

Earth. Our region is home to America's industrial and agricultural strength. We have hardworking men and women who manufacture the majority of automobiles and trucks this Nation manufactures, as well as, of course, farmers in our agricultural heartland who feed us all. We have these massive production assets in this region.

Finally, the wealth of the region has allowed for an array of educational and corporate institutions, as well, which now can be mobilized together to reboot and repurpose the region's recovery from massive job outsourcing and, frankly, outright neglect that has damaged its potential for far too long.

Investing to strengthen the Great Lakes heartland will usher in a new era for our communities. It is time to fund the Great Lakes Authority to be the key economic development engine that becomes self-supporting through public-private partnerships that make a lasting impact.

Onward Great Lakes Authority.

There is no time like the present to launch a stronger and more hopeful future for every community across our precious region.

PROTECTING WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' SPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, sports and athletic competitions provide essential opportunities for women to thrive at every stage of their life, as children in youth sports and as teens in high school and in college, in order to live a healthy and productive life.

As a former competitive athlete, an equestrian, a basketball player, a golfer, and, yes, the teenage curling champion of 1975 in my hometown, I know the unparalleled opportunities that sports offer to women and girls.

Competitive sports give women a chance to learn new skills, to develop lifelong friendships, and to challenge themselves to compete at the highest levels. Title IX and the banning of discrimination against women in sports made so much of this possible for me and countless other women.

Today, these opportunities are under threat. Joe Biden's Department of Education and State agencies across the Nation are allowing, even encouraging, biological men to participate in women's sports. This is fundamentally unfair. It deprives women and girls of what so many of us fought for decades to achieve: equal opportunity to train, to compete, and to excel in athletics.

We witnessed this past year, during the NCAA women's swimming championship, a phenomenal female athlete robbed of her title by a biological male. This is not an isolated incident. The tragedy is playing out in countless other sports and athletic leagues across our Nation.

Today, we take a stand, with compassion for all, in defense of women's

sports to stop this dangerous precedent.

I am honored to be joined by an amazing group of outstanding women athletes who are in our Chamber today and are courageously standing up for women in all sports across our Nation and all women athletes.

This is why I am so honored to co-sponsor Representative GREG STEUBE's Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act and to announce its introduction today in honor of National Women and Girls in Sports Day.

Mr. Speaker, I have here the legislation. This bill will make it a violation of Title IX for biological men to compete in sports designated for women or girls. Further, it sensibly defines sex based on one's biological designation at birth.

This bill isn't just anti-woke. It is actually pro-science. This bill will protect opportunities for women and girls to compete fairly on the athletic field and in life without interference from woke agencies or politicians who are making up definitions of sex and gender as they go, all to fit toxic political agendas and ideologies.

Women have fought hard over the years for equality of opportunity, and it is essential that we protect these opportunities we cherish today for generations of women and girls to come.

The Republican majority has pledged to protect women's sports, and today, we are delivering on that promise with Congressman STEUBE's bill.

Mr. Speaker, I shall introduce Mr. STEUBE's bill today.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC SCHEME HURTS WORKING FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the work of Congress, and particularly the House of Representatives, is to advance the well-being, security, and economic growth of the American people.

Let me define for you, Mr. Speaker, who the American people are. For all of us as Members of Congress, that looks very different.

For me in my district, it means the young entrepreneur who is eager and excited about starting a new business, a startup company.

It is the middle-aged couple who have government jobs and who have worked diligently, scrimped and saved to buy a home, and are now looking for financing and support to send their children to college.

It is the veteran who has served this country and now has to navigate through the bureaucracy of the Federal Government to get those rights and privileges that, having served this country, he or she deserves.

It is the senior citizen and the retiree who are always watching their budget to make sure that they have enough to

meet all of their bills and somehow get by.

Those are the people and the families whom I fight for. I know that, on my side of the aisle, those workers, parents, seniors, and young people are whom we, as Democrats, are fighting for. While we may come from different families with different standings, beliefs, and statuses, that is whom we all should be working for in this Chamber.

Presently, however, the House Republican economic scheme will only hurt working American families, whom we say we are here to support. As Congress, as the House of Representatives of the people, we must, in partnership with the President, continue to enact legislation to protect the financial security of American working families.

That is why I am directly calling on my colleagues, the Republican Conference members, to begin the work of legislating for the American people—the majority of Americans, not the performative politics required by an extreme social media fringe—with legislation to help work out the best possibilities to solve the growing challenges that our families, the American people, face every day.

The current Republican-led plan to cut taxes in favor of the wealthy does not help lower- and middle-income families. Instead, it increases our national deficit and makes inflation worse.

The dismantling of Social Security will be devastating to retirees, who have paid into that system and believe that it is something that they are going to have to live out their best days yet.

Likewise, allowing for prescription drug prices and health insurance premiums to rise while simultaneously allowing for an increasing energy bill and student loan payments only make it harder for families to financially stay afloat and take care of their health.

In the last Congress, the 117th Congress, President Biden and House Democrats forged extraordinary progress, working in a bipartisan manner in the other Chamber, for American working families with many consequential new laws.

They include the American Rescue Plan, which kick-started the fastest and strongest jobs recovery in modern times, creating more than 10 million jobs in just 2 years; the infrastructure law, which put Americans back to work while simultaneously rebuilding our roads, bridges, ports, and water systems; the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which deploys stronger tools to keep guns out of dangerous hands; the PACT Act, which ensures that veterans who are exposed to toxic chemicals while protecting our Nation can access the healthcare services they need; the CHIPS and Science Act, which will power American preeminence in science, innovation, and manufacturing, strengthen our national security, and bring jobs back to

America for decades to come; and the Inflation Reduction Act, which slashed prescription drug costs and lowered healthcare premiums, delivering the most consequential climate action in history and reducing the Federal deficit.

All of this progress can continue if we continue to work to legislate and not to perform for cameras and social media. To work for the American people is incumbent on us all—Democrats, Republicans, all of us—to work together to protect the health, security, and freedom of American families.

ANTI-SEMITISM: NEVER AGAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me, just for a start, say that hatred and discrimination against any marginalized community are wrong, whether it be an ethnic minority, LGBT, a person with a disability, and women and girls.

Today, I want to focus on something that is personal to me.

My family was blessed. My grandfather came over to this country from Poland just before the rise of Hitler, and he saved his brothers and sisters by bringing them over. Too many people were not so blessed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and start my comments by saying, “never again,” as I address the growing concern of anti-Semitism in my home State of Florida and across the country.

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This rise in anti-Semitism is deeply concerning, particularly given the lessons of the Holocaust, where we lost 6 million Jews and millions of others who were murdered by the Nazis in one of the worst human atrocities in the history of the world. These were precious lives who were tortured, gassed, shot, and treated as less than human.

It is terrifying that we find ourselves today having to defend the fact that it even happened. So we say “never again” to remind the world that we just didn’t wake up one moment to gas chambers and genocide; it was a slow and deliberate effort, dehumanizing Jews and others, fomenting fear and normalizing extremism and prejudice.

Today, Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism is on the rise. Incidents of anti-Semitism reported—and this is just reported—to the Anti-Defamation League have risen by 34 percent in their last report. There were over 2,700 incidents that were reported in a year: Harassment, assaults, Molotov cocktails thrown at synagogues, defacing Jewish cemeteries, I could go on and on. The point is, it is clear that anti-Semitism is real.

In my own community in Palm Beach County, which is home to tens of thousands of Jews, this past January

there were Nazi symbols projected on buildings and hundreds and hundreds of anti-Semitic flyers thrown into the yards of people.

Mr. Speaker, I say what should we do? What must we do?

Combating anti-Semitism is everyone’s responsibility. There is something for all of us to do to promote a more inclusive and respectful society.

Let me just give a to-do list. It is not necessarily inclusive, but some things that we should all take to heart.

Believe it or not, a significant number of our young people don’t have any understanding of the Holocaust; and so, of course, education and awareness about the Holocaust and the history of anti-Semitism and the harm it causes, education is something that is very important.

All of us must speak out and condemn anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it occurs, whether it is using your voice, your Facebook page, your Twitter, writing letters to the editor. If you see something, you must say something.

We should be working with our great partners across different sectors and levels of government to combat anti-Semitism and protect our Jewish communities, partners like the ADL, the American Jewish Committee, and many others.

We have to keep our houses of worship safe, not just synagogues, but churches and mosques. People must be free in this country to go to a house of worship and feel safe.

We must support the laws and policies that protect people and communities from discrimination, extremism, hate crimes, and improve hate crime reporting and prosecuting hate crimes.

Mr. Speaker, let me just refer to a magnificent hero in my community, Ben Ferencz, the last living Nuremberg prosecutor, who tells us that creating a world of tolerance and compassion would be a long and arduous task, a task we must all take up in words and actions.

Mr. Speaker, we must build bridges between different communities through dialogues and collaborations that can help to reduce prejudice and foster mutual respect, and it means standing against hatred aimed at other often marginalized groups.

And we must protect the safety and security of Israel, the homeland of 46 percent of the world’s Jews.

As I conclude my remarks, I want to highlight the story of Ben Ferencz, a magnificent hero from my community.

Ben, who at 103 years old, is the last living Nuremberg prosecutor and was recently bestowed the Congress’ highest honor, a Congressional Gold Medal.

As World War II engulfed Europe, after graduating from law school, Ben enlisted in the U.S. Army.

He was transferred to a unit responsible for gathering evidence of Nazi war crimes.

He later took that evidence to the chief Nuremberg prosecutor, and at 27 years old, Ben was appointed the lead prosecutor of the biggest murder trial in the history of the world

where he convicted 22 Nazi leaders for their roles in the deaths of over 1 million people.

Ben went on to spend his life pursuing peace and justice.

CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Biden administration to close the disposable e-cigarette loophole. I commend this administration’s work to curtail youth e-cigarette use. Youth usage of cigarettes and vaping is at a historic low, but the FDA’s guidance issued by the previous administration in January 2020 that prohibits flavored e-cigarettes does not apply to any of the disposable e-cigarette products currently on the market.

It is important to note that non-disposable products with cartridge inserts are already banned by the FDA, but the loophole on disposable e-cigarettes has allowed a surge in youth usage, according to the Centers for Disease Control 2022 National Youth Tobacco Study. The study shows that usage is up by 2,000 percent since 2019.

It is a dangerous oversight that can easily be fixed by closing the Trump-era loophole. Disposable e-cigarettes are single use. They are not meant to be refilled or recharged.

Right now, in smoke shops and corner stores around the country, you might see dozens of disposable e-cigarette products in flavors like iced apple mango, strawberry, pineapple, and even lemonade. These products are sleek, affordable, pocket-sized, and highly accessible to our youth.

The President can take immediate action by closing this Trump-era loophole. The future and safety of American youth depends on this.

REJECTING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IS WRONG

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, last week Florida Governor Ron DeSantis’ administration blocked a new advanced placement African-American history course from being taught in Florida high schools, arguing that the course violates State law and is historically inaccurate.

The DeSantis administration’s rejection of the AP course is unfathomable, unsound, and unacceptable. Instead of improving and expanding on the quality of education for Florida high school students, this administration’s extreme agenda aims to roll back the clock by denying its students the right to explore the painful, complex, and rich history of African Americans in our country.

The rejection of this course is an attempt to erase from our memory the truth about how hate and bigotry has destroyed our Nation’s moral fabric and ushered in one of the darkest moments of United States history.

Governor Ron DeSantis claimed that he wants to protect students from