

of threats, abuse, false promises, isolation, shame, and debt.

These victims are deprived of something every child deserves—a future.

If enacted, this legislation would make the sentence for traffickers exploiting victims under the age of 18 the same regardless of their age. A child is still a minor, and there should be no differentiation at all.

It would also increase the minimum sentence to 25 years for those who are convicted of child trafficking. This will convey the serious nature of their crime and ensure that traffickers know that they will be punished if they continue to exploit minors.

By enacting more stringent penalties, this bill aims to bring justice for the victims and families affected by child trafficking and issues a strong statement to traffickers, who leave a lifetime of scars on innocent children.

My message is clear: Sex trafficking is a heinous crime that will not be tolerated.

Current laws are too soft on these criminals, and I am committed to ensuring stricter laws and harsher punishments to anyone who harms innocent children.

Lastly, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support this crucial piece of legislation to protect all children.

I also thank my co-leads—Congressman DON DAVIS, Congressman BUDDY CARTER, Congresswoman DIANA HARSHBARGER, Congressman DON BACON, and Congresswoman AMATA RADEWAGEN—for cosponsoring the CHILD Act of 2023.

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 51 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:

Lord of all the Earth, be exalted in the nations. In the cacophony of the crises we face this day, may we stand still and wait on You to speak into the whirlwind that surrounds us on all sides.

In the complexity that is the war in Ukraine and in conflicts across the globe, let not the discord of our disagreement or the ardor of our opinion prevent us from hearing Your demand for peace and justice.

In the impasse of political processes, let not the storms of dispute deafen our

ears to Your direction, but may we yield ourselves to Your guidance in the deliberations that are laid before us in this season.

We need only to look to You and see what You, O Lord, have done in ages past. You have made wars to cease to the ends of the Earth. You have broken the bow and shattered the spear.

Lord Almighty, remain with us. May we learn to trust in You, O God, that You would be our guide and stay in these days of strife. Cause us, then, this day to be still and know that You are God.

In Your sovereign 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 Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OGLES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRICE TRANSPARENCY FOR PATIENTS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, each year, Americans attend nearly 1 billion medical appointments and emergency room visits and quite often are unaware of how much their treatments will cost until after their appointment has ended.

Now, the House has a chance to pass bipartisan legislation to address this issue and to stand up for our patients.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act would immediately benefit patients by providing clear price transparency for medical procedures, allowing patients the flexibility to choose where they will receive their care.

This bill includes legislation that I authored to provide funding for community health centers, which provides care to over 30 million Americans nationwide. From pediatric checkups to dentistry, rural communities rely on these health centers to meet their daily medical needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

NDAA MOTION TO INSTRUCT

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a handful of issues have always transcended politics. Our troops, the guardians of our freedom, have always been one of them, but in the MAGA Republican Party, nothing is off the table. Nothing takes priority over their goal of a nationwide abortion ban.

Military promotions, troops' paychecks, our national defense bill: all held hostage because extremists want to tear away the reproductive freedom of the very people fighting for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues: Put our country first and instruct the conferees to deliver a defense bill that puts freedom over fascism.

MYTHS ABOUT U.S. AID TO UKRAINE

(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, this month, Luke Coffey of the Hudson Institute addressed "The Top Myths about US Aid to Ukraine," revealing: "Every dollar spent in support of Ukraine is authorized by Congress and used for a specific purpose."

"As of September 2023, the U.S. has provided Ukraine with \$101 billion, or about 0.43 percent of America's GDP."

"The vast majority of this money never leaves the U.S. and instead supports American jobs."

"There has likely never been more accountability in place for U.S. foreign assistance," with the U.S., "Ukraine Oversight Interagency Working Group. More than 160 officials across 20 Federal oversight agencies monitor U.S. aid to Ukraine."

"According to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy's Ukraine aid tracker, total European commitments are now more than double those of the U.S."

"Russia is China's junior partner. A defeated Russia means a weaker China."

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said, "The security of the Indo-Pacific region cannot be separated from the European security."

I support the proven Republican policies of Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan of why not victory over dictators.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DAVE ROWLEY

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual who has dedicated four decades of his life to the field of broadcasting, and in doing so, has become a cherished

voice for the people of Northern Chautauqua County.

I am proud to address this Chamber to celebrate the retirement of a true newsman, Dave Rowley. His long career in broadcasting is testament to his passion for storytelling and his dedication to keeping our community informed.

Dave has worn many hats over the years, from reporting to anchoring, producing, and hosting his radio show, "Viewpoint." Through his work, he has provided a space for meaningful conversations on the issues that matter most to the people of Chautauqua County.

As we celebrate Dave's retirement, we can't help but feel a sense of loss as very few journalists possess the same integrity and reliability he has always displayed.

His commitment to excellence, his passion for the truth, and his dedication to his community will be a lasting legacy for all that follow in his footsteps.

Dave Rowley's retirement may mark the end of an era, but it also marks the beginning of a new chapter in his life, and we wish him all the happiness and fulfillment in his next chapter.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UNITED AUTO WORKERS

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers who are fighting for fair pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

These workers have built \$250 billion in profit for the Big Three automakers over the past decade, but they have been left behind. The Big Three CEOs, the big bosses, have increased by an estimated 40 percent in their compensation over the last 4 years, but workers over the last 4 years, 6 percent—a measly 6 percent.

To put that in perspective, Big Three corporate bosses, \$12,000 an hour. Those starting wages for the autoworkers, 18 bucks an hour.

This says it all. It should be fair, but this is unjust and unacceptable. Workers deserve a fair wage and benefits that reflect their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, we urge them to be supported.

RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA'S MCCLURE BEAN SOUP FESTIVAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the McClure Bean Soup Festival. Over the weekend, I attended the 132nd McClure Bean Soup Festival in Snyder County, Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

This annual celebration started when Captain Michael Smith and several other surviving Civil War veterans wanted to host a reunion with other veterans, and it has now grown into a weeklong fair.

Supposedly, Captain Smith and his comrades basically had beans and some ham and, therefore, decided to provide bean soup for all their comrades who were attending that reunion. Today, this fair has vendors, rides, and games, but the biggest attraction is the bean soup.

Last year, volunteers made more than 30 kettles, and, yes, the recipe has stayed the same for more than 130 years.

Mr. Speaker, this weeklong festival is a staple in the Snyder County community. It is a unique way to remember the veterans of the Civil War while building memories within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to next year's McClure Bean Soup Festival as well.

FAIRNESS AND DIGNITY FOR UAW

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

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, everyone should have the ability to work in safe conditions, receive competitive pay and benefits, and at the end of the day, be able to put food on the table.

America's hardworking families keep our country running, but right now a lot of families are finding they don't have the support they need. Auto-workers made concessions in 2008 to save the auto industry and new contracts have not been reinstated to help them recover from those cuts and keep up with the economic demands.

Meanwhile, auto company profits at Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis have skyrocketed 92 percent over the last 10 years, totaling \$250 billion. In 2023 alone, they are expected to profit more than \$32 billion. Despite their efforts, worker pay has only gone up 6 percent over the last 10 years.

Companies can and should do better because Americans deserve better. Workers deserve a fair deal. They aren't asking for the moon; they are asking for fairness and dignity.

LETTER TO ELON MUSK RE: TAIWAN

(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, Elon Musk, someone generally known for promoting free speech and autonomy, falsely stated that Taiwan is an "integral part of China."

On a practical level, think about what that means for our efforts. We in Congress can promote Taiwan's partici-

pation in international organizations. We can argue that Taiwan must have a seat at the table, but if we refuse or fail to confront the CCP on their falsification of the historical record, if we, as a Congress, can't confront the CCP with the truth, we are letting Xi Jinping dictate the terms of the debate. That is irresponsible and wrong.

Unfortunately, this wasn't the first time that Mr. Musk has spread misinformation about the relationship between the CCP, China, and Taiwan.

For Elon to spread the talking points of the CCP from a position of influence in the United States is unacceptable, which is why I am sending a letter to Elon Musk providing him with an accurate account of Taiwan's history and a clear message: Taiwan is not part of the People's Republic of China and their free will is not for sale.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JAMES LAWSON'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th birthday of my friend, Reverend James Lawson, who for more than half a century has been a force for justice and worker rights.

As a minister and teacher of non-violent resistance, James Lawson was a leader of the civil rights movement and worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King. Lawson led sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and strikes, including the historic 1968 Memphis sanitation strike, and he was a mentor to our beloved John Lewis.

In 1974, Reverend Lawson moved to Los Angeles, where he teaches non-violence at UCLA. His work orchestrating nonviolent sit-ins and civil disobedience helped improve working conditions for southern California hotel workers, generating a national movement for immigrant worker justice.

Reverend Lawson has been an inspiration to many as he continues the fight for freedom and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Reverend Lawson a happy birthday.

SENATE MUST ACT ON IMMIGRATION CRISIS

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address America's immigration crisis.

For 29 months, encounters with illegal immigrants have been higher than the highest month in the Trump years.

While Washington Democrats continue to ignore the crisis, House Republicans continue to do everything we can in our power to enforce them.

Earlier this year, we passed H.R. 2, also known as the Secure the Border