

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

knowing that my doctor in that moment would make the decision she felt best to provide the treatment necessary based on the standard of care without fear of punishment from politicians if things went wrong.

Thankfully, that delivery was successful and many of you have come to know my daughter, Samantha, as a thriving, precocious, healthy little girl.

However, when she reaches child-bearing years, will she have fewer rights than I did when I gave birth to her?

That very thought makes me furious. It makes me livid that I am the first member of my family to lose a constitutional right in my lifetime. That reality has motivated me more than ever to protect reproductive freedom just as I did as a State legislator, passing legislation that makes Virginia the only State in the South without an abortion ban or extreme restrictions post-Dobbs.

I will continue to fight for reproductive freedom for patients and providers to make the choice they believe is best given their necessary circumstances without interference from Washington or State legislatures.

#### CRISIS UNFOLDING AT SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the crisis unfolding at the southern border, a crisis that has been grossly neglected by the Biden administration.

Let's be clear: Texas is stepping up to the plate, because under President Joe Biden's failed leadership, the Federal Government has abdicated its responsibilities.

Under the Constitution, it is the Federal Government's job to secure our borders. If the Biden administration did its duty, Texas law enforcement officials could focus on local issues, not Federal issues. However, President Biden won't even acknowledge the crisis at our doorstep, and that is why Texas is leading the charge on border security.

This was entirely avoidable. How do we know this? Due to President Biden's decision to roll back effective border security policies it has sparked an unprecedented increase in illegal immigration, leaving Texas in the untenable position of having to manage this crisis.

The Biden administration's current lawsuit against Texas underscores its own failures.

In south Texas, we are on the front lines of this crisis, witnessing the chaos and the strain that illegal crossings are causing to local communities. This isn't just a policy failure; it represents a clear and present danger to our local communities, to extremely vulnerable immigrants, and really to all Americans.

Let me also address some of the other nonsense we are hearing from the other side.

My name is MONICA DE LA CRUZ. I am the granddaughter of Mexican "campesinos," "farmers," and I am from Hidalgo County, which is over 90 percent Hispanic. In fact, no one would ever confuse my children or me as anything other than Hispanic. We are very proud of our Latino heritage, so this entire notion that concerns over border security are somehow anti-immigrant or racist is itself racist.

The bigotry of low expectations that assumes that just because we are Hispanic, we do not care about this country's laws, and that we do not care about having safe and secure borders is simply not true. In fact, it is just ignorant.

Mark my words, the Biden White House's refusal to address this crisis and its insistence on labeling those who are concerned with border security as racist will cost this administration dearly.

We do not like this mess. Guess what? It affects our neighborhoods, our bodegas, our kids' schools. They are all on the front lines of this crisis, along with those of the millions of other patriotic Americans.

We are sick and tired of weak border policies being misrepresented as compassionate. No, Mr. Speaker. True compassion is enforcing our country's immigration laws, requiring people to come here legally and safely, and protecting Americans from the dangers posed by weak borders.

As a Congresswoman, I refuse to stand idly by. The situation we are facing is detrimental and it is inhumane, not only to Texans, but also to the American people and those who are being exploited by the coyotes and the cartels.

This crisis demands immediate and effective Federal attention, which we have yet to see under the Biden administration.

#### WE NEED TO FIX OUR OUTDATED, BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today about a place that I love, and a place that is vitally important to our Nation.

I am a proud product of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, a culturally rich binational community, full of opportunity, which helps power international trade and is key to bringing down the costs of goods for all Americans.

I understand how disillusioned Americans have become when it comes to addressing our broken immigration system and the challenges that we currently face at the border.

I am frustrated myself. That is why I stand here today saying that both

Democrats and Republicans have not done enough to fix our outdated, broken immigration system. The administration should look to the leadership and the experience of border House Representatives, like myself, on immigration reform and border security.

Let me be clear: Republicans haven't brought forward any real bipartisan solutions that could help alleviate the impacts of the humanitarian crisis that we are seeing today.

In fact, just this week, Republicans introduced a toothless resolution that only serves as a political statement that vilifies immigrants.

Further, Republicans did this in the same week that extreme rightwing immigration policies in the State of Texas led to the death of two migrant children who drowned in the Rio Grande. This is disgraceful. It is not who we are. It is un-American.

Trust me, I am tired of Congress kicking this can down the road for over 30 years. That is why I have introduced a package of commonsense legislation that could help solve this problem.

We can fix this crisis, but we can't do it while we lose our humanity. We can do that by securing our border, while also ensuring immigrants are treated humanely. After all, we are a Nation of immigrants.

That means investing in customs agents who work long hours and providing them with the tools they need to do their jobs. It means modernizing our legal system to match our needs. It means giving new Americans the opportunity to fill the jobs that our Nation and our communities desperately need.

I am a proud Democrat, but I am an American first, and right now that means holding everybody accountable to bring real solutions to the American people.

□ 1100

#### SCHOOL CHOICE EMPOWERS FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. STEEL). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, Monday marks the beginning of National School Choice Week, a time to celebrate and explore the various education options available to students and parents.

Education is the cornerstone of opportunity in America, and we must spare no effort in laying the foundation for our students to prosper. Educational freedom is essential in these efforts and begets success for America's children while offering parents the resources to support their child's future.

No two students are the same, but that is the strength of school choice: empowering students and their families to select the environment that best supports their individual goals and specific needs.