

Mr. Speaker, 14.8 million Yemenis are on the verge of starvation and cannot wait for lifesaving humanitarian aid from the international community. A month ago, I led two dozen of our colleagues in requesting at least \$1.2 billion in U.S. humanitarian aid to Yemen in the upcoming budget. I repeat that call here today.

Mr. Speaker, this is our moment. Let's call for peace and stretch out a helping hand and be there for the Yemeni people when they need us most.

RECOGNIZING THE 288TH BIRTHDAY OF AMELIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 288th birthday of Amelia County, Virginia.

Located in the rolling hills of Virginia's southern Piedmont region, Amelia County was founded in 1735 and named in honor of Princess Amelia, the daughter of King George II.

Amelia County has since contributed to the rich history of the United States, appropriate for it being located in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the most historic of all States.

In fact, the Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1843 to 1845 for the 28th Congress, John Winston Jones, was born in Amelia County.

During World War II, the county's Morefield Mine provided significant strategic minerals that were very important to the successful American war effort.

Just a few days ago, on May 13, I was honored to be able to join Amelia County for its annual Amelia Day Festival to celebrate the historic founding of this great county, now 288 years old.

Members from the Amelia County Public Schools band, Amelia Academy chorus, and the Amelia County High School chorus performed to commemorate this wonderful occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the great people of Amelia County, and I appreciate all that they contribute to Virginia's Fifth Congressional District and our great Commonwealth.

SHRINK WASHINGTON AND GROW AMERICA

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I commend our Speaker and this House, this very body, for negotiating and passing a responsible bill to raise the debt limit in exchange for spending cuts and reforms.

While the White House and the Senate stood on the sidelines for 90 days, this very body came together in initiating a debt limit increase. While many of our Members did not want to increase the debt limit, we negotiated that with responsible and reasonable spending cuts and reforms.

Democrats in the White House and here in Congress would, if they had their way, raise the debt ceiling by some \$4 trillion with no reforms or spending cuts, promising to do what

Washington never does, cut spending in some future undefined date.

Certainly, a default will occur if we continue on the current track when we can no longer borrow, we can no longer sell our debt, and we can no longer service our debt. Republicans here in the House are determined not to let this happen, and that is why we have done our job.

What have we passed out of this House?

Returning spending to pre-COVID levels for nondefense discretionary spending. We put 1 percent caps on future growth in spending. We have eliminated hundreds of billions of dollars in woke climate environmental extremism that is in the phony inflation increase act and the phony Inflation Reduction Act.

We have eliminated the half-a-trillion-dollar student loan transfer scheme, eliminated the expansion of the IRS, and rescinded unspent COVID funds, which are tens of billions of dollars more. Most Americans understand that those are reasonable, and all of these should be rescinded and eliminated.

We also have reinstated work requirements for able-bodied Americans of working age without dependents in return for Federal assistance. This is important not just to save tens of billions of dollars, but to grow our economy and get back to the Trump-growth of 3 to 4 percent a year, instead of the Biden growth of 1 percent a year.

We have got the REINS Act, which will require a floor vote on every significant rule or regulation coming out of the regulatory bodies, the unaccounted bureaucrats who run our agencies and departments.

We also have H.R. 1, our energy bill, which will return us to American energy independence, which is critical for our national security, as well as our economic security.

Default will not happen June 1, or any time thereafter, unless it is willfully caused by the Secretary of the Treasury, who chooses not to prioritize payments toward the obligations on our debt, Social Security, Medicare, our veterans, and our defense.

As a matter of fact, I authored a letter to Secretary Yellen, joined by many of my colleagues, asking: What is her plan to ensure we don't have a default and to prioritize payments?

What will happen if we don't raise the debt ceiling? You would have the forced reduction of \$100 billion on a monthly basis in discretionary spending.

Democrats in the House, the Senate, and in the White House will not allow that to happen. We need to hold the line and have the Senate pass the Save, Limit, Grow Act, which was passed 3 weeks ago in this very body. They need to do their job and avoid whatever consequences there might be for reaching the debt limit.

What we ought to do in this House body, rather than negotiate down and

weaken the bill that we passed, we ought to be adding H.R. 2, our border security bill, as we see the hundreds of thousands of migrants on a monthly basis that are invading our country as a result of this President's border policies.

I applaud my House colleagues for doing our job to protect the financial integrity of the United States, which is our number one responsibility as the House of Representatives, and passing this responsible spending bill that will avoid any consequence from not raising the debt limit and will put us on a path of future fiscal responsibility.

FOOD INSECURITY IN AMERICA

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans released their proposed agricultural funding bill this morning, and there is no doubt that they are ready to cut nutrition benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

When I worked my way through college, I used assistance—called food stamps at the time—so I would have enough to eat.

My experience is not unique. More than 34 million people in the United States are food insecure. Every day millions of Americans rely on SNAP to help them put food on the table for themselves and for their families.

SNAP is our most effective anti-hunger program, and we should be improving its vital benefits. Unfortunately, my colleagues across the aisle are doing the opposite.

Under the House Republicans' budget bill, which should be called the default on America act, many people across the country, including many seniors, will lose access to this critical assistance.

My colleagues claim their benefit cuts will get people back to work and reduce our national debt, but taking food assistance away from vulnerable Americans will not help anyone find work, it will just make them hungry.

Balancing the budget on the backs of low-income seniors is shameful. Unlike the default in America act, the bill I will soon introduce will increase access to SNAP benefits for our Nation's most vulnerable seniors.

My Senior Hunger Prevention Act will reduce food insecurity and raise the value of SNAP benefits so seniors can live and age with dignity.

Additionally, the first bill I introduced this Congress is designed to eliminate barriers for college students accessing SNAP benefits.

Students of any age can't learn when they are hungry, and we know that they are more likely to succeed in the classroom when they are not worried about where their next meal is coming from.

Mr. Speaker, strengthening SNAP should not be a partisan issue. I also support the bills that several of our colleagues have introduced that will improve our food security programs.

Following last year's White House Conference on Hunger, and as we consider the farm bill, Congress must make it a priority to get assistance to those who need it most.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a critical moment to take action to end hunger, and the default on America act is not the answer. We must strengthen SNAP, not cut it.

HONORING SHERIFF JESSE SLAUGHTER

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Montana's brave men and women in uniform and honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. This National Police Week, I recognize a law enforcement officer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter has been an outspoken advocate for the safety of our students and teachers. Instead of being a bystander to the tragedies occurring at schools across the Nation, Sheriff Slaughter took action to prevent this in a community he swore to protect and serve.

Last year, he laid out a plan to hire and train special service officers to defend our schools and protect our children.

□ 1015

Sheriff Slaughter's plan may soon serve as a blueprint to secure schools across the country, and his leadership is absolutely a model for those in law enforcement.

As the brother-in-law of three former Baltimore City police officers, my family and I know the sacrifices that come with that job.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff Slaughter for his dedication, and I thank law enforcement officers across the country who put their lives on the line every day.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, recently the United States has considered issuing a central bank digital currency. CBDCs are digital liabilities issued by a central bank and made available to the public.

The implications for the United States dollar as the world's reserve currency, and for domestic fiscal and monetary policy, of a US CBDC are hotly debated by experts.

What should not be controversial, however, is that the Federal Reserve, Treasury, and all other executive agencies cannot issue a CBDC without explicit authorization from Congress. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution grants that power "to coin money" and "regulate the value thereof" exclusively to Congress.

Under section 16 of the Federal Reserve Act, the Fed can issue "Federal Reserve notes," but CBDCs are not Federal Reserve notes. The law restricts Federal Reserve notes to paper notes printed on "plates and dies" engraved by the Treasury Department according to a detailed process that clearly does not apply to digital money.

The Federal Reserve has consistently recognized that it lacks authority to issue a CBDC without congressional authorization. The Fed published a report on CBDCs in January of 2022 and said that it would not issue a CBDC without "clear support" from Congress "in the form of a specific authorizing law." Fed Chair Jerome Powell has personally affirmed that view on multiple occasions since that report was published.

For example, last September, he said during a panel discussion on digital finance that the Fed "will need approval from both the executive branch and Congress to move ahead with a central bank digital currency."

Although the Fed understands that it cannot issue a CBDC without authorization from Congress, some commentators continue to suggest that legislation may not be necessary. They are wrong.

The Framers of the Constitution understood the importance of a strong and stable national currency, which is why they granted Congress the exclusive power to coin money and regulate its value. Congress must not forfeit this power, which is why I am introducing the Power to Mint Act.

This bill clearly prohibits the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department from issuing a CBDC without authorization from Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Representative FRENCH HILL, who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion on the Financial Services Committee for his work with me on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, also I congratulate the gentleman from Massachusetts for having the third child join his family in this past week. We congratulate the Auchinclosses on that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the gentleman from Massachusetts' bill, the Power of the Mint Act. I thank him for our partnership in introducing the first bipartisan bill in this House to prohibit the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency, or a CBDC.

We believe together that under the Constitution, that authority rests solely with Congress and the American people, not unelected bureaucrats. That is a nonpartisan view.

Something that sets Americans apart from others is that we are rebelliously independent and skeptical of Government overreach. It is a cultural tradition in this country that has been passed down from our Founders.

I compliment the gentleman for having a portrait of Alexander Hamilton in his office indicating his strong support of the Constitution's views on money.

Recently, the only time my constituents from central Arkansas call me about digital assets is when they are worried that Uncle Sam is going to use a central bank digital currency to surveil where they are spending money and how much and ultimately block them from using the banking and payments system.

Instead, we are working collaboratively on a bicameral, bipartisan basis to believe that innovation belongs in the private sector. That is why we had this coalition working in both the House Agriculture Committee and the House Financial Services Committee to craft a regulatory framework that preserves Americans' privacy, preserves American competitiveness, and puts America in the right form for a digital future in money.

Americans have that right to financial privacy, and that is why I am proud to support the gentleman from Massachusetts' bill.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative HILL for his partnership and leadership on this subject.

The benefits that the United States enjoys due to the dollar's global reserve status have been called an exorbitant privilege, but that privilege rests in part upon scrupulous observance of the rule of law and how we regulate our currency.

The Power to Mint Act reinforces the rule of law by emphasizing Congress' authority to control the future of the dollar.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill and keep the power to authorize new currency with Congress.

HONORING OUR POLICE OFFICERS

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we passed H. Res. 363 that I proudly introduced with Representative MICHAEL GUEST memorializing law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. I join 110 of my colleagues recognizing and commemorating the ultimate sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers.

Honoring our officers is not just an act of appreciation, it is a fundamental