

Most significantly, though, what has not been improved is the volume of migrants and the fact that there is still no other path than this desperate one for people who seek a better life in this vibrant and healthy economy. We don't need more of the same expensive Band-Aids but, rather, we need real reform, with more legal pathways to come here and to participate in our Nation's next 250 years.

I am committed to bipartisanship and to securing our border, and I am asking the very same of Congress. Specifically, I am asking the very same of our Speaker. The message that I share today is this: Our Republican leadership in Congress needs to commit to bringing bipartisan immigration reform bills like VERONICA ESCOBAR's bipartisan Dignity Act to the floor for a vote and now.

As an example, here is what the Dignity Act would do:

Number one, it would provide more money for CBP and border infrastructure to prevent illegal immigration.

Number two, it would require employers to verify the immigration status of workers and to ensure that they are here lawfully.

Number three, it would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, who are the children of immigrants who came here when they were very young.

Number four, it would establish a path to permanent residency status for eligible individuals without lawful immigration status who meet various requirements, including paying into a fund to provide training for U.S. workers.

Let us pause and think about what I have just shared—policies that the vast, vast majority of Americans agree on. If we, as a Congress, are not passing legislation that the vast, vast majority of Americans agree on, I truly believe, as my colleague Representative ELISSA SLOTKIN mentioned, we are derelict in our duties.

Efforts like the Senate bipartisan bill that was just introduced yesterday must also be considered and be voted on. While I am still reading through the details of the 370-page bill, I am encouraged by the very summary that I have seen. While the path forward on immigration reform will likely not be straightforward, this much is true: We must reach a compromise with real solutions to this complex conversation and issue right now.

Again, I am calling on Speaker JOHNSON to change his deeply cynical position that "now is not the time" for immigration reform. I couldn't disagree more. Most people in most communities across America couldn't disagree more.

No solution will be perfect, but we cannot let that keep us from making progress for both the American people and for those who seek refuge here.

Not too long ago it was, indeed, my own family seeking shelter. My father and my grandmother survived the Hol-

ocaust. They left war-torn Poland after World War II and sought a better way of life here in the United States. I saw my young dad and grandmother in the eyes of frightened, desperate, and hopeful migrants that I was able to meet last week.

One small family unit in particular struck me. He was a young man of probably no more than 20 years old with his beautiful, curly-headed toddler, who reminded me of my youngest child. He told me about traffickers taking pictures of his son to intimidate and extort the father into conformance with their threats and demands. We can do better.

A lot has changed since my own father and grandmother took a ship across the Atlantic Ocean to New York City, and our immigration laws must also change as well.

I honor the souls, both migrant and American, whose lives collide with each other every day at our borders, and I again urge Republican leadership to bring a bipartisan border bill to the House floor. We must seek the hope of fresh opportunities. The shadows that burden us must all be lifted. That is possible, but only if we here in Congress understand that this Nation depends on us to act and to act now.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan immigration reform.

□ 2120

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of my colleagues and so incredibly honored and privileged to be working alongside them toward this very noble purpose. I am so proud of my Republican colleagues, as well, and honored they are on this bill.

It is a strange thing to say, but it actually takes a lot of courage for people to compromise in this place. The U.S. Congress today, unfortunately, is in some ways set up to ensure that our divisions are even more deeply rooted and that the chasm between us is made even greater.

It really is up to each and every one of us to build a bridge over that chasm, to find that pathway toward unity, and to focus, really, on areas of agreement instead of areas of disagreement. It is what the American people want. It is what the American people deserve.

A couple of my colleagues mentioned the trip to El Paso last weekend. Since I was elected to Congress my first year in 2019, I have brought over 25 percent of Congress—that number is probably even higher now—to El Paso. I invite my colleagues to join me. The trips are really insightful. We don't just talk to Border Patrol agents. We actually do a very holistic evaluation and have robust conversations with everyone that a broken system touches.

It helps put into perspective how complex the solution really is and how unacceptable it is that we have gone so long without addressing this solution.

I am going to close with this, Mr. Speaker, because my colleagues have

done such an effective job of advocating for this bipartisan compromise. I mentioned just a little bit ago the large number of supporting organizations that have come to us and told us they want to help. They want to see this bill get to the floor. They want a solution. The organizations range from left leaning to right leaning and everything in between.

Last week, I had the opportunity to speak to the Power and Communication Contractors Association, a group that came to Washington specifically to advocate for the Dignity Act. This is not a group I reached out to. This is not a group that any of us called and invited to D.C. They heard about the bill. They shared it with each other. They are a trade organization that is trying to install broadband across this country, especially in rural areas, but they are up against workforce shortages.

When they learned of the Dignity Act, they reached out to me. They asked me to speak to their group. I visited with them last week in the evening after a long day here on Capitol Hill, and they gave me such inspiration.

If regular Americans who are just trying to do their jobs are coming to D.C. to beg us to do ours, something is very wrong, but something is also very right. That means the American people are finally demanding of us that we do our job.

I would be remiss if I didn't say this: My party should have worked to compromise a long time ago.

Colleagues of mine on the other side of the aisle today are refusing to compromise. They keep pointing to their bill, H.R. 2. They keep saying this is the solution. I can tell you it is not.

A fundamental component to H.R. 2, something that is rarely talked about but fundamental to H.R. 2, is that Mexico be willing to accept every migrant the U.S. decides to expel. That has never happened, nor will it ever happen, so H.R. 2 is not realistic.

House Democrats who are holding onto the perfect are not realistic, either.

Let's come together. Let's fix this once and for all. Let's get to work and bring this to the floor. Let's put everyone to the test. Do we want a solution, or do we not?

On behalf of my colleagues and the millions of Americans who are ready for this vote, let's get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for the opportunity to highlight this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

--- HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 30 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, February is Career and Technical Education Month. I join the Nation in commending all the educators who play a vital role in preparing America's students for prosperity in the 21st century economy. However, there is often a disconnect between the curriculum taught at schools and the skills required for in-demand jobs.

There are currently 9 million unfilled jobs in the United States, and job creators are struggling to find qualified workers. Career and technical education programs offer a practical solution to bridge this skills gap. These programs offer students hands-on experience and skills that will allow them to excel in the workforce. By equipping students with the competencies they need to be successful on the job, career and technical education programs give participants an invaluable head start.

Building a strong, skilled workforce is a national priority. Now is the time to strengthen career and technical education.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the Committee on Education and the Workforce advanced the College Cost Reduction Act, CCRA, a landmark bill that would lower the cost of postsecondary education and provide much-needed relief for countless students and families.

For too long, colleges have been given free rein to charge exorbitant tuition for degrees without a worthwhile economic benefit. This legislation would ensure that that is no longer the case.

Don't take my word for it. Preston Cooper from the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, FREOPP, states: "The College Cost Reduction Act would hold colleges and universities financially responsible for unpaid Federal student loans while delivering direct aid to institutions with low prices and strong student outcomes." Cooper notes the key provisions of the bill would save billions while lowering tuition costs. Those include loan repayment assistance.

The bill pares down the confusing array of Federal student loan repayment plans to two: a standard mortgage-style plan and an income-driven repayment plan.

Student loan risk sharing: Colleges, rather than students, are responsible for the cost of repayment assistance. Schools would be required to compensate the government for a portion of the forgiven unpaid interest associated with their former students.

Performance bonus: Schools may be eligible for new direct payments from the Federal Government known as

Promise grants. These payments are determined by a formula that rewards colleges for low-income student enrollment, high graduation rates, low tuition prices, and strong graduate earnings outcomes.

Loan limits: The bill caps aggregate student loan limits at \$50,000 for undergraduate students, \$100,000 for graduate students, and \$150,000 for students in graduate professional programs.

□ 2130

Maximum price guarantee: Colleagues must guarantee that the net tuition that students pay in their first year will not increase in subsequent years, for as long as the student is enrolled at the institution.

College is an investment for families, and they should know that graduates are receiving a financial return.

As such, the centerpiece of this legislation builds off of the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act and measures the return on investment of college programs by comparing the ratio of the total price students were charged relative to the value-added earnings graduates receive from their degree.

Not only does this metric provide a sector-neutral way to assess whether students are better or worse off for enrolling in a given program but provides a measure to which institutions can be held financially responsible or financially rewarded for the outcomes of their students.

This means that, among other actions, institutions can reduce or eliminate the risk-sharing penalties by lowering their price, and in doing so, can become eligible for additional performance-based funding, like PROMISE grants that require that, at a minimum, the total price paid by students is at least equal to the value-added earnings of graduates.

For example, Preston Cooper's analysis of the CCRA highlights several institutions who are promoting economic mobility and would benefit substantially under this legislation—the State Technical College of Missouri, which could receive millions in flexible performance-based PROMISE funding.

In fact, Cooper's analysis finds that almost 90 percent of community colleges would financially benefit under the bill after accounting for risk sharing and PROMISE grants.

Most importantly, the bill benefits students by ensuring that as a condition of receiving PROMISE grants, institutions would provide students an up-front, guaranteed price for their entire degree program.

This means that for up to a maximum of 6 years, colleges would lock in students' tuition, making it far easier to budget needed resources, and also to weigh the cost of postsecondary education against perceived future benefits, such as their value-added earnings.

Policy experts across postsecondary education agree that the CCRA will help lower college costs. Here is what others are saying about it:

Andrew Gillen of the Texas Public Policy Foundation:

"Much is in the College Cost Reduction Act, but the most important changes revolve around transparency, financial aid reforms, deregulation, and accountability. . . .

"Overall, the College Cost Reduction Act would be a dramatic improvement for higher education."

Michael Brickman of the American Enterprise Institute:

"The College Cost Reduction Act provides the first substantive and comprehensive proposal in years to reform the way colleges and universities are funded and held accountable. There's a lot to like."

Finally, Beth Akers of the American Enterprise Institute:

"The College Cost Reduction Act represents the largest serious and comprehensive higher education reform package in decades and, in theory, has plenty of bipartisan appeal."

Everyone can agree that college is too expensive and a temporary Band-Aid like one-time loan bailouts simply won't cut it.

The College Cost Reduction Act is a promise from this Congress to the next generation of students that we are pursuing lasting solutions to the value problem in postsecondary education. It is also a promise to taxpayers that they will no longer be forced to pay for someone else's debt.

You don't have to take our word for it, though. Go listen to and read the mounds of evidence in support of the CCRA. I am proud of the work of the committee to advance this bill, and I look forward to a robust debate upon it reaching the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

KLAMATH RIVER DAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) until 10 p.m.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an extremely important project, really a tragedy, that is happening in the very northern part of my district.

This evening, I am joined by my colleague, CLIFF BENTZ, to discuss the Klamath River and the hydroelectric dams that have been around for at least 60 to 100 years providing low-cost, reliable hydroelectric power for many, many residents and up to 70,000 homes.

Now we see the initiation of the destruction of these dams due to filling out the dreams, or what have you, of a handful of environmental groups that have enlisted efforts up there to destroy these dams, ostensibly, to establish a fish population of what is known to be a very warm lake with a lot of FOS feed in it on a very warm river.

Indeed, some of the things that happened to make this system up there work was over 100 years ago an original