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## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 15, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ERIN HOUCHIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### POLYCRISIS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the body on what has become a new term of art in politics called a polycrisis.

A polycrisis is when extraordinary events are taking place around the world, of which we are all too familiar with, including a global pandemic that has set off global supply chain issues and that have set off global inflation

that impacts everybody around the globe. All of which have been compounded by the war in Ukraine and all the disruption that that has caused.

In the midst of this polycrisis, who has been impacted the most in this country by both the pandemic and inflation?

People impacted the most by the pandemic are people over the age of 65. Of roughly the more than 1.2 million Americans who have succumbed to the pandemic, over 850,000, Madam Speaker, are over the age of 65.

The people who are most impacted by inflation are people on a fixed income, and they tend to be people over the age of 65 because they are the people on Social Security, which means that some 66-plus million Americans are impacted by both the pandemic and inflation, and Congress needs to act.

What we need to do most of all is put the debt ceiling issue behind us. To play chicken with people's lives with Social Security checks on the line, to default on the American dollar, is criminal. These are probably unintended by the other side of the aisle, but nonetheless, the direct result of a gamble that makes no sense.

Who is looking in during this polycrisis but our competitors around the world, most notably, China and Russia, who would love to see the value of the dollar and the standing of the United States shaken.

Oddly and ironically enough, this is not happening by any of these events abroad but happening right here in this Chamber by the failure of Congress to lift the debt ceiling, something that was done three times during the Trump administration. Yet, in the face of this pending crisis, with our seniors, the most vulnerable amongst us, facing excruciating circumstances, we continue to dither here.

Put the debt ceiling on the floor, vote on it, and lift it so we can get on with sending relief to the American people.

Congress should be embarrassed by its negligence. It has been more than 52 years since Congress has enhanced benefits for Social Security.

How can people go home and look at their friends, their neighbors, their parents, their brothers and sisters in the eye and tell them that we have done nothing for 52 years?

Do you think that things have changed since 1971, that prices might have gone up?

Certainly, they have.

It is long overdue for Congress not simply to protect Social Security, but to enhance it during this polycrisis, during this epidemic, during this time of inflation, for the most vulnerable among us.

Social Security is the number one antipoverty program for the elderly. It is also the number one antipoverty program for children, and it also happens to be the best economic development program for every single congressional district.

An average of 145,000 people per congressional district depend on Social Security and receive those checks. Where do they spend that money? Right back in the district.

The time to act is now.

### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as we begin National Police Week, we recognize the brave men and women of law enforcement who serve and protect our communities every day.

It was President Ronald Reagan who said: "Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid."

From carrying out high-risk warrants to patrolling our neighborhoods

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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to maintain order, we rely on police officers, our sheriffs, and our troopers to keep us safe.

The bravery that they show in the face of evil—rushing toward an emergency is what stands between lawlessness and order on our streets, and ultimately safety in our homes.

Sadly, we are so often reminded that there are those in this Congress who have looked to defund our law enforcement—actively working to strip them of the tools, the training, and the equipment that they need in order to allow us to remain safe.

So far this year, 135 officers have been wounded by gunfire, 38 by ambush-style attacks, with 15 officers losing their lives in the line of duty, the ultimate sacrifice.

While crime continues to rise in our cities, it is unconscionable that anyone would seek to take away the resources and support for those who have the courage to serve and protect us every day and every night.

Matthew 5 says: “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

The officers across Pennsylvania embody this scripture.

This week, please join me in praying for the men and women who wear the badge. Join me in praying for their safety.

Let's recommit ourselves to standing with our law enforcement officers. Let's pledge to never defund the police. In this Congress, let's promise to always back the men and women in blue.

#### WORKING TOGETHER TO SECURE THE BORDER

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, North Carolina is a hub of innovation and diversity. People with roots from all over the world have come together to build a prosperous and growing community in our State.

My district is stronger because of its diversity, and we need an immigration system that reflects North Carolina's needs and values.

I believe it is possible to have a fair and efficient immigration system while also protecting our national security and ensuring the safety of American citizens.

That is why I was discouraged that, with title 42 set to expire, the majority chose to advance partisan legislation rather than bipartisan solutions that can pass the House, Senate, and get signed into law.

Likewise, while the administration announced several short-term steps leading up to the expiration of title 42, it was too little too late, and now Congress must act.

It is unfortunate that addressing the situation at the southern border has become a political issue. Border security is not a Democrat or Republican

issue. It is an American issue that we must address.

I was proud to join a bipartisan coalition of Members to introduce legislation that will secure the southern border while giving us more time to enact meaningful, long-term reforms to our overburdened immigration system.

The legislation is the House companion to the one introduced by North Carolina's own Senator THOM TILLIS and Arizona Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA. I am proud to join this effort with Congressmen GOLDEN, CISCOMANI, DON DAVIS from North Carolina, FITZPATRICK, VALADAO, and NUNN.

This legislation grants the Biden administration a 2-year temporary expulsion authority for migrants who enter the U.S. illegally and serves as a proactive measure to tackle the expected surge of migrants at the southern border.

Importantly, this legislation also ensures that migrants facing persecution or torture due to their membership in social, political, or religious groups will not be subject to expulsion. Furthermore, border agents will have the discretion to exempt migrants on a case-by-case basis.

The urgency of decisive action at our southern border cannot be overstated, and this legislation will help in both the short term and the long term.

In the short term, it would effectively extend title 42 restrictions. It would equip the U.S. Customs and Border Protection with the tools and resources to secure our borders and keep Americans safe.

In the long term, this legislation grants more time for Congress to take up and address our overburdened immigration system.

Right now, there is strong bipartisan support for this, and we can work together to find commonsense solutions that can pass into law.

I believe in strong border security and improving technology at our ports of entry. I also believe people who wish to come to our country seeking a better life deserve a pathway to visas or citizenship that doesn't take decades to complete.

North Carolina's economy relies on immigrants to come here on skilled work visas, and I will work to find solutions to address the visa backlog and expand processing. We should address the root causes of migration with a comprehensive approach that includes not only immigration policy but also economic development, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic engagement.

As a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus and member of the New Democrat Coalition's Immigration and Border Security Task Force, I remain focused and committed to working across the aisle to secure our border and advance comprehensive immigration reform.

A solution to our broken immigration system is long overdue, Madam Speaker. Let's work together to secure our borders and ports, create a path-

way to legal status for undocumented immigrants already in the country, and reform our visa system so we can strengthen economic development.

#### PRIORITIZING ETHANOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of prioritizing ethanol as we move toward a cleaner, more renewable energy future.

Today, I am introducing the Fuels Parity Act legislation that would allow ethanol from cornstarch to qualify as an advanced biofuel. Removing legal barriers that limit the use of corn-based ethanol will bolster American energy production and support our agriculture industry, all while lowering emissions.

The Biden administration continues to tout its focus on clean energy, yet routinely leaves ethanol and other biofuels out of the equation. Transitioning to 100 percent electric vehicles is simply not feasible at this point in time. Our energy demands as a Nation are increasing every single day, and our grid cannot support this transition.

Instead of naively pushing for a change without considering the potential side effects, the Biden administration should be promoting all kinds of renewable energy, whether wind and solar to support our power grid, or advanced biofuels to reduce carbon emissions without forcing the purchase of expensive EVs while not having the grid to support them.

My bill is proof that Republicans and Democrats from all different regions are supportive of a cleaner energy future. I am proud to be joined by Representatives BICE, HUNT, SORESENSEN, and BUDZINSKI, and I look forward to continuing our efforts to prioritize American energy production.

□ 1215

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week.

Our officers do their job because they are committed to serving and protecting their communities. It is a selfless profession filled with brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect others and keep order in society. They deserve recognition for their tireless efforts, yet are oftentimes met with hatred.

Maintaining public safety is the key to thriving communities and our Nation as a whole. In the last few years, our officers have been constantly attacked and defunded in many major American cities. Progressive district attorneys are contributing to the problem by refusing to prosecute crimes, leaving criminals on the street who are highly likely to re-offend. We have all