

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

Biden administration are continuing to push to forgive student loans, which results in those costs being transferred to other hardworking taxpayers.

This decision is irresponsible, it is unfair, and it undercuts students who work to afford tuition and parents who, for years, sacrificed and saved for the opportunity of a college education. Student loans shouldn't be viewed any differently than a mortgage or a car loan. Money taken out must be paid back by those who benefit.

Moving forward, it is crucial that we ensure our students are equipped with the guidance needed to make an informed decision, and that they understand the process to pay these loans back.

If we can help our students understand the process and the ultimate cost of Federal student loans, they will use this information in making wiser decisions.

#### PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.

PTSD affects tens of thousands of Americans who are diagnosed every year. Sadly, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, PTSD is more common among female veterans.

As a veteran, physician, and a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the realities of the battlefield and the importance of having adequate access and tools to mental health services that address the experiences our veterans face.

I was proud to work across the aisle with my colleagues to introduce the Veteran Care Improvement Act of 2023 that provides our veterans with increased treatment and rehabilitative services.

As Members of Congress, we have the ability to take action, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the mental health of our veterans and servicemembers through passing the Brandon Act.

#### RECOGNIZING KEATON WINN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keaton Winn of Ollie, Iowa, for being promoted to the San Francisco Giants' major league roster. Keaton attended Pekin High School in my district where he was a standout baseball, basketball, and football player. He then took his talents to Iowa Western Community College where he earned first team all-conference honors as a freshman pitcher.

Keaton was drafted by the Giants in 2018 and spent his next years working through their minor league system. He had a breakout season in 2022 before finally getting the call to the major leagues on June 12 of this year. He made his first appearance 1 day later, throwing four innings and becoming the first Giants pitcher to earn a save in his major league debut.

Keaton's accomplishments are a testament to his unwavering dedication, perseverance, and exceptional skills on the baseball diamond. He serves as a shining example for young athletes

across Iowa who aspire to play their sport at the highest level.

#### EVERY STATE IS A BORDER STATE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's and the extreme House Democrats' open border policies have incentivized a historic surge in illegal immigration at our southern and northern borders. Every State is now a border state.

Blue sanctuary cities and States are now using elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for these illegal immigrants. This deprives students of opportunities to learn, both physically and intellectually, as well as puts them physically at risk when background checks are not conducted.

This week, we will be voting on my resolution, H. Res. 461, which condemns the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for illegal aliens who are not admitted to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to wish my brother Richard a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Rick.

#### REAL SOLUTIONS ARE BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, in such a closely divided Congress, the only real solutions are bipartisan solutions that can pass the House and get 60 votes in the Senate.

For me, bipartisanship is more than just a buzzword. That is why as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I am working on advancing commonsense, bipartisan legislation. Since January, I am proud to have advanced three bipartisan bills through committee and one through the floor of the House.

The Equal Opportunity for All Investors Act, which I co-led with Congressman MIKE FLOOD, recently passed on the House floor with 383 votes and would help cut through government red tape and ensure well-qualified and more diverse individuals are able to invest in our private markets.

The second bill, Improving Disclosures for Investors Act, which I co-led with Congressman HUIZENGA, is the next step in the decades-long process of modernizing the SEC's electronic delivery rules, while providing strong investor protections.

The China Exchange Rate Transparency Act, which I co-led with Congressman MEUSER, would enable us to learn more about China's exchange rate policies to level the playing field for American businesses and promote domestic manufacturing.

As we look ahead, I know that we can reach consensus and find common ground on the issues facing the American people. One of those areas is stablecoin legislation. I am proud of the work we have done this Congress on bipartisan stablecoin legislation.

The most recent draft includes many of my suggestions, like protecting State regulators in North Carolina, adding consumer protections, and ensuring banks can safely hold digital assets in their custody.

I hope that we can continue to come together, put politics aside, and reach a bipartisan agreement that can pass through committee with support from Democrats and Republicans. I stand ready to work with Members on both sides of the aisle to find solutions and get things done for the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

#### CELEBRATING DISTINGUISHED NORTH CAROLINIANS

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and congratulate a distinguished North Carolinian, Dr. Mandy Cohen, on her recent appointment as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Dr. Cohen's commitment to public health and her exceptional leadership skills.

North Carolina has a rich history of contributing remarkable individuals to our great Nation. Our State has always nurtured talent and fostered innovation. Dr. Cohen's appointment as the head of the CDC exemplifies North Carolina's continued influence on the national stage.

Throughout her tenure as the secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services—where I served in the State senate during her tenure, as well—Dr. Cohen has demonstrated unparalleled dedication to improving the health and well-being of our citizens. In the face of the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, she led North Carolina's robust response efforts with compassion and expertise.

Today, as we honor Dr. Cohen, we also take pride in recognizing two other North Carolinians appointed to critical national positions.

Michael Regan, a native of North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, serves as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA. Mr. Regan's passion and expertise have propelled us toward a greener, more sustainable future.

Erik Hooks, the deputy administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, also hails from North Carolina. In his role, Mr. Hooks has played a pivotal role in disaster response and recovery efforts, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities across our Nation.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Mandy Cohen, Michael Regan, and Erik Hooks, we also recognize the collective achievements of North Carolina. I was with our Governor, Roy Cooper, just last week and he made note of these important contributions from these three North Carolinians in this administration.

Our State has consistently produced exceptional leaders who have made significant contributions to our Nation.