

prevent AI from ever launching a nuclear weapon by itself. We need to have meaningful human control.

Mr. Speaker, I also request the Speaker to allow that bill to be voted on on the floor.

#### FLORIDA LOVES SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the new rankings are out, and Florida is number one. It is not football, although I would understand one making that assumption. Florida is number one for small business.

According to a recent Venture Smarter's study that considered numerous factors like business climate, tax structure, and burdensome business regulations, Florida has just been ranked the number one State in America.

Today, I rise to congratulate my home State, the free State of Florida, on this outstanding accomplishment.

In the Sunshine State, we support small businesses to do what they do best: invest, hire, and grow. When we shop small, we all win big. Spending your money at that local small business can make a big difference.

Today, 2.8 million businessowners and entrepreneurs call Florida home, but, Mr. Speaker, there is room for one more.

Mr. Speaker, if you are considering coming to Florida to open a business, then I urge you to make a plan. Frankly, you should have a plan of what to do with all that extra money you will have in your pocket because Florida has no income tax.

As a member of the House Small Business Committee, I am working to ensure every small business has the opportunity to thrive and fuel our economy in communities all across America.

#### HONORING NATHALIE WU

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Small Business Committee, I rise today to honor Florida's Main Street Award for Business Owner of the Year, Nathalie Wu.

Ms. Wu is a resident of Nassau County, and I am proud to represent her in Florida's Fourth Congressional District.

Nathalie opened the wonderful Wick-ed Bao Restaurant 5 years ago. For the first time, amazing Asian street food was available to patrons of downtown Fernandina Beach's historic district.

Delectable and scrumptious are words we use to describe our food, but what about innovative?

Who knew that tater tots made with rice instead of potatoes—rice tots—could be so delicious?

That would be Ms. Wu. With her establishment, she has inspired what was once an overlooked area off the beaten path into a popular destination.

In addition to serving up delicious treats, Ms. Wu is a steadfast advocate

for local small businesses. She is a Fernandina Beach Main Street No Cost Ways to Promote Your Business panelist and a prominent supporter of the Fernandina Beach window painting event, inspiring local high school artists to showcase their work. She is also an awesome mother to her two sons, Phillip and Martin Toxldorf.

Ms. Wu's dedication to her business and our community will have a lasting impact on Fernandina Beach. My colleagues and I on the Small Business Committee are inspired by her story.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring Florida Secretary of State's Florida Main Street Award for Business Owner of the Year, Ms. Nathalie Wu.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, extreme weather is climate change unfolding before our very eyes. This past weekend, the San Francisco Bay Area recorded temperatures in the 90s and 100s—a far cry from our usual temperate summer weather.

My region wasn't the only part of the country feeling the heat. The month of July has been a scorcher for the whole country with no end in sight. In fact, the Fourth of July was one of the hottest days on Earth in at least 50 years—a record that scientists said would have been virtually impossible without climate change.

The story doesn't end with heat waves. Other climate disasters, like severe storms and wildfires, have been and will continue to be more intense and more frequent.

Earlier this year, atmospheric rivers and devastating flooding pummeled my district, nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay, causing millions of dollars in damage.

Many Americans can afford to shield their properties from climate disasters and have done so over the years, but families who are already struggling to make ends meet are often left behind. This is especially true for households of color, many of whom live in more disaster-prone areas.

We need to ensure everyone, regardless of their income, can shield their properties against the most devastating consequences of climate change.

That is why I introduced the Weatherization Resilience and Adaptation Program, or WRAP Act, along with 20 of my colleagues from across the country, from California, but, also, Texas, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Ohio, and Michigan. We stand together.

My bill would help low-income homeowners, affordable housing providers, and mobile home communities harden their property so they are more resilient to climate-driven natural disasters. Homeowners would get help to pay for things like double-pane win-

dows, heat resistant roofing, artificial berms and dunes, and more.

The Biden administration recently announced a nearly \$1 billion investment through the Inflation Reduction Act that will assist the owners of federally subsidized affordable housing buildings to become more resilient to climate disasters.

The WRAP Act would build on this historic action by helping individual property owners and the owners of other types of low-income housing who are left out of the IRA program.

It is unfortunate that climate resilience-building measures are seen through a partisan lens. The reality is far different. Climate disasters don't distinguish between so-called red States and blue States. We are all impacted. Congress has the opportunity to shield our most vulnerable communities before disaster strikes.

#### BIDENOMICS

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

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the reality of Bidenomics.

We have heard the President say time and time again that his economic policies have worked. He actually believes that the American economy is better today than it was before he took office.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at the facts because we know this administration has a habit of changing terms, redefining issues, and really not looking at the facts.

So let's look at the facts.

Gas is up 34 percent since Joe Biden took office, energy prices are up 28.5 percent, and the average American family is paying almost \$1,200 more per month in everyday needs.

Now, tell me, Mr. Speaker, does that sound like an economy that is strong? The clear answer is no, the economy is not strong. It is actually a lot weaker than it was before Joe Biden took office.

The sad reality is that hardworking taxpayers are footing the bill for Biden's policy failures. I think it is time we tell the truth, that Bidenomics has been a complete and utter failure.

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#### ADDRESSING PASSPORT DELAYS

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the extended processing times for passports, global entry applications, and tax returns.

On average, Americans are waiting 2 to 4 months for passport renewals and 4 to 6 months for global entry appointments. Many are waiting even longer.

There are also 2.6 million Americans still waiting on their 2023 tax refunds while facing hours-long wait times when calling the IRS.

Since the start of this year alone, my office has assisted with more than 500 passport requests, nearly triple the number we assisted with all of last year. These numbers are unacceptable. This backlog exacerbates American citizens' frustration with Federal institutions and undermines their trust in our government's ability to serve them effectively.

This is not the fault of our Federal workers. They are working tirelessly, including nights and weekends, to improve these delays, but they don't have the resources and bandwidth that they need.

Now, House Republicans have proposed funding cuts to the IRS and the State Department that would only worsen these delays and the backlog, inhibiting Americans from accessing these essential services. Congress must reject these cuts and, instead, support these agencies with increased staffing and reliable funding.

#### SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair ROGER WILLIAMS and Ranking Member NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ of the Committee on Small Business for allowing me to sit in on their hearing yesterday focused on the challenges that face rural small businesses.

I thank Representative SHRI THANEDAR for allowing me to be the Republican lead on his bill, H.R. 4661, also known as the One Stop Shop for Small Business Licensing Act of 2023.

Small businesses are vital to Guam's economy and are the embodiment of the American Dream and entrepreneurial spirit.

Guam's economy thrives thanks to the hard work of committed, dedicated, and resourceful small business owners. It is not easy owning and running a small business, and these enterprises face issues that are not concerning to large corporations.

A common issue that I have heard about from small business owners from the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the witness panel in yesterday's hearing is the limited access to capital. This continues to be increasingly difficult with high interest rates and inflation continuing to be a burden on how business is conducted.

Consequently, small businesses are forced to invest less in their company and find it difficult to expand, offer more goods and services, and provide more jobs.

While Guam is not exempt from the macroeconomic issues that plague our economy, we have our own set of challenges that make doing business in Guam more difficult.

Every business across the Nation is currently feeling the effects of infla-

tion, labor shortages, and supply chain issues. In Guam, these challenges are magnified because of the island's geographic location. Shipping costs greatly increase the cost of goods, and Guam's labor shortage is worsened because of this isolation, requiring the use of H-2B visa workers.

As a small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, nearly every business in my district qualifies as a rural small business.

The issues small businesses face are my issues, and I will continue to do everything in my power to support them and, by extension, the people of Guam.

#### CONGRATULATING THE GUAM ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Guam Association of Realtors, or GAR, for the launch of their assistance program for both homeowners and renters and for receiving a grant of \$500,000 to fund their program.

It was several months ago when my island community was struck by Typhoon Mawar, leaving it in devastation. Many were left stranded, homeless, and without the means to rebuild their lives. It is through programs like this that we can rebuild our community and provide a much-needed lifeline for our people.

GAR's legacy dates back several decades and is part of one of the largest and most influential trade industries in the Nation, the National Association of Realtors. Their primary objectives include promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, providing a unified medium for real estate owners, and creating an atmosphere of unity.

I applaud the executive director, Peggy Llagas, the hardworking staff and management of GAR, and the board of directors for their contributions on Guam and for giving our community hope.

#### SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLZEY). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, during the debt ceiling negotiations, some of my colleagues across the aisle baselessly claimed that Republicans were cutting funding for our Nation's veterans, which was entirely unfounded and untrue.

As Members of this House, Republicans have always supported those who served our country, and our MILCON-VA funding legislation this past week further proves this fact.

In this year's appropriations bill, not only did we not cut funding for veterans, but rather we fully fund their healthcare and benefits programs to ensure our veterans receive the timely care they have rightfully earned and deserve.

Additionally, the GOP is continuing to fight to improve the quality of life of Active Duty servicemembers by sup-

porting the construction of new family housing units and childcare centers. In my district, Fort Indiantown Gap is receiving a significant level of funding for necessary upgrades.

Our bill, Mr. Speaker, also keeps ideology and politics out of the care of veterans by, quite frankly, rightfully prohibiting from our military the use of funds to advance such things as critical race theory and disallowing the implementation, administration, and enforcement of President Biden's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

These functions and plans probably have a place in society, where appropriate, but certainly not in our military because in the military, we continue to respect all Americans who are willing to serve.

Republicans as well, Mr. Speaker, just recently passed the strongest NDAA in history, which included the largest pay raise in 20 years for our soldiers, our sailors, our airmen, and our marines. Despite this, only a handful, Mr. Speaker, of our Democrat colleagues voted for it.

House Republicans have supported and will continue to support our military and those who risk their lives and make the sacrifices necessary to serve our great country, and I am appreciative.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support H.R. 4366.

#### NYC OVERWHELMED BY MIGRANTS

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

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to bring attention to the state of chaos that the Biden administration's border policies have created in New York's Third District.

Today, at 1 p.m., there is a press conference taking place back home in front of the new mega-structure tent being built at Creedmoor Center across the street from an elementary school, P.S. 18, in Queens.

Mr. Speaker, when I visited the border just a couple of weeks ago, I toured a similar facility to the one being built in my district. It is safe to say what is going on at the southern border can be felt as far north as New York.

This problem is no longer out of sight, out of mind. Thanks to the Biden administration's policies, all districts are border districts.

I am calling on Mayor Eric Adams to stop this madness, declare a state of emergency for New York City, and stop taking in these migrants. The city is overwhelmed by a constant influx of migrants, alongside being plagued by rising crime.

As the only Republican representing Queens in Congress, I call on my counterparts on the other side of the aisle to join me in efforts to end this madness in our county and in our city. New Yorkers deserve a better quality of life