

In an effort to rush migrants out of government custody, HHS' lack of vetting has put vulnerable children directly in harm's way.

As an immigrant myself, and especially as a father, it is heartbreaking to imagine the neglect that these innocent children have endured, first as a casualty of the border crisis and now by the agencies tasked with rescuing them. It is a national tragedy and an embarrassment to allow this exploitation to continue.

I am proud to be a first-generation American who has benefited from the freedoms and opportunities of this country. This is not the best that America has to offer. What is happening at the border is not part of the American Dream my family pursued and thousands of other families continue to pursue.

We have seen babies abandoned in rivers, migrants dying in deserts, and high-speed car chases through our neighborhoods.

Last month, I led 75 of my colleagues in a letter to Biden administration officials demanding accountability for this terrible neglect. We carried out our constitutional duty of oversight and set a deadline for Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Becerra to provide transparency. The deadline was 12 days ago. With the Biden administration refusing to take action to prevent another surge at the border, it is hard to see what exactly these officials are preoccupied with.

This must be a top priority. Focusing on border security isn't just about keeping Americans safe, it is about stopping an ongoing humanitarian crisis.

As we speak, lives are being put at risk, migrants are being exploited, and the only people winning are the cartels leveraging this administration's weak border policy.

I urge President Biden and his Cabinet to accept accountability for this disaster and implement the border security measures our country desperately needs. There is no time to waste.

CUBAN PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep frustration with the Biden administration, especially the State Department, and its indifference to the suffering of the Cuban people.

I was in Cuba in December. I have traveled there often over the past four decades. I have deep ties to many ordinary Cubans, small entrepreneurs, and people of faith. I have never seen the Cuban people suffer such hardship as they are at this moment.

The main drivers of Cuban migration right now are hunger and a despair for a better future. There are many rea-

sons for this desperation: The economic collapse of the tourist economy during the COVID-19 epidemic, rigid economic controls by the Cuban Government that change too slowly, a harsh crackdown on protests, and the denial of basic rights and freedoms.

However, a significant factor contributing to the suffering are the policies of the United States.

Despite promises made as a candidate, President Biden has failed to undo the economic and financial restrictions imposed by his predecessor. He has failed to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list against all reason, information, and analysis that should have led to its immediate removal upon his taking office.

These restrictions have strangled ordinary people's daily activities, financial transactions, the Cuban private sector, activities by other Western governments, and even the delivery of humanitarian aid.

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In December, young entrepreneurs were begging me to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. The Governments of Colombia and Mexico, and many others, have asked the Biden administration to remove Cuba from this list. They have received the same response as many Members of Congress: an indifferent silence.

No doubt, the Biden administration will tinker around the edges, announcing limited reforms that might allow a few small entrepreneurs to survive another year or two, but they won't thrive. Such measures will hardly alleviate the suffering of the Cuban people as a whole.

Until this administration takes a hard look in the mirror and gets serious, until it removes Cuba from the state sponsor of terrorism list and ends the economic and financial restrictions imposed during the Trump administration, the United States will continue to contribute to the suffering of the Cuban people every single day, every single hour.

The Biden administration has had nearly 2½ years to undo the Trump restrictions. It has purposely decided to keep them in place, even to embrace them, no matter the cost to the Cuban people. These policies are no longer President Trump's policies. They are Biden's.

Cuban migration is just a symptom of the suffering. It won't stop until U.S. policy changes and starts working on behalf of the Cuban people rather than sitting back and continuing the harsh policies that have driven thousands to abandon their homes.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am angry. I am frustrated. I am past making excuses for this administration on this issue. We need to change U.S. policy toward Cuba. Today couldn't be soon enough.

BIDEN'S DEBT DEFAULT

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are the only ones that have done their job to pass legislation that raises the debt ceiling in a reasonable, responsible, and sensible way.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen tells us that the United States may run out of funds to pay our bills in just 8 days. Yet, the Democratic-controlled Senate has yet to put forward a proposal or even hold a single vote.

Unfortunately, the President has wasted valuable time refusing to negotiate. In fact, it has taken more than 100 days for him to even come to the negotiating table, despite Speaker MCCARTHY's repeated calls to the White House to just have a meeting—President Biden declined at each and every turn until recently—inching our Nation toward a Democrat-induced default.

With only 8 days left until our Nation potentially drives off the fiscal cliff, thanks to Democrats' wasteful and out-of-control spending, you would expect the President would be at the negotiating table each and every day, around the clock, until we get a deal done to avoid the disastrous default. Instead, he spent the weekend traveling overseas.

To me and many of the Tennesseans I represent, the President seems to be neglecting his duties during these most critical moments. Republicans have done everything we can to avoid this scenario. Like I mentioned, the House is the only body to pass legislation that responsibly raises the debt ceiling and does so while also saving American taxpayers trillions of dollars.

President Biden's actions remind me of a child who doesn't get their way. Unfortunately, the President's temper tantrum will have much more dire consequences than that of a toddler.

There is an easy solution to this problem. If the President were serious about avoiding default, he could instruct his counterparts in the Senate to pass our bill, the House-passed Limit, Save, Grow Act, which raises the debt ceiling in a reasonable, responsible, and sensible manner.

Sure, maybe the President and Senate Democrats didn't get their homework done by the due date, but they are more than welcome to copy ours and turn it in for full credit.

Mr. Speaker, if a Democrat President delays negotiations, and if a Democrat-controlled Senate doesn't pass anything, what do you get? You get the United States' first-ever default that will lie squarely on Democrats' shoulders—a Democrat default.

It is a shame that after all of these years the President spent in the Senate, a body known for its bipartisanship and ability to compromise, the President has brought us this close to default.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, the Democrats' default will have catastrophic impacts on the U.S. economy. Let's hope it doesn't come to that and that we can come together to save our country from fiscal insanity by limiting Washington's out-of-control spending.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING KALANI LAWSON

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the amazing accomplishments, once again, from the Fort Worth Independent School District. I will start off talking about Kalani Lawson, who is a sophomore at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Fort Worth.

Kalani recently broke a 27-year-old State record at the UIL State track meet in Austin this year. Kalani finished the Class 4A 100-meter hurdles in 13.98 seconds, breaking the previous record of 14.04 seconds, earning the accomplishment of having the first sub-14-second time in the event's history.

In amazing Texas sportsmanship fashion, the record holder who owned the record from 1998 in Groesbeck went on Facebook and congratulated her for breaking her record.

By finishing in this time, Kalani also broke Dunbar's record for the girls' 100-meter hurdles by beating the previous record set by her track coach, Leah Matthews.

Madam Speaker, I want to highlight Kalani's dedication to track and field, and her achievements as a young student athlete. This is an incredible family. They have a long history in Fort Worth in the business community and teaching endeavors, and lots of amazing athletes have come out of this family, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to Kalani's junior and senior seasons at Dunbar High School as she continues to do amazing things.

RECOGNIZING MALIK FRANKLIN

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend another Fort Worth ISD athlete, an accomplished young student athlete by the name of Malik Franklin, at Oscar Dean Wyatt High School in Fort Worth.

Malik is a junior and a two-time All-American track and field athlete. He is the captain of the varsity football team, and he is carrying a 4.1 GPA.

Malik competed in the 2023 track meet in Austin, and he brought home the top prize for the boys' 5A 400-meter sprint event, winning in 47.58 seconds, almost a full second ahead of any of his competitors. To qualify for the event, he had to race across all four regions in Texas. That is 254 counties. This young man is going places.

Malik is following in his father's footsteps. In 1998, Michael Franklin

was a part of the winning O.D. Wyatt track team that set a national high school record in the 4x100 relay, a record that still stands to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these amazing student athletes on their future and what they are doing on the field today.

HONORING BREWSTER VETERANS

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two young men who gave their lives in Vietnam 55 years ago.

Marvin E. Galbraith and John Timothy Lane were friends who grew up in Brewster, Washington, as the Vietnam war broke out. Both graduated from Brewster High School, and at the age of 20, in the spring of 1968, each found themselves in combat in Vietnam.

Lance Corporal Galbraith served with K Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in the I Corps region of South Vietnam. On March 27, he was killed by a landmine while on patrol in Quang Nam province. Marvin was laid to rest in Bridgeport Cemetery with five generations of his family.

Private First Class Lane deployed in the Mekong Delta with B Company of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry "Manchus" of the 25th Infantry Division. On May 4, he was killed in a night battle near Duc Hoa when he threw himself on an enemy hand grenade in a brave act to save his fellow soldiers.

In recognition of Tim Lane's courage, he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Nation's second highest award for valor. He was buried at Locust Grove.

As Memorial Day approaches, I honor the lives of these two young men from Brewster who heroically sacrificed their lives for our Nation.

RECOGNIZING WSU MASTER GARDENERS PROGRAM

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Washington State University celebrating 50 years of their flagship Extension Master Gardeners Program.

Founded in 1973 by WSU extension agents from King and Pierce Counties, their very first training session had 200 applicants. The master gardener concept has been replicated across the United States and internationally. Today, there are over 85,000 certified extension master gardeners.

With a mission to engage university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education, they have made quite the impact not only in my State of Washington but around the world.

This program makes me proud to be an alumnus of Washington State University. I thank the hardworking visionaries and volunteers who believe in

the impact that education and engagement can have on the health of our communities and our neighbors.

DEBT CEILING, BUDGET, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warn of the risk of U.S. default. Its ripple effects will hurt countless people across our Nation and the Buckeye State.

Default will reverse the Biden recovery and historic job growth, heading our Nation into deep recession. Default will make it almost impossible to pay down the bills America owes, as economic growth will be stalled out.

Extremists in Congress don't seem to care. Their dawdling and irresponsible threats to not pay America's bills risk throwing a wrench in the heart of the U.S. economy. Stock market crashes and the unemployment they trigger hurt everyone.

Extremists heedlessness will trigger a recession, tank our stock market, kill off businesses, lead to mass layoffs, and reduce earnings on everything from retirement funds to new investments.

Extremist recklessness will cause America's economy great harm. We cannot allow this to happen. Only a growing economy can generate the momentum to pay our bills.

Following the worst pandemic in modern history and the market collapse of 2008, our Nation has just begun to stabilize our institutions, create record economic and job growth, and build forward again to pay our bills. More economic turmoil drives America backward.

Let me remind folks, America's debt, which has to be paid, didn't begin to accumulate in the last 2 years. The last time our Nation balanced a budget was during the Clinton Presidency. That was largely possible because of budgetary defense savings made possible by the peace dividend following the fall of the Soviet Union.

Since then, our Nation has fought an extended war on terrorism at a cost of \$8 trillion and 900,000 lost lives. Further, our communities are still digging out of the horrible Wall Street-induced housing crash of 2008. We have been turning the corner on recovery from the massive pandemic that killed over 1 million of our friends and family members, and our health system is still struggling to recover from that.

In this hand, I hold up the President's budget, a 132-page document given to us over 2 months ago. This document outlines a real plan to continue to grow our economy from the bottom up and middle out in order to pay our bills.

The chart I brought to the floor today shows the rising debt of our country as a percent of GDP, which is how you have to measure it, and from