

That is right, 125,000 cases have been opened on individuals with income over \$400,000 per year that filed no returns in the last 6 years—25,000 of those cases involved individuals with incomes of over \$1 million per year.

It is hard to believe that anyone with that level of income would have the chutzpah to refuse to file a return and think they would get away with it. In fact, the IRS has reported that in all these cases, they received third-party information, such as W-2 forms from employers and 1099 forms from financial institutions that clearly indicate these people received income in these ranges but never filed their own return, and, of course, never paid the legally required tax.

How is it possible that such flagrant, arrogant behavior went unnoticed, you might ask? It is because Congress, most notably Republican majorities in Congress, for decades have willfully starved the IRS of staff and technology to track such freeloaders.

Here is the record: From 1994 to 2021, the workforce of the IRS has been cut by Republicans in Washington by one-third. At the same time, America's population has grown by one-third.

As a result of defunding the IRS, the IRS has been able to file its nonfiler program only sporadically since 2016. Because of this, tax cheats have gotten bolder and more brazen.

The good news, as the IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel reported 2 weeks ago, because of the Inflation Reduction Act which passed in the last Democratic-controlled Congress without a single Republican vote, the IRS now has more staff and technology to pursue such blatant tax cheats.

Werfel estimates that this nonfiler initiative alone is focused on financial activity of more than \$100 billion.

Since this effort started 2 weeks ago, it is unclear exactly how much tax and penalty will be recovered, but given that the failure to file penalties of 5 percent per month on tax owed, conservative estimates are hundreds of millions of dollars will be recovered for past years and even more for future compliance.

I want to be clear. This effort is not auditing the content of taxpayer returns. These are cases of high-income earners who had the gall to not even file a return.

Mr. Speaker, this behavior is an insult to hardworking fellow Americans who obey the law and fulfill their civic duty, and at the end of the day bear the financial costs of this despicable misconduct.

Speaking of the middle class, Werfel made it clear that this new auditing effort on nonfilers is aimed at high-income tax cheats. That is in accordance with a Treasury directive by Secretary Janet Yellen that there would be no new enhanced IRS auditing on middle-class Americans. That makes sense.

The National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that audits aimed at the top 10 percent of Americans gen-

erate \$12 of revenue for every \$1 spent. That proportion declines dramatically with lower income filers.

It is a good thing that the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act is now at least partially restoring IRS's capacity to ensure that all of the rich actually file their returns and pay their fair share of taxes. It is a good thing that Democrats have blocked Republicans' efforts to once again cripple IRS's funding over the last year and a half.

Independent analysts such as the Congressional Budget Office have confirmed that this effort to track down scofflaws will actually cut the deficit. Indeed, the IRS announced that the Inflation Reduction Act effort will bring in 561 billion new dollars from 2024 to 2034.

For the 85 percent of Americans who work hard and play by the rules—teachers, cops, nurses, factory workers, office workers, retirees, military servicemembers, to name just a few—who pay their taxes with each paycheck, making sure that the wealthy file their returns and pay, too, is fundamental to a fair and just society.

The Inflation Reduction Act is doing exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, so as this April 15 approaches, the message is now clear for the well-to-do delinquents: The free ride is over. You have to obey the law and file your return just like everyone else. This is not too much to ask. No more freeloaders.

#### BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office there have been 8.7 illegal crossings nationwide. There have been over 7.2 million illegal crossings of our southern border.

The total number of illegal immigrants who have entered through our southern border is greater than the population of 36 States, including Iowa.

Last week, the Republican-led House took a stand and passed the Laken Riley Act, legislation introduced by Representative MIKE COLLINS.

This is in addition to having passed H.R. 2, a border security and immigration bill.

This legislation honors the life and memory of Laken Riley and other victims of the Biden administration's open-border policies and endorses immigration laws.

The legislation also requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged with theft in the United States.

I voted for the Laken Riley Act to honor Laken Riley and protect our communities. I also voted in honor of the countless victims of the border crisis, the angel families, like Mollie Tibbetts, a 20-year-old University of Iowa

student who was killed by an illegal immigrant from Mexico, who lived in the United States for several years before murdering Mollie. Like Laken Riley, Mollie was out for a jog.

These heartbreaking stories of both Laken and Mollie are a constant reminder that our immigration system is broken and that the Biden border crisis is worsening by the minute.

Remember, it was President Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, who said more than a thousand immigrants crossing the border is a crisis.

In Iowa, according to the last CDC "Drug Overdose Mortality by State" report, in 2021 we had a record high of 475 overdose deaths. Across the Nation, overdose deaths cost the U.S. \$1 trillion per year. In San Francisco, during COVID, there were more deaths from overdose in the 18- to 45-year-old age group than deaths from COVID.

Yet, during the President's State of the Union Address last week, he delivered a lackluster campaign speech masked as a State of the Union Address that was divisive, touted empty policies, and swept the chaos at our southern border under the rug, all while putting blame on somebody else instead of where it resides, and that is with President Biden and his administration.

I am not surprised that the President failed to mention the decline of our Nation during his State of the Union Address, but I am disappointed. I am disappointed at the President's prized appearances—the appearance of a strong Nation, the appearance of a strong economy—over the harsh realities that many Americans face.

We cannot continue to ignore this aggressive overreach of the Biden administration and the mounting border crisis due to his overturning of policies and not enforcing immigration laws.

I will not ignore the mounting crisis, and I urge my colleagues to join me and work to keep our communities safe from the Biden border crisis and the fentanyl and illegal drugs that are crossing our border.

#### CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Iowa's women's basketball team.

Yesterday, the incredible team won their third consecutive Big Ten Tournament title.

Led by Coach Bluder, the Hawkeyes beat Nebraska in overtime. The team did an outstanding job.

Hannah Stuelke had 9 rebounds, Sydney Affolter registered her third straight 10-point performance and second career double-double with 11 points and a team-best 11 rebounds. Gabby Marshall and Kate Martin were instrumental in getting us to overtime, and Caitlin Clark was named the Big Ten Tournament MVP for the third consecutive tournament.

Caitlin is only the second player since 1995 to earn MVP honors in three consecutive State tournaments.

I am extremely proud of our women's basketball team on their stellar performance and their record-breaking season. Job well done.

Congratulations to the University of Iowa women's basketball team on winning the Big Ten Tournament.

Go Hawks.

□ 1215

#### ECONOMIC STATISTICS MISSING FROM STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden delivered hopefully his final State of the Union Address that included heavily selective statistics that painted a one-sided account of the state of our economy. I rise to add some important context that gives a better snapshot of the economic conditions facing working families I represent in Tennessee.

For starters, American families now spend an average of \$1,000 more per month than 3 years ago just to get by. This means they are paying 20 percent more for necessities like food and rent and nearly 30 percent more to power and heat their homes. It is a staggering \$11,400 more every year just on the basics, just to get by.

The average monthly payment on a new home was \$1,746 before this President. Now, the average mortgage on a new home is \$3,322 every month. That is almost double. These rising mortgage payments are a direct result of higher interest rates, which are due to the reckless and runaway spending of this administration.

I believe it wouldn't have been this way if President Biden had heeded the advice of economists from both parties and fiscal conservatives like myself. Had he not advocated for the disastrous spending bills, which passed on a mostly partisan basis, the economy would not have overheated to the extent that it has.

The \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that the President proposed and passed early in his administration directly links to the soaring inflation that immediately followed, and it was to be expected. In fact, former Democratic Treasury Secretary Larry Summers predicted exactly this outcome.

Making matters worse, this administration has hardly mentioned the ballooning national debt, which now approaches \$34.5 trillion. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, the Federal Government spent half a trillion more than it collected. This is simply unsustainable.

In his address last week, we also heard the President tout small business growth and low employment. The speech, however, did not include the barriers employers around the country endure because of his administration's policies. To date, the Biden administration has finalized 838 new regula-

tions, which come with a projected negative economic impact of \$470 billion annually and 291 million hours of additional paperwork for American workers.

I will close with another statistic. A recent national poll shows that only 38 percent of voters approve of this administration's handling of the economy. More than half of those polled believe President Biden's policies will continue to increase prices. I agree.

That is just one of the reasons I am committed to supporting policies that foster economic growth, unburden our job creators, and end the reckless and unnecessary deficit spending.

Our children, my children, cannot afford the reckless spending policies of this administration, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that they do not have to foot the bill for this administration's mistakes and misguided policies.

#### REMEMBERING MARION CAMARDO

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Marion Camardo.

Marion was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who passed away on November 1, 2023. Throughout her long and admirable life, she made a significant contribution to her family and community in historic Auburn, New York.

I am so grateful that I had the honor and privilege to meet Marion. Her kindness and love shone through her gleaming and welcoming smile.

I also welcome here in the Chamber today her son John and grandson Anthony as they sit and actually get to witness a beautiful memory of their great mother and grandmother.

Marion was born in East Rochester, New York, to Ralph and Argerinda Reginelli on August 28, 1929, and moved to Auburn as a child. After graduating from Auburn Central High School, she worked at several clothing stores and went on to manage Stevens Department Store.

Marion married Joseph Camardo in 1955 and eventually grew their family to include their children, Joseph Jr., MaryAnn, Donna, John, and Lisa. Leaning on her good business sense, she earned a small fortune and was able to send all of her children to college.

I can say from experience that Marion raised her children to be kind, tenacious, and community-oriented, as her son, John, who is here today, has become a good friend and is a leader in our community.

Marion was also a respected community leader herself, being part of the Italian Heritage Society and a patron of the Auburn Civic Band. She continued her civic duty as an elections inspector for the board of elections and participated in elections, serving on

the Cayuga County Republican Committee. She was known for her flair for design, which she took to create a beautiful home for her family to host parties throughout the decades in the community.

Marion led her community based on her faith, having served as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church and serving as a Eucharist minister and on the school and parish committees. Marion always served with distinguished humility and graciousness, having put faith and family ahead of herself.

For fun, Marion enjoyed the classic movies and music such as Frank Sinatra, Jr., and Cristina Fontanelli, both of whom she was instrumental in bringing to Auburn through her work at the Italian Heritage Society. Her joy in life was helping others and her family all while keeping herself humble and committed to embodying her faith outwardly.

As she was a woman of strong faith and devotion, it is heartwarming and maybe not coincidental that she passed away on All Saints Day, but not without waiting to be with her family one last time during her final moments. She parted her family with one last piece of advice, which is to never give up hope no matter how difficult life may be.

Today, we honor and remember Marion and her wonderful family. She is an inspiration for all to strive to maintain the values of compassion and commitment to our communities.

My sincere thanks to Marion for her wise advice. May God bless Marion, her family, and her community. We are grateful that she lived and this wonderful soul was part of our community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Praise be to You, O God our creator. In all that has been revealed to us, in all that we have received by Your grace, we greatly rejoice.

Though we face a multitude of challenges in our work, in our Nation, and