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ADDRESSING BORDER CRISES

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud product of the Borderlands. I grew up on both sides of the border, my parents worked for the maquiladoras, and I still cross the border when I am back in my district because Las Cruces benefits from an interconnected community with El Paso and Juarez.

For years, I have seen the challenges that we face at the border with the humanitarian crisis and the influx of drugs. We are at a point where we need more resources to address these crises.

We need bipartisan solutions to address these issues, so I introduced a package of legislation that addresses security at our border and immigration reform. I am proud to share that my bills have been informed by the people of New Mexico, for the people of New Mexico.

We have waited for too long to address this issue, and we need to put partisan politics aside to deliver for all of our constituents.

Estoy aquí con todos ustedes hoy como un producto orgulloso de la frontera. Crecí en ambos lados de los Estados Unidos y México, mis padres trabajaron para las maquiladoras y todavía cruzo la frontera cuándo regreso a mi distrito porque Las Cruces es una comunidad interconectada con El Paso y Cd. Juárez.

Durante los años he visto los retos que enfrentamos en la frontera con una crisis humanitaria y el flujo de drogas a nuestro país. Estamos en un punto importante en que necesitamos más recursos para abordar estas crisis.

Necesitamos soluciones bipartidistas para solucionar estos problemas, por eso yo presenté un paquete de legislación que aborda la seguridad en nuestra frontera y la reforma migratoria. Estos proyectos de ley han sido informados por nuevos mexicanos, para nuevo Mexicanos, y he pasado los últimos meses proponiéndole al Caucus Hispano del Congreso, y al Caucus de Los Nuevos Demócratas y hemos trabajado entre ambos partidos para encontrar soluciones a la crisis migratoria.

Hemos esperado demasiado para abordar este tema y debemos dejar de lado la política partidista para cumplir con todos nuestros votantes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

CONGRATULATING BREVARD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brevard High School boys' cross country team for winning the 2A State championship. This is the second 2A State championship title that this team has won in the last 3 years.

The Brevard Blue Devils dominated the championship race with a score of 45 points, scoring well ahead of the runner-up team. The Blue Devils also had three runners finish in the top 10.

I congratulate the Blue Devils. Their recent success is a testament to the countless hours of training, hard work, and a genuine passion for athletics and a quest for knowledge.

They have each made western North Carolina proud. May the future bring many more years of success as we continue to celebrate the legacy of their exceptional cross country program.

NATIONAL HOUSING CRISIS

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, on this first day of December, I rise today to point out that the people's House went the entire month of November without passing a bill to tackle our Nation's housing crisis.

Communities on the California central coast are ranked as some of the most expensive places in our country to live in.

I was sent to this Chamber by my constituents to enact policies that will help lower these skyrocketing prices.

Congress needs to help increase the availability of affordable housing options. We need to reform and expand programs that provide housing assistance for working families and veterans like I have been pushing for. We need to invest in our communities for solutions that are helping those experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, there are bills we could pass today to lend a hand, including bipartisan ones that I have helped write.

By all means, let's keep pursuing baseless impeachment inquires or defunding the salaries of Cabinet members that we don't agree with.

Mr. Speaker, please, let's start governing.

RECOGNIZING THE TIOGA CENTRAL AND WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tioga Central and

Waverly High School football teams. They are making history.

This is the first time two football teams from upstate Tioga County, New York, are competing simultaneously in State title games.

Tioga football's resounding 63-16 victory in the semifinals marks their third consecutive State title game appearance.

With 39 consecutive wins, they are not only chasing a third straight State championship but also their fourth title since 2015.

Just as remarkably, Waverly football's dominant win of 42-0 in the semifinals earned them a spot in the Class C State final for the first time in school history.

This historic moment is a testament to the dedication of our student athletes, the guidance of their coaches, and the unwavering support of our community.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating these young athletes, their coaches, their families, and the entire Tioga County community.

RECOGNIZING TOM LAMBERT

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifetime of service and the exceptional work of Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County CEO Tom Lambert.

Tom is a true public servant who has made a difference for all of us in Houston. For more than four decades, Tom has worked at METRO.

Focusing these four decades on the safety of METRO riders, his improvements to the system will benefit them for years to come.

His ability to listen to riders led to streamlined services with improved schedules. His leadership led to the completion of an additional 15 miles of light rail in 2015, and his commitment to moving Houstonians in new ways helped pave the way, literally and figuratively, for bus rapid transit.

Tom has demonstrated his dedication to keeping our community informed, engaged, and moving forward. Tom exemplifies the very best of Houston: innovation, collaboration, vision, and leadership.

I send sincere thanks to Tom for his work and for his commitment to our community and congratulate him on his retirement.

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COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM IN AMERICA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head on our

very shores. It should be extinguished entirely.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen anti-Semitic demonstrations take place across the country. Turn on the television, open a newspaper, or go online and you will find a litany of examples. As Rabbi Moshe Hauer mentioned in his testimony before the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development recently, the plague of anti-Semitism has afflicted the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Rabbi Hauer's assessment, and it is incumbent upon us all to stand with the Jewish community, push back on anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it crops up, and rid our country of this scourge.

Anti-Semitism has no place in any civil society, especially the United States—not now, not ever. I include in the RECORD a letter of November 14, 2023, from Rabbi Moshe Hauer.

ORTHODOX UNION,

New York, NY, November 14, 2023

RABBI MOSHE HAUER TESTIMONY—HOUSE EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT “CONFRONTING THE SCOURGE OF ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS”

MR. CHAIRMAN, RANKING MEMBER, AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE: My name is Rabbi Moshe Hauer. You have heard and will hear individual stories of what life has been like for Jewish students on America's university campuses. I would like to share with you the bigger picture. While I come to you today as the Executive Vice President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, also known as the Orthodox Union, the largest organization serving Orthodox Jews in the world, in this testimony I hope to represent the entire Jewish community, every Jew and every Jewish student on a university campus. Across the entire Jewish communal and religious spectrum, my colleagues and I work together daily to address the plague of antisemitism that has struck us all, a plague that is afflicting our beloved United States and that is firmly centered in its institutions of higher learning.

I want to share with this committee three points.

1. The Orthodox Union, along with Hillel, Chabad, and others, directs significant resources and attention to our future, to our youth and students. Each of us places full-time educators on university campuses who seek to provide a Jewish home for those students on campus, creating a place where they can come to connect warmly to their faith community, to celebrate the Sabbath and holidays, to socialize, study, eat, and pray together with their religious peers, and to be supported and guided by nurturing mentors.

Today, this entire community is in crisis. Jewish students on campus no longer need a home; they need a fortress. Religious educators who have dedicated their lives to providing students with warmth, nurturing, and a stronger Jewish identity find themselves thrust into the role of trauma counselors and security advocates, even as they experience their own trauma and fear. On too many campuses, everywhere they go the students and their mentors encounter protests, chants, and signs that express the goals of eliminating the world's one Jewish state and killing Jews and that baselessly accuse Jews of unspeakable crimes. These messages of hate and intimidation come from students

and from professors, and they are tolerated if not encouraged by many university administrators.

Decades ago, Jews were not admitted to these universities. Now they let us in and expose us to hostility and intimidation. Which situation is better?

Every person in this country should have access to the resources that the federal government provides. Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, applies to all programs and activities supported by federal financial assistance, including—of course—both public and private universities. Those universities are tolerating and often supporting faculty and student groups whose vocal and virulent antisemitism create discriminatory environments inhospitable to Jews.

The Jewish experience on campus is a case study in Title VI non-compliance. This hearing you are holding today gives us hope that the fundamental right to religious liberty enshrined in the Bill of Rights will be honored and enforced on these campuses.

2. This intimidation and hostility are experienced by every Jewish student, Orthodox, Reform, or unaffiliated, whether identifiably Jewish or not. The 17,000 non-Orthodox teens that we serve in American public schools through our Jewish Student Union clubs experience it as well, as the plague of brazen and appalling antisemitism has spread from higher education to public middle and high schools. It is, however, important to highlight for a moment the specific experience of Orthodox students on campus.

The Orthodox Jewish students on close to 100 campuses. Orthodox Jews are usually very visibly Jewish, identifiable by religious symbols and recognizable modes of dress, and have not surprisingly been the victims of a significant share of the antisemitic hate crimes. This makes life very difficult in the university environment where the term “Jew” is an epithet, where anger and hate are a constant, and where protection and support from the administration are absent. Our kids cannot circulate anonymously on campus and cannot go undercover by tucking the star of David necklace into the shirt or by removing the kippah. Their strictly kosher diet and their desire to practice their faith mean that if they want to eat or pray—which they do daily—they need to go to the center for Jewish life on campus. The Orthodox Jewish student on campus is a walking billboard: it is me, the Jew, the one you harass, demonize, and intimidate. I can neither run nor hide.

3. Finally, it is critical that you understand how what is happening in our universities is being experienced by the broader Jewish community. The Jewish people are the people of the book, and that book teaches us both our values and our story. We know our history, and it goes like this: For more than three thousand years we have lived in a great many places, where we thrived and contributed to the host country, and then we had to leave. Sometimes we were expelled by laws and sometimes by fear, by the sheer danger of the hate that grew towards us. That is our story. We always end up having to leave.

We all believed that the United States was different.

The current tsunami of antisemitism that has surged in the United States and that is centered in its universities has shaken us. And now, as of October 7th, I do not know if there is a Jew that has not said to themselves, “here we go again.”

We never imagined it. Five years ago, one year ago, if someone would tell you or me that we would be sitting in this room discussing this kind of open, blatant, and vile

antisemitism in the United States of America, we would have thought they were crazy. America is different. America was supposed to be different. We were sure that this land of liberty and civil rights would be the exception to the rule. Jews would never be chased from here, neither by law nor by fear. That is what we thought.

We are less convinced of that now. We are shaken, we are doubting, and we are wondering, “here we go again.” We are worried for the present, for the safety of our kids on campus. And we are worried for our future in this country and—quite frankly—for the future of a country whose institutions of “higher learning” appear utterly incapable of teaching basic values, right from wrong.

You are our elected leaders.

It is in your hands to restore our faith that America will be the exception to the rule of our history.

It is in your hands to clarify that the true blessing of free speech does not include speakers who “direct a threat to a person or group of persons with the intent of placing the victim in fear of bodily harm or death.”

It is in your hands to ensure that Title VI is respected and enforced, as those same hateful words that may be chanted in our streets may not be part of the government funded environments of our educational institutions that have tragically become discriminatory environments inhospitable to Jews.

It is in your hands to take a step back and to consider the big and frightening picture of what this country is starting to look like. For us in the Jewish community, America is feeling a lot less free and a lot less safe. We need you to restore our sense of freedom and safety in this blessed land.

Thank you for your attention today and for your actions tomorrow and in the future.

RABBI MOSHE HAUER,

Executive Vice President, Orthodox Union.

EXPANDING PASSENGER RAIL IN NORTHERN OHIO

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop intercity passenger rail corridors across our Great Lakes region from Chicago to Cleveland.

We in the Great Lakes noticed the attention that the Department of Transportation pays to the East Coast and the West Coast, but please don't forget our Great Lakes northern region.

Take a look at the I-80/90 corridor and think about that already being carved into the landscape. Use it.

In 2021, I joined other Great Lakes Members of Congress to urge Amtrak to retool its connect on U.S. 2035 Plan, which then excluded improvements to the Cleveland to Chicago corridor. To this day, we continue to lack daytime passenger rail service across this highly congested rail corridor and, of course, constricted Chicago. Boy, does it need help.

Our constituents deserve better. Leaders from the U.S. Department of Transportation; State, local, and regional Departments of Transportation; planning agencies; advocacy organizations; labor unions; and the private