

It is sad. It is sad that there is not even no word but there is no action on this. When will the Republicans work with us Democrats to help put an end to gun violence?

THANKING CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and thank the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Chairman Rocky Barrett for their response to the storm damage in late April throughout central Oklahoma.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation dispatched more than 20 emergency management units and agencies and even began working to anticipate community needs before the tornado hit Potawatomi County.

The widespread destruction suffered in Shawnee and its surrounding community was devastating. At least 1,800 structures in Shawnee were affected, with 300 heavily damaged and 42 completely destroyed.

My heart goes out to the community, and I am proud of the way Oklahomans have come together as we continue rebuilding and look forward to the future.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

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

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today in honor of National Nurses Week and to honor the life and legacy of America's first professionally trained Black nurse, Mary Eliza Mahoney.

Today, I am proud to introduce a resolution supported by the National Black Nurses Association and National Nurses United to uplift and celebrate the timeless contributions of Mary Eliza Mahoney.

Mary Eliza advanced the nursing profession by confronting issues affecting professional nurses, such as poor working conditions and racial discrimination.

She was one of the founders of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, whose mission was to improve access to educational and nursing practices for all Black Americans.

Her legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of Black nurses across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating America's first Black nurse and in honoring Black nurses who are saving lives across our country every day.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STAND UP FOR AMERICA PARADE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my hometown of Port Wentworth, Georgia, and to honor them for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stand Up for America Day Parade.

For 50 years, on the last Saturday in April, residents of Port Wentworth and the surrounding areas have gathered to pay homage to members of the Armed Forces, both past and present.

When the parade first started, America was still embroiled in the controversy of the Vietnam war. It was started by then-Mayor P.B. Edwards, who was permanently wounded in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

The people of Port Wentworth decided to put on this parade in honor of those Vietnam veterans and all veterans who served in armed conflicts abroad.

After a 3-year hiatus, this year's parade drew over 50 entries, ranging from bands to golf carts, all with one purpose in mind: to honor those who have served us.

I thoroughly enjoy attending this event every time I am able. It reminds me of just how great our Nation is and how grateful we are for our servicemen and—women.

I thank everyone who has helped continue this tradition, from local officials to the community, and wish them the best of luck for the next 50 parades.

BIDEN BORDER POLICY HARMS FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Biden border policies jeopardize national security and endanger all American families everywhere from terrorist attacks by illegal aliens.

According to The Washington Times editorial of April 4, "The effects of the President's policies have been glaringly apparent, particularly to citizens residing along the northbound thoroughfares into the Southwest."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports 212,266 border encounters in February, bringing the figure thus far in fiscal year 2023 to 1.3 million illegal aliens.

The cause of the border chaos can clearly be traced to Biden administration policies. Title 42, a Trump-era policy allowing rapid deportation of border crossers, expires May 11, today. There is every reason to anticipate a larger surge of eager recipients.

For Mr. Biden, immigration reform is to be achieved without the bother of

congressional approval. Rather than lifting civilizations to new heights, he is splintering its foundations.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

In the real world, if guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.

CELEBRATING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, as Teacher Appreciation Week draws to a close, I am thrilled to recognize one of the many educators who has made an incredible impact on the lives of kids in my community: Mr. Mark Lavine from the Panther Valley School District.

A sixth grade math teacher, Mr. Lavine has been a Panther Valley educator for 21 years. His love for teaching and mentoring extends beyond the classroom as the high school football coach, adviser for the academic quiz challenge, and organizer of school spirit day.

Hardworking and compassionate, Mr. Lavine doubled the size of his math class to cover for a colleague on a leave of absence—twice.

He is known as the big brother on staff as a mentor to new teachers, and his energy inspires a loving curiosity for math in his students.

Mr. Lavine epitomizes the dedication of so many educators across Pennsylvania-07 who foster a lifelong love for learning in our kids.

This week and every week, thank a teacher who made a difference in your life, your child's life, or a loved one's life, someone like Panther Valley's Mr. Lavine.

PROHIBITING SALE OF BODY ARMOR

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, a racist, hateful individual traveled to my community of Buffalo, New York, to commit mass murder at a supermarket on Jefferson Avenue.

Armed with an AR-15 assault weapon, he shot 13 people, killing 10 of them in less than 2 minutes.

It is often said that the best way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Retired Police Officer Aaron Salter, Jr., the security guard on duty that day, was a good guy with a gun, but he was outgunned by the bad guy with a bigger gun, and his weapon was no match for the military-grade body armor the shooter wore. Body armor designed for war zones has no place in our neighborhoods.

The Aaron Salter, Jr., Responsible Body Armor Possession Act prohibits

civilians from buying and selling enhanced body armor. It protects communities as well as law enforcement answering the call when public safety is at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense safety bill for the Buffalo community and for the many others who have forever been changed by mass shootings.

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SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLZEY). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 60 minutes.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on Inauguration Day, our border was secure. The Trump policies had slowed illegal immigration to a trickle. That afternoon, Joe Biden reversed these policies, and in the last 27 months the Democrats have deliberately admitted into our country more than 2.1 million illegal aliens.

Now that is larger than the entire population of the State of Nebraska, and while the Border Patrol was overwhelmed, more than 1½ million known got-aways entered as well. That is an additional population larger than that of Hawaii. All of this occurred in 27 months.

As we can see at this very moment, this was only a prelude to the mass invasion now unfolding before our eyes. The Border Patrol Union warned us yesterday: “Field reports from agents across the southern border verify the enormity of this tidal wave of illegal aliens coming now. Huge groups are overwhelming stations, and it is completely out of control. Massive releases beginning and it’s going to get much worse.”

Now for Americans, this means classrooms packed with non-English speaking students, hospitals flooded with illegals demanding uncompensated care, violent criminal cartels and gangs introduced into our communities, fentanyl killing an average of 300 Americans every day, suppressed wages for working Americans, and the collapse of the social safety net that was supposed to take care of Americans in need.

For the millions of illegal migrants, it means exposure to hazardous conditions that have claimed 2,000 lives that we know of. Many arrive sick, traumatized, starved, brutalized, raped, and deeply in debt to the cartels.

These are not asylum seekers. Asylum is a specific refuge for those singled out by their government for persecution because of race, religion, or political beliefs. Asylum is achieved by crossing the first international border that separates you from that government. Asylum is not an open invitation to bum-rush our borders, but the Democrats have made it precisely that.

If you make a fraudulent asylum claim, you are now guaranteed to receive immediate admission into our country, you get cash, a range of free goods and services, indefinite residency, and indefinite work authorizations. Then, when your claim is ultimately rejected by a clogged court system years in the future, you will not be deported, and you only need to wait for the next amnesty.

This makes a mockery of legitimate asylum, the sovereignty of our Nation, and the rule of law. Our bill removes the incentives to break our laws by reinforcing the existing requirement that forbids releasing asylum claimants into the country until their claim is resolved.

This bill also returns unaccompanied minors safely home as we already do with children from Mexico or Canada, but this administration sends all other children to poorly vetted so-called sponsors in this country with little concern or follow-up over the conditions into which we have abandoned them. Many become indentured servants, slaves to the cartels and their gangs, forced into sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and drug trafficking under horrific conditions.

The only way to stop this trafficking is to return these children safely home. The cartels are paid thousands of dollars to bring them to the United States, and that will stop the moment we return these children to their homes. Every Border Patrol agent I have talked to tells me that this is the only way to stop this heartbreaking tragedy.

For those crossing as families, this measure keeps them together. It allows them to make their asylum claim and then to wait in Mexico or in a family residential center until their claim is heard.

This measure removes the incentives for cartels to traffic children to pose as families in order to be automatically released into our country as the Democrats are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BIGGS, Mr. ROY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. MORAN for their work that comprises the judiciary section of this bill and my thanks to the many Members who helped craft it into its current form.

Yes, we are a nation of immigrants. We are also a nation of laws. Millions of immigrants come to our country legally every year. They obey our laws. They wait patiently. They do everything our country asks of them. Meanwhile, millions of illegal immigrants

are cutting in line in front of them aided, abetted, encouraged, and rewarded by Democrat officials.

It has been said that this bill has no chance in the Senate and if it did pass that it would be vetoed by the President. Well, that is a question that the American people must ultimately decide before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, the majority has brought forward a cruel, extreme, and unworkable piece of legislation, which would wreck our economy, destroy the asylum system, criminalize visa overstays, send unaccompanied children back to dangerous situations, and jail children indefinitely.

Once again, my Republican colleagues show us that they are not interested in finding real solutions to tough issues. This bill attempts to combine a variety of different bills, each one more cruel and heartless than the last into one contradictory and overlapping mess. This bill has no chance of being enacted into law and it is nothing more than pure political theater.

My Republican colleagues are trying to take us back to the failed, illegal, and immoral policies of the Trump administration. Former President Trump’s radical, inhumane, and racist immigration actions weakened the U.S. economy, undermined our moral standing in the world, and did not make us any safer.

While trampling on some of our most deeply held American values, his erratic approach also failed to stem the flow of migrants across our border. Let’s be very clear about what this legislation would do. When taken together, this bill serves as a wholesale ban on asylum. No one would be able to seek asylum in the United States if they cross between ports of entry or if they had or could have had even temporary status in a third country.

Let me give you an example of what this means. If the Russian dissident Aleksey Navalny, who Putin attempted to poison twice, was somehow released from his prison in Siberia and took a flight to seek political asylum in the United States, but the plane touched down for refueling in Bulgaria, he would have to stay in Bulgaria. He couldn’t come to the United States.

During the Judiciary Committee’s markup, Democrats offered a variety of amendments to exempt the most vulnerable from some of these draconian requirements. This included those fleeing Communist and totalitarian regimes and unaccompanied children, but the majority was not even willing to exempt children under a year old.

The one place where we were able to make some bipartisan headway was on the issue of E-Verify. E-Verify is an electronic employment eligibility verification system that began as a voluntary pilot program and is currently