

would have an immigration-related bill to offer for "Police Week."

Instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to address the problems in our immigration system, this bill fails in such endeavor and offers no viable action.

It is also important to state the fact that the border is not open.

Let us look at the facts.

In the Fiscal Year 24 appropriations bill, Congress appropriated over \$3.4 billion for DHS to maintain and use 41,500 detention beds.

These are levels of detention similar to those during under the Trump administration.

Despite the claims of this bill, the Biden administration has significantly expanded expedited removal, and in ways that many in our caucus worry violates due process."

Since the end of Title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned over 660,000 individuals, including over 102,000 individual members of family units, including children.

This is more than the number of people removed or returned in any year under the Trump administration.

Yet, time and again, Republicans have refused to take yes for an answer.

In addition to rejecting the bipartisan Senate border bill, Republicans have consistently refused to support providing 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.

My Republican colleagues have refused 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.

By forcing a vote on this bill, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border.

I urge Members to not take the bait, and to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING FREDON TOWNSHIP'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Fredon Township on its 120th anniversary. I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with them. Over the past 120 years, Fredon Township has flourished into a lively town with vibrant natural scenery and rich history. As the youngest township in Sussex County, Fredon Township was formed from parts of Andover, Green, Hampton, and Stillwater Townships and is home to approximately 3,450 residents and 1,203 residential dwellings. Once a dusty, rutted, narrow dirt road on Route 94, traveling through a busy little village in the 1800s, can now be found as the core of the township. I am proud to have such a remarkable town within the 7th District, and I look forward to watching it continue to thrive in the coming decades. I wish Fredon Township a wonderful 120th anniversary. May its next 120 years be filled with as much success as this one.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESIDENT NEAL J. SMATRESK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of North Texas (UNT) President Neal J. Smatresk, PhD who has dedicated his career to advancing education and transforming institutions. President Smatresk's tenure at UNT has been marked by innovation, growth, and a relentless commitment to excellence.

President Smatresk's journey in academia has been distinguished by his unwavering dedication to fostering academic success and research excellence. Before assuming his role at UNT, President Smatresk held pivotal leadership positions at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Prior to his roles in Administration, Dr. Smatresk was a distinguished biologist and researcher. His scholarly pursuits focused on advancing our understanding of respiratory neurobiology, garnering substantial grant support, and resulting in numerous publications. His dedication to STEM education and outreach left an indelible mark on countless aspiring scientists and scholars.

President Smatresk's leadership at UNT has been nothing short of transformative and has propelled UNT to unprecedented heights, fostering a culture of achievement and inclusivity. Under his guidance, UNT has achieved a remarkable five-year record of continued enrollment growth, now serving almost 47,000 students; reflecting President Smatresk's dedication to expanding access to higher education and empowering students to pursue their academic aspirations. Additionally, President

Smatresk led UNT to becoming a Carnegie-ranked Tier One institution that has emerged as a top 10 U.S. public university on the rise. While his strategic vision and commitment to student success has propelled UNT to new heights, earning recognition as both a Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution and securing its place as one of only 22 Carnegie-ranked Tier One research universities designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

President Smatresk's impact extends far beyond the realm of academia. Through strategic partnerships with industry leaders and innovative program offerings, such as UNT's groundbreaking M.B.A. program in sport entertainment management in collaboration with the Dallas Cowboys, President Smatresk has positioned UNT as a pioneer in higher education. His innovative approach to fostering partnerships between academia and industry has positioned UNT as a leader in addressing the evolving needs of the workforce. Through strategic collaborations with companies such as American Airlines, Liberty Mutual, Google, and JP Morgan Chase, President Smatresk has created new avenues for experiential learning and professional development, ensuring that UNT graduates are well-equipped to thrive in today's competitive job market.

Moreover, his commitment to expanding UNT's presence in Collin County through the establishment of the UNT at Frisco branch campus underscores his dedication to expanding UNT's reach across the growing DFW region and fostering economic development through education. President Smatresk has also overseen a commitment to athletic investments and facility expansions that has transformed UNT's athletic program into a powerhouse of excellence and helped to secure UNT's membership into Conference USA. The Mean Green student-athletes and teams, under his leadership, have flourished, exemplifying the university's spirit of determination and achievement.

President Neal J. Smatresk's visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on higher education will leave an enduring legacy at the University of North Texas and beyond. On behalf of the constituents of the 26th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to President Smatresk for his exemplary service and wish him a fulfilling and rewarding retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT JERSEY SHORE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AND RIVERVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Hackensack Meridian Health in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Behavioral Health Services at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center. The hospitals' vision and commitment to supporting the well-being of Monmouth and Ocean County's communities is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since 1974, Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center

have offered a range of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, including psychiatry, crisis and emergency services, hospitalization, consultation, and education. Over the years, services have expanded to include addiction and children's programs.

Additionally, in 1979, Jersey Shore Medical Center began mobile services in Asbury Park under a grant from the State of New Jersey. To better meet the needs of its clients, the program, coined Park Place, moved to a facility, first operating out of the local United Methodist Church, then to a home on Sewall Avenue, and later to a property on Bond Street. The Park Place program continued to expand and adapt, integrating services and other programs until 2019 when it was merged with the Riverview Medical Center Behavioral Health Acute Partial Program.

For 50 years, Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center have been providing services, education, outreach, and support to individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Their efforts to improve the quality and availability of support services are important for the health and well-being of individuals and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center for 50 years of providing comprehensive behavioral health services and thanking its staff and members for their extraordinary service to the community.

LEOSA REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 354, the LEOSA Reform Act.

In 2004, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA), permitting qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms and ammunition in certain places.

Every state allows the concealed carry of firearms subject to certain conditions, but the original LEOSA overrode whatever permit, training, or other requirements might be in place—with important, commonsense exceptions for National Parks, playgrounds, government buildings, private property, and other sensitive areas.

I should note that I was a member of the House Judiciary Committee when it passed the original LEOSA in 2004.

At that time, the Committee was under Republican control, but it still followed regular order.

We held a hearing on the bill in which we heard from several law enforcement organizations.

Some expressed support for the bill as a way for officers to protect themselves and be able to respond to a dangerous situation whether they were in their home jurisdiction or not, on-duty or off-duty, active or retired.

Other law enforcement organizations opposed the legislation, expressing concerns about creating confusion in the field that might even endanger law enforcement.

While some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle expressed concerns about the original LEOSA, I was satisfied that it struck an appropriate balance.

I supported the original LEOSA because it included limits for special places.

It had exceptions so that states would still have some control over whether retired and off-duty law enforcement officers would be allowed to carry concealed weapons in places like parks, playgrounds, Gun-Free School Zones, and state and local government buildings.

States should be allowed to regulate these places consistent with the needs of the state.

Allowing them to do so protects local law enforcement by making sure they know what to expect when responding to a scene.

The original LEOSA also respected the rights of private property owners to prohibit concealed weapons on their property if they chose to do so.

And with respect to retired officers, it ensured that they would continue to receive annual firearms training so that they would know how to safely use the concealed firearm that they were carrying.

The legislation before us today, however, upsets the balance struck by the original LEOSA and it is being advanced without a hearing that would help us fully evaluate its strengths and weaknesses.

While I supported the original LEOSA, I oppose the legislation before us today because it would allow more concealed weapons in parks, playgrounds, Gun-Free School Zones, local government buildings, and on private property even when it is contrary to the judgment of state leaders and private property owners.

Today's bill also weakens the training standards for retired officers as set forth in the original LEOSA, which is especially concerning.

Marksmanship is a perishable skill that must be renewed through practice and training.

By relaxing the training standards, today's bill would allow retired officers to carry concealed firearms despite it being as many as three years since they last received training—and it could be that they retired from law enforcement more years before that.

I respect the rights of lawful and responsible gun owners, including the rights of retired and off-duty law enforcement.

We should allow these individuals to carry concealed weapons into many places, provided they meet certain qualifications including regular training.

But this bill would allow concealed weapons to be carried by those who have not received recent training.

And it would allow concealed firearms in spaces where a state may have a valid public safety interest in prohibiting them.

For these reasons, I must oppose this legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

CONGRATULATING LTC KELSEY ROUSEY

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Lieutenant Colonel Kelsey

Rousey for her dedicated service to the people of American Samoa and all the Pacific Islands as Deputy to the House Liaison Division in the U.S. Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison.

In American Samoa, our men and women of the Armed Forces are very important to us. The people of our islands take great pride in being patriotic Americans and our people are known for a high rate of service in our military. In particular, our U.S. Army recruiting center ranks number one in the nation in enlistment rate.

To that end I would like to recognize all the work LTC Rousey has done to serve our country throughout her career, so far. She received her commission through the ROTC program at John Carroll University, as Transportation Officer.

She has an extensive list of military awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Meritorious Volunteer Medal. She was instrumental in sharing the Army message throughout the House of Representatives and Congress.

In congratulating this outstanding officer today, we also express our deep appreciation to all who serve, including the many in uniform from American Samoa serving with distinction all over the world.

In thank Kelsey for her outstanding leadership and her commitment to our Soldiers, American Samoa, and our great Nation. Best wishes to her and her family as she departs for Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army War College. I thank her for her service and her tone dedicated to our beautiful island.

God bless you on your journey (Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou ala. Soifua).

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the United States Border Patrol for the 100 years of incredible service they have provided to our country, ensuring security and sovereignty at our borders. Since its founding on May 1, 1924—the first anniversary of the signing of the 1923 Border Convention between the United States and Mexico, the United States Border Patrol has been dedicated to defending the borders of our great Nation.

The members of the United States Border Patrol work day and night, hour upon hour, in harsh conditions and dangerous circumstances to ensure that terrorists, weapons, drugs and contraband do not make their way into the United States.

Today, I wish to shine a spotlight on one of the integral sectors within the United States Customs and Border Patrol—the Buffalo Sector. Situated along the Northern border, the Buffalo Sector plays a pivotal role in securing our nation's perimeter. Sprawling across vast landscapes, from the Great Lakes to the Appalachian Mountains, its agents stand as