

the Biden administration the first time that we begin to move that line down.

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On the other hand, we have extremists backpedaling, which aims to take a flamethrower to the programs that help Americans nationwide by making 22 percent cuts to all nondefense spending. This would hurt working families, stifle job growth, and impact millions of Americans who need care in our hospitals and depend on secure retirement income.

Our Nation is now in the midst of historic job growth, with nearly 13 million jobs added under President Biden in just 28 months. Think about it and think about those who would hold our economy hostage.

They would reverse economic growth. Our economy would shrink, eliminating millions of jobs, while reducing retirement earnings or tanking their accounts altogether.

Default would lead to a huge decline in consumer spending that would cripple economic growth, forcing cuts in critical Federal programs that put oxygen into the economy: Meals on Wheels, which bring food and company to homebound seniors and those in need.

Cuts will impact programs like LIHEAP that help people pay monthly bills for home energy costs. Extremist cuts will raise costs of childcare, pre-K and kindergarten spots for millions of children nationwide, forcing working parents to choose between expensive childcare costs or staying home and losing wages, deflating economic growth.

Balancing the budget requires economic growth not economic reversal. Our Nation came out of the pandemic as the strongest economy in the world. Let's build on this success, not take a wrecking ball to it.

Here is an idea to balance the budget. What if megacorporations and billionaires begin to pay their fair share of taxes?

Some pay nothing and because of their tax lawyers, many get a tax refund. Everybody has to help pull this boat called America.

So extremists in this Chamber want America to default on our obligations and stifle our economy. Responsible Americans know growing our economy will achieve new revenues necessary to pay the bills.

We need steady economic growth, economic progress, not default. I will choose economic progress every time.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO CONGRESSWOMAN MADELEINE BORDALLO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with distinct honor and respect that I rise to recognize the Honorable Madeleine Bordallo who is celebrating her 90th

birthday this month. An eight-term Member of the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Bordallo stood in these very sacred Halls and under this historic dome for 16 years representing Guam and ensuring our community needs were always prioritized on a Federal level.

A two-term Lieutenant Governor, a senator for several terms in the Guam legislature, and an iconic first lady for 8 years, Congresswoman Bordallo's record with public service is vast and endless.

As a pioneer for education and advocate for our youth and one who has always prioritized the beautification of our island, there are many achievements in Guam which are credited to the work of the Congresswoman. I would need several hours just to name a handful of her accomplishments over the decades.

On behalf of a thankful Nation and island, I thank Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo for her decades of work for the people.

Mr. Speaker, I request this august body to join me in these sacred and historic Halls of Congress to wish Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo a happy birthday and blessings for many, many more.

LIFTING THE DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the serious issue of raising our debt limit before we wreak havoc on America's economy and the impact to the world's economy. What I want to talk about is common sense. It is common sense in terms of how we move forward with regards to our fiscal needs.

Since 1960, Congress has raised the debt limit 78 times. It is Congress's responsibility to do this. It was done 49 times under Republican Presidents, 29 times under Democratic Presidents.

There is a degree of hypocrisy that has filtered through this House in recent months regarding the debt ceiling. In the last administration, we voted to increase the debt limit three times, to lift the debt ceiling, under the Trump administration, while at the same time the debt was being increased by 25 percent. I even remember President Trump saying that he was the king of debt. I guess he is—or was.

The fact is if that hadn't been increased by 25 percent, we wouldn't be here today with the dilemma of how we should raise the debt ceiling. We should raise it the way we have previously: cleanly, and in a bipartisan fashion. That is what we have done historically.

As Sergeant Joe Friday used to say, "Just the facts, ma'am." The debt ceiling has no impact on our spending, which is a reasonable issue to debate, how we spend America's tax dollars, and that is what the Congress ought to do.

The debt ceiling simply commits us to paying the bills that we have already incurred. That is what this is about.

That is why since 1960, Congress, under Republican and Democratic administrations, has raised the debt ceiling 78 times: 49 times under Republican Presidents, 29 times under Democratic Presidents.

Yesterday's announcement by Treasury Secretary Yellen makes it clear there is no time to waste. June 1 is looming closely, and the havoc that would occur if we don't lift the debt ceiling is significant. We can and should avoid this economic catastrophe.

Mr. Speaker, during the 19 years that I have been in Congress, I have voted to raise the debt ceiling 16 times, 3 times under the Trump administration. It is the responsible thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, if we default on our debt, nearly 8 million jobs will disappear soon after in June.

If we default on our debt, Social Security payments will be jeopardized.

If we default on our debt, payments to veterans will be impacted.

If we default on our debt, health benefits will be at risk for millions of Americans.

In California, if we default on our debt as a result of the proposal that the Republicans are making and the measure that they pass, we will eliminate preschool and childcare for over 35,000 children. It will strip food assistance from over 1.3 million Californians.

It would make college more expensive for over 874,000 students, and it would increase housing costs for 83,000 people in California. These numbers are being updated.

So where are we?

There is a commonsense agreement, based upon past history, that we must lift the debt ceiling. Republicans have acknowledged that.

As a Blue Dog, I believe in fiscal responsibility, and I want to continue to work with my colleagues on both sides in a bipartisan effort to lower our debt because we must ensure that Social Security and Medicare remains solvent over the long term.

We must do those things, but there is a way to do it. We can lift the debt ceiling cleanly, as we have in the past, and we can agree to a serious bipartisan commission to look at our debt and how we reduce our debt, as occurred under the Clinton administration.

That is common sense. That is what this is all about. Partisan attempts to score political points should not be at the expense of the full faith and credit of the United States. Not only are Americans' economic recovery at threat here, but the U.S. dollar is the currency of the global economy.

America is not a deadbeat Nation. We need to pay our bills and we need to meet the needs of American people.

Mr. Speaker, let's lift our debt ceiling by June 1.

REFORM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act was put into law over 50 years ago. Of course, its purpose was to protect and recover vulnerable species to save them from population decline and extinction. That act has, to date, only recovered a couple dozen species, as there are over 1,300 listed species in the United States. The ratio of recovery indeed is a failure.

The ESA must be reformed to refocus the efforts of the Federal Government to recover animal species in a timely manner without also making it difficult for people to coexist in their habitat, as well.

We have the law now that is more likely to be used as a back door to regulate economic activity than a conservation piece of legislation.

There are numerous examples of activist groups weaponizing the ESA to use it as a business model. Indeed, they make money from the lawsuits.

For example, in my part of the State in the Central Valley, the valley elderberry longhorn beetle has had a very negative effect on the ability of Central Valley residents to maintain flood controls in the form of levees.

The residents cannot upgrade and improve the levees in this area because the ESA prevents them from doing so without very costly long-held permits. This is despite the fact that it has been recommended by Fish and Wildlife that the longhorn beetle be delisted for many years now. However, the environmental groups keep litigating on that and the Fish and Wildlife organization has pulled back from delisting the beetle.

So why do they do this? It is obvious.

If the beetle is delisted, it loses the ESA protections that make levee upgrades so difficult, expensive, and time-consuming in order to obtain the permits. The beetle has been delisted in some areas of California, such as the southern parts, but in my district, it is still listed as endangered, making it difficult to do needed flood-control projects.

Another example that has devastated the forest industry, in the West especially, is the spotted owl. It was listed many years ago. We find that the ESA has made that a weapon against forest management, and we have seen the results of that with million-acre fires. Year after year, hundreds of thousands of acres of fire have been wreaking havoc on so much of the West because we can't manage the lands because they believe there might be a spotted owl nearby, even though it isn't really the management of forests that is the problem. It is another larger owl nearby that actually devastates the spotted owl, known as the barred owl.

Also the spotted owl seems to like foresting a little closer to human ac-

tivity because it is seen as a protection from the barred owl, which devastates their population.

What is the end result?

Over 100 sawmills in California have shut down due to these protections that indeed make timber supply unavailable to the sawmills, so they go away, and instead, we have to import timber.

Now the activists themselves that sue over this, they don't live in these conditions. They live in cities far away. They don't have to live with the conditions of their economy being devastated in a small town in northern California or Oregon or other western States. So it is really easy to regulate other people somewhere else and say they have an idea about what a forest should look like when their own homes aren't subject to the threat of fire; indeed, places like Greenville, California, Canyon Dam, California, and a few years ago, a lot of us around the country heard about Paradise, California, as well. If they don't have to experience it, it is really easy for urban legislators to make regulations that continue to devastate these areas.

It is actually the local people that know best how to fight fires, how to manage the lands, and how to generate an economy that helps those communities take care of themselves and keep the people supplied with paper products and wood products that the country still wants.

So why in the world are we the number two importer of wood in the United States? We have so much that we could be utilizing. We could have managed forests that have the right ratio of trees per acre that is actually sustainable, instead of this horrific overpopulation of trees that really creates its own drought and creates a situation where they become tinderboxes, million-acre fires, ruining the habitat and killing the wildlife. Indeed, the opposite of what the Endangered Species Act is trying to do.

Also, why do we have such high food prices in this country?

Why do we even encounter food shortages in the United States of America?

Because it is hard to have a water supply in California that is a steady, stable supply.

They take away the ability to build dams and enhance our water storage, and all the water flows down the river and out to the sea. The Endangered Species Act needs to be restored to put things back on track for human needs.

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ONE YEAR SINCE UVALDE

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 19 children and 2 teachers murdered in Uvalde, Texas, 1 year ago today.

One excruciating year has passed for the families of those we lost at Robb Elementary that day. A year of empty childhood bedrooms and vacant desks where a child should be. One full year, and what do we have to show for it? What has this legislative body done to answer the pain of these parents with policy?

I ask myself this: Have we passed any measures on this floor that will stop the next Uvalde? The answer to that is an obvious no, we have not, because in the year since the second worst school shooting in American history, there has been 39 more.

My district is about 355 miles north of Uvalde, but the horror of that day haunts every Texan as if it happened right next door; maybe that is because it is happening next door, in a wave of gun violence that has touched every corner of Texas, in every public space we once saw as safe.

Just this month, my home of north Texas has grieved the deaths of eight Texans in a hateful act of violence at a shopping mall. That was the ninth mass shooting in Texas in 14 years. Fourteen years that lawmakers in Texas and Washington have used to loosen gun regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you something: As a Texan and as an American, I am tired. I am tired of being traumatized. Texas is tired of the terror. It is time to do our jobs and legislate instead of pontificate.

The 21 Texans ripped from their families last year deserve more. The people of Uvalde who have grieved and cried and demanded change deserve more. I hope we don't come back here in a year with the same amount of nothing to show for these grieving families. I hope we can show up having passed universal background checks and a ban on the weapon of war that stole those children's lives, but if history—history that many Republicans don't believe we should have taught in schools—if history is any indication, then yet another year will pass, more lives will be lost, and politicians will put on their pastoral hats and issue prayers instead of practicing what they preach, which is to be tough on crime and to keep these weapons of war out of the hands of the many domestic terrorists that have, frankly, been radicalized by the rightwing extreme rhetoric.

Regardless of what the Republicans do or don't do, regardless of their lack of courage, I will continue doing what I do best, which is standing for commonsense solutions that will save lives.

To my colleagues, I challenge you. Let's not fail these parents and children again. The number one killer of children in this country is guns right now. It is time that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle practice what they preach and be pro-life.

Mr. Speaker, let's save some lives.