

118th Congress to call for unity and bipartisan action in this Congress.

This is a call that echoes across this House from commonsense Republicans and Democrats who are ready to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us. It is a call that echoes across my district in the State of Nevada from independent-minded folks who are tired of Congress playing games and politics as usual. It is a call that echoes across the entire country.

In November, every one of us in this Chamber won the support of our constituents, and the trends were clear: Extremism is out, and real results are in.

Last Congress was different. Democrats had control of the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, but we didn't close the door on our Republican colleagues. Instead, we brought them to the table and led together to deliver results for all Americans, and the track record shows it:

The bipartisan PACT Act, now law, protecting healthcare for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits and Agent Orange;

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, now law, the first major gun safety action in decades;

The bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, now law, increasing our economic edge in a global economy and ensuring that we make more of everything in America;

And, of course, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, now law, the investment of a generation in every corner of this country: roads, bridges, ports, airports, internet access, water solutions for the West, and so much more.

These accomplishments are significant, and they will stand the test of time because we brought Democrats and Republicans together to make them happen.

Voters defied midterm predictions, recognizing that Democrats deliver by putting people over politics and joining hands with our commonsense colleagues across the aisle, but the work continues.

What we can work on together will always outweigh what holds us apart. We all want to tackle inflation. We all recognize the need to address the historic drought and to secure future water supplies for all Americans. We all want to fix our broken immigration system, to build one that strengthens our security without compromising our values as a nation of immigrants.

Congress is at our best when we put policy first and politics last. That is what the American people want.

CONGRATULATING REBEL GIRLS & COMPANY

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the UNLV Rebel Girls & Company dance team for winning yet another national championship title.

This program is no stranger to success, and this makes eight wins for the university in the last 15 years. This time they even achieved a 99.1, the

highest hip-hop score in program history.

Coming from the entertainment capital of the world, the decorated dance team and crew have always represented Nevada well, and their stellar performances have even dazzled audiences across the globe. Their many titles are a reflection of the hard work of each and every person involved, especially the leadership shown by Head Coach Marca DeCastroverde.

The past, present, and future of this program is so bright, and I speak on behalf of all of Nevada as we continue to cheer them on.

Congratulations, UNLV Rebel Girls & Company, on yet another success.

SECURE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of the crises that we are facing in our country, and it is obvious to so many—except, unfortunately, so many in this House—that we have a crisis at our southern border.

We have not only seen over 4.7 million people cross illegally, many of whom are claiming asylum despite not qualifying for asylum, but we are also seeing record levels of fentanyl killing so many Americans each and every single day. We must take a stand to secure our border to stop this flow of illegal drugs, to stop this mass illegal migration.

When you talk about the number of 4.7 million, when you think about the number of people who have actually evaded our government, who have evaded any interaction with our law enforcement and CBP agents, you are talking about 1.2 million people. That is more than twice the size of Staten Island, the borough in New York City I represent.

It is outrageous to think that we would have individuals entering our country illegally, and we don't know what their intentions are, where they are coming from, why they are here. That is what scares me the most as an individual who represents the city of New York.

We know that 98 suspected terrorists on our terrorist watch list crossed the border last fiscal year, and we know, so far this year, there have been another 38. That should be alarming to every single person in this country.

We must know who is entering our country and what their intentions are. To allow this amount of people to evade law enforcement, to evade any interaction with our government, is a very dangerous action on behalf of this administration.

House Republicans believe that Secretary Mayorkas has completely abdicated his responsibility to keep our country secure, and we will be moving forward with hearings to expose what he is doing. I do believe at the end of

the day it warrants him being impeached and removed from his position.

Also, I highlight how the Federal Government's lack of action at the border, coupled with my State legislature's and Governor's horrible actions in New York, have led to what we are seeing now in terms of a rise in crime.

First of all, New York is dealing with major actions in terms of crime, car thefts, people being released. In fact, I just read yesterday that, in my district, a 20-year-old guy who has been stealing cars is being released right back onto the streets. It has been about three times. The first time he was arrested, it was for 20 counts of car theft.

Let's now look at what we are doing here. When I went down to Federal Plaza and met with our ICE officials, they are saying that New York City is not cooperating with any detainer requests for people who are criminals. That means they either were convicted of a crime in their home country or were convicted of a crime here.

It is the worst of the worst in society that ICE is trying to remove from our country, and our local officials won't cooperate. I think it is outrageous that the city of New York continues to harbor people who are not only in this country illegally but are committing crimes on top of it.

Just the other day, New York City residents found out that they are paying to house, paying to feed, paying to provide services to individuals who were shoplifting in our State. Think about that. Not only are they crossing into our country illegally, but after committing crimes, they were released back onto the street thanks to our State's ridiculous bail law, and on top of it, the taxpayers of the city of New York are paying to house and feed them. How does that make any sense, and how is that in the best interests of our citizens?

I am the daughter of immigrants. I understand and appreciate the aspirations of the American Dream. We need to work together to address what is happening at our border. We need to work together to ensure that those legitimate asylum seekers are not getting stuck in the bureaucracy and the red tape because of those individuals who are here claiming asylum when they don't qualify.

We have to work on our visa system to ensure that we address the labor shortage. We should have more visas, employee-sponsored visas, and family-sponsored immigration, as well.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to secure our border. Let's impose some common sense.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN ARTSAKH

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, for 46 days, the Government of Azerbaijan

has forcibly cut off 120,000 ethnic Armenians in the Republic of Artsakh. They are cut off from the outside world. Food has become scarce. They have to ration even basic items. Diapers and medicine supplies have become so low that Facebook pages are opening where residents are trying to find these items from their neighbors. Residents are separated from their families on the other side of the border in Armenia, including children who have been attending school or visiting families.

Azerbaijan has even gone so far as to cut off natural gas during the depth of winter. A humanitarian crisis is brewing, and we should act to prevent it.

Let's be clear about what this attempt is. It is an attempt by Azerbaijan to force Artsakh's ethnic Armenian population out of their homes by making life in Artsakh impossible. The tactic is blockade. The effect is civilian deprivation. The object is ethnic cleansing.

But don't take my word for it. Listen to Azerbaijani dictator Aliyev who made his intentions clear when this blockade unfolded by saying, "Whoever does not want to become our citizen . . . can leave." What does he mean? The ethnic Armenians are citizens. They are citizens of the Republic of Artsakh, but Aliyev doesn't recognize that citizenship and instead uses it as an excuse to say that he wants to ethnically cleanse these 120,000 people.

I am glad that Secretary Blinken earlier this week called on President Aliyev to end this blockade, but we know that dictators don't often respond to calls for justice. I urge the administration to put real weight behind these calls by making clear that there will be consequences to Azerbaijan by plunging the people of Artsakh into this humanitarian disaster, including sanctions if necessary.

The administration should enforce section 907 to stop all military assistance to Azerbaijan and to provide critical humanitarian aid to the people of Artsakh, actions that are long overdue.

Ever since I came to Congress almost 27 years ago, I have introduced and fought for a resolution to recognize the Armenian genocide, the first genocide of the 20th century. Back then it was not uncommon for Members of this body to minimize or even deny the systematic ethnic cleansing and murder of 1½ million Armenians, Greeks, or Syrians and others by the Ottoman Empire, but Armenian Americans and their allies did not give up. For decades, they spoke truth to power and turned the political tide until the Armenian genocide was recognized by this House and then by President Biden. It may have taken longer, but we got there.

This is a painful moment for the Armenian community. I am confident that the Armenian people will rise in strength. Armenians have outlived those who said there was no Armenian genocide, and they will outlive those who say there is no Artsakh.

I urge the Biden administration and all Members of this body to take a forceful stance against Azerbaijan's shameful attempts at ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population of Artsakh through this deadly blockade.

DEBT LIMIT CRISIS

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have already hit the debt limit. Republicans say they want to negotiate. We negotiate about spending all the time. What they really mean is that they want additional leverage by threatening this country with a default on our debt, which would cost us, according to Moody's Analytics, 6 million jobs, a 9 percent unemployment rate, \$15 trillion lost in our investment markets.

Already they are dillydallying with this debt limit. Their playing Russian roulette with our economy has already hurt our economy. As the chief Democrat on the Capital Markets Subcommittee, I am here to tell you that the cost of capital is higher and projects are not going forward because of the actions they have taken so far.

They want to negotiate? They want to negotiate going backward. They want to negotiate reducing Social Security benefits. They want spending cuts, but they won't specify what they want. If we are going to negotiate, let's negotiate going forward. Let's talk about increases in Social Security benefits, let's negotiate getting rid of the \$2 trillion of unjustified Trump tax cuts that went chiefly to corporations and the wealthy.

You want to negotiate? Fine, we will negotiate going forward, but ultimately we will end up with a clean debt limit. You can't just love your country when your guy is in the White House. You can't play Russian roulette just because you don't like the President and you think that President will take the political hit. We need to show the world that our governance in America is sound and that our economy is worthy of investment.

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NEW IRAN SANCTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. In Iran, a dangerous regime is harming its people, stripping them of their rights, and spreading lies to cover it up.

The world must know where we stand.

The Biden administration is leading the way, and I strongly support their newly announced sanctions on some of the world's worst human rights abusers.

These offenders are top-ranking officials in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the regime's right hand in repression. Sanctions also target the IRGC's business enterprise, which has been funding the regime's brutality for decades.

The U.S.' leadership was mimicked by the United Kingdom and European Union. I applaud this unified response from our allies. It is a clear rejection of Iran's violence and a demand for the Iranian people to be heard.

The struggles continue, and we must all remember that "Woman, Life, Freedom" is not just a chant. It is a call to action.

CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak up for California's children, our communities, and our environment.

The vast majority of American schoolbuses run on diesel, a major source of pollution that contributes to the climate crisis. As a result, bus emissions worsen our air quality with significant harm around schools, in residential areas, and within the passenger cabin. This is a serious problem for our environment and our children's health.

The bipartisan infrastructure law that I supported invests in a solution. The Clean School Bus program funds \$5 billion for the purchase of electric schoolbuses, improving the air for our kids and our communities.

Electric buses also improve discipline, reduce noise pollution, and give schools budget certainty. They can save school districts up to 80 percent on the cost of fuel, maintenance, and repairs.

However, the Clean School Bus program unfairly targets California. Even though our State has nearly 13 percent of schoolchildren and the second lowest busing rate in the country, ahead only of Mississippi, the law unfairly imposes a 10 percent State cap on the funds.

Even worse, to date, California has only gotten 7.33 percent of the Clean School Bus program funds. Our State leads the Nation in transitioning to electric vehicles and reducing emissions. We need our Federal Government to be a partner in these efforts. California wants to invest in clean buses to take children to school to learn and to grow, but we cannot do it alone.

If America is to be the global leader in transitioning to a clean energy economy, we need to give every State, including California, their fair share of financial support.

The \$69.5 million already invested in the Clean School Bus program in California provides some necessary help, but it is not nearly enough to support our densely populated working-class communities, some of which have the worst air quality in the Nation.

I have seen firsthand the tremendous interest in the Clean School Bus program when my office hosted grant workshops with school districts and Tribal communities to share information about these Federal resources for acquiring low- and zero-emission schoolbuses. To meet this moment, we need a coordinated effort from Federal, State, and local entities to make the change.

California needs a leader who will fight to remove unfair roadblocks, such