

treatment and beyond. These facilities are responsible for serving thousands of veterans and empowering them to heal, recover, and rebuild their lives. They deserve our unwavering support, especially in their darkest hours.

Mr. Speaker, we can agree that caring for our veterans is not a partisan issue, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and secure the funds needed to uphold and strengthen our VA healthcare programs. By investing in these programs, we invest in the well-being of our veterans and their families and ensure they receive the highest standard of care that they rightfully deserve.

ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, since my first day in Congress, access to quality, affordable healthcare and mental health services has been among my top priorities.

I represent one of the most rural and remote districts in the country. I have seen and heard firsthand the devastating consequences of inadequate access to care.

On Molokai, a constituent shared with me the weight and pain she felt over the loss of her daughter. The treatment and end-of-life care her daughter needed wasn't available on island, so she was forced to leave her children and family behind and tragically passed away without them by her side.

On Lana'i, a kupuna sat me down and said: "I love living here . . . but it is a difficult place to be born and to die." If you need obstetric care, assisted living, or end-of-life care, you have to board a plane, most often alone.

In Wai'anae, a close friend and community leader held up a CDC report in his hand and expressed his anger and frustration that the life expectancy of residents living on the rural west side of O'ahu was a decade less than those living in downtown Honolulu.

In the small, close-knit community of Kauai, too many people have a family member or friend who took their own life. With limited access to mental health professionals and services, our Garden Isle has historically struggled with high rates of suicide and suicide attempts.

In Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii, a woman cried as she told me that her sister died because she couldn't get the emergency care she needed in time. She then asked me if I knew what the golden hour was, that critical window of time between emergency medical care and a medical trauma happening.

I told her I did. My mother missed hers. She was in a car accident, and the hospital in our community didn't have the appropriate trauma services to deal with her injuries, so she was taken to

the next town, where she passed away shortly after getting to the ER.

For many of my constituents, they are just one diagnosis away from a major illness and the impossible financial and family decisions that will come with it. Yet, they live in geographically isolated areas—their homes, where they continue to be denied their right to healthcare.

While Hawaii's geography and demographic makeup are, in fact, unique, these barriers to healthcare are similarly felt elsewhere across the country.

More than 60 million Americans, one-fifth of the United States population, live in rural areas. Compared with their urban counterparts, rural Americans are generally older and have less resources and poorer healthcare conditions.

While they may require more medical attention and care, rural Americans often have more limited access to care as a result of physician shortages, lack of reliable transportation options, insufficient health insurance coverage, and increased exposure to environmental and occupational hazards.

These disparities in healthcare access highlight the need for greater attention and resources aimed at improving healthcare and outcomes in rural and remote communities.

That is why I am proud to co-lead the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus. Together with the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), we have revived this bipartisan coalition to ensure every American, no matter their ZIP Code or circumstances, has access to the care that could literally save their lives.

When it comes to my hope for rural healthcare, it comes down to the four As.

Accessibility: The distance a patient must travel by car, plane, or ferry to receive medical services;

Affordability: The cost for a patient to get the care they need;

Acceptability: The extent to which a patient receives culturally and linguistically appropriate services in healthcare; and

Availability: The extent to which providers have the requisite resources, such as personnel and technology, to meet the individual needs of patients.

In a time of such deep divisions in our country and Congress, we must find ways to come together to recognize the urgent needs of our constituents and do better for all of our people.

The Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus will look beyond the partisan gridlock of Washington to tackle the rural healthcare crisis in the United States.

From the pristine, sandy beaches of Hawaii to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, rural Americans are asking Congress to step up and take meaningful action to save their hospitals and clinics, address health inequities, strengthen their healthcare workforce pipeline, ensure fair and adequate reimbursement for providers, and reduce healthcare costs.

For the health and well-being of all of our people, I invite my colleagues to join us in this movement to enhance access and delivery of healthcare and mental health services for rural and remote communities throughout our country.

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE, NOT A BUREAUCRACY

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a government that represents the people, not a bureaucracy that represents Washington's interests.

Pending on the Supreme Court docket is *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, a case with the potential to overturn 40 years of bureaucratic overreach and restore the proper role of Congress, the courts, and the Presidency.

Nearly 40 years of deference by lawmakers and judges to the executive has given rise to the administrative state, sometimes called the fourth branch of government. Over time, this unaccountable bureaucracy has gradually subverted the doctrine of separation of powers laid out by our Founders.

According to the Constitution, Article I vests the power to make law in the Congress; Article II vests the power to enforce law in the Presidency; and Article III vests the power to interpret law in the courts.

In no article are all three powers—to make, enforce, and interpret the law—jointly vested in a managerial bureaucracy of 1.8 million civil service employees. The very idea is offensive to our founding.

However, at the heart of *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* lies the doctrine of Chevron deference, a legal construct which would make our Founders turn in their graves. It is a 1980s judicial invention that shifts lawmaking powers from lawmakers and adjudicating powers from judges to a plenary executive branch.

In the 1980s, Chevron deference may have been reasonably supported by those who believed faithful bureaucratic agents could be trusted to fill in areas where the law is silent. In 2023, the Biden administration's relentless pursuit of government power has disabused any dewy-eyed believer in faithful bureaucrats.

The 40-year experiment of Chevron deference has allowed the bureaucracy to aggrandize nearly unlimited power, culminating in the Biden administration exceeding its authority from sea to shining sea and from cradle to grave with overregulation.

Just recently, President Biden and Secretary Cardona tossed up a Hail Mary when their illegal, economically disastrous, taxpayer-funded student loan bailout for the wealthy arrived at the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court emphatically said no. It also said

that such a scheme “requires that Congress speak clearly before a Department Secretary can unilaterally alter large sections of the American economy.”

Nevertheless, the Biden administration continues to claim the power to implement its student loan bailout under even more ambiguous legal pretenses.

President Biden’s National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, is yet another example of the unforeseen consequences of Chevron deference. Within the NLRB, bureaucrats command the power to create law, execute law, and adjudicate legal conflicts. Under the Biden administration, the NLRB has issued sweeping rules regarding joint employer status and union elections, enforced said rules, and then adjudicated hundreds of cases, overturning longstanding preferences.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce is working hard to conduct oversight of an agency that assumes it has lawmaking, law enforcing, and law interpreting power. These abuses, and many more, are the direct failure of the Chevron deference regime.

For many in this body, fighting back against the Biden administration requires confronting an uncomfortable truth. Congress creates, enables, and abides by the administrative state when it passes statutory language without clear meaning. Congress’ illegal delegation of its Article I authority and the accelerated transfer of legislative powers to unaccountable bureaucrats in the executive has been a fault of this body over decades and the fault of both parties.

Today, there are over 123 statutes that enable the President and his agencies to circumvent ordinary lawmaking processes upon the declaration of a “national emergency.” The ultimate national emergency, however, is if unscrupulous politicians abdicate the power vested in them by the American people to make laws and instead make more legislators. Then, the people will have no means to hold their government accountable.

In fulfilling House Republicans’ Commitment to America, we are demanding accountability from the Federal Government. To fulfill the will of the people, the Court must repeal Chevron deference in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*.

I pray next term that the Court reclaims and fortifies Congress’ rightful powers.

CELEBRATING 88TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a foundational program that has delivered for older Americans and people with disabilities.

Since 1935, Social Security has lifted millions of families out of poverty. It

has protected seniors’ retirement, helped disabled Americans live with dignity, and provided a lifeline for families that have lost loved ones. Over 1 million Californians rely on Social Security.

We should build on that success, not dismantle a program that adds zero dollars to the Federal deficit.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Social Security 2100 Act, which will safeguard this program for generations to come.

Workers pay into Social Security. They work hard and contribute to our economy. Congress has a duty to keep that Nation’s promise and guarantee that Social Security will be there when workers and their families need help.

On the 88th anniversary of Social Security, let’s recommit ourselves to fulfilling this responsibility.

NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY ANNIVERSARY

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, August 5, 2023, marks the 60th anniversary of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a milestone that shows our commitment to peace and safety.

The year before the treaty’s signing, the world was closer to nuclear war than ever before. By halting most nuclear tests, this agreement cooled the arms race and demonstrated the power of diplomacy.

The anniversary of this treaty also serves as a solemn reminder that the United States has never taken responsibility for the harms of the 67 nuclear tests that we conducted in the Marshall Islands.

With world tensions heightening once again, the ideals put forth six decades ago in the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty remain just as important today. I have introduced bipartisan legislation to formally apologize for the harms we inflicted on the Marshallese people, and I will continue to demand action as a member of the House Indo-Pacific Task Force.

We owe it to our kids and grandkids to safeguard this planet for future generations.

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HOLDING THE FAA ACCOUNTABLE

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Aviation Administration is responsible for keeping Americans safe in the air and on the ground. It should be subject to rigorous and consistent oversight.

Our constituents deserve a Congress that does its job of holding the FAA accountable. Too often, the FAA takes months just to respond to congressional inquiries, much less fix these longstanding problems.

I am proud that the House adopted my bipartisan amendment requiring the head of the FAA to testify annually before Congress so that we can get answers about the Agency’s successes and shortcomings. My amendment also strengthens the transparency on FAA’s response time for congressional requests.

Holding Federal agencies accountable is not a partisan issue. Every

American benefits from tough, consistent, and fair oversight. I urge the Senate to include this oversight amendment in its own FAA legislation.

BRAIN IMAGING HELPS BLAST EXPOSURE VICTIMS

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, our troops risk their lives to keep us safe. In training and during combat, they can develop health conditions that aren’t immediately visible. To repay those who serve our country, we must do all we can to identify and treat these internal injuries and prevent them when possible.

In recent decades, we have seen a striking increase in troops with traumatic brain injuries due to blast exposure. I have worked with Democrats and Republicans to deliver help.

The House recently adopted a bipartisan amendment that I wrote to gather more data on how routine brain scans can contribute to the diagnosis, treatment, and even prevention of brain injuries.

At least one study has shown that regular brain imaging can accelerate patients getting the care they need and put them on the path to recovery. A more complete understanding of this technology will help us get our servicemembers the top-notch care they deserve.

ADDRESS THE THREAT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, since I was a little boy I have been told that a dog that won’t bark in his own backyard ain’t much of a dog.

Mr. Speaker, the number one enemy to the Communist Chinese Party is the United States of America. As a matter of fact, Xi Jinping has clearly stated that by 2049 he wants China to be the world leader diplomatically, economically, militarily, even in space. As a matter of fact, they are on pace right now to outperform and pass the United States as a leader in space before 2045.

Where are we right now? Well, China owns \$870 billion in U.S. Treasuries that finance our debt. They either own or have a huge portion of the Chicago Stock Exchange, AMC Theaters, General Electric’s appliance division, General Motors, and Smithfield Foods, just to name a few.

On another alarming note, they own 384,000 acres of American agricultural land. That is a 30 percent increase just since 2019. On top of that, they own land near an Air Force base in North Dakota. That is a clear threat to our national security.

That is what the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration appropriations bill is going to address. It is going to put American interests first by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit the purchase of land by those associated with our foreign adversaries.