

have seen firsthand how heartbreaking and expensive struggling to conceive can be. I firmly believe as lawmakers that it is our duty to support these families, not to restrict their access to reproductive healthcare.

Everyone deserves access to the full range of assisted reproductive technologies to help them start or grow their families, including treatments like in vitro fertilization, or IVF. That is why I am so proud to join Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH today to introduce the Access to Family Building Act, which would codify the right to assisted reproduction technologies and ensure that no State law can infringe upon this right.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can all agree that we should support hopeful parents, and I call on my friends on both sides of the aisle to join me in bringing this legislation to the floor.

REMEMBERING HEROIC FIRE-FIGHTER STERLING "BUTCH" RAHE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of longtime heroic Ohio firefighter, Sterling "Butch" Rahe, who passed away on New Year's Day.

Butch served our community for over 30 years, three decades, as a firefighter in both Springfield Township and Toledo, most recently acting as the public face of the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, which is a really hard job.

Former Toledo Fire Chief Brian Byrd said: The fact that Butch loved the people he served and the people with whom he served is indisputable. We all thank him.

Springfield Township Fire Chief Barry Cousino said: He was a fireman's fireman. He loved what he did. Whenever he got in the public, he always treated people with respect and treated them like family.

In fitting tribute, his homegoing procession made stops by Springfield Township Fire Station 51 and Toledo Fire Station 17, where he served, for one final good-bye with crowds gathered on both sides of the street to pay their respects as the procession went by.

Mr. Speaker, I offer fitting tribute and a community-wide deep thank you for his service. He will truly be missed. Every grateful person and family he assisted will remember him by his countless acts of mercy and love.

FEEDING THE CHILDREN OF TEXAS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank President Joseph Biden

and Vice President Kamala Harris for working with those of us who have a deep abiding concern for our children.

I chair the Congressional Children's Caucus, and I was delighted that we were able to provide for the summer feeding youth program that will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner for our children in the summer when they are not on a program that is held during the school year.

This is a vital program. It is a program that simply has the opportunity for our State to match and the Federal Government then matches and provides hungry children a lifeline.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking publicly for the State of Texas to accept the summer feeding program and to be one of the 35 States that have already accepted this program to participate in, so that the 3 million children in the State of Texas, and the nearly 100,000 in my congressional district, and possibly 1 million in the region that I represent would have the ability to eat.

Don't you want our children of Texas to eat? Let us participate in the summer feeding program. Let's do it now.

FAREWELL SPEECH BY REPRESENTATIVE BILL JOHNSON OF OHIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUARTE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for recognizing me this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a bittersweet message for my colleagues.

After more than a dozen years here in the House of Representatives, I am retiring/resigning this week.

I have so loved this work. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve the good people of eastern and southeastern Ohio.

To many, the people I represent are just the flown-over or flyover country, but they are truly so much more.

From Youngstown to Portsmouth, to St. Clairsville to Zanesville, these are people who care deeply. They are hard-working men and women, with strong values and a proud legacy of doing the hard things that keep America moving forward—mining coal, making steel, and producing oil and natural gas. So often they do it with the deck stacked against them, mocked by political elites who wish they would simply go away.

Leaving Washington, believe me, will be easy, but leaving my job, representing these fine folks, is hard.

I hear a new call. It is a call to help prepare the next generation of American leaders. I will be doing it at one of our country's finest public institutions of higher learning, Youngstown State University.

It took a unique offer for me to leave the people's House, but becoming presi-

dent of Youngstown State is a challenge I felt I must accept.

Working with our young people to shape the future excites me and gives me hope and zeal for the work ahead.

This brings me to my main message today. It might seem out of step in today's culture, but it is something everyone must hear. The message is simple: America is exceptional.

The Founding Fathers knew it, and on July 4, 1776, when they declared it out loud, the rest of the world soon found out that it was true also. They knew it, too.

Those men laid down a bedrock foundation on the principles of personal liberty, free enterprise, and a representative government accountable to the people. It is, without a doubt, the greatest government ever created in the history of humanity.

Now, my life has been a constant journey to serve my country, from my 26-plus years in the United States Air Force to this journey of servicing Congress and into my next chapter leading one of Ohio's finest universities.

My commitment to service is because of the debt of gratitude that I owe. I grew up poor, but this country has given me the opportunity to prosper.

I have lived the American Dream, and that has kindled optimism in my heart.

Sure, I know that watching the news or reading comments on the internet today can be depressing, but I truly don't believe these divisions that are rocking our Nation today will hold.

That is because deep down we all want the same thing here in America—peace, freedom, and the ability to pursue the American Dream on our own terms and to build a life. We mustn't let voices of anger shred our American sense of self.

In President George Washington's farewell address, he encouraged his countrymen to recognize and enjoy the fruits of the new Constitution and national government that fostered liberty and opportunity.

His message resonates down through the generations even today. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, we all enjoy the same liberty. Liberal, moderates, and conservatives, we all have the same opportunities.

These are our common threads. Let's strengthen the fabric that binds us together. We can disagree without dissolving that bond. Indeed, that is the only way forward.

My new workplace will be a university campus, which is an ideal place for disagreements and debate to happen in a way that is civil and educational. We should and we will foster discussion even if the result is merely acceptance of differing views.

That is what George Washington and our Founders fought for, and it is the ideal that makes America different and better than other countries. It is one of the many reasons America is exceptional.

For that, I am most thankful.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention just a few people for whom I am also thankful.

It would be impossible to list everyone standing here today. I don't have but 60 minutes, and it would take far longer than that, but know that you are in my thoughts of appreciation as I close one chapter and prepare to open another.

First to my staff, past and present, led by chief of staff Mike Smullen and district director Sarah Keeler. I know that there is no more hardworking team here, working not for me, but working on behalf of the people of eastern and southeastern Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my staff Mike, Sarah, and the rest of the team. I could not have done it without them.

I also thank my colleagues here on both sides of the aisle with whom I have developed lifelong friendships, the likes of which can only be forged in the trenches of hard work and service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my campaign team that has stayed remarkably intact since the early days in 2009 when we sat around a kitchen table to discuss running for Congress. I thank them all.

I offer a resounding thank you to the voters of eastern and southeastern Ohio for supporting me across multiple districts that has seen us represent 19 different counties in different configurations over the last 13 years.

Servicing Congress is a sacrifice, both for us as Members and for those around us as well—our families.

Mr. Speaker, I end here by thanking my children—Josh, Julie, Jessica, and Nathan, and my extended family for putting up with the crazy session schedules and helping me during this journey when I missed so many of our family activities and couldn't be there.

Lastly, and most importantly, to my wife, LeeAnn. She would have been in the gallery today, but it is cold outside. I have always said from the day we met, the first time that I laid eyes on you, you have made me a better man, a better human being. You have sacrificed more than anyone else, and it was you that made all of this possible by being my loving partner and standing by me in some of the toughest times. I couldn't have done it without you by my side. Thank you, LeeAnn, the love of my life.

Mr. Speaker, thank you, and farewell.

I say for the last time, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

We appreciate him. I played with him on the baseball team. He was the catcher, and we will miss his catching abilities. God bless him in his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding to me. I, too, wish our friend from Ohio well in his future endeavors and appreciated serving with him in the Chamber and appreciate the same sacrifices with respect to our family, our children, and our wives when we are here traveling and the things that we miss out on. I do wish him well.

Today, in the House of Representatives, we voted by suspension of the rules what is called a continuing resolution to continue the funding of government at its current levels. Now, that is just another way in D.C.-speak of saying we aren't doing our job to pass appropriations bills through what we call regular order, the way that you would expect us to do it, send it to the Senate, negotiate back and forth, and then take that and do our job to do the work of the people on how we spend their money.

Last year, we set out to change the way the House works, the gentleman from Arizona knows. We made some progress actually. I had hope. We had moved in the right direction. We passed 10 appropriations of 12 out of committee. We had two ready to go. Seven we passed off the floor of the House.

We passed them not at the level I would prefer—a lower level—but we did pass them at the agreed-upon level last year under the FRA, the debt deal that capped spending. Again, we should have capped it a lot lower. It represented a mere 1 percent cut from last year's bloated level of spending under Speaker NANCY PELOSI passed at the eleventh hour in December of 2022.

Every member of the Republican Conference here today except for two opposed that bill, voted against that omnibus spending bill. They spoke out against it and put out press releases against it. They said that it was enormously expensive, adding up to our debt, passing policies we didn't agree on, done at the eleventh hour right before Christmas. There was massive opposition. Only two in this Chamber on the Republican side voted for it.

Fast forward. Last year, a deal was made and caps were put in place. We got our appropriations bills sent over to the Senate trying to do it at those levels, even though it was a mere just 1 percent cut. I would like to see a 10 percent or 20 percent cut. We wanted to get to pre-COVID spending levels, but this body on a bipartisan basis—a majority of Republicans and a majority of Democrats—sent to the Senate a debt deal, lifting the debt \$4 trillion. For that, we were supposed to get a 1 percent cut.

Then there is something in this town called side deals.

Does that sound swampy? It is.

There were side deals, agreements saying, no, no, no, that won't be the real deal.

Do you know how I know that? Because the Democratic ranking member on the Appropriations Committee appeared before the Rules Committee about a month ago and said: Well, I voted against the FRA, the debt deal, because the side deals weren't written in it.

Now, she only admitted that after she had said you are not following the law. I said: Well, where in the law are the side deals? Oh, well, they are not in the law. In fact, in her public statement last year, she voted against it and said: I voted against it because they weren't in the law.

Yet today, Senate Democrats and House Republicans were negotiating spending at the level of not the caps, but the caps plus the side deals. That is to say, in plain English, PELOSI spending levels plus another \$30 to \$40 billion. That is what is happening in the swamp.

However, they couldn't get it done. They couldn't get it done fast enough. So here we are again after we have twice extended NANCY PELOSI's spending levels without getting the appropriations bills done, not getting our job done, not getting the work finished, and today we just agreed—the Senate sent over here another continuing resolution to fund government at NANCY PELOSI's levels, and we concurred in that.

Now, it is not just the debt. It is not just the spending. It is not just the fact that we are \$34 trillion in debt. It is what we are funding. It is the policies we are continuing. That is the problem.

Here are just a few. The continuing resolution that we just voted for, a near perfect divide down the Republican Conference, 107 to 106. House leadership had to scurry around to whip up the votes to ensure a majority of Republicans supported this terrible bill.

What did we fund? Again, spending at the level of \$1.6-something trillion, NANCY PELOSI's levels, we funded Biden's border crisis while we are currently trying to impeach the Secretary of Homeland Security for failing to secure the border, ignoring his duty to maintain operational control and endangering Americans. Fentanyl is pouring in. We are empowering China, empowering cartels. He lied to us under oath. We are giving him the money. Let's impeach him, but let's keep giving him the money.

A weaponized IRS, an Internal Revenue Service targeting the American people.

A weaponized Department of Justice and FBI that targeted Scott Smith in Loudoun County and Mark Houck, a dad in Philadelphia. Give them the money. Build them a brand-new headquarters. Give them the money.

EPA, electric vehicle mandates. We are piling up electric vehicles on the lots of car dealerships around the country. We have a mandate going into