

We cannot and should not embrace hate rhetoric and policies that only seek to pit communities against each other, tear families apart, and put our immigrant neighbors in harm's way here in the United States, Madam Speaker, and also those from other countries.

No human being is illegal. I believe that in my heart. I will continue to fight to make sure that we pass some sort of comprehensive immigration reform that gives our immigrant neighbors the dignified, legal pathway to citizenship they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to voting against this horrible, racist bill and urge my colleagues to vote "no."

#### ENGAGING WITH THE MAMAS' CAUCUS

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize mothers of the Michigan 12th Congressional District and across our country. I wish them all Happy Mother's Day.

I am proud to be a mother of two incredible boys. That is why, last year, I joined Mothering Justice, a national organization made up of mothers to create the first-ever Congressional Mamas' Caucus.

We are fighting together for fair and equitable access to childcare, paid leave, and benefits for our care workers, and real economic justice for our families.

In the Mamas' Caucus, we are committed to advocating for all mamas. We must not only pass important policies about mothers to help mothers but with our mothers. That is why the Congressional Mamas' Caucus is so incredibly important.

We all know the cost of raising a family in our country is among the highest in the world and that our policies and social safety nets too often leave our families behind, especially communities of color. We also know that mamas are on the front lines of our fight for reproductive justice and more.

Again, we cannot leave them behind, and we cannot continue to talk about policies that directly impact them without them being there at the table to shape those policies so it can be transformative and meaningful.

If anything, Madam Speaker, the pandemic exposed just how broken our safety nets were, and the Mamas' Caucus remains committed to ending child poverty, to focus on those safety nets that continue to not serve our families currently.

I read a quote during the pandemic that I think resonates why the Mamas' Caucus is so important in this Chamber. It was a quote by a wonderful poet, Sonya Renee Taylor. In the midst and height of the pandemic, she said: "We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate, and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to

stitch a new garment, one that fits all of humanity and nature."

Again, this was her expression, and it resonates for mothers like myself and across the country an understanding that the pandemic gave us an opportunity to recognize those broken systems and how we need to create a new garment. The way we can do it is by bringing mothers in the room as we develop these policies that directly impact all of our families.

Madam Speaker, I welcome my colleagues to be engaged with the Congressional Mamas' Caucus, to engage on the policies we are pushing forward. I appreciate this opportunity to uplift them in this Chamber every day—not only on Mother's Day, but every single day.

#### 18TH INSTALLMENT OF FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to deliver the 18th installment of my farm bill impact series and recap the time I spent in Kansas with House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. THOMPSON.

Last week, Chairman THOMPSON and I hosted a food and agriculture listening session with more than 150 farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and stakeholders on a wheat farm near Gypsum, Kansas. People from a wide range of perspectives shared their thoughts about the reauthorization of the farm bill.

While everyone had different viewpoints, we united because we care about American agriculture; we care about getting ag policy right; and we want to see American farmers, ranchers, and producers thrive. There is a picture of that unity right behind us in three combines, referenced right here, hoisting American flags.

John Deere, Case, and Gleaner—green, red, and gray. When you grow up on a farm, you are born into a loyalty to one of these trusted American brands. They are different. They have different styles and different features, but they are all designed to do the same thing: harvest. They are designed to produce, to take months and months of hard work and effectively churn out a product.

Our food and agriculture listening session was no different. Everyone present brought different styles, priorities, background, and tools to the table, but we were there to do the same thing: harvest, produce, and take hard work and effectively churn out a product. That is the farm bill.

Without the advocacy and input of producers and stakeholders, my colleagues and I wouldn't have a complete picture of what needs to be done on ag legislation. We would just be one combine.

At our event, we hosted people who care about title I and people who care

about title XII. There were people who care about row crops and people who care about livestock. There were representatives from commodity groups and representatives from trade associations. It was a rich, multifaceted picture of American agriculture, and I am grateful to everyone who joined us and for the Kansas agriculture heritage that inspired us to spend time together on that wheat farm.

The brave men and women who ventured west in search of new opportunities settled Kansas and took on the burden of feeding, fueling, and clothing the world. They struggled through the Dust Bowl, raised their kids in sod houses, and broke the prairie for the first time. In doing so, they laid the foundation for what we experienced last week: a shared history of feeding the world on the soil beneath our feet.

I remember in February 2021, when I just started this job in Congress, Kansas had 13 consecutive days of below-freezing temperatures, which was a 40-year record. While I was flying back and forth between Kansas and D.C., I couldn't stop thinking about the Kansas producers and all they were facing. They were out busting ice by hand at all hours so their cattle could have access to water. They were delivering baby calves and hauling them on the floorboards of trucks to someplace warmer, bottle-feeding them so they could grow and survive in the wind chills. They were out in the barn at all hours of the night, only to start over at 5 a.m. All this was so that Americans have a safe and secure food supply.

Whether it is trudging through knee-high snow in the dead of winter, working the fields in the heat of summer, or hauling water in a drought, American ag producers don't take days off. Agriculture inspires us to look back at our shared heritage, engage in the present, and plan for the future. That is what last week was about—planning for the future.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for spending his invaluable time with me in Kansas, and I thank all of our hosts and those who came out to our event to share their perspectives.

As we work to reauthorize the farm bill, the American men and women who work tirelessly to feed, fuel, and clothe all of us are at the forefront of my mind.

Madam Speaker, I will be back on the floor soon to host another installment of my farm bill impact series.

#### NEW YORK CITY'S EFFORTS TO WELCOME MIGRANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, New York City is again serving its traditional role as a beacon of light of opportunity for this Nation when it comes to the humane and just treatment of asylum seekers.

Madam Speaker, that lady still stands at the harbor telling us: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." That message is heard across the country. My family heard that message.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that even across the country in California, your family heard this message, a tremendous message that is at the very center of America, at the heart of America.

Last spring, in an act of political theater, Republican Governors began transporting asylum seekers to New York City and other cities across the country. In response, New Yorkers have welcomed them because this is America. They reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that the American Dream is available for all those who want to seek it and want to make their case before government.

We should allow people to come and make their case before our government, and then we will determine whether or not they can remain in our country.

Since last spring, my city has welcomed over 60,000 new New Yorkers who are seeking asylum in our country. I congratulate and thank Mayor Eric Adams for his remarkable leadership in taking on this great challenge.

Over the past year, New York City has opened up eight new humanitarian response and relief centers and 122 emergency shelters. These shelters are currently providing over 37,000 asylum seekers with beds while their cases are being processed.

However, New York City cannot do it alone. We must get the help of FEMA. This is why I and New York City's congressional delegation fought so hard to secure nearly \$40 million for much-needed Federal funding.

New York is a proud right-to-shelter city. It requires the city to provide asylum seekers with shelter, along with their families.

This week, I led a letter by the congressional delegation of our city to FEMA to oversee the immediate release of an additional \$360 million in shelter and services funds. We must get that aid.

Madam Speaker, I will address another issue, the weaponization of immigration. Every day, right on this floor, we hear some of our colleagues weaponize immigration for political purposes, particularly during election season. We hear them weaponize this issue to try to score some cheap political points.

They try to say that it is the moms who walked for thousands of miles with their children fleeing violence that are carrying fentanyl and other dangerous drugs when, in fact, all the evidence from law enforcement shows us that those drugs are being transported through the ports of entry.

Madam Speaker, let's invest in making our ports of entry stronger and safer so that these dangerous drugs, weapons, and human trafficking do not continue to occur.

□ 1030

This political theater of weaponizing immigration must stop. It divides the Nation, it makes us look foolish across the world, and it diminishes us as a beacon of hope and opportunity that has that lady still on the harbor.

Madam Speaker, I encourage New York and other places in need of funding for asylum seekers to apply for a variety of benefits made available to them through the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Madam Speaker, this is a nation of immigrants. Don't allow immigration to be weaponized. Let's make sure we address the issue in a comprehensive way.

Keep the faith.

### LOWERING COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, it has been just over 100 days since I was sworn into office, and it is an amazing honor and privilege to represent the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of hearing from so many of my constituents through phone calls, emails, texts, townhall meetings, and meetings all over the district.

Right now, the reality is that North Carolinians need help keeping up with the rising costs of goods and services. Seniors and young parents alike deserve the opportunity to build their families and put down roots. However, with an unfair and overburdensome tax system, coupled with the increasing cost of living, making ends meet is tough.

To show this, I commissioned an economic impact report using a sample budget based on the median costs for basic necessities through the Economic Policy Institute and the United States Census. The report shows that working families are finding it hard to pay for things like rent, groceries, childcare, and healthcare.

Madam Speaker, when you take a closer look at the budget breakdown, it is a real wake-up call. A working family could spend about 19 percent of their income on childcare, 21 percent on housing, and 22 percent on healthcare.

I have collected testimonials and survey responses from hundreds of constituents who shared their personal experiences dealing with the rising cost of childcare and the rising cost of housing.

I heard from a former State employee and mother of three who shared that she spends 50 percent of her income on childcare. She noted that over the past several years, childcare prices have not decreased and that salaries are not

commensurate with inflation and the cost-of-living increases.

I also heard from a family whose youngest son, a recent college graduate with a job at the median salary in North Carolina, can't pay rent or purchase a small home in Raleigh or in the suburbs. They are worried because we want our young people to succeed, but it is hard to do so under the current circumstances.

Madam Speaker, it is clear, working families are struggling to keep up. Working families deserve to know that their leaders are willing to roll up their sleeves and find bipartisan solutions that will make a real difference in their lives and their budgets.

I am working to do just that. In Congress, I am working in a bipartisan way to level the playing field for working families by lowering out-of-pocket costs and creating a fair tax system that benefits everyone.

I am leading the charge against a proposal to implement a 30 percent national sales tax instead of a Federal income tax. That would be a disaster for working families.

I have cosponsored the COVER Now Act to lower healthcare costs, I have cosponsored the Food Deserts Act which will increase access to grocery stores and help address the cost of food. I have cosponsored the Child Care for Every Community Act to expand access to affordable childcare.

I have also just introduced today the ACRE Act to help lower mortgage costs for rural communities and enable North Carolina farmers to have greater access to credit through community banks.

Madam Speaker, as I stand here in this absolutely magnificent Chamber, I am constantly reminded just how fragile our democracy is—our government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

As the Representative for the people of North Carolina's 13th District, I will keep working hard in a bipartisan way to find solutions to get results for our families, our friends, and our neighbors.

### 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 34 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: