

and his administration to censor and silence this unalienable right.

Under the guise of public health, the Biden administration has attempted to use the Oval Office as a bully pulpit to punish those who share beliefs that the President disagrees with and news that he doesn't like.

The Federal Government should never punish Americans for using First Amendment rights, and the decision by a U.S. district judge to limit the Biden administration's contact with social media companies is a positive first step toward correcting these wrongs.

My constituents who have been censored deserve accountability, and it is time for the Biden administration to fully admit to the actions that were taken to stifle free speech.

GUN VIOLENCE IS AN EPIDEMIC

(Ms. SCHRIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak about the epidemic of gun violence that continues to plague our country. In fact, gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children.

As a pediatrician, I understand that we have to look at this as a public health crisis and work on multiple levels to keep our children and communities safe from gun violence.

I am focused on pragmatic solutions and proud that both parties came together last Congress to take some commonsense steps to keep guns away from people who are likely to pose a danger and to address the mental health crisis in this country that has led to higher rates of firearm suicide.

There is more to do, and I invite my Republican colleagues to join us to enhance background checks and close loopholes that allow some people to buy guns without a background check, to increase funding for research so that we can make evidence-based decisions in our legislation, and to incentivize safe storage because children should not have access to their parents' weapons.

There are areas where we worked together last Congress, and we can do more.

Not a single Republican Member of Congress lost their race last year because they voted for commonsense safe gun ownership laws. We can do more to protect children and communities, and we should do it together.

STAND AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand against anti-Semitism.

I stand before you as a Republican Member of Congress to address the issue that transcends party lines and touches the very core of who we are as Americans.

Anti-Semitism is a pernicious form of hatred that has persisted for far too long in our world. It undermines the principles of tolerance, acceptance, and compassion that we hold dear as Americans.

It is deeply troubling and entirely unacceptable that a colleague on the other side of the aisle has labeled Israel a racist state.

We must be resolute in our efforts to combat this hate and be unequivocal in our condemnation of anti-Semitism in all of its forms from all persons.

The Jewish people have shown incredible resilience and strength as they have faced unimaginable suffering throughout history—from the horrors of the Holocaust to the persistent prejudice that seeks to marginalize them today, as the Jewish people have been unjustly targeted.

Let us join hands in solidarity, Mr. Speaker, with our Jewish brothers and sisters and make it our mission to combat and eradicate anti-Semitism once and for all.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. JACOBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, gun violence is the number one killer of kids and teens in America.

For so many problems facing our country, we don't know what to do, we don't know exactly how to fix it. Gun violence is different. We know what to do, but Republicans lack the backbone to do it, and, frankly, their justifications why aren't good enough.

Bucking your party, alienating the NRA, or potentially risking your seat is worth it to save lives.

We can save lives by reinstating the Federal Assault Weapons Ban. The 1994 ban that was implemented when I was only 5 years old decreased gun massacres by 37 percent, and when that ban expired, gun massacres rose by 183 percent.

Reinstating this ban would prevent parents from having to say their final good-byes to their children. It would prevent the trauma we knowingly pass on to future generations. It would prevent the never-ending what-ifs, if-onlys, and what-could-have-beens when thinking about the loved ones we have lost.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and reinstate the Federal Assault Weapons Ban.

PAY ATTENTION

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk a little bit about a hearing we are going to have tomorrow in the Oversight and Accountability Committee regarding members of President Biden's family.

It is a hearing I don't want to have. I think the President has done a pretty bad job, and politically he has made a lot of mistakes that have made him unpopular, but what we are dealing with here is significant sums of money, tens of millions of dollars, that appears to have flowed to his family from other countries around the world—in particular, China and Ukraine.

It is very difficult as a Congressman to know exactly what American policy should be with regard to these countries, but it makes it even more difficult if it is apparent that the President of the United States or his family may have received significant amounts of money and may have even been subject to blackmail if the worst had happened.

I strongly encourage the American public and the Chair to tune into our hearing tomorrow because we are going to unveil a new witness whose name has not been publicly revealed, and I think it is important for all Americans to pay attention and see exactly what is going on.

CELEBRATING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF LOU PECORA

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of Lou Pecora, a beloved member of our Orange County community.

Lou was born in Pennsylvania where his family business was making boots for coal miners. Many of his friends went to Wall Street, but Lou's passion was on Main Street where he found his love for education.

Lou began as a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University where he taught business to English majors, preparing young professionals with all the skills necessary to succeed in a changing world.

It took getting stuck under a bridge during a snowstorm in Pennsylvania for Lou to decide to finally move to the West Coast. Naturally, he decided to move to our great city of Santa Ana, and he has been there ever since.

Lou believes in living a good life. He believes in friends, good friends, and giving back. He and his partner, Joe, were together for 55 years, and they have been embraced by our community because of their charisma and charm.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Lou a happy 95th birthday, and I wish him many more.

OPPOSITION TO STRIPPING FUNDING FROM THE LGBT CENTER OF GREATER READING

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, today Appropriations Committee Republicans struck down community project funding requests for three projects related to LGBTQ organizations, and one was from my community.

The decision to strip this specific request from the bill, a request previously approved by the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee is not based in reasoning or legitimacy, but instead on bigotry and discrimination.

My office's selection process for Community Projects Funding is recognized as one of the most thorough and fair in Congress. We use an independent board of community leaders from our district. That means today the committee overrode the will of my constituents.

My district is a vibrant community in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and I would venture to say that many on the committee who voted against this funding have never visited it. It is demonstrated in the fact that they couldn't pronounce the name of the city of Reading and pronounced it Reading.

They have not visited the LGBT Center of Greater Reading itself like I have many times, and they have never seen the food pantry that helps those who have been rejected by their family or the warm spaces that welcome people in the winter and allow them a clean space to live and be themselves. These are basic human needs.

On behalf of my community and on behalf of the LGBTQ community, I express my vehement opposition to stripping lifesaving funding from the LGBTQ Center of Greater Reading.

AMERICA NEEDS A RELIABLE DECARBONIZED POWER GRID

(Mr. CASTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, can we maintain an affordable, reliable, and decarbonized grid if we rely only on traditional renewables?

To hear our Republican colleagues talk, absolutely not. They say that nuclear and advanced fossil fuels and hydrogen all have to be in the mix. As the old saw goes, when you are in a negotiation, don't watch the other guy's lips, watch his feet.

The Republicans' proposed appropriations package includes \$15 billion—that is a 20 percent cut—in the title 17 program. This is the loan program office that helps those early stage technologies get to commercialization.

This program, by the way, is currently massively oversubscribed. Of their existing \$73 billion of loan authority, they have already received over \$90 billion of applications of which 37 percent offer carbon management, advanced nuclear, and fossil fuel technologies included that my colleagues claim to hold dear.

These technologies are critically important to the future of our energy system. They all critically need government support to get to commercialization, and they would all be cut by the proposed Republican budget.

I want a reliable, decarbonized power grid that uses all those technologies

and more. My colleagues across the aisle, on the other hand, seem to be rooting for blackouts—or worse.

I know that is true because in the words of Shakira—feet don't lie.

□ 1845

WORSENING CLIMATE CRISIS HAS WROUGHT DESTRUCTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Civilian Conservation Center Enhancement Act.

The worsening climate crisis has wrought destruction across the country, and Oregon is not immune from that devastation.

Every year, our wildfire season becomes more severe. In fact, right now, there are 19 active wildfires in Oregon alone, burning thousands of acres, threatening properties, and upending daily life for hundreds of Oregonians.

Yet as the risk of wildfire has grown, our wildland firefighting capacity has fallen far behind, and that is where the Civilian Conservation Center Enhancement Act comes in.

This bill will actually cut through the red tape to ensure the Forest Service can hire brave Americans who are ready, willing, and able to battle these blazes.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representatives HOYLE, GUTHRIE, and EDWARDS, for their support of this bill, and I look forward to seeing its passage.

HONORING THE WORK OF REVEREND JESSE JACKSON

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Reverend Jesse Jackson as he steps down as president of Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

Reverend Jackson has fearlessly fought for the rights of marginalized communities, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration for millions.

His Presidential campaign in 1988 was a defining moment, not only for our brothers and sisters in the African-American community, but for all Americans who believed in a more inclusive society.

Jesse Jackson has taught us many lessons, among them, that political empowerment is vital to improving our communities. He has encouraged countless individuals to exercise their fundamental right to vote and ensure that every voice is heard and every vote is counted.

There is no doubt that his relentless pursuit with the Rainbow Coalition played a crucial role in the election of Congressman Harold Washington as

Chicago's first progressive and Black mayor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Reverend Jackson for his lifelong commitment to civil rights and his role in helping shape our country's politics to reflect its diversity.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. ORIN ALLEN

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life and service of Dr. Orin Allen.

Throughout his life, Dr. Allen was committed to advancing justice and serving his community. He worked for the Contra Costa County Probation Department in California for 35 years and was especially passionate about supporting our youth, serving on several local boards. In 1999, Dr. Allen was named Contra Costa County's Humanitarian of the Year in recognition of his commitment to the county's youth.

Dr. Allen also worked tirelessly to ensure quality education and supported students. He served as an elected member on the Pittsburg Unified School District Board for more than 20 years, and was recognized for his contributions with an Outstanding Friend of Education award from the Association of California School Administrators.

Outside of his professional pursuits, Dr. Allen enjoyed spending time with his family and friends of which I am one and consider myself lucky to have been his friend.

Sadly, Dr. Allen passed away on April 23. He will be remembered for his compassionate nature and his many contributions to our community. Please join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Orin Allen.

GUN VIOLENCE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICAN CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LANGWORTHY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, gun violence is the leading cause of death for American children.

Let me repeat that: Gun violence is the leading cause of death for our kids. It is shameful that every Member in