

New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that the constitutional right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, and it is a right solely afforded to our citizens.

It is a basic concept, but the D.C. Council needs to be reminded of this. The District of Columbia holds a unique status as a Federal district, and the Constitution outlines that Congress is responsible for its governance.

Without the proper oversight of Congress, it has spiraled into crisis. Crime rates are soaring. Our public schools have suffered significant setbacks due to the prolonged closures and numerous buildings that stand vacant, casting a shadow of neglect over our city.

In the face of these issues, it is disheartening to witness the D.C. Council prioritize a bill that aims to grant voting rights to individuals who are not citizens of the United States of America.

This effort undermines the very foundation of our democracy. Consider the potential consequences of such a law. Washington, D.C., is a hub for various foreign organizations and embassies, some of which hold interests that run very counter to those of the United States and are not invested in the long-term well-being of our country.

By providing voting rights to non-citizens, we open the door for foreign agents and adversaries to influence local elections held in our Nation's capital. Imagine that, the D.C. Council is trying to extend the right to vote to employees of Vladimir Putin and to employees of President Xi and the CCP. This is a legitimate threat to the integrity of our democratic institutions.

Granting noncitizens the right to vote in local elections sets a dangerous precedent, especially put into context with President Biden's illegal immigration crisis.

Allowing this law to stand would open the flood gates to noncitizens to influence elections across the Nation. We have already seen this policy from Democrats in New York, and I was proud to lead the fight to successfully stop that in court. We must do the same with this policy in D.C.

For those reasons, I was proud to support H.R. 192 in the House Oversight Committee hearing yesterday to reverse the D.C. Council's disastrous policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in sending a clear message back to them that citizens' voices matter and that we are committed to safeguarding the integrity of our democratic process for generations to come.

#### PUBLIC EDUCATION IS A NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to discuss my amendment to the

fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, Rules Committee amendment No. 778.

My amendment is very simple. It would reinvest \$157 billion from our defense budget into our public education system.

Many of my colleagues may balk at that number. However, I remind everyone that we spend more on our national defense than the next 10 countries combined. We are secure as a nation in our military might because we have consistently supported the military industrial complex.

Where we have neglected mightily is another pillar of our democracy, which is our education system and our public school system.

As we continue to neglect our public schools, we are harming our most precious and most vulnerable resource, which is our Nation's children. Historically, this neglect is well-documented from redlining communities, underfunding public housing, underfunding green spaces, and underfunding schools in historically marginalized communities.

Before coming to Congress, I had the pleasure and privilege of working in our public schools for 20 years. I served as an elementary school teacher in the South Bronx before becoming a high school guidance counselor and dean of students, where I served for 3½ years.

Realizing that our schools weren't doing enough to unlock the unlimited potential of our kids, I wrote a proposal and opened up a public middle school in the northeast Bronx, where I served for 10½ years as its principal.

Our mission as a school was simple: Listen to our students. Listen to our families. Respond to the community's needs because that is what is necessary to unlock the magic, magnificence, and brilliance of our kids. I scoured the Earth to find additional grants and resources to bring into our school.

We didn't just invest in traditional curriculum, we invested in the holistic development of our kids. Now, what does that mean?

That means that we made sure that we focused on language arts, we focused on mathematics, we focused on science, but we also focused on STEM and STEAM, music, the arts, play, gym, mental health supports, food security, adult education, and everything to ensure the full development of our students and support for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say to the House Chamber and to America, education, I argue, is the number one national security issue in our country. Because of historic miseducation, separation, and segregation across race and class, we continue to have these battles rooted in sexism, racism, and discrimination. We continue to have an economy that doesn't work for all Americans. When we invest in education, we invest in shared prosperity from rural America to urban America and everything in between.

Imagine a Nation where every single child, regardless of learning style,

background, or race had access and opportunity to the American Dream.

When we invest in education, we have better healthcare, economic, and obviously, education outcomes. We deal with the issue of public safety. We deal with the issue of mass shooting. We deal with the issue of mass incarceration.

Invest in our children. Invest in our schools. Let us stop neglecting this critical area. We need to invest in this space in order to save our democracy and take it to the next level.

#### PIERCE COUNTY LADY BEARS GOLF TEAM

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pierce County High School Lady Bears golf team for winning the State Class AA championship on May 22, 2023.

This remarkable achievement makes the Lady Bears back-to-back State champions after winning a Class AAA championship last year.

This year's championship was held on the team's home course, the Okefenokee Country Club Golf Course.

Sophomore Mackenzie Connell was the first Lady Bear to come in with the remarkable score of 1 over 73, followed by senior Maggie Sapp, junior Lily Spivey, and sophomore Addyson Walker.

In Class AA, the two lowest scores count for the team, which gave the Lady Bears an impressive 30-stroke lead over the second-place team.

Mackenzie Connell finished in first place for the Class AA tournament, with all four members finishing in the top 10.

Again, I congratulate the Pierce County Lady Bears golf team on their championship, and I wish them well in their future endeavors on and off the golf course.

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#### HONORING DANA WRIGHT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dana Wright. Mrs. Wright was an educator and impacted many children's lives in Georgia's First District. She concluded her distinguished 33 years of teaching while serving as principal of Ebenezer Elementary School.

She was born and raised in Statesboro, going on to be a Georgia Southern alumni and a charter member of Alpha Omicron Pi. She was also a valued member of the Delta Kappa Gamma professional educators society.

When she wasn't teaching, she was cheering on the Eagles at football or basketball games or spending time with the Statesboro crew, her lifelong friends, Leah, Pam, and Amy.

Mrs. Wright was dedicated to improving her community through her passion for education, and her impact will be felt for many years to come.

My sincere condolences go out to the Wright family during this time of mourning.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA: NAMED ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN AMERICA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the city of Savannah, Georgia, being named the most beautiful place in Georgia and the fourth most beautiful place in the country by Travellers Worldwide.

Savannah is home to a lively tourism industry due to its historical architecture, captivating greenery, entertainment, and southern hospitality.

Savannah is also considered the largest national historic landmark district in the United States, thanks to its abundance of artifacts from the Revolutionary and Civil War eras.

The coastline of Savannah is home to miles of great fishing spots, beautiful beaches, and warm waters.

Whether you are a history buff looking for a place to vacation or doing business, Savannah has something to offer for everyone.

I am proud to represent such a beautiful area that aids Georgia's economy tremendously and brings many Americans to the State I call home.

CONGRATULATING RIYON RANKIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brunswick High alumnus Riyan Rankin for winning the boy's high jump title at the Nike Outdoor Nationals.

Mr. Rankin has been making a name for himself in the track and field world for the past 2 years, being the first student to claim a track and field State and national championship in Brunswick High School's history.

Recently, he cleared a high jump of over 7 feet, breaking the 6A State record. It was not long after his record-breaking jump that he received the invitation to compete from Nike.

Mr. Rankin went on to win his event at the Nike Outdoor Nationals, sharing with interviewers that he only plans to improve from there. He is committed to the University of Georgia—Go Dawgs—where he will begin attending in the fall.

I wish Mr. Rankin the best of luck in his track and field career at UGA and thank him for representing the city of Brunswick and the First District with such determination and persistence.

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND VILNIUS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address two topics today: workforce development and President Biden's historic remarks in Vilnius, Lithuania, yesterday.

First, on the labor shortage across our country, job openings remain near record highs. I hear repeatedly from businessowners in my district of unprecedented hiring challenges, a senti-

ment further backed by recent data. The latest numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate there are one-and-one-half job openings for every person looking for one in Ohio, and the same is true nationally.

Due to legislation largely Democrats in Congress have passed, robust job creation is a fantastic achievement. However, if our country wants to achieve a steady growth economy, pay down our debt, and curb inflation for everyday, hardworking Americans, we must do more to address worker shortages.

Let's focus on key sectors: manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, business services, the tech industry, culinary arts, and other sectors that are experiencing significant hiring challenges. Local communities must focus on additional education and training, especially for the hardest hit sectors that are recovering from the pandemic.

During the pandemic, many experienced workers over the age of 55 retired early, causing large employment gaps. Less experienced workers simply do not have the necessary skills to fill these open positions.

These are jobs that pay a living wage, carry benefits, and help families and communities prosper. However, the skills gap hits hardest younger workers and midcareer workers looking for new jobs.

Local community job training programs must bolster skills advancement, focusing on these newer entrants and forging more partnerships between industry and local community high schools, colleges, universities, and labor unions.

By accelerating workforce training locally, our Nation can increase the availability of specialized skills for workers so people can advance in the marketplace. A better life awaits them and their families, ensures the health of our economy, and increases America's global competitiveness.

Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan Act without any Republican votes or support. As a result, the Federal Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge program helps to fund workforce development training across our country.

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association and the Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Alliance both have received funding through the American Rescue Plan to expand manufacturing workforce training throughout Ohio.

Manufacturing has always been a central spine and backbone of Ohio's middle class. In addition, I have introduced the Office of Manufacturing and Industrial Innovation Policy Act to improve workforce development and job creation in the manufacturing sector.

Mr. Speaker, please let me thank my bipartisan colleagues for recognizing the need for investment in manufacturing workforce development. Our bill focuses on lifting up America's workers while strengthening our economy by forging public-private partnerships critical to meeting demands for a capably trained workforce.

Quickly, the second issue, Mr. Speaker, I wish to briefly address is President Biden's historic speech in Vilnius, Lithuania, yesterday.

Standing with leaders of our fellow democratic nations bonded in mutual self-defense, he clearly celebrated the expansion of NATO as Finland and Sweden joined the longstanding, hard-fought alliance among 30 free nations. We now stand as part of a NATO alliance that is 32 members strong and comprises 15 percent of our globe's population, and the members live in freedom.

Delivering his address inside a nation that heroically threw off the yoke of Russian oppression at tremendous cost, the moving ceremony represents a pivotal moment in liberty's advance in world history. We witnessed freedom-loving nations again pledge their consequential, shared commitment to mutual self-defense and support for our ally, Ukraine.

While Democrats are working hard domestically on rebuilding the economy, lowering inflation, and solving problems at home, President Biden's leadership ensures that our defense alliances abroad are strengthened.

Let us continue to work together to deliver real results for the American people here at home and strengthen liberty's alliances globally.

#### DEFENDING PRIVACY RIGHTS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to defend our daughters' right to privacy and safety.

This spring, a 16-year-old girl swimming for a local swim team in my district was banned from the YMCA for speaking out against men undressing in the girls' locker room. My constituent, Abigail, was simply exercising her right to privacy and safety. She should not be punished for defending herself and her teammates.

In Congress, I am committed to defending our daughters from the Biden administration's radical changes to Title IX that will make this an everyday occurrence for young girls across our country.

The YMCA should immediately reverse their decision and apologize to Abigail and her family. YMCA leadership should prioritize the safety and privacy of young girls instead of prioritizing a radical, leftwing political ideology that is allowing adult men to expose themselves in front of our young girls. Men should never be allowed to violate girls' locker rooms and bathrooms.

Governor Pritzker continues to promote policies that put our daughters at risk. His failure to address the concerns of parents and protect the safety and privacy of young girls in Illinois is deeply concerning to parents.

Please, we must speak out to protect our daughters and end this madness.