

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.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Mandy Cohen on her appointment as the Director of the CDC. I am confident she will bring the same passion and expertise to this new position that she demonstrated throughout her career in North Carolina.

To Michael Regan and Erik Hooks, I express my deepest appreciation for their invaluable contributions to our Nation. North Carolina is proud to call these exceptional individuals our own, and we look forward to the positive impact they will play and continue to have on our country.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SUE HART

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a former teacher on her retirement. Sue Hart was one of the best teachers I ever had. As you can imagine, I probably wasn't the best student she ever had, but I hope I made the top 100.

It wasn't just history that she taught me. It was a lot about life and being a good person. I can honestly say I wouldn't be standing here today if it wasn't for the impact that Mrs. Hart had on me when I was growing up.

I wish her the best in retirement. I am happy that I can still call her a friend, but I think the biggest shame about her retirement is that future Sayville students won't be able to have her as a teacher, including my children.

That being said, I do want to congratulate her and wish her the best. So congratulations, Mrs. Hart. You deserve it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, who alone spreads out the heavens and rules the raging of the sea, on the very day we celebrated the freedoms You have intended for each person, a day when, by the pen stroke of one person in Texas, Juneteenth became the symbol of the last vestiges of

slavery in the United States, on that same day, by the stroke of violence inflicted on the community of Willowbrook, Illinois, and other areas of this land we love, we realize we are all still slaves to sin.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for the countless times we commit ourselves to bringing good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed that, despite our best intentions, we, all too often, succumb to the yoke of hatred and prejudice.

As we remember Juneteenth, remind us again that You have freed us from the bondage of our sinful nature. May we offer our whole selves to You, that we would allow ourselves to become slaves to righteousness.

We pray in Your merciful name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

RECENT FUNDING FOR TRAIN BLOCKAGES IN HOUSTON AREA

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Federal Railroad Administration's recent funding to reduce train blockages in the Houston area.

Madam Speaker, \$36 million will go to overpasses where trains block roads, intersections, and crossings in the Houston area. Schoolchildren have been crawling under train cars just to get to school. Ambulances and fire trucks are losing precious minutes to detour around trains that are blocking high-traffic areas.

Houston residents have filed more complaints of train obstructions than any other city in the United States.

Our fire chief tells us that, on average, there are 90 instances a month

where emergency responders are delayed by trains, losing time, when lives are at stake.

Enough is enough. We must put people over politics. We must put people over trains.

The funding that we just received, Madam Speaker, is but the first step. There is still a lot more to go to ensure that our roads are safe, our children are safe, and our community is safer.

GENDER BILLS

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

Mr. OGLES. Madam Speaker, the hypersexualized left is not satisfied with its month of sexual pride. Instead, they are going after our children, and it is coming to a neighborhood near you.

From drag shows in schools, to gender-affirming care, to hiding sexual orientation and gender identity from parents, the sex-obsessed left knows no bounds; which is why I am introducing two bills to protect children and to affirm God's creation.

First, I am introducing the Keep Our Kids Safe Act of 2023, which will prohibit use of Federal education funding for drag performances or instruction by drag queens in elementary or secondary schools.

Can you believe that in this time that I am having to introduce legislation to protect children from men in dresses?

The second bill I am introducing is the There Are Two Sexes Act of 2023, which prohibits Federal funds from being used to create any Federal form that has anything other than male or female. America should not be funding the radical left's agenda to sexualize children in schools.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAGEMAN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under House clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.