followed, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, under the leadership of the Honorable Barbara Buckley, became a model for cities across the country grappling with this same kind of hardship.

My office took notice, and I pushed for and eventually got \$3 million in Federal funding to help build and develop a Vegas Strong Resiliency Center to continue serving these victims.

Tennille Pereira, its executive director, was on the Hill today to accept an award from the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus.

I nominated them for that award because we see the effects of their work in our community every day—for every survivor persevering through this lingering trauma and for every grieving family member who has lost a loved one. This center has helped keep Vegas strong and moving forward.

WORKING FOR THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, from cropping tobacco in the fields of eastern North Carolina to now walking the Halls of Congress, I am most grateful for the opportunity to work for the people of North Carolina's First Congressional District and our future generations.

We are a little over 100 days into the 118th Congress. I have rolled up my sleeves to work hard for eastern North Carolina, rural America, and the American people.

My highest priority remains the people of North Carolina's First Congressional District. I have traveled from Elizabeth City to Henderson, Greenville to Columbia, and everywhere in between, visiting all 19 counties. While there, I pushed to expand Medicaid and stood up for our farmers.

I am proud to sponsor three critical pieces of legislation and have spon-

sored 40 bipartisan pieces of legislation. Our office has already resolved over 200 constituent cases.

I look forward to continuing working to guarantee future generations can live the American Dream in eastern North Carolina.

THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, when I was in my district, commemorating and celebrating Eid, of course, with my many constituents who have just had Ramadan, I met one of the leaders of the Sudanese community.

Clearly, this crisis in Sudan deserves our attention. I rise today to express great concern for the people of Sudan and the peace that they were attempting to implement.

I ask for the United States to be diligent in seeking a cease-fire, a permanent cease-fire, between two fighting generals who have nothing to do but to fight over power. We must be concerned about women, children, and families.

I have been to Sudan during the horrible genocide in Darfur. I know that they have overcome much. I have been to South Sudan with the right to return.

Now it is time for peace. We have brought out our foreign officers, but we must also try to secure the Americans that are there. Sudan deserves peace, and the United States must be engaged in peace efforts.

TACKLING THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be leading this Special Order to discuss the ongoing efforts to tackle our national debt and the looming debt ceiling crisis.

Since my first day in office some 7-plus years ago, I have said that one of the single greatest threats to our national security is the Federal Government's reckless, uncontrolled spending. This is now more obvious than ever.

To be clear, it is essential that the United States honors its debts and pays back every single dollar that we have borrowed.

However, this cannot come without reforms to fix the unsustainable and dangerous spending habits that threaten our long-term solvency.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act, which I am happy to say the House approved only moments ago, is a good faith, middle-of-the-road approach to raising the debt ceiling while reining in—and I repeat—beginning to really rein in unnecessary, wasteful Federal spending.

Included in the bill are popular provisions, which would reclaim billions in unspent COVID funds, now that the pandemic is over.

It will also defund President Biden's army of 87,000 new IRS agents. It will strengthen the workforce, lower energy costs, and end the era, again, of reckless spending in Washington, D.C., all while protecting veterans, Social Security, Medicare, and national defense.

I am grateful to be joined by several of my colleagues that are here tonight to further discuss this issue, and I urge the administration to come to the table, sooner rather than later, to address the debt ceiling and begin the necessary reining in of spending.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time this evening. Thank you to my colleague from Michigan for leading us on this and for being a fighter in the trenches on what we are talking about.

Indeed, we are talking about the Nation's debt issues, the necessary measure we have of having to extend the debt limit as the dollars have already been committed. They have already been spent. We have to pay for them.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act is, indeed, a responsible way to try and turn the tide on what had been much spending over the last few years that has extended our national debt to just unthought of numbers; over \$31 trillion.

In this measure that we are speaking of this evening here—really, since January, the Democrats and the President have tried to claim falsely that Republicans have no plan.

We have been talking about a plan the whole time. The difference is they don't want to sit down and talk with us about how to meld their ideas with ours.

This week we released our plan, and today we passed it. As always, House Republicans have consistently argued for reasonable, responsible debt limit increases, coupled with spending reductions in order to move toward eventually balancing this budget.

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It is absurd that the Democrats now demand unilateral increases to our Nation's debt and balk at Republicans for asking for something in a negotiation.

Our plan, the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, saves American taxpayers \$4.5 trillion over the next decade. It will limit Federal spending to fiscal year 2022 levels, which our government oper-

ated on just 4 months ago. It does allow for 1 percent annual growth in Federal spending over the next 10 years. For those that want to spend more, it is still built in but at a flatter rate, flattening the curve on spending. If we had been able to hold that for the last 10 years, we would be really close to a balanced budget.

Also included in the bill are important clawbacks for \$60 billion in unspent COVID funds. When people see that these unspent COVID funds are sitting there, then they covet them. You get everybody coming in asking if they can shift these COVID relief funds to some other pet project. That is not what was intended at the time we had a crisis, however much of that crisis might have been exacerbated by false information or what have you, but indeed, the opportunity to take \$60 billion of unspent funds and pull them back, and indeed, have better conversations in a budget and appropriation process, not an emergency as was COVID, it would be much better for all of us.

As we know, the pandemic is over. This money has not been spent, and it should be rescinded without delay. That is what we did today in this piece of legislation, the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

Also included in the bill is our Lower Energy Costs Act, which has already passed this Chamber with bipartisan support previously. It lowers energy costs for American families and modernizes our outdated permitting process.

The House Republicans' plan is economically sound, financially wise, and allows for a debt limit increase of \$1.5 trillion to pay our bills. It is a reasonable, responsible plan that will benefit all Americans.

This body deliberated on the merits of this legislation and has passed this legislation. The U.S. responsibly did its job on a debt ceiling to pay its already incurred bills. The profligate spending of the past years cannot become the permanent way of business of this House or of Washington, D.C.

We cannot afford even more high-speed debt on bills pretending to be COVID fixes about infrastructure that actually isn't infrastructure, or masquerading as a fix for inflation.

It is now on the Democrats in the Senate and the White House to meet with House Republicans at the negotiation table to actually come to a solution.

The stall tactics by Senate Leader SCHUMER and President Biden to run out the clock and do a last-minute crisis debt limit bill with a Christmas tree of goodies that will only cause more crushing debt cannot be the way of doing business here.

Never before in our Nation's history has a debt ceiling been raised without spending reductions to go along with it. It is a negotiation. This time should be no different. We must demand that the Senate come to the table and the White House negotiate.

By us getting legislation out of this body here now, the ball is in their corner. It is time for them to look at our document and come up with their ideas and sit down and do as these bodies are supposed to do in front of the American people, not on Zoom, not behind masks, not remotely, but in front of everybody and make a product that we can all be proud of and at least live with and move towards balancing our budget longer term.

This is what House Republicans are trying to do, not all the caterwauling we heard about, how it is going take away from this and that and the poor and every other group you can name here. It doesn't even touch all that. We have already spent the money. We have to have the debt ceiling increased and be responsible with the spending reductions as we go along.

What could be wrong with that?

I appreciate the effort of my colleagues, our leadership, and Speaker MCCARTHY to get this thing through and get everybody at the table on our side and hopefully be successful with the Senate and the White House to see the logic of what we are trying to do here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BERGMAN for leading us here, and I am actually fairly excited and optimistic that we can get this document out.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about debt ceiling limits, as my colleague stated, we have already spent the money. Now it is time to pay our bills. When you think about how that all starts, it starts with responsible spending and allocation of funds on the front end, knowing that there are limits.

In my first term in the 115th Congress as a member of the Budget Committee, I still remember very starkly a data point that was given to us as new members of the committee. The subject was improper payments by the Federal Government. Seven years ago, that number was \$150 billion a year in improper payments by the Federal Government.

When we talk about limiting debt and we talk about clawing back funds that have already been appropriated and are sitting in accounts, we always have to consider the fact that are we as the Federal Government really managing the expenditure of the dollars?

Because of the fact that there is no incentive within Federal bureaucracies to attack improper spending, we haven't addressed the entire problem.

When you think about an example of what that \$150 billion annually would mean in improper payments, an example would be if a person who, God rest their soul, has been deceased, but yet, their Social Security check still comes, or other checks come. You know there is an end game for that.

Another example would be that a person is receiving a check for \$1,000 that really should be for \$100. That is just an error. So we need to look inside ourselves, within the bureaucracies, within the Federal Government to cut down

the improper payments because we have to look at the debt control, if you will, and the debt reduction, or, as you have heard other people say, bending the curve down to a reasonable rate of repaying our debts without increasing the debt and increasing unnecessary wasteful expenditures. We have to figure out a way to incentivize the good, hardworking folks within our government bureaucracies to take a closer look at all those things and be part of solutions that are going to benefit our country as a whole and all of its citizens.

I will conclude by just saying we got a great start here about 30 minutes ago when we passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act. This is just the next step towards hopefully fruitful, honest, thoughtful negotiations with the White House to help us begin to be able to bend that curve of wasteful spending.

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

FIRST 100 DAYS IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address my first 100 days in Congress. As freshmen Members of Congress, we arrive in D.C. with a "Mr. SMITH Goes to Washington" mentality. As you walk through these Halls for the first time, you realize that you are now a part of history.

Like any new kid on the block, there is a learning curve. Although my learning curve might be slightly different compared to others, what I can say is that mistakes will be made, lessons learned, but speaking as a freshman, try to give yourself a grace period and learn to grow.

Despite everything, I have learned and grown over the past 100 days in Congress. If only I could figure out how to navigate the Rayburn building.

In 100 days, little did I know that I would introduce 11 bills of my own, be a cosponsor of 63 bills, and see three of those cosponsored bills pass in the House.

Each of us, both Republicans and Democrats, are here because we individually believe that we can improve not just our congressional districts but our country. We may not always agree, but like any freshman Member, I am learning to find some common ground.

One thing that is financially hurting not just my constituents, but all New Yorkers are the State and local taxes, also known as SALT. The first bill I introduced is H.R. 1260, the SALT Relief Act. The State of New York's top marginal individual income tax rate is 10.9 percent, making it the third highest top marginal income tax rate in the country after California and Hawaii.

My constituents who specifically reside in Nassau County pay some of the highest property taxes in the country.

My SALT bill aims to increase the \$10,000 cap to \$50,000. According to the Tax Foundation, the average SALT amount—property tax liability or sales tax liability—reported among itemizing filers was \$30,227. Sadly, due to the \$10,000 cap, the average SALT deduction was \$9,023.

I am aware that my district is a combination of affluent neighborhoods with famous constituents like Billy Joel, but it also includes the middle and working classes. This is not about handing out tax relief to the wealthy. It is about real tax relief for all Americans.

In addition to my SALT bill, I recently introduced the Alimony Relief Act. Both of my bills are constituent-driven bills that seek additional deductions for taxpayers who are required to submit government-directed payments. The Alimony Relief Act is the classic example of a constituent who contacted my office, explained in great detail the issue that they were having with the government, and asking for my assistance. The issue is that they are paying income taxes on money they won't be able to spend themselves. For State tax purposes, alimony may be taxable income to the recipient and tax deductible to the individual obligated to pay spousal support. My alimony bill aims to implement that tax deduction for Federal purposes.

Most of my legislative priorities in Congress are driven to provide economic relief, not just to my constituents but to all Americans. We must take a deep dive into the amount of foreign aid that the United States provides to countries who apply barbaric practices to those based on gender or sexual orientation. My bills, H.R. 2404 and H.R. 1736, both send a clear message that we should be standing up to countries that enforce policies that limit individuals to freely exercise any religion, and enrolling in or attending any educational institution.

For example, in 2019, the foreign assistance statistic by country is staggering. I will not read off every country, but Afghanistan, we were providing them with a grand total of \$4.8 trillion. To break it down, that is \$1.2-plus trillion for economic aid and \$3.6-plus billion in aid since the United States withdrew from Afghanistan. Restrictions on women's rights increased exponentially, including freedom of speech. In addition, institutions designed to support human rights were either shut down or severely limited.

Another accomplishment since the Republicans took back the House, we have made great strides with putting an end to COVID-19.

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We passed a resolution terminating the COVID-19 national emergency declaration and passed the Pandemic is Over Act.

In addition, I have introduced H.R. 2631, a bill called the Medical Information Nuanced Accountability Judge-

ment Act. Medical freedom is an absolute right, and any Federal Government should not impose a mandate that requires individuals to receive a vaccine that has not been properly authorized for at least 10 years.

My bill would help restore our military readiness. As a result of the Biden administration's vaccine mandate, more than 3,400 men and women were being involuntarily separated. Under the MINAJ Act, this would not be the case.

While I look forward to the day when one of my bills passes, I can say that it is amazing to see three bills that I have cosponsored pass. House Republicans have made a commitment to put the country first and to reverse consistently bad policies from the Biden administration.

Last week, we passed the Protection of Women and Girls Sports Act. I joined my colleagues to cosponsor a bill that protects biological women in sports.

Over the last couple of years, biological women have been on the receiving end of an unfair disadvantage by competing against transgender male athletes. While the left calls this discrimination against transgender athletes, we simply call it as it is: robbing women of their hard-earned athletic achievements.

I am proud to have cosponsored H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act. Since House Republicans have taken the majority, we continue to build a future that allows for parents to be the primary stakeholders in their children's education. We are making their voices heard. Every parent has the right to know what their children are being taught and to be updated on their school's budget, spending, and, most importantly, when there is violent activity at school.

One of the first bills I proudly cosponsored was the REIN In Act. Since President Biden was sworn into office, we have seen reckless government spending, historically high inflation that is harming the livelihoods of the American people, and small businesses that are still recovering from the pandemic.

We demand transparency from the administration, and this bill would require the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a report including inflationary effects for any executive action with an estimated impact of at least \$1 billion. The White House must report these findings to Congress each year to increase transparency over their actions.

If I have learned anything in the past 100 days, it is that being a Member of Congress goes beyond spending time in our Nation's Capital. Spending as much time in our congressional districts as possible is a major key to success.

As I split my time between Washington, D.C., and my district, there is one thing I can say for certain: Our best government is local. The mayors and other local government workers