

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.

Under the framework, again, the lowest earning families will receive no child tax credit. It is crucial that the tax framework be improved to ensure that substantial tax cuts to working-class families are there and that they receive that benefit just as we did back in 2021.

The naysayers are either with the Holy Book or not. The naysayers cannot continue to oppose the neediest. We have to provide this help to America's neediest families. It is at the very center of who we are as a country.

Let's welcome the strangers. The economy needs them. Historically, we have not been able to move forward without the help of them. Every chapter of our history that has seen a major transformation in our economy has seen the presence of strangers. Let's give them the help that they need.

DENOUNCING BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S OPEN-BORDER POLICIES

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, President Biden and the Biden administration have surrendered the southern border, and the policies of this administration continue to make worse a national security crisis, a public safety crisis, and a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions.

Earlier this month, I joined my colleagues visiting, again, the southern border and saw firsthand that despite the heroic work of Border Patrol officers and despite every effort of the men and women serving in this Nation, we have seen a total collapse in our border security system.

There is unfettered fentanyl trafficking, a record 7 million illegal crossings, and strained communities and law enforcement throughout our Southern States.

This crisis, though, isn't isolated only to border States. In fact, because of the failure of this administration, every State is a border State. Because of the decisions made by mayors like the one in New York City, communities like ours continue to face growing challenges and a growing crisis.

The communities I represent are strained to provide services to those who are homeless and housing insecure, those who are hungry and need help, and those who struggle with mental health and substance use disorder.

Yet, the President and the Governor of the State of New York continue to allow Mayor Eric Adams to circumvent the law and transport human souls to communities in upstate New York.

Deadly drug trafficking continues, with fentanyl and synthetic opioids pouring into our country and into communities, taking countless American lives.

We have a means to end this crisis. The President has the tools and resources at his disposal today to con-

front the crisis in a way that recognizes a concern for national security and in a way that is compassionate. He chooses not to.

The House has adopted H.R. 2, which would strengthen border security, enhance the asylum-seeking vetting process, and support and care for unaccompanied minors. Yet, we see no progress from the Senate or the President in embracing those policies.

There is a solution to securing our border, and we must act now. The President needs to not only acknowledge the problem but work in a bipartisan fashion to recognize the tools at his disposal and to secure our border.

□ 1045

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SENIOR SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER FILLI OF THE HUDSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Senior Sergeant Christopher Filli of the Hudson City Police Department in Columbia County in upstate New York and acknowledging with a heavy heart the untimely passing of a man who embodied the essence of community, duty, and passion.

I know his family and knew Chris to be a devoted husband, father, and son. He left us on January 12, 2024, while faithfully serving the community he loved.

His journey began on January 19, 1973, and over the course of 22 years, he demonstrated exceptional commitment and selfless service to the Hudson City Police Department and the Hudson community.

From his early days with the Copake and Philmont Police Departments to his final role as senior sergeant, Chris' dedication was unwavering. He not only protected the city of Hudson, but also found joy in a second career as the owner of Chris Filli & Son Tree Service, Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, we will always remember Chris for being a family man, cherishing every moment spent with his wife, Megan, and their children, creating a legacy of love and great devotion. We are heartbroken but stand united in honoring Chris' memory. May he rest in peace, and may his legacy of dedication to his community and his family live on in our hearts.

PROTECTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN ACROSS OUR NATION

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today ahead of the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade to urge my colleagues to take action to protect reproductive freedom, which has been under assault since the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe in the 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

I was 1 month old when the Roe decision came down, and I had peace of

mind when entering my childbearing years that any decision on when to become a mother would be mine, and that any pregnancy-related decisions that I had to make would be between me, my partner, and my medical provider.

Thirteen years ago, I became the first member of the Virginia House of Delegates to be pregnant while in office. As a Black woman in a Nation grappling with a maternal and infant health crisis, I researched everything that could go right and everything that could wrong.

The conversations with my OB opened my eyes to the impact that abortion restrictions can have on pregnancy management decisions, and my doctor shared stories.

My doctor shared stories like Suzie, a married 30-something with a hole in her heart who was on birth control but got pregnant anyway; or Beth, a pregnant woman who developed cancer.

Each faced a heartbreaking choice of whether to terminate the pregnancy or sacrifice her life.

There was Mary, who underwent fertility treatments to have a child and got pregnant with octuplets. The odds of carrying the pregnancy were very low, but if she reduced the pregnancy to two, the odds were better than 50/50 that both would survive.

There was Amy, who suffered an incomplete or missed miscarriage in which the fetus dies but remains in the uterus. Often a medical procedure, an abortion, is required to remove the fetus and the placenta to avoid infection, sepsis, and death.

There was Robin, whose fetus developed the most severe form of spina bifida, with horrific deformities. Her doctor suspected that the baby was already paralyzed from the waist down, and that the paralysis would spread as he grew. He was not expected to survive.

I heard story after story, and I thought about how the abortion restrictions that I saw proposed then in Virginia and across the country would have taken away decisions on the best course of treatment for those patients.

In today's post-Dobbs world, we are witnessing the devastating impacts of restrictive abortion laws on mothers and families across the United States right now.

This anniversary of Roe is an important reminder that we must continue fighting to ensure that every American has access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, and that we do not insert the judgment of politicians in State legislatures or here in Washington for those of the healthcare providers' and patients' judgment.

During my second pregnancy, I had placenta previa. I was aware of the risks associated with it, but that didn't stop me from being terrified when, 9 weeks before my due date, my placenta ruptured. I was rushed into the hospital and had an emergency C-section.

Both my daughter and I nearly died.

It was one of the scariest days of my life. However, I had peace of mind