

This legislative body needs to take more action beyond thoughts and prayers.

I introduced the Wear Orange Resolution this National Gun Violence Awareness Month in honor of Hadiya Pendleton. She would have turned 27 years old this month, but her life was cut short at 15 when she was shot and killed.

Every time I rise to urge Congress to pass commonsense gun safety laws, I remember Hadiya who should have been safe at a park.

Two years ago, we passed the first Federal gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years. We cannot wait another 30 years. It has only been a minute and 11 more people have died from gun violence.

DEBT BAILOUT DEEPENS DEFICIT

(Mr. FLOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the growing impact of President Biden's student loan bailouts on our Federal deficit.

Over the past 3 years, President Biden has repeatedly bypassed Congress and the courts to cancel student loans. His actions have fueled inflation and have now become the number one factor in growing the Federal deficit, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Let's be clear: Canceling student debt is not free. Just this year, student loan bailouts will cost the Federal taxpayers \$145 billion.

While debtors won't be responsible for their loans anymore, taxpayers will still be paying principal and interest.

Every dollar President Biden cancels in student loans adds directly to our country's crippling \$35 trillion debt.

It is only getting worse. Interest payments on our national debt have nearly doubled in the last few years, crossing \$1 trillion for the first time in 2023.

We cannot go on like this. It is time to stop these outrageous loan bailouts and restore fiscal sanity.

HONORING STEFANI BOOROOJIAN ON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stefani Booroojian, a pioneer in local journalism and one of the icons of journalism in the San Joaquin Valley.

After 42 years at KSEE24, the Fresno NBC affiliate, Stefani is sadly, for me, retiring from the news desk.

After graduating from Fresno State in 1981, and a loyal Bulldog, Stefani started in radio before landing her first job as a reporter. She worked on every newscast reporting stories on medical missions to Armenia, and women bat-

ting cancer as a part of the BuddyCheck24 project, in addition to many other stories, including the continued coverage of the COVID crisis. She never, ever shirked her responsibilities.

I have had the honor to know Stefani and her husband, Marc. She brings a wealth of knowledge and a real sense of compassion to journalism that resonates with my constituents and the people of our Valley. She, in a word, conveys trust.

Her legacy in so many different ways will continue to inspire the next generation of journalists. Stefani is a proud granddaughter of the Armenian diaspora, and she has always put the people of our Valley first.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Stefani for all her years of service to our Valley and keep up the good work.

CONGRATULATING NEW MANNA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM FOR THEIR VICTORY

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Manna Christian School baseball team for winning their second straight North Carolina Christian School Association's 1A title.

The WIND won a shutout victory of 10-0 in the quarterfinals, then went on to win the State championship 5-3.

This win continues a dominant run for New Manna's baseball program with their fourth consecutive year of double-figure wins, back-to-back State titles, and their third State championship in the past 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate New Manna WIND. They have again made North Carolina proud, as well as Marion, North Carolina.

PROTECTING OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all the women who don't have the opportunity to stand here today.

Since the Dobbs decision, Republicans have imposed draconian bans to endanger women for the sake of power. Their obsession is power: power over their wives, sisters, daughters, every woman in our country.

Donald Trump, my Governor Greg Abbott, and their cronies seem to take joy in the harm they cause women, despite their oath to protect them.

Calls to the National Domestic Violence hotline about rape or sabotaged birth control have nearly doubled. Doubled.

The laws enacted by extreme MAGA lawmakers have increased domestic

abuse, and they carry this stain on their hands.

However, when Greg Abbott looks at these facts, it is like the porch light is on but nobody is home.

Back home in Texas, we say: Don't mess with Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell Greg Abbott and Donald Trump: Don't mess with Texas women. This is why we will always put women over politics and healthcare over bans.

CELEBRATING WOODRUFF, SOUTH CAROLINA'S, 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. TIMMONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Woodruff as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Established in 1874 with a modest population of just 200, Woodruff has experienced remarkable growth over the past century and a half. Today, it proudly boasts about 5,000 residents and has ambitious plans to expand to 18,000 by 2029.

In addition to its impressive growth, Woodruff recently received exciting news that the BMW Group will invest over \$700 million to establish a high-voltage battery assembly plant along South Carolina Highway 101. This substantial investment signifies a new era of economic prosperity for the city.

To commemorate this historic milestone, the city of Woodruff will bury a time capsule on June 28. The celebration will feature live music and fireworks, creating lasting memories for the community. The time capsule will be a gift to future generations and is set to be opened in 2074.

OUR GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Surgeon General Vivek Murthy for officially calling our gun violence epidemic what it is, a public health crisis.

The numbers paint the picture: 120 Americans are killed and more than 200 are wounded by guns every day. The leading cause of death among children and teens in America is gun violence, with 4,600 precious children killed in 2022 alone, and an average of two mass shootings each day for the past 3 years.

These numbers should horrify us because they are not numbers; they are people whose lives have been stolen, and families with unimaginable pain.

Dr. Murthy's declaration treats our gun violence crisis with the urgency it demands. It opens doors for us to build upon the small progress we are making.

Two years ago this week, we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act,

the first gun violence safety law in 30 years. We did so together in the shadow of a horrific set of mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde.

This will not be our last step. We must ban automatic rifles, strengthen universal background checks, and require safe storage. This is a public health crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask us to face it. Doing so will save lives.

RECOGNIZING REBECCA SNYDER FOR HER OUTSTANDING WORK

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the staff that make our work possible, and one staff member, in particular, who has dutifully served the House for 20 years: Rebecca Snyder.

When I started in this body 4 years ago, I hit the ground running, in large part due to Rebecca.

She has directly assisted over 1,100 constituents and helped rightfully return over \$10 million to taxpayers while she has worked with me.

As our Military Service Academy coordinator, she has upheveled and diversified the nominees heading to our Nation's prestigious service academies.

Her former bosses, Congressman ADAM SMITH and Mr. DENNY HECK, my predecessor, remember Rebecca as being a trusted and determined constituent advocate, helping us better serve the American people.

Rebecca has made it her life's work to serve our Nation with 20 years of service in the U.S. Navy prior to the U.S. House. Enlisting at the age of 19, serving as an aviation electrician tech, she rose to the rank of chief petty officer when she separated in 2004.

Rebecca is the very best of a public servant: determined and constituent-focused with a little bit of tough as nails thrown in.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Rebecca so much for all she does for the people across the South Sound and the work she continues to do. We are grateful for her service to our Nation.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). Pursuant to House Resolution 1316 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8774.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the

further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8774) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, with Mr. McCLINTOCK (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 27, 2024, amendment No. 129, printed in Part A of House Report 118-559 offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 163 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 163 printed in part A of House Report 118-559.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out Executive Order 14019 (86 Fed. Reg. 13623; relating to promoting access to voting), except for sections 7, 8, and 10 of such Executive Order.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1316, the gentleman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment No. 163 to the Defense appropriations bill to prohibit funding for President Biden's executive order No. 14019 titled: "Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting."

This executive order requires Federal agencies to use their power, influence, resources, and Federal funding—taxpayer cash—to enter into agreements with nongovernmental organizations, third-party organizations, to conduct voter registration and other voter mobilization activities, including vote harvesting.

Mr. Chair, this executive order is nothing but a blatant attempt to transform the Federal Government into a partisan, get-out-the-vote machine for Democrats.

The Department of Defense should be completely nonpartisan and should not be using taxpayer funds to actively engage in get-out-the-vote operations that have nothing to do with the core mission of the Department of Defense, not to mention the obvious mission creep and Hatch Act violations this activity would trigger.

Mr. Chair, President Biden should not be weaponizing the Federal Government's spending using American taxpayer dollars to manipulate and steer our election in a partisan manner.

As the cofounder and the chair of the Election Integrity Caucus, it is my privilege to introduce this amendment to restore transparency and confidence

in our Democratic process while keeping partisan Federal bureaucrats and the swamp, literally, from deliberately tipping the balance at the ballot box.

I stand firmly behind the concept of one citizen, one vote, as enshrined in our Constitution. However, I do not support this blatantly partisan mobilization of the Federal Government for political purposes, especially at such a critical time in the world.

The Department of Defense should be laser focused on the missions at hand and countering our adversaries such as the Chinese Communist Party, not implementing a partisan get-out-the-vote initiative.

Mr. Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support amendment, which will preserve election integrity, stop the Biden administration from transforming the Department of Defense into a get-out-the-vote partisan machine for the Democrats. Let's make voting great again.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment banning sections of Executive Order No. 14019. This is another example of the majority proposing language that is not germane to this bill.

Mr. Chair, call me a traditionalist, call me a person who respects the roles that different committees have, but this is not germane to this bill.

Section 1 of the executive order states: "The right to vote is the foundation of American democracy. Free and fair elections that reflect the will of the American people must be protected and defended."

Section 2 states: "It is the policy of my administration" referring to the Biden administration "to promote and defend the right to vote for all Americans who are legally entitled to participate in elections."

Now, I don't understand the concern about this order since several places direct officials to conform to the laws of the United States.

Furthermore, Mr. Chair, as I spoke about germaneness earlier, I don't understand how this amendment was made in order, especially when the Department of Defense bill has in the gentlewoman's amendment exclusions with reference to the military.

In the amendment, which the Clerk has in front, it exempts sections 7, 8, and I believe it is 10. I am trying to do it from memory, Mr. Chair. Those sections deal with the Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense is totally excluded from anything that the gentlewoman would like to resolve with her amendment. Therefore, it makes it totally nongermane.

For that reason alone, I strongly object to this amendment because it is