

caught and released into our communities have disappeared, with no way to track them.

A secure nation requires a secure border, which is why earlier this year House Republicans passed H.R. 2, Secure the Border Act, the strongest border security legislation that Congress has ever considered.

While President Biden and DHS Secretary Mayorkas have no plans to get this chaos under control, we are fighting to stop it. It is far past time the Senate stops stalling and passes our critical bill to restore the rule of law in our Nation.

To help them act, we should make border security a condition of any continuing resolution when the fiscal year ends on September 30. The American people demand and deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING CLASS 3 STATE TITLE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northside High School softball team for winning the Class 3 State title, the program's first State championship victory since 2010 and their second in program history.

After working hard all season, the Vikings left it all on the diamond and beat the York Falcons 3 to 1.

□ 1045

These talented student athletes include Baylee Compton, McKenzie Taylor, Leila Aguilar, Sydney Jordan, Karlee Austin, Zoe Mason, Chloe Lafon, Shelby Ellis, Maddelena Shepher, Bonnie Ellis, Carsyn Michaels, and Abbie Caldwell.

Northside senior Baylee Compton pitched a five-hitter for the Vikings, striking out 16 and walking 1. In the top of the fifth, the Vikings scored twice and grabbed a 2 to 1 lead. Then in the final inning, Sydney Jordan hit an RBI signal, scoring the championship winning run.

Congratulations, again, to the Northside High School softball team, Head Coach Kassie Brammer, parents, faculty, and staff on this incredible achievement.

MEDICAID IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need to implement Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. In March, our State became the 40th to pass legislation to expand Medicaid after over a decade of political gridlock.

Nevertheless, Republicans in the general assembly are needlessly delaying implementation because they continue to bicker with each other over the State budget, jeopardizing healthcare for over 600,000 North Carolinians. Every day that Republicans wait to expand Medicaid is another day that a

mother with cancer or a grandfather with diabetes cannot access the care they need, care that saves lives.

More than a decade ago, I fought for Medicaid expansion in the general assembly. More than a decade ago, vulnerable North Carolinians desperate for affordable healthcare began waiting for their leaders to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, our people have been waiting a decade too long. The people of our State deserve action now—not next month and not next year—to ensure that they can access the healthcare they desperately need.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support continued United States support for the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom from Vladimir Putin's terrible invasion.

In a despicable act of cruelty, Vladimir Putin invaded a peaceful and democratic nation. He is single-handedly responsible for unthinkable suffering: 70,000 Ukrainians killed, 13 million people forced from their homes, civilians shot in the streets, and children separated from their parents, all to fuel the ego of a dictator in Moscow.

Putin's aggression is a threat to the security of the United States and our citizens as well. He has made no secret of the fact that his goal is to undermine the NATO alliance which has kept our Nation safe and like-minded democracies around the world safe for the past seven decades. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, if Putin succeeds in his invasion of Ukraine, he will not stop there.

Like all dictators, he sees democracy anywhere as a threat. He does not want his own people to know that nations with free elections and civil rights for their citizens can be strong.

This is the Ukrainians' war to fight, and they are fighting it. The Ukrainians are fighting for their families and fighting for their freedom with incredible bravery. The United States will not send troops to Ukraine, but they do need our help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the supplemental budget request for aid to Ukraine. Let's show the world that America stands with democracies, not with dictators, and reaffirm our commitment that we will stand with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom for as long as it takes.

PARALYZING MILITARY NOMINATIONS POSES RISK TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of our Nation's military servicemembers whose lives are being put at risk by the shameful actions of a Senator from Alabama. For months, the Alabama Senator has blocked more than 300 qualified officers in our military from receiving the pro-

motions that they have earned and from assuming the posts that our country needs them in.

Aside from the Senator himself, who seems to love being in the center of attention, the people who are most excited by his grandstanding are America's enemies.

No one is happier with the Senator from Alabama's antics than Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un, and our Nation's other adversaries. By undermining our military, he is doing their dirty work for them.

Don't take it just from me. The Secretary of the Army has stated that the Senator's actions are eroding the foundations of our military and putting our national security at risk.

The House Foreign Affairs chairman, Mr. MCCAUL, who is a member of the Senator's own party, has said that the Senator's hold on military nominations is paralyzing and a national security problem.

The Senator has stated that he will continue blocking the promotions of these experienced and courageous military officers until the military adopts policies to make it harder for women in the military to have access to abortion. I disagree with the Senator on abortion, as do most Americans, but one thing we all ought to agree on is that whatever our disagreements may be, using our military servicemembers as political props is just plain wrong. It is an inappropriate tactic, and it must end now.

Military personnel, from the most junior to the most senior, dedicate their lives to protecting us and protecting our Nation and the ideals that we hold dear. We should be supporting them, and they deserve better than the Senator's antics.

The Senator must lift his hold on these promotions, and if he doesn't, then the Senate should change their rule so that no one individual has power to block these promotions and jeopardize our Nation's security.

BLOCKADE OF ARTSAKH

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor, which has created a humanitarian crisis that is threatening the lives of 120,000 ethnic Armenians who call the Artsakh region home.

Today in Artsakh, thousands are suffering from shortages of food, medical supplies, and other basic necessities. Many fear that as winter approaches, the population could face starvation.

The United States and our allies cannot stand by in the face of this cruelty. As a member of the House Armenian Issues Caucus, I have cosponsored legislation to support the people of Artsakh's independence and safety.

This past June, I joined many of my colleagues urging the administration to enforce restrictions on U.S. military assistance for Azerbaijan until the blockade is ended.

I stand with the Armenian people and will continue to support legislation to

oppose these human rights violations and call on Azerbaijan to end the blockade.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Ever wise and all-generous God, we pray Your wisdom as we seek to handle the trials that are set before us. In these days where we are met with the inscrutable crisis in Ukraine, we find we lack the clear answers we desire. We continue to search for the right and reasonable response to the atrocities being inflicted upon the Ukrainian people.

Keep always before us the aim for just peace, that any decision made will serve to uphold or restore justice in a region threatened by despotism and oppression.

Prevent us from making choices that would contribute to unnecessary escalation but keep us ever mindful of the need to uphold the common good. Remind each of us of our obligation to stem the humanitarian crisis this war has created not just in Ukraine but throughout the world.

Ever wise and all-generous God, we pray Your wisdom. Be unsparing in granting that wisdom to this body, especially in times such as these.

In Your everlasting name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, I am grateful to recognize the third anniversary of the successful Abraham Accords on September 15.

Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, this historic agreement between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and later Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan represents the most significant step toward a stable and positive Arab-Israeli relationship in modern history.

It marked the first public normalization of relations between an Arab country and Israel since Jordan in 1994.

In June, I led the bipartisan U.S.-Israel Partnership and Abraham Accords Enhancement Act of 2023, which reauthorizes key cooperative programs between the United States and Israel and fosters the utilization of existing programs to help expand the Abraham Accords.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Morocco in earthquake recovery.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with the Biden open borders.

HELPING AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how my fellow Democrats and I are putting people over politics.

We are lowering the cost of lifesaving prescription medication such as insulin to \$35 for all Americans, and we have capped that for seniors, as well.

We are increasing the American middle class with more than 13.5 million jobs created since President Biden took office and supporting policies that help American families.

We are providing clean drinking water and high-speed internet to more American homes every single day, and we are fighting to protect a woman's right to make her own health choices.

In addition, we are working to make communities safer and defend our free-

doms across the world. For example, my Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act would use Federal grants to buy guns back from gun owners and get them off the streets.

I am proud to belong to the Democratic Party because it supports the American people.

COUNTERING THE FLOW OF FENTANYL

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, Chinese Communists have been poisoning Americans. President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have refused to secure our southern border and refuse to hold China accountable.

In the State of Tennessee alone, overdose deaths have increased 200 percent—200 percent in 5 years. The situation at the southern border has gotten so bad, even the United Nations is saying that our border crossing is one of the deadliest in the world. Think about that for a moment.

Therefore, I am introducing the Countering CCP Fentanyl Act. This bill would require the President to submit a list of all CCP government officials trafficking fentanyl and imposes property-blocking sanctions on all of them.

We can't stop there. This legislation will make any CCP official caught pushing this poison inadmissible to the United States.

Congress cannot stand idly by while Chinese Communists and cartel thugs line their pockets by drugging and killing American citizens.

The CCP is using our porous border to continue their march to dominate the Nation. It is time to send China a message that their scheme to scourge the American population will not be tolerated.

SUPPORTING THE UAW

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the United Auto Workers.

Louisville, Kentucky, is a Ford town. Since 1969, we have been making Ford trucks. Every Ford Escape, Ford F-250, F-350, and F-450 is made in Louisville, Kentucky, with union labor from our brothers and sisters in Local 862, providing solid, middle-class jobs and a good life for so many Louisville families.

We make Ford trucks, and we are proud of Ford's success. Ford made billions in profits last year, and Local 862 was responsible for 54 percent of Ford's North American profits.

That is more than enough to go around and make sure every worker earns a good wage, has good benefits, and operates in a safe working environment.