

From Toledo to Wayne to Wentzville to Belvedere, their vigilance, fortitude, and guts have made this new progress possible. I salute those in our unions who have fought so hard and have dedicated their lives to building our middle class from the middle out and the bottom up.

Onward.

BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my priorities for protecting America's future. We need to reduce and reprioritize government spending, secure the border, and end the weaponization of the Federal Government.

The Biden administration's spending has created massive inflation and increased our national debt to \$33 trillion, and \$2.4 trillion of that debt has accrued over just the last 365 days. That is over \$76,000 every second.

The Biden administration's spending is out of touch with what Americans want, and it is crushing our economy. We are all feeling it, especially in middle America where new and costly regulations are forcing small businesses to close, gas is nearly \$4 a gallon, and people's paychecks are overtaxed.

House Republicans have offered commonsense solutions to these problems. We have passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act to stop wasteful taxpayer spending, reclaim unspent COVID relief money and promote pro-growth economic policies, and we must stand firm in our commitment to reducing and reprioritizing government spending.

While the Biden administration is burning through taxpayer dollars like there is no tomorrow, there is also a humanitarian crisis raging at our southern border, and it is getting worse every day. This is a national security emergency. As we speak, fentanyl is flooding American streets, victims of human trafficking rings are getting abused and killed, and our brave border patrol agents are overwhelmed.

The funding to secure the border had already been appropriated by Congress before President Biden even took office, and then he killed the completion of the border wall by executive order. In response, House Republicans passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which would force the Biden administration to resume construction of the border wall, increase the number of Border Patrol agents, protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking, and terminate catch-and-release policies.

We also passed the Schools Not Shelters Act and the HALT Fentanyl Act. We must keep pressing to secure the border and protect Americans.

In addition to wasting taxpayer dollars and ignoring the border crisis, the Biden administration is overseeing and directing an unprecedented

weaponization of the Federal Government. President Biden's Department of Justice refuses to apply justice equally, and House Republicans are constantly fighting back against overreaching government regulations that are hurting agricultural producers and small business owners.

Even the Supreme Court had to step in and declare the Biden administration's definition of Waters of the United States was unconstitutional.

When government grows, freedom shrinks. So we must stop the weaponization of the Federal Government to protect our freedoms. The appropriations process is a critical opportunity to address all of these concerns. We must restore fiscal sanity. Americans deserve to have their taxpayer dollars used wisely, and giving the President endless, no-limit credit cards is no way to govern in a democracy.

It is hard for me to imagine how anyone would love \$33 trillion of debt or love the open border or love losing to China or love \$200 billion of unaccounted for COVID relief dollars so much they would be willing to shut down the Federal Government to maintain them.

We have 10 days to pass the remaining appropriations bills in a fiscally responsible way. We owe it to the American people to work tirelessly toward that end and to get our country back on track.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP EMERITUS TOD BROWN

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my good friend Bishop Emeritus Tod Brown, who recently passed away at the age of 86.

Bishop Brown led our diocese for 14 years in a community that is now 50 percent Roman Catholic. Under his leadership, the diocese more than doubled in its membership, and by the year 2012, there were more than 1.2 million Roman Catholics in Orange County, California.

In recognizing the diversity of our church, Bishop Brown ordained the Nation's first Vietnamese Roman Catholic bishop in 2003 and one of the first Hispanic bishops in the United States in the year 2000.

On a personal note, Bishop Brown administered first communion to my children in the good old days.

Bishop Brown will be remembered. God bless him. We thank my good friend for all the good work he did.

HONORING JERRY MUMFORD PATTERSON

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary career of Jerry Patterson, a lawyer, educator, and former U.S. Congressman who dedicated his life to public service.

As a UCLA alumnus just like myself, Mr. Patterson served Santa Ana as a city councilmember and as Santa Ana mayor.

He fought to double the size of city-owned parks and created the first nationally recognized golden circle bikeway. After serving in Congress, Mr. Patterson came home and represented our community as an educator until 1999.

Jerry Patterson always put the needs of his communities first. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his service to our great Nation.

□ 1030

HONORING ORANGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S MARINE CORPS JROTC

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Orange High School's Marine Corps Junior ROTC program.

The JROTC program at Orange High School began in 1995 under the leadership of Master Gunnery Sergeant James Fearn, but not without a fight. After having his request denied over and over again, Master Gunnery Sergeant Fearn flew to Washington, D.C., himself to demand a meeting with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and he got it done.

Today, Orange High School has one of the largest Marine Corps ROTC units in the Western United States, and it teaches over 160 cadets the values of citizenship, service, discipline, and responsibility. I must say these cadets are the leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate them, and I wish the Marine Corps a happy birthday. They are 248 years old this year.

CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL IS BIGGEST BOONDOGGLE IN U.S.

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I will be voting for the transportation appropriations bill, and one of the reasons why is that it provides exactly the right amount of funding for California's high-speed rail, which is zero dollars.

Zero dollars are appropriated for high-speed rail in this bill, and it is well past time that we stop throwing good money after bad.

High-speed rail was an idea in the early 2000s in California that might have initially had some promise, but because of sheer political dysfunction, it has become perhaps the biggest boondoggle in United States history.

The price tag is now pegged at \$128 billion, and a decade and a half after it was approved, there is still absolutely nothing to show for it. When you look at the press releases that come out from the high-speed rail authority, it is almost beyond belief what now counts as success.

This press release is from just 5 days ago: "California High-Speed Rail Authority Moves Closer to Designing Tracks and Systems."

This is a decade and a half after the project was conceived. According to The New York Times, at the current

pace, the high-speed rail project will not be completed in this century.

Last year, an investigation by The Times produced a story headlined: "How California's Bullet Train Went Off the Rails." The Times explained that the tortured effort to build the country's first high-speed rail system is a case study in how ambitious public works projects can become perilously encumbered by unrealistic cost estimates, flawed engineering, and a determination to persist on projects that have become too big to fail.

The Times reported how one of the early operators that actually knows how to build high-speed rail systems, SNCF, became so frustrated after their ideas and plans were repeatedly discarded that they pulled out in 2011 and decided to go to North Africa, where it was less politically dysfunctional. Indeed, they then helped Morocco bring a high-speed rail system online in 2018.

All the while, the condition of California's roads continues to deteriorate and are among the very worst in the country. They are unsafe. They cause needless wear and tear on vehicles. They cause Californians to be stuck in traffic for hours on end.

This is an area where my particular district has unique needs. The Third Congressional District is one of the few parts of California that is still growing. Cities like Roseville, Folsom, and Lincoln are growing as fast as anywhere. People want to come to our communities because of the high quality of life. We have eluded the downward spiral that has afflicted many other parts of California because we support small businesses, law enforcement, and public safety. We have local governments that are accountable to taxpayers.

Precisely because of this success, many people want to move into our communities, and it is creating major challenges when it comes to traffic. Because of that, I have made it a top priority to look for every possible opportunity to stop spending Federal dollars on wasteful projects like the high-speed rail boondoggle and instead direct those funds to needed local road projects that will alleviate traffic for my constituents.

I was very glad to participate earlier this year in the groundbreaking for the I-80 fifth lane project, which is going to improve travel times westbound on I-80 between Douglas Boulevard and River-side Avenue.

In the Transportation appropriations bill, which will be voted on by the House today, I have secured funding for three important projects in our district.

The first is the U.S. 50/Empire Ranch Road Interchange Project, which would reduce traffic congestion and improve safety on adjacent interchanges, ultimately enhancing local and regional circulation and transportation infrastructure in Folsom and surrounding areas.

The second is the Blue Oaks Boulevard Roadway and Bridge Widening

Project, which is going to alleviate a critical transportation bottleneck.

The third is the Folsom Lake Crossing safety improvement phase two project, which would enhance road safety on Folsom Lake Crossing by adding a median barrier rail to minimize head-on collisions, injuries, and fatalities.

Mr. Speaker, this is the way that Federal funding should be directed toward infrastructure and projects that will improve the quality of life for our constituents.

I am glad in the bill that we will vote on today that is the priority and that we will be sending zero dollars to the failed California high-speed rail.

STOP THE FRENZY OF MOTIONS OF CENSURE

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, it was in this Chamber on January 6, 2021, that I came to realize relatively late in life how fragile our democracy is. I realize that the words of the Constitution, to which we all pledge an oath, are important, and so are the concepts underlying those words, the concepts of a peaceful transition of power, the concept of the separation of church and state, and the concept of freedom of expression.

These are concepts that are hundreds of years older than the Constitution, but they are critical to our democracy, which I think we would all agree is currently a bit fragile.

For this reason, I am profoundly disturbed that this House has gotten into a frenzy of censure resolutions to censure the speech of Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is the second clause of the First Amendment to our Constitution that says that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech. Our Founders protected us, in particular, with another clause in the Constitution, the Speech and Debate Clause. Article I, Section 6, says that we will be protected: "For any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned."

Our Founders decided that we would not be sanctioned for the things that we say, yet there are at least four resolutions before this House—one from Ms. JACOBS, one from Ms. GREENE, one from Ms. BALINT, one from Mr. MCCORMICK—seeking an official censure of Members of Congress for the things that they have said.

Mr. Speaker, this is what I mean by the erosion of the foundational principles on which our democracy exists.

I don't much like any of the speech that the Members who are accused of foul speech have engaged in, but the test of our commitment to freedom of expression is not how hard we fight in a moment for the rights of those that we agree with. The test is whether we are willing to stand up for freedom of

expression for somebody with whom we don't agree.

To my Republican friends, I would say they have quite rightly, in many instances, objected to the cancel culture, which is too rampant in our universities and elsewhere. Why now? Why in this institution?

To my Democratic friends, I would remind them that every progressive, going back to Galileo right up through Cesar Chavez to Martin Luther King, has been tolled and tortured and sanctioned for their expression.

It is time for this to stop in this Chamber. It is time for us to stop trying to punish each other for the things that we say, no matter how abhorrent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are more than just Representatives. If we were just Representatives, we would go back to our constituents and bring their ideas here. We are stewards of this institution, which is why we take an oath to the Constitution.

If you take seriously your role as a steward of this institution, vote to table every one of these obnoxious motions to censure. If they do come up and aren't tabled, vote against them. The freedom of expression upon which this institution is built demands nothing less.

CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 as Armistice Day, a day in which to honor those who gave their all in World War I.

In 1954, Congress amended Armistice Day to be inclusive of all veterans who have fought for American freedom, effectively changing its name to Veterans Day. It is on this day that we salute our remarkable, brave patriots who keep America safe.

We the people enjoy the blessings of hard-earned peace, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness because of our warriors who answered the call to defend our Nation.

Our men and women in uniform are a constant reminder of the true source of our Nation's greatness, and many veterans have freely given the last full measure of their devotion for our Nation. Because of their defense, our Nation remains strong, and our children can pursue their dreams.

To our veterans, your loved ones have endured seasons without a parent, a child, a sibling. On Veterans Day, we also recognize your families and thank them for their sacrifice.

It is my greatest honor to represent so many heroes who have served our Nation or who are serving our Nation from the Fourth Congressional District of Florida. Just as they have fought for our country, I will always fight for them.

Mr. Speaker, here is the truth about Veterans Day. It is not just one day. It