

As the Biden administration has proven time and time again, executive orders are out of control, and they are no way to govern in a democracy. That is why I introduced the More Accountability is Necessary Now Act, which requires the President to notify Congress and the public before issuing any new executive orders pertaining to agriculture, energy, natural resources, the right to life, the Second Amendment, and immigration. This is a common-sense way to hold the government accountable and stop some of the Big Government overreach that Kansans and the Big First are sick and tired of.

I don't serve in Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I am here to do my part in making America stronger. We need to rebuild our country on behalf of Americans who have had their rights stripped from them, their taxpayer dollars wasted, their values shoved back in their face, and their country's economy brought to the brink of disaster by an administration that isn't getting the message.

We need everything from a balanced budget to a strengthened supply chain, from lower taxes to a secure southern border, and from a strong farm bill to robust police and military forces.

We have a lot of work to do, and if we open our eyes to the real problems that Americans are facing today and look at the commonsense solutions on the table, we can accomplish real meaningful change in our country.

With prayer and hard work, I believe America's brightest days are yet to come.

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON VENEZUELA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing political, human rights, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and its hemispheric consequences, including the arrival of 187,000 desperate Venezuelans at our southern border last year.

This crisis has many causes, beginning with misguided and distorting economic policies implemented by successive Venezuelan Governments. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the maximum pressure secondary and sectoral sanctions policy put in place by former President Trump and continued by President Biden has deepened the economic pain and hardship suffered by the Venezuelan people. The goal of that policy was to remove Nicolas Maduro from power in Venezuela. It has not worked. Rather, as The New York Times editorial board wrote on July 22, that Maduro "instead consolidated his grip on Venezuela, blamed its economic misery on American sanctions and drew his country closer to Russia and China."

Throughout my time in Congress, I have strongly defended the idea that

human rights should be at the center of U.S. foreign policy, and I have led many bills to redress human rights abuses, including the Global Magnitsky targeted sanctions legislation. Nevertheless, I don't support the use of sanctions to punish entire peoples for the actions of their leaders or to bludgeon an adversary into submission.

This is why I have said that the Trump-era sanctions should already have been lifted by the Biden administration, and I continue to believe that. However, unfortunately, that has not happened, and it seems unlikely that it will in the near future.

In the end, human rights advocacy is meant to improve and restore the lives of victims of abuses and to change conditions so that abuses will not recur. As a human rights advocate, I have a moral responsibility to do whatever I can to advance these goals.

That is why I welcomed the administration's support for the resumption of negotiations between the Maduro government and Venezuelan opposition in Mexico last year. It is why I believe the social fund for the basic needs of the Venezuelan people, whose creation was agreed to during those negotiations, should be stood up as soon as possible. Additionally, it is why I was encouraged to see the statement of principles that came out of the International Conference on Venezuela convened by the Colombian government last April.

The statement laid out three steps—the establishment of a chronogram for elections, the easing of sanctions in parallel as agreements are reached between the parties, and the continuation of the negotiations accompanied by accelerated implementation of the social fund—that, taken together, offer a real opportunity to begin to resolve Venezuela's crisis.

These steps would empower and benefit all Venezuelans seeking to rebuild their country and their future.

Everyone who is concerned about the human rights of the Venezuelan people should take advantage of this opportunity. I still believe the Trump-era sanctions should be lifted, and I will continue to urge the Biden administration to do so.

Democracy and civil rights will not be advanced by maintaining punishing economic sanctions. All that does is continue to hurt innocent people. Nonetheless, we need to find a way to move the ball forward, and I believe there is an opportunity now. Time is short, and there is a lot of uncertainty, but there is also some hope, and that should guide us.

CONGRATULATING BRIAN HARMAN

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 a Savannah, Georgia, native, a Pooler Packer alum, a Savannah Christian School graduate, a UGA Bulldog, a cur-

rent First District constituent, and an extraordinary golfer on his first major championship win at the 151st British Open Golf Championship in England, Brian Harman.

This win is an incredible honor for the entire First District and was a long time coming for Brian, decades in the making.

Mr. Speaker, you see my sons in this picture. They played youth basketball with Brian, and, in fact, my talented wife, Amy, was the coach of that team. We are so very proud of Brian.

I remember seeing firsthand the talent that Brian possessed, and it wasn't any surprise when Brian went on to play competitively for the University of Georgia's golf team or to finish runner-up at the 2017 US Open.

This past week, after four rounds of golf, Brian's final score at the 2023 Open was 271, 13 strokes under par and six strokes ahead of all other golfers in the tournament.

Brian's win was decisive and hard-earned, and I, on behalf of the entire Savannah community and the First District of Georgia, congratulate him immensely for his victory.

Brian has made Savannah, the First District of Georgia, the State of Georgia, the Pooler Packers, the Savannah Christian School, and the Bulldog Nation proud this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing more great work and many more championships from Brian in the future.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN SOUL BARBECUE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the local St. Simons barbecue restaurant, Southern Soul Barbecue, for being named the Best Barbecue Restaurant in Georgia.

This year, Yelp searched around the entire country to find the best barbecue restaurants in the Nation, and Southern Soul was an easy selection.

After serving charities in 2007, Griffin Buffin and Harrison Sapp launched their barbecue business in a subleased kitchen before moving into an antique converted gas station.

They caught their big break in 2010 when Southern Soul was featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

The St. Simon's community continued to support their favorite barbecue business even after a horrible fire erupted in the establishment in 2010.

Southern Soul didn't let this tragic fire stop them, and in the year 2023, they are still winning awards and serving the best barbecue in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Southern Soul on their sustained success, and I thank them for all they do for our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. RALPH DIXON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Ralph Dixon, a loving husband, a humble veteran, and a proud grandparent.

Ralph was born in Blackshear, Georgia, in the First Congressional District

in 1929 and graduated from Blackshear High School with the class of 1949. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, spending 21 years in uniformed service.

His official service may have ended in uniform, but his service to the Nation did not stop there. After returning, he began a new 20-year career as a civil servant at Fort Stewart.

On top of his work serving our country, Ralph was very active in the First Baptist Church in Hinesville, becoming a deacon and singing in the choir for over 50 years.

He is preceded by his loving wife of 66 years, Jacqueline Waters Dixon.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family, including 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

CONGRATULATING LEOPOLD'S ICE CREAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate local Savannah ice cream parlor, Leopold's Ice Cream, for being named in Yelp's Top 100 ice cream shops for 2023.

While it is the many positive Yelp reviews that landed Leopold's on this list, the parlor's superb reputation has been built on over a century of hard work and success.

Leopold's was founded in 1919 by three brothers from Greece on the corner of Gwinnett and Habersham Streets in Savannah.

Streetcar riders would reportedly jump off the streetcar to get their super premium ice cream, which is handcrafted and uses original, secret recipes and techniques handed down in the Leopold family.

Over the years, Leopold's Ice Cream has received rave endorsements by many famous historical figures and celebrities alike.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Stratton Leopold and Leopold's Ice Cream on their tremendous achievement and thank them for being a joy and an inspiration to the great city of Savannah, Georgia, and the First Congressional District of Georgia.

FOOD ASSISTANCE WILL BE SLASHED

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because working families in my district and across the country deserve better than the legislation the Republican majority is forcing through this week.

Under the leadership of Speaker McCarthy, House Republicans have drafted a partisan bill that will slash funding for critical food assistance programs that parents depend on to feed their children.

In fact, under this extreme proposal, the GOP is defunding hundreds of millions of dollars from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for

Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC for short.

That means that 5 million women and children nationwide, including 74,000 children and 24,000 women in my home State of Massachusetts, are going to see their benefits drastically cut.

Mr. Speaker, if you think that sounds bad, just wait until you hear how Republicans are going to do it.

For children, House Republicans are trying to reduce the WIC fruit and vegetable benefit from \$25 to just \$11 to cover a whole month. For pregnant and postpartum women, the GOP is slashing the fruit and vegetable benefit from \$44 to \$13 a month.

For breastfeeding moms, this extreme proposal imposes a devastating 60 percent cut from \$49 to just \$15 each month.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts are unnecessary, they are dangerous, and they are cruel. Above all else, this bill is a demonstration of the Republican Party's values. It is a demonstration of what they think life is like for working families, that you can simply tell a mom and her children or an expecting mother to stop being poor, and magically they won't be poor anymore.

As someone who grew up in a working family that lived paycheck to paycheck, I can tell my colleagues across the aisle firsthand: That is not how it works.

In fact, telling families to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps" while cutting the very program that they depend on to feed their children is going to have the opposite effect. It is going to force millions of Americans—millions of children—into hunger or worse.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know many of my Republican colleagues may not know what it is like to worry about making ends meet. They may not know what it is like worrying if they will be able to put food on the table the next day or have to swipe that EBT card at the grocery store in front of a long line praying it will cover everything in your cart.

However, there are thousands—if not tens or hundreds of thousands—of people in their home State who know exactly what that feels like and who experience that feeling every single day, and they are depending on them to stop what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, stop trying to cut the last safety net that they have to make sure their kids don't go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous legislation.

AGRICULTURE SPENDING

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4368, the Agricultural Appropriations bill which stands as a beacon of hope for our

farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

This bill represents a balanced approach to funding necessary agencies and programs, and it also reclaims fiscal responsibility and reins in the wasteful spending that has plagued our government for far too long.

We, as stewards of the American people's resources, owe it to them to utilize taxpayer dollars wisely and efficiently. One of the key aspects of this bill is the redirection of billions from partisan bills that contained Democrats' priorities, such as the Inflation Reduction Act.

By channeling these funds toward supporting America's producers and rural communities, we demonstrate our commitment to the heart of our Nation's economy: agriculture. Additionally, we recognize the need to address the changing circumstances brought on by the pandemic.

The bill seeks to restrict the USDA Secretary's discretionary spending authority on unauthorized, non-emergency programs. We must put an end to wasteful Washington spending and hold our government accountable for every dollar spent. It also seeks to kneecap the bureaucracy in D.C. by empowering State and county offices.

By directing USDA hiring efforts to assist producers and rural communities at the grassroots level, we acknowledge the importance of local knowledge and understanding in addressing the unique challenges that they face.

Moreover, the bill includes essential clawbacks of prior appropriations, rescinding funds that were allocated for radical Green New Deal initiatives and other programs that have been deemed unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill is not just about funding, but it is about our values, our commitment to the American people, and our dedication to a prosperous future for this great Nation.

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SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

This legislation reaffirms our commitment to serving those who have served us so bravely, our military veterans.

I recently had the privilege of visiting the Bath, New York, VA hospital in my district, in Steuben County, where I witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication of the VA staff and the challenges they face daily in providing the best possible care for our Nation's heroes.

There are clinics across my district that act as lifelines for our veterans, offering crucial services that range from mental health care to cancer