

They say they want to back the blue and support our police, but 22 percent cuts to Federal law enforcement and grants to local police departments are hardly the support they need.

□ 1015

They say they support our veterans—but cut veterans' food assistance programs and housing choice vouchers, hurting tens of thousands of veterans who have bravely served. Even the PACT Act that finally made it through Congress to help veterans exposed to toxic chemicals wouldn't get the funding needed to help those who served our Nation.

It keeps going. 180,000 fewer children would have access to childcare; 10,800 fewer OSHA inspections of plants would expose workers to unsafe conditions. Drug treatment courts would lose funding, and 29,000 fewer people would be able to get treatment for opioid addiction.

There is a reason why they can't put out a full budget. It is because these types of cuts aren't workable.

It is worse. If they do fund some areas, then other areas will see even deeper cuts—30 percent or more cuts in some of the areas I just mentioned. If they don't get these cuts, then they won't pay our Nation's current bills and will force our Nation into default.

When you sign a mortgage, you can't decide whether or not you are going to send your monthly check. If you default, then you lose your house, and your credit is shot. The same is true for the Federal Government.

You would also be directly affected by Republican default. Millions of people would lose their jobs. Interest rates for home buyers and small businesses would go up overnight. Stocks would tank, sinking your retirement investments.

Congress has to pay its bills like you do, responsibly, and you do that by lifting the debt ceiling now. If not, then, Mr. President, invoke parts of the 14th Amendment to pay our bills and not damage the economy.

Enough messing around. Get the job done, House Republicans. Your constituents deserve it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, America's law enforcement officers are the best among us.

As we celebrate National Police Week this week, I am proud to join my colleagues and millions of Americans in saying thank you to the brave men and women who wear the badge.

Every day, law enforcement officers courageously save innocent lives, stop criminals, and help our communities. Yet tragically, since 1776, more than

26,000 police officers and sheriff's deputies have made the ultimate sacrifice, and in just the last 3 years alone, we have lost 1,397 officers in the line of duty. That is 26,000 too many.

Despite the countless sacrifices that our police officers and sheriff's deputies across the Nation make every day, the far left has pushed to defund the police for far too long, and our police and sheriff's officers have been under relentless attack.

With crime running rampant in communities across the country, defunding and demoralizing our law enforcement has only made communities less safe. Unfortunately, instead of taking action to give law enforcement more resources and support, liberal politicians have doubled down on soft-on-crime policies that have gotten us into this mess.

Despite this, local law enforcement officers in communities across Virginia's Sixth District and across our Nation go to work every day to protect each and every one of us, and we cannot convey our gratitude enough.

This week, House Republicans will be voting on a resolution that expresses our continued support for law enforcement officers and condemns the far left's efforts to defund the police.

We will also be voting on H.R. 2494, the POLICE Act, which will make assault on a law enforcement officer by an alien a deportable offense and important legislation that establishes a program for Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired handguns at fair market value.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans will continue to proudly back the brave men and women who wear the brown and the blue across America. As we honor National Police Week, I urge all of my colleagues to join us in support by passing these bills.

JOHN HANDLEY HIGH SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Winchester, Virginia's, own John Handley High School, an endowed public school located in the heart of Shenandoah Valley.

The school's funding was launched by an 1895 grant from Judge John Handley—hence the school mascot, the "Judges," because of Handley's love of the town and its people that grew through his friends and acquaintances—and construction followed beginning in 1922.

Despite never having lived in Winchester, Judge Handley's generosity made it possible for generations of students to enhance their knowledge.

More importantly, it created an environment, a culture of support, and appreciation for public education.

With state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge academics, a dedicated athletic program, and an award-winning fine arts program, the John Handley High School truly sets itself apart. The school was even recently named the most beautiful high school in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Today, under the leadership of principal Susan Braithwaite, John Handley High School's thriving active student body and dedicated staff truly embody the meaning of Handley Pride.

Congratulations to John Handley High School and all the students, alumni, teachers, and staff, past and present, on this incredible milestone, and I wish the school another 100 years of success.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the greatest threat to America's economy is our debt crisis. Even according to former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Admiral Mike Mullen, the most significant threat to America's security is our national debt.

Our financial instability today has spiraled out of control because of President Biden and the Democrats' reckless spending to fund their radical agenda.

Now our Nation faces an unsustainable \$31.7 trillion in debt.

Earlier last week, President Biden met with Speaker McCARTHY and congressional leadership to discuss legislation to raise the debt ceiling, and to no one's surprise, Biden and Senate Democrats continued to avoid their responsibilities to negotiate.

House Republicans have already worked toward a deal by passing a sensible debt ceiling bill that will limit government spending, grow the economy, save taxpayer dollars, and protect vital benefits.

We have also done our job to stop the chaos at our southern border by passing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. The security of our border is inextricably linked to the fiscal security of our Nation.

A recent cost estimate of the Secure the Border Act by the Congressional Budget Office has confirmed that Federal taxpayers are spending tens of billions of dollars on benefits for illegal immigrants like health care, nutrition, and refundable child tax credits due to Biden's current border policies.

Taking into account costs at the State and local level, American taxpayers pay \$182 billion annually for services and benefits to illegal immigrants.

At the end of the day, blank government checks got us into this debt crisis, and a no-strings-attached debt ceiling increase will only serve to push our already fragile economy off the fiscal cliff.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act, and I urge the President to join us at the table.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to thank the men and women who work every day to keep our communities safe and to honor those

who have given their lives in service to our communities.

As the daughter of a retired career law enforcement officer and as a former Federal agent, I know the responsibilities, the pressure, and the stress that can come with putting on the badge.

I stand here today during this National Police Week to honor Virginia's Seventh District and the officers who call it home.

Across our Commonwealth, we reflect on the service and the sacrifice of our community's law enforcement officers. As the Representative for Virginia's Seventh District, it is my great privilege to represent so many public servants: the men and women who have answered the call to serve their fellow Americans, their neighbors, and our communities.

This week and every day, we remember their colleagues and friends—those who never returned home. In their absence, our communities, our Commonwealth, and our country have felt tremendous loss.

Today, on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to read the names of fallen officers from Virginia's Seventh District. May they never be forgotten and may their service and their sacrifice inspire their fellow law enforcement officers to continue to serve and protect.

From the Prince William County Police Department: Police Officer Ashley Marie Guindon, Police Officer Chris Yung, Police Officer Philip Michael "Mike" Pennington, and Police Officer Paul Thomas "Pete" White, Jr.

From the Prince William County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff David William Myers, Jr.

From the Stafford County Sheriff's Office:

Deputy Sheriff Jason Edward Mooney and Deputy Sheriff Ford T. Humphrey.

From the Fredericksburg Police Department:

Police Officer Todd Allen Bahr, Officer William Franklin Mines, Sergeant Roy Glen Wright, and Officer Ellsworth Alexander Moore.

From the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office: Captain James Anthony Sisk and Deputy Sheriff George Robert Lillard, Jr.

From the King George County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff Craig Lamont Brooks.

From the Caroline County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff Strother W. "Ted" Lewis, Sr.

From the Greene County Sheriff's Office: Investigator Chadwick Alan Carr and Sergeant Rodney Lee Davis.

From the Orange County Sheriff's Office: Sheriff William B. "Willie" Young and Sheriff Willie C. Bond.

From the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Sheriff Bryan Marshall Berger, Deputy Sheriff Dean Ridings, and Detective Richard Lee Samuels.

This week, we remember these officers, these Virginians, and these he-

roes. They are someone's loved one, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, children. Their names are not only remembered here in the U.S. Capitol and throughout the Halls of Congress, but their sacrifices are honored throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

These officers were dedicated public servants. They were valued loved ones across our communities, and they represented the best of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, I thank the public servants who protect the U.S. Capitol every single day, those who stand watch over the very function of our democracy.

I know I stand with my colleagues expressing gratitude and appreciation for the U.S. Capitol Police.

On January 6, 2012, their heroism alongside that of the Metropolitan Police Department protected Members of Congress, Capitol employees, staff, and our very democracy. More than 150 police officers were injured that day, and yet they still stand strong, committed to their duty.

As the Representative for Virginia's Seventh District, I am proud to represent many of the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police in Congress, and I am committed to making sure that they have the resources, support, financial security, and retirements they deserve and have earned through their selfless sacrifice.

It is the least we can do in return for their professionalism, their fervent commitment to duty, their devotion to our country, and their work every day in the Halls of Congress.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, we honor our men and women in blue for their courage, dedication, and commitment to preserving law and order in our communities. We also remember the fallen, those who made the ultimate selfless sacrifice in the line of duty.

On this National Police Week, Congress has the unique opportunity to not just say we back the blue but to actually take a stand against a misguided law that severely hinders the ability of police officers in this very city from protecting and serving the American people.

The D.C. City Council's so-called police reform bill—the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Emergency Amendment Act—creates very serious undue burdens on the Metropolitan Police Department. Amidst the raging crime crisis terrorizing the streets here in our Nation's Capital, this law, which for 2 years has been in effect under emergency legislative powers, puts criminals first and MPD officers last.

MPD officers overwhelmingly oppose the D.C. Council's anti-police law, and they are making it known with their

feet. Since this legislation has been in place, the MPD has lost more than 1,100 officers and currently operates at a 500-officer deficit. As officers are leaving the force in droves, faster than they can be replaced, the Metropolitan Police Department has drastically shrunk to a historic half-century low.

Due to my commitment to our Constitution and passion for restoring law and order in our Nation's Capital, I introduced a resolution, H.J. Res. 42, to repeal the D.C. Council's harmful law.

Last month this body passed my commonsense measure by a bipartisan vote garnering the support of 14 House Democrats. By passing my resolution, the House firmly rejected the council's anti-police law, reaffirming our support of heroic law enforcement officers and underscored the importance of protecting Americans' safety here in Washington.

It is now up to the Senate to act before it is too late.

Thankfully, today Senators will vote on H.J. Res. 42 as Senator J.D. VANCE is leading the fight to repeal the D.C. Council's anti-police law. During this vote Senators will face a very simple question: On National Police Week do they stand with the officers of the Metropolitan Police Department, or do they embolden violent criminals who continue to torment and attack Americans in our Nation's Capital?

Earlier this year when Congress was confronted with a similar question as we considered my previous D.C.-related resolution, H.J. Res. 26, to block the D.C. Council's soft-on-crime Revised Criminal Code Act, we had 31 Democrats in both the House and the Senate join our effort to strike down this radical law that would eliminate minimum sentences and reduce maximum penalties for numerous violent criminal offenses.

I now call on these same 31 Senate Democrats to join our fight, yet again, by passing H.J. Res. 42 because failure to do so will only drive out more Metropolitan Police Department officers and deter officers from joining the force, meaning Washington will have fewer police officers on the streets to combat the dangerous crime crisis plaguing our Nation's Capital.

While D.C.'s local leadership shamelessly refuses to admit there is a crime crisis in Washington, the data reveals that the crime crisis is not only real, but that it is getting worse. Compared to last year, violent crime is up 13 percent as the city has already faced more than 80 homicides in just the first 4½ months of 2023. Property crime has increased by a whopping 30 percent, and total crime overall is up 27 percent.

□ 1030

Clearly, the crime crisis in our Nation's Capital is dire, which is why residents, small businesses, visitors, and the brave officers of the Metropolitan Police Department are counting on Congress to act. They are depending on