

responsibility of all citizens throughout this great Nation. Our police officers are the very sentinels who selflessly dedicate their lives in the pursuit of preserving the safety and security of the citizens they are committed to protecting. They stand as a brave shield between us and danger, strengthening the foundation of our communities and embodying the very best of our society.

Today, I will take a moment to honor five courageous heroes from my home State of Louisiana who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty:

Walter Soileau, Jr., with the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department; Trey Copeland with the Cotton Valley Police Department; William Collins, Jr., with the Doyline Police Department; Nicholas Tullier with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office; and Louis Estay with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

I ask everyone to join me in praying for these officers and their families who put their lives on the line each day for every American. As we pay our respects and honor these brave heroes for their ultimate sacrifice, let us all commit to supporting and uplifting the women and men who wear the badge each day.

Let us teach our children as well as future generations the critical mission that law enforcement personnel undertake in service to our beloved cities and our communities.

Today, let us respect, let us honor, and let us remember these fallen heroes.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRANCIS THOMPSON

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to honor an extraordinary individual who has dedicated over 50 years of his life to public service in the great State of Louisiana. That person is my good friend, State representative Francis Thompson, the longest serving State legislator in Louisiana history and one of the longest serving in our country.

Representative Thompson was born and raised in his hometown of Delhi, Louisiana, right in the heart of Richland Parish. Thompson was first elected to the Richland Parish School Board in 1968 before winning a special election for District 19 in the Louisiana House in 1975. Voters have re-elected Thompson 11 times since then, serving 12 years in the State senate and 37 years and counting in the statehouse.

His unwavering commitment to north Louisiana and our State is remarkable. From the halls of the State legislature, Representative Thompson has been a strong and unwavering voice for north Louisiana. Throughout his distinguished career, he has championed crucial issues such as education, economic development, healthcare, and infrastructure, always striving to improve the lives of those whom he serves.

Representative Thompson's leadership and experience have been invaluable

in shaping legislation that addresses the unique challenges faced by Louisiana. His extensive knowledge and understanding of the intricacies of governance have earned him the respect of his peers and colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, not only his legislative achievements make Representative Thompson a remarkable public servant, as a former educator, he possesses a rare quality: the ability to connect with people on that personal level. Throughout the years, Representative Thompson has been a true friend to those whom he serves. He is known for his accessibility, his willingness to listen, and his genuine care and empathy has touched the hearts of so many, creating lasting bonds that will extend far beyond politics.

As we reflect on Representative Thompson's lifelong commitment to public service, let us acknowledge his unwavering dedication to our great State of Louisiana. He is an exemplary leader, a tireless advocate, and a true champion for the people of north Louisiana.

It is with great respect and gratitude that we acknowledge his remarkable contributions to Louisiana.

POLYCRISIS

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the polycrisis, the new term of art that people are using to describe what has happened globally in terms of a global pandemic, followed by global supply chain issues, followed by global inflation, and is underscored by the war in Ukraine, that has created incredible havoc here in this country.

Of course, the group that is impacted the most are people over the age of 65 here in the United States. With slightly over 1 million people who have succumbed to the pandemic, 850,000-plus have been over the age of 65.

The same group, Mr. Speaker, is impacted by inflation. Inflation hurts people on fixed incomes the most. Those are people on Social Security, people who are Social Security recipients.

Here in this Chamber, we play games. We are in the midst of signing a discharge petition to make sure that we lift the debt limit.

Mr. Speaker, we did that three times under the Trump administration without angst or fanfare. Yet here, for the group that is most impacted by this polycrisis, this global crisis, this is all while China and Russia are looking on and cheering this side of the aisle for their efforts to default on the full faith and credit of the United States, who will that hurt the most again?

That will hurt people over the age of 65, the people who are on Social Security and Medicare, and veterans who won't be able to get their checks.

Why? To make a political point?

This is the United States of America. We need to stand up and do the right thing for the American people, and that starts with taking care of our own. It has been more than 52 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security, and this pandemic and this ensuing inflation have hurt this group the most.

There are more than 5 million of our fellow Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from their government for Social Security. It is something they have paid into all of their lives. Contrary to the belief on the other side, this is not an entitlement. This is an earned benefit. This is what people have paid for.

Mr. Speaker, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and Congress twiddles and diddles here. We need to pass an enhanced Social Security bill now.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., said, it is the fierce urgency of now.

These people need this relief today. This is not the time for political gamesmanship. Now is the time to act.

I implore my colleagues on the other side: Don't be frozen in the ice of your own indifference toward the people of this Nation who need this help and relief and need it now. Let's come together as a body and do what President Reagan did, do what President Eisenhower did, and do what President Nixon did, and come together and enhance Social Security on behalf of the citizens of this country.

□ 1030

ENFORCE EXISTING BORDER LAWS

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's radical open border agenda has resulted in the worst border crisis in our Nation's history.

Since taking office, this administration's policies have led to over 5 million encounters at our southern border; more than 1.3 million illegal immigrants have evaded apprehension; and CBP has seized over 38,000 pounds of fentanyl. Yet, President Biden would have you believe that the border is secure.

Exacerbating an already dire situation, in just the first 72 hours since title 42 ended, over 14,000 illegal aliens were apprehended.

Title 42 was vital in curbing illegal immigration, allowing for swift deportation of anyone crossing our border illegally.

While the administration continues to ignore this crisis, House Republicans have taken immediate action. I was proud to support H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which passed the House last week. H.R. 2 upholds Republicans' commitment to a nation that is safe and a border that is secure by restarting construction of the border wall, increasing Border Patrol agents,

strengthening the asylum process, and much more.

The White House kept asking us, asking Congress, when are you going to pass legislation to address illegal immigration? Well, folks, the House passed it, H.R. 2. We have taken action. It is the most comprehensive immigration bill passed out of the House in over 40 years.

Democrats and President Biden need to wake up and obey the law, the current law. Constituents back home ask me, how is this happening? We have laws on the books.

In other words, if you enter this country illegally, even if you prove asylum, you have to show up for a court date. Those court dates are some 5 to 10 years down the road now, but you have to show up for that court date. If you don't get the asylum ruling, you have to return to your home country for 10 years before you can enter this country legally again.

These are laws that are on the books right now. In other words, you have to remain at the border and await that court date. Putting people out into this country and giving them free healthcare and other assistance is not in accordance with the current laws on the books.

I will finish with this: Border security is national security. The President is the Commander in Chief. Let's fix this problem.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON SOLAR INDUSTRY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an executive branch decision that will have a significant negative impact on the U.S. domestic solar industry, including in northwest Ohio, the home of the largest domestic solar production platform on this continent.

Last week, the U.S. Treasury issued initial guidance allowing solar project developers to qualify for a 10 percent domestic content bonus, even if the solar panels they use are made with foreign silicon wafers, 97 percent of which are produced in—guess where—China.

The new interpretation of the domestic content bonus established as part of the Inflation Reduction Act squanders a rare and critical opportunity to spur the renaissance of an end-to-end domestic solar manufacturing supply chain. It also ultimately rewards those who cut corners, offshore U.S. jobs, and buy cheaper subcomponents produced in China.

This administration must not allow China to undercut domestic manufacturers and American workers, and we all know how that is done with China's predatory practices.

Take steel. What China does is produce four times what the globe consumes annually in steel. Then they

strategically dump it, including here, and drive down prices and drive out domestic manufacturing. We know the gig. We can't accept it.

Giving additional tax benefits to predatory practices and those who strategically cut corners to undermine fair trade rewards their bad behavior.

When a product is given the benefit of being called American made, that should include all steps and stages in the production process and its supply chain, including those silica-based chips.

"Made in the USA" means made in the USA. The Biden administration should pay attention.

PROTECTING GAY AND TRANS RIGHTS

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to defend freedom.

On May 17, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, we must reaffirm that all Americans, no matter who they love, where they are, or how they identify, deserve to live their lives free from discrimination and hate.

Since the start of 2023, State legislatures across the country have proposed over 400 anti-LGBTQI+ laws, including right here in the House. That is a record high, and it is unacceptable.

When extremist politicians target Americans' freedom of expression, the safety of transgender students, and access to healthcare, we cannot remain silent.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, I am working to root out hate and discrimination in all its forms.

Californians know that our State's diversity is its strength. We in Congress owe it to ourselves, to our children, and to our communities to create a future in which every American, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, can live their lives to the fullest.

CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORANGE COAST COLLEGE'S PUENTE PROGRAM

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Orange Coast College's Puente program.

California is home to the largest Latino population in the country, but too many barriers keep Latino students from getting college degrees and the keys to their future.

To level the playing field, the Puente program helps California's underserved students transfer into a 4-year college that helps unlock more opportunities.

In the Puente program, students work with counselors to refine study skills, develop action plans, and explore career options. They also sharpen their writing in college-level courses and meet with mentors to learn about life after graduation.

For the thousands who are the first in their families to go to college, the Puente program is a game changer.

I am honored to celebrate this incredible milestone, the 30th anniversary, and to share the work that the Puente program does for our students and communities in Orange County.

RENEWING FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, health goes beyond physical health. It includes mental health, too. During Mental Health Awareness Month, I am renewing my push to get Americans compassionate and effective care.

Mental illness can be far-reaching. Just as people of all ages, races, and genders get colds and take medicine, they can also become sick and need treatment for their mental health.

I am reintroducing several bills to deliver help.

The Mental Health Justice Act would send healthcare professionals to respond to mental health emergencies in lieu of police.

The Student Mental Health Rights Act would better protect college students.

The Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act would crack down on Big Insurance for failing to cover mental health adequately.

I am proud to represent a community that understands the importance of mental health. I applaud innovative organizations, like Be Well OC, that meet people in our community, reduce barriers and stigma, and help people get behavioral care.

I will continue to be a partner in their efforts during Mental Health Awareness Month and year-round.

JUSTICES FAILING TO LIVE UP TO ETHICAL STANDARDS

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Americans' confidence in the Supreme Court is at a record low. That is no surprise when Justices hide that billionaires take them on luxurious yachts and private jet trips, buy land from them, and pay their dependents' private boarding school tuition.

Our Justices are failing to live up to the ethical standards we expect from the highest court in our land. The problem is not that the Supreme Court is just conservative. The problem is that it is corrupt.

We have 870 Federal judges across this country, and a basic code of ethical conduct is enforced against all of them, except nine, our Supreme Court Justices.

To restore confidence in the Court, we must root out conflicts of interest, strengthen judicial transparency, and, finally, establish a code of ethics.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: If we cherish our institutions, we must reform and strengthen them.

REMEMBERING OFFICERS KENNETH C. JONES AND EDWARD STEWART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES) for 5 minutes.