

outrageous and draconian regulation that criminalizes firearm ownership for millions of law-abiding Americans.

Under this rule, many of the service-disabled veterans who rely on these braces would no longer be able to exercise their Second Amendment freedoms and right to self-defense.

That is why I was proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation and to vote in favor of its passage on the House floor.

"Shall not be infringed" means exactly that. Rest assured, I will always stand against efforts like these to diminish our God-given Second Amendment rights.

□ 2030

LAKE TAHOE PIZZA COMPANY CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer congressional recognition to the Lake Tahoe Pizza Company to mark their 50-year anniversary in business.

For over five decades, this family-run restaurant has survived many challenges, including the Great Recession, a global pandemic, and the recent California winter storms. Despite these challenges, all the hard work and dedication the Touryan family has put into this restaurant has made it into quite the success story.

John Touryan, the founder, embodies the spirit of the American Dream. Mr. Touryan emigrated to the United States as a child. He began the restaurant in the bay area as a recent college graduate with no financial support, all while living in his Volkswagen bus.

After moving from the bay area to South Lake Tahoe in the late 1970s, Mr. Touryan's new home became a great location for his restaurant. In just 3 years, business was booming. In 1980, he had to move the restaurant to another location within South Tahoe to keep up with the pressing demand.

He grew a successful restaurant from the ground up and has kept it in the family throughout. Now ownership of the restaurant has been passed to his son, Brenon Touryan, and many, many members of the family have all played an important role in the day-to-day operations of the restaurant.

It is truly special to witness a family that works so collaboratively and effectively together to run a thriving business, and it is inspiring to see that business being passed on through the generations.

The Lake Tahoe Pizza Company serves as a local gathering place in the Tahoe area and continues to contribute positively to the community. The restaurant has received both local and na-

tional recognition, including selection as the Best of Tahoe more than a dozen times through popular vote, and awarded the Best of Tahoe Pizza by the Tahoe Quarterly magazine, a feature on the Travel Channel's "Best Places I Have Ever Been" in an episode titled Pizza, and it was filmed by Discovery Channel's Monster Garage.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to acknowledge the Lake Tahoe Pizza Company for reaching this significant milestone, as well as for their invaluable contributions to our State and local economies and outstanding dedication to the Tahoe community.

ANNASTASIA MALONEY EXHIBITS BRAVERY AND
WINNING SPIRIT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer congressional recognition to Anastasia Maloney, an athlete from Grass Valley, California, who will travel to Germany this summer to compete in the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Ms. Maloney is a tremendously talented athlete who plays basketball, softball, soccer, and flag football. She has also competed in throwing the mini javelin, but running is her main event. She has won gold and bronze medals in the 400- and 800-meters in track and field competitions in both local and national Special Olympics. This will be her first World Olympics.

The Special Olympics World Games offer the opportunity to unite the world like no other event can, where people of different nations, cultures, political views, and religions are brought together through the power of sport.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics in 1968 because she believed that everyone, regardless of physical or intellectual ability, can realize their potential for growth through sports and competition.

In addition to working full time and adhering to a daily training schedule, Maloney is a global messenger for the Special Olympics. This summer her message of persistence and excellence will be conveyed from the global stage, where she will compete according to the oath sworn by every athlete since the Games' inception: "Let me win; but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Maloney has undoubtedly already demonstrated her bravery and winning spirit. I am confident the crowds in Berlin this summer will cheer for Anastasia Maloney and the 7,000 Special Olympics athletes from 170 countries.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I express admiration and best wishes to Anastasia Maloney, Special Olympics USA, and all the athletes in the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF AUBURN AREA
RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark and celebrate the 75-year anniversary of the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District.

When the district was originally formed on July 1, 1948, it had one park aptly named Recreation Park and the use of the Gold Country Fairgrounds. Today, the district proudly maintains and operates many exceptional parks as well as open space and trail systems, recreation programs, community events and facilities, such as community centers, pools, and courts for sports, to name a few.

I had the pleasure of visiting last month and was very impressed with their award-winning Auburn Bike Park and the ever-popular preschool program. I even ended up planting a tree at Recreation Park and managed to fit in a quick game of pickleball.

Such a bounty of recreational opportunities promotes the health and quality of life of residents in the Auburn and Meadow Vista communities. For over seven decades, the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District has exhibited a strong commitment to providing safe, quality, and accessible parks and recreational activities that are enjoyed by all.

I wish to express gratitude and thanks on behalf of the Third Congressional District of California for the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District's service and dedication to enriching the greater Auburn area with comprehensive recreational opportunities.

ANDREA SEASTRAND'S LEGACY WILL ENDURE
FOR GENERATIONS

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congressional recognition to a remarkable public servant, former Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand, whose unwavering dedication to her constituents and tireless commitment to public service have left an indelible mark on our Nation's history.

Andrea Seastrand was born on August 5, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from DePaul University with a BA in education, and moved to Salinas, California, to find work as an elementary schoolteacher. Before serving one term as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, she served as a member of the California State Assembly for 4 years, where she was part of the Assembly Education Committee and served as assistant minority leader.

After her time in public service, she founded the California Space Technology Alliance, a private nonprofit organization focused on promoting California's participation in space ventures. She has also served in leadership positions on local boards and civic groups focused on fiscal responsibility and citizen involvement.

The career of former Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand is a testament to the power of visionary leadership, dedicated public service, and a profound commitment to serving with dedication and responsibility to our fellow citizens.

Her contributions have shaped the aerospace industry in California, protected taxpayers, and improved the

lives of countless Americans. The impact of her legacy will endure for generations to come.

It is with the utmost respect and admiration that I commend her exceptional service and numerous contributions to our State and Nation.

CASA DIABLO IV GROUNDBREAKING INVESTMENT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a groundbreaking investment in renewable energy development in my district, the Casa Diablo IV geothermal plant.

The Mammoth Geothermal Complex, located just outside of Mammoth Lakes, California, has been powering Inyo and Mono Counties since 1984. A new geothermal facility has recently been added to the existing three facilities of the complex.

With the addition of the Casa Diablo IV plant, the total generation for the complex will double and produce enough energy to power 45,000 homes.

Geothermal energy harnesses the power contained in the fluids and heat from the Earth's core to produce clean energy for our communities while producing zero nitrogen oxide emissions, virtually no carbon dioxide emissions, and presenting low visual and noise impacts.

I commend the owners and operators of the complex, Mammoth Pacific Geothermal and Ormat Technologies for their leadership in this industry, their dedication to promoting clean, renewable energy resources, and their meaningful contributions to the Mammoth community through their support of local projects, scholarship programs, and housing assistance.

I also applaud the Inyo National Forest for their close partnership and collaboration on this important project.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the Third Congressional District of California, I am pleased to celebrate today on the House floor this valuable addition to the Mammoth Geothermal Complex.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. JOHN A. UNGERSMA

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding individual in my district, Dr. John A. Ungersma for his heroic and invaluable service to our Nation and community.

Dr. Ungersma earned his bachelor of arts degree from Stanford University and his medical degree from the University of Southern California. He used his education and experience to serve our Nation in the United States military as a naval flight surgeon and senior surgeon in the 1st Marine Division. He also served with honor in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm and ended his 48 years of service as a captain of the Medical Corps in the United States Navy.

Dr. Ungersma established the first orthopedic surgery practice in Bishop, California, in 1966. He was the only orthopedic surgeon on the Highway 395 corridor between Los Angeles and Reno for almost a decade.

Dr. Ungersma additionally served for 18 years on the Northern Inyo Hospital

Board of Directors as president, vice president, and director at large. During his tenure, he was active in the planning, financing, and construction of a new 25-bed critical access hospital, which became one of only 28 critical access hospitals in California. He also served as vice president and treasurer of the Association of California Healthcare Districts and was named the Association's trustee of the year in 2015.

Dr. Ungersma has touched countless lives, and his contributions have made a meaningful and lasting impact on the healthcare industry.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize Dr. John A. Ungersma for his leadership and the years of service he has provided to the people of Inyo County, the State of California, and the United States of America.

JULIE SU NOMINATION STALLED

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to discuss a hearing that was held last week by the House Education and the Workforce Committee where Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su testified as a witness.

Now, as background, Ms. Su, of course, has been nominated by President Biden to be Secretary of Labor. She has been in that role in only an acting capacity now for several months, and the nomination has been stalled for those months.

In fact, the Biden administration, as being reported by Bloomberg, has now set up a nightly war room to try to advance Su's nomination, but there is a reason that the nomination has remained stalled, and that is because she is exactly the wrong person for the job.

The testimony she gave at last week's hearing before the Education and the Workforce Committee was evasive, nonresponsive, and in some cases outright dishonest in a way that provided further confirmation that she should not be the next Secretary of Labor of the United States.

For starters, the hearing almost didn't happen because Acting Secretary Su tried to cancel at the last moment. Chair VIRGINIA FOXX began the hearing as follows: She said to Ms. Su: "... you have been a hard witness to schedule. The committee began working with the Department to secure your in-person testimony beginning in March. When you would not appear in May, we honored your request to appear in June, using a date, June 7, that was offered by your staff and to which you agreed."

Chair FOXX continued: "So why is it that on a late Friday evening, following the committee's public posting of the hearing a week ago, your staff told us that you were 'no longer able to make June 7th work?'"

The only reason Acting Secretary Su did appear before the committee is that the committee was going to resort to a subpoena to get her there otherwise.

That was the first major issue with Ms. Su's performance at this hearing, but there were several others.

First, was her response on the topic of Proposition 22, which was a major labor initiative passed by California voters less than 3 years ago, in 2020. Now, Ms. Su was California's secretary of labor at the time. She would have been substantially affected by whether this initiative passed or failed. It ended up passing. California voters overwhelmingly chose to allow companies like Uber and Lyft and Door Dash to continue to use independent contractors, and thereby allowing them to stay in California.

When I asked Ms. Su how she, herself, voted as a California voter on Prop 22, she answered as follows: "How did I vote on Prop 22? I don't remember how I voted on that."

Now, Mr. Speaker, this utterly exceeds all bounds of plausibility, that the secretary of labor for our State would not remember how she voted on this major labor initiative less than 3 years ago. I think it is fairly safe to conclude that this was a false statement that Ms. Su made to our committee.

Just to be fair, I gave her several opportunities to correct her statement on that later in the hearing, and she still did not retract it. That is her testimony on the record, that she does not remember how she voted on this major labor initiative while she was California's secretary of labor.

Second, was her testimony with respect to AB5. Now, AB5 is a law that has made it virtually impossible for countless professionals in California to continue their careers. It has essentially abolished independent contracting in hundreds of professions and has been widely condemned across the partisan spectrum.

Now, Ms. Su has been called an architect of that law, AB5. As California's secretary of labor, she was the one who enforced it, and she did so in the most aggressive, ruthless, broadest way possible to ensnare as many people as possible.

After the law passed, she was on the record celebrating its passage, so you would think she would have a pretty good answer when I asked her whether she thought AB5 was a good law. However, after I asked that, here is what she said: "I don't know what—I mean, I don't know. I don't know. Tell me what—give me a little bit more on what you mean by that."

□ 2045

I took several other opportunities to ask her whether she thought AB5 was a good law. Each and every time she refused to answer.

I also asked Ms. Su whether she was involved in the drafting of AB5, and she responded simply no. However, she then contradicted herself later in the hearing when my colleague, Mr. BURLISON, asked her about her involvement. She said that, oh, yes, she did, in fact, provide technical assistance.

When I asked Ms. Su whether she was aware that people have lost their livelihoods in California because of this law AB5, she said: I have heard from people who have said that.

She reiterated that exact language again: I have heard from people who said that. I have heard people who said something different too. I have had people tell me that. She responded, refusing each time to recognize the legitimacy of these claims, refusing to recognize that we have had countless people who have lost their livelihoods in California.

Also, it was no less than 2 days after that hearing that we got yet another example of this when the city of Los Angeles announced that it was having to terminate a contract with almost 100 truckers for a road repair program that had been around for about 130 years and the Department of Public Works in the city of Los Angeles specifically cited AB5 as the reason it was canceling that contract.

There are countless examples like this, and yet the most that Ms. Su is willing to say is: I have heard from people who have said that.

Next, I asked Ms. Su about her role with the massive \$32 billion, at a minimum, unemployment fraud that occurred in California on her watch. I asked her several times: Do you take any responsibility for that fraud?

She evaded the question several times before finally saying: Yes. I do take responsibility to the fact the system did not deliver in ways that we would have hoped that it delivered.

I then asked her several times what she would have done differently, what she has learned if she could do it all over again, and she could not name a single thing that she would have done differently to prevent this \$32 billion unemployment fraud, even though the independent State auditor and the leading Democrat lawmakers in California have blamed her specifically for the fraud.

I also asked Ms. Su about the migrant child labor crisis that has been uncovered by *The New York Times*, and I asked her whether she had communicated the scale of this problem to the White House prior to this year. Her response was: I don't know. I don't know that.

I, along with several other members of the committee, asked Ms. Su if she would commit to not changing the joint-employer rule or bringing a new joint-employer rule that would threaten the entire franchise business model.

She was evasive each and every time and would give no such commitment. She made comments such as: We do not have a plan to do that. It is not on our agenda.

She also said: I commit to following all of the rules of rulemaking, everything that we are required to do, I pledge to you that we will do under my leadership, under my tenure at the Department of Labor. I can't sit here at this moment and tell you with cer-

tainty everything that is going to happen.

Again, we tried several times, myself and several members of the committee. She would not commit to not bring a new joint-employer rule.

Finally, I asked Ms. Su about the economic performance of her home State, California, where she was the Secretary of Labor for Governor Gavin Newsom and was the labor commissioner for several years before that. I asked Ms. Su if she knew where California ranks among the States when it comes to its unemployment rank. She did not know.

The answer is that California has the second highest unemployment rate in the Nation. I asked Acting Secretary Su if she happened to know which State has the highest poverty rate in the country. She didn't know. The answer, once again, is California.

I asked Acting Secretary Su if she knew which State has the lowest rate of net earnings growth of any of the 50 States. She didn't know that either and, once again, the answer is her home State of California where she was the Secretary of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear, based on Acting Secretary Su's record, that she is not the right person for this role. She is not the right person for the highest labor position in the land, in our country, at this moment of such great importance for the American economy and American workforce.

I will, once again, encourage President Biden to withdraw her nomination and to nominate a secretary who will be on the side of American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to offer a little bit of background on the individual that President Biden is planning to appoint as the new director of the CDC. It is being widely reported that he will name Dr. Mandy Cohen of North Carolina to this post.

Now, interestingly, the position of CDC director will soon be a Senate-confirmed position starting in 2025, based upon legislation passed last year. It was recognized that this is a position of such great importance that during the COVID era was so relevant to the lives of so many people that it should be a Senate-confirmed position. However, that provision has not taken effect yet, so if President Biden does, in fact, move forward with this appointment, as has been reported, then there will be no opportunity for her to be vetted.

With the appointment not yet official, this really is the one opportunity that Americans have to weigh in on whether this is the right person for the job.

We need to recognize that there is a huge gap in the level of trust that Americans have in our entire public health establishment, based on many of the things that have happened in the last few years.

I will actually point to a comment from the CEO of Facebook, or Meta, as it is now called, Mark Zuckerberg, just

a couple weeks ago. Mr. Zuckerberg said this: "Just take some of the stuff around COVID earlier on in the pandemic, where there were real health implications, but there hadn't been time to fully vet a bunch of the scientific assumptions and, unfortunately, I think a lot of the establishment on that kind of waffled on a bunch of facts and asked for a bunch of things to be censored that, in retrospect, ended up being more debatable or true. And that stuff," Mr. Zuckerberg continued, "is really tough, right? It really undermines trust."

We are learning more and more about the role that the CDC and government authorities played in those efforts to censor certain facts or opinions related to COVID-19, many of which, in the words of Mr. Zuckerberg, "ended up being more debatable or true."

We also saw in the CDC, throughout the COVID era, take truly radical positions, such as recommending masks for children as young as 2 years old. This defied the international consensus. It was not what the WHO recommended. It was not what the European counterpart of the CDC recommended, yet it was the CDC's position.

We also saw how the CDC apparently changed its school reopening guidance in February 2021 after pressure from teachers' unions. Texts between the outgoing director of the CDC, Ms. Walensky, and Randi Weingarten have been uncovered showing this level of coordination and how the guidance was, apparently, revised based on input or pressure from the unions.

This, of course, is not a role, head of a teachers' union, that is selected for based upon one's scientific credentials, yet apparently played an important role in guidance that was then used to keep many, many schools across our country closed and to deprive millions of kids of the education that they deserve.

We also had time and again the CDC make statements on issues like the transmissibility of COVID for vaccinated individuals that turned out to be incorrect. We saw vaccine mandates struck down by the courts as unconstitutional.

With all that as background, let's turn to the question of whether Dr. Mandy Cohen of North Carolina is the right person to restore trust in our public health system, and I would say, based upon her record, she absolutely is not the right person. Indeed, she manifested the very worst tendencies of the COVID era.

Let's start with the method she used for shutting down the economy in her own State. Now, I will first give you her words when she described it. She said: Our scientific team, in coordination with looking at recommendations for the Centers for Disease Control and others, and really understanding, again, what we have learned this year about how this virus spreads. We know that there are settings and activities

that are lower risk. It doesn't mean that they are no risk, but lower risks. We know there are things that are medium risk, things that are higher risks, and so forth.

So you would think this is a very considered process that she went through. However, feedback from others in her State suggested the opposite.

Dale Folwell, who was the North Carolina State treasurer, said: I tried for months during COVID to get the council of State to convene with Dr. Cohen to explain the lack of transparency in the data used to shut down our economy and our schools. These decisions disproportionately hurt lower- and fixed-income adults and kids. By closing schools and the economy, it closed opportunity and upward mobility for students and citizens. The damage, he said, is generational.

That is how another Statewide elected official in North Carolina described the level of transparency and the implications during the COVID era, but what is even more revealing is comments that Dr. Cohen recently made herself.

In contrast to the more methodological approach that she claimed to have followed, she made these comments in a 2022 interview with the Duke Health Sector Management. When asked how she decided what to lock down, what could remain open, what wouldn't, she said: So I would call probably the person I called most was the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts.

Dr. Cohen went on: When she was, like, are you gonna let them have professional football? And I was, like, nope. And she's, like, okay, neither are we. Neither are we.

At this point, Dr. Cohen laughs at this.

She goes on: So it was, you know, conversations like that, so or I'd be, like, when are you gonna think about lightening up on masks? They're, like, next Monday, and I'm, like, okay, next Monday.

See, this is what we all suspected was happening in many of these States that seemed to have no rhyme or reason to the way they went about these lockdown and reopening policies.

Here, you have President Biden's own presumptive nominee to be the CDC director saying, yes, that is exactly what she did. In a flippant and arbitrary manner, she decided what industries would be shut down and which would remain open, as well as what would be mandated and what wouldn't.

In addition to that, Dr. Cohen adopted many policies that were on the extreme end of the spectrum when it came to COVID mandates. For example, on July 26, 2021, she said: Schools with students in K-8 should require all children and staff to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Now, we have already seen this was a position that is at odds with the international norm. She also repeated claims that turned out to be false with

regard to transmissibility. She said in a 2021 interview with the Carolina Business review: What we heard from the CDC last week was even better than what we heard before, right. We had heard that vaccines protect you from getting COVID. I think the new piece of information for us was that we now have more definitive data to show that it prevents you from giving COVID to others. And that is really where masks come in, right, a mask is about protecting you from giving COVID to others even if you don't know you have it.

She also promoted masks for vaccinated individuals 7 months after the CDC dropped its mask requirement for vaccinated individuals. She said: We still need to mask—everyone. This was during a December 20 news briefing. Even if you are vaccinated, she said, you should wear a mask in public, indoor spaces, and if possible, wear a medical grade mask for more protection. This was in December 2021.

In addition to that, Ms. Cohen threatened to sue a school district, Union County School Board, for their decision to drop contact tracing and quarantine processes in September 2021. The dispute came after Union County Health Department officials would not work with the district on reducing quarantine times if students presented a negative test or other mitigation measures were used.

In other words, they were trying to get their kids back to school. School officials made this request to minimize the impact a quarantine has on students and their families; the Union County Public School's statement reads: Local health officials would not consider this request despite the fact that health officials around the State have implemented similar measures. The district also refuted Cohen's claims about infections in their district using her own agency's data.

Dr. Cohen also strongly supported vaccine mandates for healthcare workers. In July 2021, she said: Thank you to the North Carolina Healthcare Association and the health systems that are leading the way requiring vaccination for employees, for taking action to protect the healthcare workforce, their parents, our communities and the State. Vaccinations are our way out of this pandemic, she concluded.

Dr. Cohen also wore a double mask at an event in January 2021, and even posted a photo of herself wearing a mask with Dr. Fauci's picture on it.

Mr. Speaker, while this is not an appointment that will be subject to a vote in either House, I would simply encourage President Biden to acknowledge the lack of trust that exists right now in many parts of this country, with even Mark Zuckerberg saying that we had public health decisions that undermined public trust, and to instead appoint a CDC Director who will actually adhere to science, who will adhere to norms, and who will not take us down this road ever again.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2100

HONORING THE LIVES OF TWO GREAT MISSOURIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of two great Missourians who burned brightly, but sadly, their lives were cut short.

The first public servant from Missouri is William Duston. William Thomas Duston—his nickname was "Dub"—was a father, a public servant, and a Taney County community leader.

Dub was a well-educated man. He earned degrees from Middle Tennessee State and James Madison and a law degree from American University.

Upon finishing his education, Dub started a life of public service here as a legislative assistant to then-Senator John Ashcroft, a legend, until Dub returned home to Branson.

He subsequently became Branson's city prosecutor in 2006 before becoming city attorney, a role that he held until being elected the Taney County prosecuting attorney in 2018.

Dub had many jobs in his life, but his favorite was being a dad. He loved spending time with his wife and daughters. He loved cooking, and he loved restoring Ford cars.

Dub is survived by his wife, Charlie; his daughters, Shiloh and Raleigh; his aunts, his cousins, and extended family; and the Young family.

On behalf of southwest Missouri, I join Taney County and our community in honoring his life and lasting impact.

The second great Missourian is Ron Richard. Ron Richard was a father, grandfather, local businessman, and dedicated public servant to the city of Joplin and all of Missouri.

Ron started out his life owning and operating bowling alleys before entering a life of public service. During his three decades of public service, he served as a councilmember and then as the mayor of Joplin.

He then served as a State representative and was elected by his colleagues to be speaker of the Missouri House. Eventually, he served in the State senate, where he was then elected by his colleagues to be the president pro tem of the Missouri Senate.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Ron Richard is the only person in Missouri history to serve as the leader of both chambers, the house and the senate, and only the fifth person in our Nation's history to have done so.

His career of service did not end with his retirement from the legislature. He was appointed by Missouri Governor Mike Parson to the Missouri Southern State University board of governors, a