

the patient but also for our healthcare system.

Type 2 diabetes is a huge factor dealing with modern diet and our health habits. These factors, combined with genetics and limited access to healthcare, can make it a challenge to control blood sugar levels and contribute to the progression of the disease. It can result in serious, life-threatening consequences on relatively minor events.

People can have a problem with their foot. It starts small with some nerve damage and maybe a foot ulcer, but it explodes, if untreated, to more intense conditions like gangrene and requires amputation to save the life of the patient.

Nearly half of diabetes patients develop this nerve damage, and many go on to develop the foot ulcers I referenced. It is worse for people of color. African Americans are two to three times more likely to need an amputation.

When we know that millions of Americans suffer from diabetes and face dire complications, why wouldn't we take the opportunity to do everything in our power to limit the progression of the disease? There are, in fact, low-cost solutions that can remedy the situation.

One that I have been working on for several years is a simple treatment of diabetic shoes, which deal with the foot conditions that are such a problem for people with diabetes, that can help prevent the problems that lead to those amputations.

Unfortunately, diabetic shoes require a prescription from a doctor. I mean, it is not rocket science. It could be done by a nurse practitioner or by a physician assistant, but we don't allow that. It is also an extra barrier for people who have problems navigating the healthcare system; they might give up or ignore it. It results in extra cost and extra time.

These delays can have profound consequences, as I mentioned. It is not a barrier for people with private insurance; if they needed these shoes when they were at 64, it wouldn't be a problem.

Congressman LAHOOD and I have a simple legislative fix to address this unnecessary quirk in our healthcare system. It would allow nurse practitioners and physicians assistants to satisfy the documentation requirements, at no extra cost to the patient, no extra delays, and do it directly. You shouldn't need a doctor to prescribe these shoes.

This is just one of dozens of examples of commonsense, bipartisan reforms that will reduce spending, improve outcomes, and, in fact, save lives and limbs. I hope we can focus on simple, commonsense things like this that are bipartisan in nature that aren't expensive and that make sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to save a life and save a limb.

TRIBUTE TO MADISON MARSH

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the new Miss America, Madison Marsh; that is, Second Lieutenant Madison Marsh of Fort Smith, Arkansas, crowned Miss America 2024 in ceremonies in Orlando, Florida, last Sunday.

Now, for the record, Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that she competed under the title of Miss Colorado, having been a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

This amazing young lady graduated from Fort Smith Southside High School in 2019, and it was in the foyer of her high school where I first became acquainted with her. She met with me to discuss the possibility of her attending the Air Force Academy. After a brief discussion, it became clear to me that she had all the attributes we look for in future military officers, and she earned the designation as my principal nominee to the academy that year. Soon thereafter, the academy brass agreed with my nomination and gave her an appointment.

In her 4 years at the academy, Lieutenant Marsh excelled at everything, and she graduated and received her commission in the Air Force in June of 2023.

Just prior to graduation, however, she won the title of Miss Colorado and earned a trip to the Miss America Pageant, where she became the first military officer in the history of the pageant to compete for the title of Miss America. Then, on Sunday, last Sunday, just before 10 o'clock eastern time, she was crowned Miss America.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to put into words how proud I am of this young lady. In this job, I have the opportunity to work with a lot of very special people. She is certainly one of them.

Few people have the blend of intellect, talent, poise, fitness, and beauty as Madison Marsh—an astrophysics major, selected for pilot training, Truman Scholar, Rhodes finalist. Accepted into Harvard Kennedy School, she is well on her way to her advanced degree in this prestigious university—now, Miss America.

All of that is impressive, for sure, but one of the most redeeming qualities of this young lady is her passion for finding the cure for pancreatic cancer, a cause she has taken up due to the untimely death of her mother, Whitney, at age 41. That led to the founding of the Whitney Marsh Foundation, purposed in raising awareness and funding for pancreatic cancer research.

This new platform will give rise to an increased awareness of this dreadful disease, and Lieutenant Marsh is the perfect spokesperson.

I have had the privilege of being associated with three Miss Americas: Elizabeth Ward from my hometown of Russellville, Arkansas in 1982; Savvy

Shields, Miss America 2016 from Fayetteville, Arkansas; and now, the reigning Miss America, Madison Marsh.

What an honor, Mr. Speaker, to have played a small role in this young lady's success. We join her family, her father, Mike; sisters Heidi and Sarah; brothers Nick and Chris; and her extended family in congratulating Madison Marsh for this terrific honor.

I know Whitney, who is looking down from Heaven, is enormously proud of her daughter for what she has become. Now, the rest of America knows.

□ 1030

DTE WINTER OUTAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, DTE Energy, an investor-owned utility monopoly in southeast Michigan, charges some of the highest rates in our Nation but provides some of the most unreliable service. They also carry out hundreds of thousands of cruel utility shutoffs per year.

Over 100,000 DTE customers in southeast Michigan were forced to go days without power and heat during extreme cold and hot weather. This is because, instead of investing in reliability, DTE invests in profits and pays their shareholders and executives first. DTE's own CEO makes \$10 million a year while families in southeast Michigan are going without power, again, during some of the coldest days this past week.

Investor-owned utilities like DTE have failed to invest in the infrastructure upgrades to the grid that are necessary to prevent these outages. Instead, they are choosing to maximize profits for their shareholders while spending millions on campaign contributions to avoid real accountability in Lansing.

My residents are sick and tired of wealthy corporate executives lining their pockets while our neighbors are exploited and price gouged. That is why I am proud to have introduced a resolution with Congresswoman CORI BUSH and Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN. It is a resolution recognizing the human right to utilities.

It is important that we understand that access to utilities is not a privilege. It is a fundamental human right. In the richest country on Earth, every single family should not go without electricity, heat, and water.

We need utilities that serve the people, not shareholders. We need to take the profit motive out of the services we all need to live and thrive.

YEMEN STRIKES

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the billions of people all around the world who are demanding a cease-fire now.

The majority of Americans support de-escalation and a lasting cease-fire, yet the President has threatened to escalate this into a regional war instead

of doing anything to stop Netanyahu's genocidal bombing campaign.

Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are being murdered by American weapons funded by our tax dollars. Lebanese national civilians are being killed, and now the Yemeni people are under threat.

Prior to the Israeli Government's assault on Gaza, Yemen was facing the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth, with much of the population living on the brink of famine.

President Biden was legally required to seek authorization from Congress prior to launching these strikes. He did not do so and, as a result, has violated the United States Constitution. This is completely unacceptable.

Many of my colleagues have correctly called out the Biden administration for bypassing Congress. The American people do not want to be dragged into yet another endless war in the Middle East.

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY FOUNDERS' DAY

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with immense pride and joy in recognizing and celebrating the Founders' Day of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

This marks a time of reflection, appreciation, and unity for a sisterhood committed to the service of others.

Zeta Phi Beta was founded on the principles of scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood. This sisterhood has fostered academic excellence and empowerment in our communities. From educational initiatives to advocating for social justice, Zeta Phi Beta has been a force for good.

We continue to honor the vision of our founders: Arizona Cleaver Stemmons, Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, and Viola Tyler Goings.

Happy Founders' Day to my sorors of Zeta Phi Beta. I am so proud to be a part of the sisterhood. To all of the January D9 family, happy Founders' Day. May their commitment to excellence and service continue to inspire us all.

BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the ongoing crisis at the southern border, President Biden's failure of leadership, and the dire need to fix this crisis now.

Every year, I hold a townhall in each of the 60 counties in the Big First District. I just finished townhall 22 for this year, and at each of those townhalls, Kansans have brought up the border crisis as one of the top issues on their minds. I share their outrage. The crisis at our southern border is unnecessary, and President Biden has only escalated it.

Since President Biden took office, there have been more than 7 million illegal encounters at our southern bor-

der. There have been 2 million known got-aways. These are just the people whom we know about who avoided apprehension and entered our country illegally. That is nearly 13 congressional districts and is over three times the population of the State of Kansas.

There have been 312 suspects on the terrorist watch list apprehended trying to cross our southern border. No one knows how many terrorists actually made it into our country.

Meanwhile, crime is spiking; our brave Border Patrol agents are overwhelmed; and lethal drugs like fentanyl are pouring into this country, wreaking havoc on our families and killing Americans.

The word is out all over the world: President Biden hasn't just created a porous southern border. He has created a wide-open border with a welcome mat, and he has done so with disregard for law and order.

I have been to the southern border. I saw human heartbreak, scared children, overcrowded facilities, and evidence of crimes committed by Mexican cartels, which are making \$13 billion a year smuggling people and drugs into our country.

I also saw giant sections of the unfinished border wall with the materials to finish those sections literally sitting there, lying in piles in the sun.

Fixing the border crisis isn't rocket science. It would just take a few commonsense steps.

House Republicans have done our job. Eight months ago, we passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. That legislation required the Biden administration to restart construction of the southern border wall, deploy state-of-the-art technology to strengthen the border security system, ensure transparency from the Department of Homeland Security regarding illegal crossings, and increase the number of Border Patrol agents.

The Secure the Border Act would also strengthen existing laws to protect children from human trafficking, terminate catch and release, end the abuse of executive immigration authority, and make critical reforms to streamline the asylum process.

Those are commonsense steps to fix the border crisis. It is time for the U.S. Senate and President Biden to act.

President Biden needs to fix this crisis now. He needs to end catch and release, stop the abuse of the asylum system, finish the wall, invest in more Border Patrol agents, and reinstate the remain in Mexico policy.

It is estimated that if President Biden would just reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, which he inherited on day one of his Presidency and which was working until he reversed it, then it could reduce the flow of migrants to the border by up to 70 percent.

Again, the legislation to do all of this has already passed in the House. President Biden could end this crisis today if he wanted to.

Migrant encounters at the southern border hit a new record last month at

302,000, with 12,600 on December 18, which was a single-day record. If that doesn't wake up the administration to reality, then I am not sure what will. Let's fix the problem at our southern border and secure our country now.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, when the child tax credit was originally expanded by the American Rescue Plan in 2021, it provided a lifeline to families during very serious economic hardship.

The benefit allowed families to receive an extra \$3,600 annually for kids under the age of 6 years old and \$3,000 annually for children over 6 years of age. In my district, the child tax credit provided \$185 million to 123,000 children and 47,000 families.

The expansion lifted 13,700 children in my district out of poverty. It is a district with a median household income of \$48,638 and where emergency room visits for children with asthma are 20 times higher in the Bronx than any other borough. An average of 28 percent of residents are paying 50 percent or more of their income in rent. It is a district where about 84 percent of the 475,000 households earn below the poverty level and have a severe rent burden.

Mr. Speaker, students in the school districts that I represent receive some of the highest rates of title I funding in the city.

I am heartened to hear of the negotiations that will include an expanded child tax credit for low-income families. However, the agreement fails to make the full child tax credit available as a refund to families with little or no taxable income. I don't get this. All of a sudden, this is leaving the neediest families, the lowest earning families, out of the benefit. They will receive no child tax credit.

The objectors to this are the same folks who share this floor and, time after time, refer to the Bible. They say that the Bible states that we must feed the hungry. They say that the Bible states that we must shelter the homeless. They say that the Bible says that we must provide clothing to those who are needy. They say that the Bible says that we must welcome strangers.

Mr. Speaker, the same Holy Book that they refer to year after year says that we must welcome strangers. Now, I can share with you that it says, for example, in Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me."

Yet, these folks oppose helping the neediest, and they go back home every week to their districts and rely on the Holy Book that says completely the opposite.

We just heard it right here on the floor, Mr. Speaker.