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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GARBARINO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 20, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDREW R. GARBARINO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

U.S. POLICY STRANGLING CUBAN ENTREPRENEURS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the privilege of meeting with a delegation of young Cuban entrepreneurs. I was impressed by their vision, dedication, and private-sector experience.

One had founded her business, Beyond Roots, in 2016. It promotes Afro-Cuban culture through education, prod-

uct marketing, and artistic and other collaborations. Her company has been recognized as a project with significant social impact, and she hopes to generate positive change in people's lives by promoting a closer connection with their roots.

Another founded Wajiros Films in 2017. It is an audiovisual creative group composed of young Cuban artists who want to generate audiovisual projects based on the stories, characters, and visual content that reside outside of Cuba's major cities and prominent cultural industries. They want to create visual arts that show the diversity of Cuba. They believe in the right to dream and the right to fight for your dreams.

I talked with the cofounder and creative director of DADOR, a female-founded fashion brand committed to using the entrepreneurial spirit to make a mark on Cuba's emerging private sector.

I also met with the cofounder and CEO of TostoneT, an information technology infrastructure company. He created his first enterprise in 2012 and, in 2018, expanded his interests to support academic and business groups traveling to Cuba from the U.K. and other European countries.

Mr. Speaker, I could not have asked to meet with a more exciting, innovative, and visionary group of Cuban entrepreneurs. They reinforced what I had learned during my last trip to Cuba in December when I met with several other Cuban entrepreneurs. I came away from my December trip and my conversations with last week's delegation with three main conclusions.

First, it can be time-consuming, even difficult at times, to navigate the Cuban Government's rules and regulations on the private sector. Overall, Cuba is opening more and more space for private-sector development, especially for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs. Cubans, especially young

people, are taking advantage of these opportunities to expand existing businesses and create new companies. Innovation and collaboration are happening in every sector.

Second, each of the entrepreneurs who I met appreciates the support and encouragement they have received from the U.S. Embassy. They noted, however, that they no longer need workshops on how to establish a budget, handle payroll, or devise a marketing plan.

Third, the greatest difficulty facing small and medium-sized Cuban entrepreneurs is in the financial sector. They all emphasized how U.S. policies are strangling their ability to get financing, set up bank accounts, and market their products outside of Cuba.

They pleaded for Cuba to be removed from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list so they can open up bank accounts in the U.K. and Europe, where they have clients eager to purchase, market, and use their goods and services.

They talked about how difficult it is to travel to the United States, how difficult it is to go back and forth in order to establish partnerships and other business relations, and how impossible it is to set up bank accounts to sell and market their goods.

Financial barriers that stifle the development and expansion of Cuban entrepreneurs can all be traced, unfortunately, to the United States. It is our policies and our financial restrictions that are hurting the very sector that the U.S. proclaims it most wants to help.

If we really want to support them, we should remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. There is absolutely no justification at all for them to be on that list. They were put on the list by the Trump administration for purely political purposes. We should also get rid of the financial restrictions imposed by the Trump administration and now maintained by the Biden administration.

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. Speaker, it has been over 2 years since President Biden took office. The Cuban people and entrepreneurs should not have to wait any longer for change to happen.

The Biden administration must take a long, hard look in the mirror and recognize that its own policies are causing hardship and suffering in Cuba, including in the private sector.

Cuban entrepreneurs don't need us to lead them by the hand. They are more than capable of setting up companies and following their own dreams. We need to get out of their way.

Mr. Speaker, I once again call on the Biden administration to tear down the financial barriers and restrictions that are strangling Cuban entrepreneurs and stifling their success.

Let us stop being part of the problem and start being part of the solution.

CALLING ON PRESIDENT BIDEN TO ADDRESS SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the failed policies that President Biden chose to enact have created a national security, public health, and humanitarian crisis on our southern border.

In the 1 month since title 42 has expired, we have seen the impacts of President Biden's reckless policy decisions in action.

In April of this year, more than 70,000 illegal immigrants were turned away under title 42.

Now, without the protections of title 42 in place, the influx of illegal immigrants and the drugs smuggled by the cartels have overwhelmed resources at Federal, State, and local levels.

Under President Biden's watch in the past 2 years, we have seen the number of attempted entries by those on the terrorist watch list skyrocket to over 100 a year. With 1.5 million known got-aways reported by the Border Patrol, that number might even be higher.

We have seen an increase in overdose deaths from the deadly fentanyl analogues smuggled across our borders.

We have seen reports of public schools being used as holding facilities for migrants instead of being used for American students already suffering from historic learning loss. This follows President Biden's prolonged school shutdowns.

All of this amounts to a pattern of failure brought on by the Biden administration's refusal to confront the crisis at our border head-on.

It is time to finish the construction of the border wall.

It is time to reinstate the remain in Mexico policies that protect American citizens.

It is time for President Biden to finally address the crisis that his administration has created with its open border policies.

That time is today.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, 4 months ago, the news came from Plains, Georgia, that former President Jimmy Carter, along with his family, had made the decision to enter hospice care as he approaches the end of his amazing 90-year-old life.

Interestingly, in the wake of that announcement, accolades came from all over the world, again reminding us all of the work that President Carter did during his time in the White House.

He led the way to the Camp David peace accords, which demilitarized the Sinai Peninsula.

He was a prophet and leader, a visionary in terms of renewable energy. Under President Carter's leadership, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory was founded, which to this day still operates in Colorado, utilizing cutting-edge technology and innovation in terms of development of renewable energy.

After President Carter left the White House, he founded The Carter Center in Georgia, which has done amazing work in terms of eradicating disease in different parts of the world, such as river blindness, amongst many others.

Mr. Speaker, I represent eastern Connecticut, which, again, has a special and unique appreciation for former President Jimmy Carter. After he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1946 and following two tours as an ensign on surface ships, President Carter volunteered for the submarine force and was stationed at Naval Submarine Base New London located in Groton, Connecticut. There, President Carter received officer training from Groton's Submarine School and was promoted to lieutenant. This picture shows President Carter onboard one of those submarines.

In 1952, Carter became part of the legendary Hyman Rickover's new Office of Naval Reactors, an elite unit which introduced nuclear propulsion to America's submarine force and revolutionized the reach and stealth of our fleet.

At that point of his career, Carter was assured a virtually guaranteed path of promotion and success. However, in October 1953, Carter's 58-year-old father succumbed to pancreatic cancer. Jimmy Carter left Active Duty with an honorable discharge after 7 years and 4 months of service, returning to his childhood home in Plains, Georgia, to run the family farm.

Mr. Speaker, President Carter left Connecticut in 1953, but he never forgot our State. He proved that in 2005, when the Navy, as part of the BRAC process, sought to close the Groton Naval Sub-

marine Base and transfer its fleet of submarines to Kings Bay, Georgia. Despite the fact that this would help his native State of Georgia, he shocked his home State and the Navy by publicly opposing this plan. As Anthony Principi, the Chairman of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, stated at the time: Carter's letter citing the value of SUBASE New London's "proud submarine heritage" was a "key factor" when he and the Commission voted 7-1 to reject the Navy's plan.

Eighteen years later, with 16 attack submarines in Groton that are in active heel-to-toe deployments, the wisdom of that position that he took certainly has paid off in terms of blindingly obvious facts.

Also, eastern Connecticut is the place where the USS *Jimmy Carter*, which was one of the *Seawolf*-class submarines, was built. Today, it still operates, doing amazing work as part of that unique three-submarine class that has farther stealth, is able to operate at deeper depths, travels at higher speeds, and does great work.

Recently, the executive officer of the USS *Jimmy Carter*, Lieutenant Commander Jacob Cates, stated: "As our sailors walk through the ship, they are met by images representing the Carters' service to our submarine force, our Navy, and to our country. President Carter has always been an advocate for those in need. By helping to eliminate disease, feed the hungry, teach Sunday school, and prevent war, President Carter has positively impacted countless lives. . . . We are honored by the fact that we are on the USS *Jimmy Carter*, and we strive to prepare for and execute our mission in a manner worthy of President Carter's legacy."

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Well said, Lieutenant Commander Cates.

Again, as we pass the 4-month mark of President Carter's hospice, I want him and his family to know that certainly, in eastern Connecticut, our prayers are with him, as well as our deepest admiration and feelings, just like Lieutenant Cates whose words were reported just a few days ago.

Again, we honor his record of service in terms of our Navy, our country, and his service after the time he spent in the White House where he did not monetize his service but, again, continued to do great things to help people in need around the world.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to President Biden's student loan bailout. As Iowans know, a loan taken out is a loan that must be repaid. Democrats and the