

cuts some spending. That by itself is the first such major spending reduction ever.

It also claws back tens of billions of dollars in unspent COVID relief. It adds work requirements for food stamps. It also adds some budgeting/appropriations rules that should prevent another omnibus monster to avoid a government shutdown. It is the first reform in decades of environmental rules that slow major energy and infrastructure projects.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden's open borders.

HONORING CONEN MORGAN

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to honor a true North Carolinian, Conen Morgan. Conen was taken from us at the age of 42 in a recent boating accident.

Mr. Speaker, he dearly loved North Carolina. Conen used his God-given talents to make our State and Nation better.

He led the Longleaf Agency. Conen was wise beyond his years and known for his knack and insights into our State and Nation.

Conen's hard work, determination, and dedication did not go unnoticed. He made a positive impact on the lives of people across North Carolina.

We will miss his warmth whenever he walked into a room and his infectious smile.

Mr. Speaker, I join those in eastern North Carolina and across our State in sending our deepest sympathy to his wife, Reyna; his family; and friends.

HONORING CLEVELAND JOSEPH FOUNTAIN

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Cleve Fountain who was involved in his community with a deep commitment to public service.

Early on in his life, he was a member of the YMCA and the Boy Scouts of America. He joined the U.S. Army at age 15 and served in the Pacific theater during World War II and finished his service with the rank of second lieutenant.

He moved to Port Wentworth, Georgia, my hometown. He owned Fountain Funeral Home and Westview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was our mayor. He was our county commissioner.

In 1988, I set out to achieve a goal of mine and that was to own my own busi-

ness. I went to two banks. Both of them turned me down. I went to the third bank. They gave me the loan.

They gave me the loan because Cleve Fountain called and told them that I was a fine young man and that I came from a good family.

Mr. Speaker, in our lives there are people and places we remember. I will always remember Cleve Fountain for what he did for me and what he did for my family.

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, everyone, no matter their ZIP Code, should be able to enjoy natural resources. This week, Congresswoman MELANIE STANSBURY and I introduced the Environmental Justice in Recreation Permitting Act to require the Biden administration to complete an inner-agency report on the effects of special recreation permits on environmental justice communities.

Our communities of color, Mr. Speaker, low-income communities, Tribal and indigenous communities are on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Enabling greater connections between environmental justice communities and recreation opportunities on our public lands and waters is just the beginning of advancing true environmental justice for our residents in Michigan's 12th District and beyond.

Every single American, Mr. Speaker, deserves the right to breathe clean air, and every American deserves to experience all that our public lands and waters have to offer. This body must do more to protect them instead of gutting our bedrock environmental laws.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, did pass the House in the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act, and I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense bill again this session.

USE OF AERIAL FIRE RETARDANT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, there was a crazy lawsuit brought by an environmental group here recently in the West to stop the usage of fire retardant that is used to fight forest fires, that red stuff that comes out of the aircraft that they drop on fires to keep them from getting worse.

Thankfully, that lawsuit was overruled. A district judge ruled that the U.S. Forest Service can keep using the aerial fire retardant for at least another couple of years, so we have that going for us.

Now, they do have to keep checking back every 6 months to make sure that they are working on a permit process to keep the ability to use that fire retardant to put out forest fires.

As you know, every year millions of acres of forest go up, sending even the smoke plume all the way back here to the East Coast sometimes and causing health days to not be able to go outside.

Here in Congress, we have legislation ready. I have introduced H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023, so we will be ready in case there is a court ruling that comes in and says they can't use that stuff anymore. Congress needs to act.

□ 1430

I AM HERE FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

(Mrs. RAMIREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on a bill that reflects how little Republicans care about everyday people, even their own constituents.

We should be voting on a straightforward extension of the debt ceiling, but instead Republicans are more than willing to force our Nation and economy into default just to score political wins.

They want to increase work requirements on SNAP, a cruel resumption of student loan payments, and more restrictions on TANF. They are clearly not here for families who are struggling. Well, I am.

I am here for the 1.3 million student loan borrowers in Illinois who are being forced a resumption of payments when people are struggling to keep up with their bills.

I am here for the 76,836 people across Illinois who are counting on TANF cash assistance. I am also here for the 1.9 million residents of Illinois who all count on SNAP to put food on their table.

Representing them is my responsibility, and it is why I know that we could have worked on a clean debt ceiling, but this hostage situation is not something I can vote for.

SETTING OUR AIM HIGH ENOUGH

(Mrs. SPARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern with the fiscal state of our Nation, as someone who spent over a decade in the finance and accounting profession.

We are going to be voting on the Fiscal Responsibility Act today. One side will say how great it is, and the other side will say how awful it is, but really it is meaningless, considering the immense gravity of our fiscal problems.

As Michelangelo once said: "The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."

Unfortunately, this Congress is not setting its aim high enough for all of the people who died for our Republic and for future generations. I hope we will have a backbone to do it someday.

SAVING EDUARDO'S LIFE

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise today, and I rise today to express my gratitude and appreciation for Eduardo. Eduardo, Mr. Speaker, is a person who was in an auto accident and hurt severely, and it was discovered that he was at the end stage of severe renal disease. Upon finding this out, he had to be dialyzed three times a week.

Mr. Speaker, this picture shows a press event which Eduardo attended because he was removed from the country. I am here to thank the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, as well as the Congressional Black Caucus for getting him back into the country and saving his life.

Mr. Speaker, once he was returned, the question was asked: What would you like to be when you grow up?

He said: I want to go into the military, the United States military, so that I can protect the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, this is an immigrant who wants to protect our country, and I am grateful to those who saved his life.

END HUNGER NOW

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I join with my colleague, JIM MCGOVERN, on our constant fight for ending hunger. I thank my colleague, the Honorable Mickey Leland, along with the late Congressman Emerson for beginning the Congressional Hunger Center and starting the Select Committee on Hunger in this Congress.

As I transition to why I stand here today, one would wonder why this is so relevant. In about 24 hours, the State of Texas will take over a majority-minority school district that has been fighting to overcome the pandemic effect, but there are children who do not eat unless they have the programs that our public school system has been able to provide for them. They are hungry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. If the title I funding and other funding is gone, they are hungry.

The Houston Independent School District should not be taken over because I wonder about the children who will go hungry under the new administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3746, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2023

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 456 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 456

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3746) to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my very good friend, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 456.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Rules Committee met and reported out a rule, House Resolution 456, providing for consideration of H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, under a closed rule. It provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and it provides for one motion to recommit.

I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, today's legislation has been a long time coming. An agreement like the one we are considering today could and should have been in place much earlier. Instead, President Biden dithered and refused to negotiate with House Republicans, pushing us

right up to the very brink of a catastrophic default.

From day one, Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans tried to get President Biden and congressional Democrats to come to the negotiating table, but for months they refused. Over and over again, President Biden refused to meet with Speaker MCCARTHY to discuss the debt limit and the budget. He insisted, over and over again, that it was his way or the highway, and he told us over and over again that the only thing he would accept was a clean debt ceiling increase. It was that or nothing.

Of course, it is easy to understand why President Biden wouldn't want to talk about cutting spending. Just look at the spending record he has amassed. Since he took office, President Biden and congressional Democrats have increased the 10-year spending trajectory by \$10 trillion. They did this by passing a partisan reconciliation bill that spent \$1.9 trillion, and then by passing another partisan reconciliation bill that added up to another \$600 billion in new spending. President Biden himself issued executive orders that added \$1.5 trillion in spending, including his reckless and unconstitutional \$400 billion plan to cancel student loan debt.

When you lay it out like that, it is easy to see how we have reached the statutory debt ceiling so quickly, and it is easy to see why President Biden and congressional Democrats wouldn't want any barriers to spending more and more money. They want the gravy train to keep flowing and the spending to keep increasing, which will ultimately lead the Nation further and further into debt.

However, House Republicans disagreed, and last month we acted. We passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act, a bill that responsibly lifts the debt ceiling and changes the trajectory of future spending downward. We agreed that the United States cannot, should not, and will not default on our national debt, but we also put forward clear, commonsense, and responsible savings that will bring reckless spending under control.

What did Democrats do? Nothing; not a thing. Not a single Democrat in the House voted to lift the debt ceiling. Not a single House Democrat voted to save trillions of dollars over the next 10 years. Our friends in the Senate, which is controlled by the Democrats, refused to take up the Limit, Save, Grow Act; and to this day, the Senate has refused to pass any bill lifting the debt limit. Not one.

However, House Republicans have. For all the posturing on the other side of the aisle, I would remind everyone that House Republicans are the only ones who have taken concrete action to avoid default. President Biden's refusal to negotiate for so long was what brought us so close to the brink of a catastrophic default in the first place.

Having said all that, today we are bringing a bill to the floor that will resolve this crisis. This bill is the result