

Border Patrol agents have shared that a physical barrier along our Nation's borders, coupled with advanced technology, is extremely helpful in stopping the cartels. We also need to designate the Mexican cartels as exactly what they are, terrorists. These human smugglers get rich by putting lives at risk and pouring fentanyl into our country. It is unacceptable.

We need to implement policies that are actually effective. On his first day in office, President Biden immediately began rolling back the Trump administration's immigration policies for no other reason than they were associated with President Trump's name. President Biden never asked if the policies were helping curb illegal immigration or slow illegal immigrants from entering the country or whether it was good for the United States of America.

It was simply: If President Trump did it, then it is gone. That has backfired on President Biden, and the polls show that. There is a reason President Trump is more trusted on the border than President Biden. We need to reinstate remain in Mexico and end President Biden's disastrous catch-and-release policy.

□ 1115

Finally, we must change our tone to send a clear message: Do not come to the U.S. illegally.

At the start of his Presidency, President Biden promised outright citizenship to more than 11 million illegal immigrants. America is a Nation of legal immigrants, and the President's false promise was a slap in the face to the 2 million people who legally migrate to the U.S. each year the right way. We should make legal immigration easier and illegal immigration harder. Mr. President, this is not rocket science. It is simple.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues again today: What will it take for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come to the table to secure the border? We can't keep pretending the current situation is normal. It is the minority's move.

FAILED POLICIES AND RECKLESS SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Biden-Harris administration's failed policies and reckless spending that have led to runaway inflation and have bled American workers dry.

Since the beginning of the Biden-Harris administration, the essentials Americans rely on daily have become unaffordable and inaccessible for most Americans. Before President Biden took office, inflation sat at 1.4 percent. It went up to 9 percent.

Since then, inflation and prices have increased by a mind-boggling 20.11 per-

cent. At the gas pump, regular gasoline has increased a whopping 55.3 percent, and groceries are up 21.2 percent. Interest rates are at record-high levels, the highest they have been in two decades, impacting every family.

With the average American spending \$12,800 more a year to buy basic needs, Bidenomics has hurt millions of everyday Americans and Iowans living paycheck to paycheck. Biden-Harris inflation is a Biden-Harris tax on all Americans, especially seniors on a fixed income and those working families.

House Republicans remain committed to reining in Biden-Harris reckless spending and taming inflation.

BORDER CRISIS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the national security crisis that is the Biden-Harris border crisis.

Since the start of the Biden-Harris administration, there have been over 9.7 million illegal immigrant encounters nationwide and 1.8 million known got-aways who have evaded the U.S. Border Patrol. A record 350 individuals whose names appear on the terrorist watch list have also been encountered at the southern border.

Let us not forget it was the Biden-Harris administration that ended the effective remain in Mexico program and allowed for 40 percent of catch-and-release migrants to disappear, and we have lost over 85,000 children.

Across the country, we have seen the impact of a porous border. Fentanyl and crime coming across the border has ravaged communities in Iowa and across America, making drug overdoses the number one cause of death in 18- to 45-year-olds. This is devastating the lives of millions of Americans.

Democrat-led cities, such as New York and Chicago, have become unrecognizable due to the influx of migrants and violent crime.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to push the Senate to support H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, to protect our American homeland and stop the madness and crisis at our southern border.

EVERY LEGAL VOTE MATTERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8281, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act.

The SAVE Act protects and preserves the right of American citizens to vote by requiring States to obtain proof of citizenship, in person, when registering an individual to vote in a Federal election. It also provides States with access to existing Federal databases to clean up their voter registration rolls and remove noncitizens.

Under the outdated National Voter Registration Act, or NVRA, States are not required to ask for proof and are prohibited from asking for proof of citizenship when registering an individual to vote in Federal elections.

While Democrats and their media allies claim their elections are secure, there are a multitude of cases with in-

contestable evidence of noncitizens registering and voting in Federal elections. If you think one vote doesn't matter or one person voting fraudulent doesn't matter, I won my race in 2020 by six votes, and we had a mayoral race in my district that was decided after two ties by drawing a name out of a hat. Every vote matters. Every legal vote matters.

Americans should decide American elections, not illegal immigrants. The SAVE Act is a commonsense measure to safeguard this cherished American right and privilege, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MANN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we pray Your intervention on behalf of the children of Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and all other places around the world who find themselves caught in the snares of war, trapped in conflict zones, the innocent casualties of our warfare.

God, how is it that the most vulnerable among us have become the targets of indiscriminate yet deliberate bombing? Holy Lord, how has humanity let its sense of justice erode to the point where even children's hospitals become targets? When did it become commonplace that babies and toddlers are made victims of vengeful kidnapping?

It is clear that Your kingdom alone is the place of safety and spiritual sanctuary for our children. Lord, let Your kingdom come, Your will be done here in this broken world.

Silence our guns and still the weapons which threaten the heritage our children long to receive from our hands.

See that we do not despise any of these little ones but reveal to us the road to peace, that once again we would provide a future for these children that is free from fear, danger, and sadness.

Into the protection of Your everlasting arms we place our children this day. May the strength of Your name be their hope and salvation.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BIDEN TELLS LIE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL correctly condemned Biden for a lie that no American servicemembers were killed on his watch, ignoring the 13 murdered at the Abbey Gate.

The lie cited by Mr. MCCAUL was underscored by three American reservists murdered by the Iranian puppet Hezbollah on January 28.

As a grateful father of four sons who served overseas, it is sad Biden ignores the three murdered and conceals the others injured, even though I asked about their injuries on March 13.

Corrupt Judge Merchan, orchestrated by the corrupt Biden Department of Justice, is backfiring—The Wall Street Journal today—reelecting Donald Trump, as Merchan earns my invitation to the Trump inauguration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

Our sympathies to those killed Monday at the Kyiv, Ukraine, children's hospital by war criminal Putin.

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

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

More than one in five adults in the United States live with mental illness. We must ensure that community practitioners, from mental health workers, social workers, crisis managers, and law enforcement are educated on implicit biases that they may have and the social determinants of health that negatively impact patients of color.

While people of all ages and backgrounds experience mental disorders, minorities face significant treatment disparities. Cultural humility training has advanced healthcare equity, but we must do better.

In my area in the Caribbean, communities affected by hurricanes, most recently Grenada, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, and Jamaica, experience a different level of mental strain, leading to mental health crises in families among adults and children.

I urge my colleagues to better address the tremendous mental health disparities and barriers to treatment for minority communities.

LEGISLATION THAT DEMANDS THE ATTENTION OF EVERY AMERICAN

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we will be voting on legislation that demands the attention of every single American. This will be one of the most important votes that Members of this Chamber will ever take in their entire careers. It is an issue that we never thought we would actually have to address, but that moment has come to us now.

Should Americans and Americans alone determine the outcome of American elections, or should we allow foreigners and illegal aliens to decide who sits in the White House and here in the people's House and in the Senate?

As the progressive wing of Washington has slowly crept in and marched through our institutions and has infected every level of government, they have brought us to a generation-defining moment. That is the moment that we have upon us now.

Because the Democratic Party has shown time and time again that they want our borders wide open to every country on the planet and they want illegal aliens voting in our elections, we now have reached a fateful decision point.

Here is the critical question: Should only American citizens, citizens of this country, be allowed to determine who controls the people's House, the Senate, and the White House?

Every Republican, every one of our colleagues, emphatically says yes. The answer to that question is yes, and every Republican will vote for the bill that we have on the floor today.

This is a question that almost every American agrees with us upon. Here is

the number: 89 percent of Americans believe that only Americans should decide our elections, and that includes, by the way, 82 percent of Democrats, 80 percent of Black and African-American voters, and 76 percent of Hispanic and Latino voters. Everybody who looks at this question answers it the right way, just about everybody.

We are about to find out here very shortly if all of the Members of this Chamber agree.

Americans all over the country understand what is at stake here. They refuse to hand over our country to illegal aliens, cartels, traffickers, violent criminals, and murderers. That is what is at stake.

Now, I hate to say it, but we have so many noncitizens in the country right now that if only 1 out of 100 of those illegal aliens voted, you are talking about hundreds of thousands of votes being cast.

Remember, these aren't huddled masses of frightened families yearning to be free.

In January of this year, we took the largest delegation of Members of Congress to the border. January 3, we went to Eagle Pass, Texas. It was the epicenter of the open-border crisis at the time. We met with Border Patrol agents and high officers in U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. They told us the truth.

They said, down there at Eagle Pass, of all the many, many countless people who come across that border illegally, because Joe Biden and Secretary Mayorkas opened the border wide, they said: You should know this, Members of Congress, 70 percent of the people who crossed illegally at Eagle Pass, down there in the Del Rio sector, are single adult males between the ages of 18 and 49. These are not huddled masses of people seeking refuge from persecution and seeking asylum here for just causes. These are people who do not have our best designs in mind.

Because of Joe Biden's open-border policies, we have ISIS smuggling rings operating in our country. We have cartels who have operational control of the border. We have Chinese and Russian spies here in our midst roaming freely in our country. We have murderers and rapists offending again and again across the country, and they are never deported.

These are people who Joe Biden and his administration are releasing into the country every day. The Director of the FBI has testified multiple times now before Congress, before our committees, and he has said: All the red lights are flashing. What is he referring to? The unprecedented dangerous situation.

The enemy is here. The enemy is in our country now and is endangering American citizens, law-abiding citizens.

You see the headlines on the news now almost every day: another violent act committed by an illegal.

Joe Biden did that to the country. His administration did that because