

According to a report last year by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Community Oriented Policing, factors such as community frustration with the policing profession, and concerns about officer safety and well-being, have contributed to this staffing crisis.

It is unsurprising, then, that a 2023 survey of police departments showed resignations continuing to increase every year since 2019, with responding agencies reporting nearly 50 percent more resignations in 2022 than in 2019.

In my district in Houston, Texas, the problem goes back even further.

We recently learned that staffing shortages resulted in over 264,000 cases—including 4,000 sexual assault cases—were never submitted for investigation, due to staffing shortages.

We cannot allow this to continue.

Our communities deserve more.

Victims deserve more.

The Recruit and Retain Act will attempt to remedy this problem by authorizing law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants to reduce the numerous fees that law enforcement applicants must pay.

We will not get qualified men and women in uniform if they cannot afford to even apply to a police department.

The Recruit and Retain Act also will encourage voluntary partnerships between agencies and local elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning, including historically black colleges and universities, for students interested in careers in law enforcement.

Partnership activities will include dedicated programming for students; work-based learning opportunities; mentoring; community liaisons; career and jobs fairs; job shadowing; and internships.

These activities will help law enforcement agencies recruit talented applicants who reflect and respect the communities they serve.

This, in turn, will help earn back the trust of those communities—making all of us safer.

I would prefer for this bill to include the minimum qualification and training standards that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would require.

I also think we must do more to address the mental health challenges that officers inevitably face, due to the harrowing nature of their work.

We cannot expect qualified officers to remain in such a dangerous profession if we do not give them the resources they need to address the toll that police work takes on them.

We cannot wait any longer to address the law enforcement staffing crisis.

We must act now to help police departments across the country recruit and retain the officers they need to keep our communities safe.

I invite my colleagues across the aisle to join me in this effort to support local and state law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER NIKKI LEALI IN THE COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CATEGORY

## HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Nikki Leali, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Computer Engineering and Technology category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories

Nikki, a student at FAU High School, is a shining example of hard work and dedication. She is not only taking dual enrollment courses at the FAU Wilkes Honors College but also working towards a major in data analytics. Her future includes continuing her education at FAU and graduating in 2027 with a master's degree, with the aim of becoming a data analyst. Her experience volunteering with FAU's Privacy, Security, and Trust in Autonomy Lab, where she has gained experience interpreting research papers and using Python coding, has prepared her to launch into a career in which she hopes to become a leader in implementing and advancing artificial intelligence and data visualization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Nikki Leali as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of computer engineering and technology.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8369, ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7530, D.C. CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT OF 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7343, DETAIN AND DEPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS WHO ASSAULT COPS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8146, POLICE OUR BORDER ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7581, IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS THROUGH DATA ACT OF 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 354, LEOSA REFORM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1213, RESOLUTION REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1210, CONDEMNING THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS AND THE TREMENDOUS BURDENS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FACE AS A RESULT

SPEECH OF

## HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2024*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to Republicans using Police Week to push divisive legislation in the House that takes away local control from communities, weakens gun safety laws, and dehumanizes immigrants.

Our constituents did not elect us to get involved in the local politics of our Nation's capital city. Yet, House Republicans think it's appropriate to waste Congress's time to limit Washington, D.C.'s ability to police itself. Congress does not have the authority to pass such a resolution for Minnesota or any other state—and we would not have that power over D.C. and its 700,000 residents if the District was granted statehood as the majority of its residents' support.

Children at schools, daycares, and playgrounds deserve to be safe from guns and gun violence. House Republicans instead pushed legislation eroding the ability for communities across America to protect these areas from guns. Overriding a community's ability to establish zones that are gun-free fails to make our children safer, it exposes them to the danger of firearms. Three million children are already threatened by gun violence each year in America. More than 20,000 are killed or wounded. The solution to the gun violence crisis in this country is not more guns, and it clearly isn't overruling the will of a community that is taking its own action to make vulnerable children safer.

Finally, House Republicans continue to dehumanize immigrants, as they have week after week in this Congress. They have presented their harmful proposals under the guise of protecting and supporting our law enforcement. Madam Speaker, I support law enforcement. I always have. These bills do nothing to support or protect the people who serve our communities. House Republicans continue to insist on

undermining Constitutional civil liberties by removing the hurdle of proving guilt before deportation. As I've said before: Where will they stop? Are American citizens next?

It is shameful that House Republicans are using our law enforcement as pawns for the Majority's extreme MAGA immigration rhetoric. House Republicans must stop their politics of division and distraction from addressing the real challenges facing Americans. They need to join Democrats at the table to find solutions.

RECOGNIZING SGT. RYAN LENNOX

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and honor the service one of my constituents, Sgt. Ryan Lennox, of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. On November 28, 2022, Sgt. Lennox was transferred to the Special Operation Division as a K9 Sergeant. However, during this timeframe the Patrol Division was understaffed with squad and platoon supervisors. This prompted Sgt. Lennox to be asked to take a temporary duty assignment as a Patrol Sergeant while continuing to lead, supervise and guide his K9 Patrol Squad. Sgt. Lennox willingly accepted the dual responsibilities and continued to shine in both roles. Examples of his accomplishment during this period include:

Attending a Patrol K9 School with his new K9 partner Ranger;

Passing the K9 state standards course;

Leading and Supervising a K9 squad, ensuring all administrative duties were completed;

Assisting patrol units as a K9 handler. Within a year, he successfully led the search and location of multiple suspects;

Leading and supervising a patrol squad, ensuring all administrative duties were completed;

Planning, leading and successfully executing several SWAT operations and monthly SWAT trainings;

Co-teaching SWAT school, and

Planning, leading and successfully executing several operational missions.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Sgt. Lennox exhibits every day he comes to work. Sgt. Lennox is a shining example of what it means to be a Pasco County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Sgt. Lennox has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING SAKURA  
CHENHALLS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sakura Chenhalls for earning the

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sakura has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Sakura, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sakura's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sakura Chenhalls on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

DETAIN AND DEPORT ILLEGAL  
ALIENS WHO ASSAULT COPS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 15, 2024*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 7343, the "Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Assault Cops Act."

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill.

This overly broad legislation would result in extremely harsh and unintended consequences, subjecting people to mandatory immigration detention for merely being arrested for, and never charged or convicted of a crime.

It does not actually solve any problems with the immigration system or the border.

This bill will, however, callously, and carelessly increases the scope of those subject to mandatory immigration detention to cover many undocumented immigrants, including those in a lawful status such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS), if they are arrested for assault of a law enforcement officer or first responder.

In particular, it will make it so that someone who is merely arrested for or charged with an assault of a law enforcement officer or first responder, even if they never committed that crime or hurt anyone, is now subject to mandatory immigration detention.

It is so broad and overinclusive that it would lead to truly absurd results and to the detention and removal of people who had no intention of ever committing a crime.

Indeed, consider a situation where an immigrant is wrongfully arrested for assault due to mistaken identity.

Under this bill, that individual would now be subject to mandatory detention, even though they were arrested by mistake and potentially never even charged with a crime.

Wrongful arrests are not far-fetched scenarios.

In fact, the main reason this bill was introduced was because Republicans wanted to exploit an incident involving recently arrived migrants allegedly assaulting law enforcement in Times Square.

One specific image of an arrested migrant flipping off cameras after his arraignment set off a firestorm among Republicans.

However, in March, ten weeks after the incident, charges against that specific individual were dropped.

It turns out he was wrongfully arrested and charged. He was not even at the scene of the incident.

This is a perfect example as to why this bill is absurd—if it was in effect, this individual, despite his innocence, would have been subject to mandatory detention.

Additionally, many jurisdictions have a broad definition of assault that are so broad, they can include conduct as minor as throwing a parking ticket at a ticketing officer.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem. No one in this caucus condones serious assaults against law enforcement officers.

People who admit to or are convicted of serious assault offenses against law enforcement officers are already subject to mandatory detention under our laws. This bill would not change that fact.

Instead, this bill will subject more people to mandatory detention at a time when Republicans refuse to give the Department of Homeland Security the resources it needs.

It should also be noted that Congress has never appropriated, and no administration has ever requested, sufficient resources to detain all noncitizens who fall under the "mandatory detention" categories.

Even former President Trump never tried to detain all migrants subject to mandatory detention.

If this bill were to become law, as written, it would simply lead to absurd consequences.

Consequences that do nothing to resolve the problems that Republicans claim they are seeking to resolve.

Time and again, Republicans have refused to support additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security.

House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.