

Rail operators have not even been able to acquire full tier 4 locomotives yet due to the availability and stretch in technology, which isn't there yet. We can't acquire tier 4 locomotives, which is already being bypassed by new tiers that CARB wants to push, basically going to all-electric trains. This isn't the all-electric train we have in the basement. This is the real world here.

It would make more sense for the bureaucrats at CARB to just take a break a little bit from their carbon-neutral crusade and let rail operators come to the tier 4 standards for the locomotives that they are still trying to develop as being compliant.

These tier 4 locomotives are 85 percent cleaner than other older technology already. That sounds like a win to me. That is a bingo, as some might say, instead of pushing net-zero locomotives on such a ridiculous timeline. Because of their obsession with net zero and carbon reductions, CARB is actually working against their own goals they are stating here.

It is estimated the U.S. EPA approval would result in close to 65 percent of the Nation's class I railroad locomotive fleet being banned from operating in California just 6 years from now.

General Van Ovost, the head of the U.S. Transportation Command, expressed concerns that this regulation will negatively affect the economy as well as the military readiness posture—moving the tanks and heavy equipment that you see sometimes on the railway, these big long trains of items the military has to deploy to wherever. By reducing the ability to transport this military equipment in and out of California from different parts of the country, it could severely impact their ability for military readiness.

When I asked about this CARB regulation in committee yesterday, they said the military is going to be exempt. I guess that is good. The things that are really important, CARB is going to exempt. I guess goods movement, movement of agricultural products, and movement of food isn't as important. Instead, we are going to be forced this rule.

A large collection of national, State, and local agriculture groups have expressed great concern that this CARB rule poses a significant danger to U.S. agriculture's ability to transport products domestically or to our ports. We already have enough trouble getting stuff into our ports.

It needs to be stated that technology for these replacements does not yet exist on these new types of locomotives.

Freight railroads contribute only 0.5 percent total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, as defined by WHO, and 1.7 percent to total transportation-related greenhouse gas. All of this is to reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide, which is currently only 0.04 percent of

our atmosphere, practically a rounding error.

Again, EPA approval of this rule would result in close to 65 percent of the Nation's class I railroad locomotives being banned from operating—what will that do to our supply chain—by 2030, with tier 4 locomotives that are not even fully available yet, let alone the next set of technology they are trying to mandate.

This will slow our farmers' ability to get food to our tables and our ports. It will be rotting in the fields or sitting somewhere while waiting for an electric train to recharge and be able to go another 100 miles.

It will delay and raise prices of materials used to build and heat our homes.

It will raise prices for middle-income and lower-income families who are already struggling with inflation and so many policies from this administration.

Every stage of automobile production and sale, including EVs, will be pushed by the same people who are also pushing this rule. Bureaucrats are once again going after anything carbon related without considering the effects of this crusade against carbon.

We need not follow the California Air Resources Board as a whole country. They are not even elected. They are appointed by the Governor. They might be elected locally as a supervisor or something, but they are not elected by anybody to be on the CARB.

#### COMBATING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, how many times do we have to come to the floor to demand that our colleagues take action to end the gun violence crisis that is traumatizing our children and tearing families apart?

Since Republicans took power, the Speaker has called not one single vote, not one, to combat gun violence. It is shameful. It is shameful because since then, 934 mass shootings have occurred in our country.

Just this past weekend, Mr. Speaker, in the northeast side of our city, there was a mass shooting where 2 people were killed and 19 others severely injured. The victims were all between the ages of 17 and 27 years old.

I refuse to accept this as normal or the status quo. I refuse to accept that last month, there was a mass shooting at a Splash Pad with families in Rochester Hills, Michigan, where nine people were shot, including two children, that that is okay, that it is normal.

Behind these numbers are real people in our communities, families who are directly, forever being impacted and traumatized by these senseless shootings.

Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in our country. It is not just mass shootings. Mr. Speaker, 4.6 million children in our

country live in homes with loaded and unlocked firearms.

There is a Children's Hospital in Detroit that passes out lockboxes.

Recently, a 6-year-old boy in Detroit shot himself in the hand at his grandmother's home after he found an unsecured firearm. He was playing with it and accidentally pulled the trigger. He is just one of nearly 360 children who unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else every single year.

This cable lock right here, which prevents a gun from being loaded and fired, is \$10. I looked it up. That is why I introduced the Safe Storage Saves Lives Act to require gun locks like this one to be provided for every firearm sold in our country. This is a common-sense solution to save lives, to prevent these horrific accidental shootings, and even prevent suicides among our children.

It is time for Congress to act with urgency, Mr. Speaker, and pass legislation to save lives now.

#### ABORTION RIGHTS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 years since the corrupt, far-right Supreme Court gutted *Roe v. Wade* and stripped us of our reproductive freedom.

There are now 21 States with an abortion ban in effect. Currently, one in three women are living without access to abortion care.

I want you to think about this: Our bodies are now being regulated more than guns in our country. It is disgusting. They have not only targeted abortion but also undermined access to IVF, birth control, and family planning.

Thankfully, I know in our State, Michiganders have soundly rejected the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe* and voted to enshrine abortion rights and abortion care into our State constitution.

MAGA extremists are not going to stop. They won't stop. They are pushing for a national abortion ban at the Federal level.

Abortion care is healthcare, and we must fight back and pass legislation that restores access.

People, Mr. Speaker, not politicians, should have the freedom to make decisions about their own bodies. We won't stop until we make reproductive freedom for all the law of the land and accessible to all our residents across our country.

#### LIVONIA TORNADO

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, last month, a tornado swept through my district with little to no warning. It tragically took the life of a 3-year-old child named Cooper Drake and left his mother in critical condition after a tree fell on their Livonia home during the storm.

It is absolutely devastating that a family should experience this heartbreak. Our community is heartbroken.

That is why my Michigan colleagues, Congresswoman HALBY STEVENS, and really led by Congresswoman DEBBIE

DINGELL, sent a letter—we did it together—to the National Weather Service seeking answers, asking them to provide insight into why no tornado warning was issued for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot normalize these severe weather patterns and the devastating impacts they have on our families. It is clear that these extreme weather events, including tornadoes and flooding in southeast Michigan, are becoming more frequent due to climate change. We also need to understand the root cause of these extreme weather patterns.

That is why I am hoping we can all work together to hold corporate polluters accountable and protect our planet from the impact of the fossil fuel industry for generations to come.

#### BIDEN FITNESS COMPLICITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, as much as the White House would like to move on from the terrible debate performance we saw less than 2 weeks ago, it is still on the minds of many Americans, including my own. Like many, I am not only concerned about who is in the Oval Office in 2025, but I am concerned about the weeks and months between now and Inauguration Day.

The American people deserve to know their Commander in Chief can do the job. They deserve to know why he requires pictures of stages and podiums before he attends events. They deserve to have their many, many questions answered.

Unfortunately, President Biden has decided that one recorded, in-person interview and a politically charged letter will suffice.

We would be well served not to forget Special Counsel Robert Hur's report from February describing the President's memory as significantly limited. More importantly, we must not forget his conclusion that a potential trial over the President's apparently intentional illegal possession of classified documents would result in a jury essentially feeling bad for a forgetful old man.

Following that frank and damning report, the President's chief of staff responded by saying: No one works harder and asks tougher questions than the President.

In hindsight, it appears he was willing to surrender his personal credibility in an attempt to keep the President's cognitive maladies hidden. Mitch Landrieu, national co-chair of the Biden campaign, said of the President: "He's on his game."

Again, in hindsight, perhaps the game he was referring to might have been shuffleboard.

Weeks before the debate, we saw the headline "Biden Appears to Freeze," detailing an event from the White House. We have endured 3½ years of similar stories.

Just days into his Presidency, The New York Times published a story titled: "The Many Ways That Joe Biden Trips Over His Own Tongue."

In May of 2022, The Washington Post published an article titled: "Three theories on Biden's repeated Taiwan gaffes."

The one I remember most is from Reuters 2 years ago which reads: "Gaffe or insight? Deciphering Biden's unguarded answers."

The American people should not have to decipher anything, Mr. Speaker. I, along with many of the Tennesseans I represent, believe we are still the shining city on a hill that Ronald Reagan referenced.

In this country, the First Amendment enables us to ask frank questions. In this country, we hold our elected officials to account.

Many of us remember 2 months before the debate when the President literally read the words: "Four more years. Pause" at an event.

We also recall this year when President Biden mistakenly claimed he was Vice President during the pandemic.

I, along with many other Members of the House of Representatives on our side of the aisle, have expressed our serious concerns with what strongly appears to be a debilitating, cognitive decline for quite a while now. Yet, those concerns were dismissed by the mainstream media as rightwing propaganda for all these years, and Congressional Democrats made similar allegations or remained silent altogether. They all knew these concerns with the President's cognitive limitations were credible.

Now, since the debate, the American people share these concerns, too. They are used to worrying about the consequences of the open-border policies of this administration and the crippling inflation that the administration's policies have produced, but now they are also concerned about whether he can even withstand the job itself.

Since the debate, we have heard nothing but weak excuses: a cold, a lack of sleep, jet lag from travel that took place 15 days before. The list continues to grow.

Those who have spread the notion that President Biden is as sharp as a tack and at the top of his game will have to answer for this big coverup. Indeed, they are complicit in the credible anxiety that the American people feel.

If we suffer a major national security incident which our impaired President fails to handle properly, they will be complicit in something much worse.

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Mr. Speaker, it is past time for our President to pass the baton on to another and for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have helped to perpetuate this coverup to switch course and do the right thing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### TAXING BILLIONAIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I want you to take a look at this graph. There are two lines. The dark blue line is the effective tax rate paid by the 400 highest income earners in America, and the light blue line is the effective tax rate paid by the bottom half of income earners in our country.

In the 1960s, the people at the very top, the richest 400 Americans, paid about twice the tax rate that the average middle-class family did, but in 2018 during the Donald Trump Presidency and for the first time in our history, the billionaires started paying a lower tax rate than nurses, teachers, firefighters, and most other middle-class Americans who put in an honest day's work and make our economy run.

It is unfair, it is absurd, and it is wrong.

How did we get here? For years, corrupt rightwing politicians gave tax break after tax break to the billionaires and big corporations who funded their campaigns. When the billionaires and big corporations don't pay their fair share in taxes, you know who has to carry the load? Working people carry the load—working people who can't afford to pay thousands of dollars to go to Mar-a-Lago or Trump Hotel, working people who don't get to move their money overseas or hire an Army of accountants to find them tax loopholes or hire an Army of lobbyists to create new loopholes for them, working people who have their healthcare cut and their veterans benefits cut, working people who have to send their kids to crumbling schools all because the politicians tell them there isn't enough money left.

But there is always money when those billionaires come asking for more tax cuts, isn't there?

When Donald Trump and the Republicans were in charge, they passed a \$2 trillion tax cut that went almost entirely to the wealthy, and then they turned around and tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act and kick 16 million Americans off their health insurance. We know what their priorities are, and we know what they will do if they return to power in this election.

Already, Donald Trump and House Republicans are meeting with industry lobbyists and billionaire donors to scheme how they can give away even more tax breaks to the people at the very top and cut the programs that working people depend on to get by.

Look at Project 2025, their policy plan for what they will do if they take control. That plan calls for cutting Social Security by raising the retirement age. It calls for repealing the Affordable Care Act, eliminating Head Start programs that provide preschool for 1 million children, eliminating the Department of Education, eliminating the National Weather Service. Republicans