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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION POSES NATIONAL SECURITY RISK

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since taking office, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have thrown open our doors to more than 10 million illegal immigrants, more than 99.7 percent of whom are still in the United States today.

This mass illegal immigration poses a national security risk, with Border Patrol agents lacking the tools and resources needed to stop, apprehend, and deport illegal immigrants. With cities now strained by illegal immigrants taking up shelter in school gyms and utilizing resources already stressed by record inflation, American communities are now forced to confront this crisis created by an open-border policy.

In New York City alone, free hotels, free healthcare, and debit cards have attracted more than 100,000 migrants since the spring of 2022, and more than 65,000 of them remain in New York City today.

It is time for the House to pass the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act,

which would prohibit our tax dollars from being used by sanctuary cities to benefit these illegal immigrants.

We need to return to the secure-border policies that we had under President Donald J. Trump. It is time to secure our borders, and it is time to disincentivize the policies that made each and every State a border State.

STREAMLINE ENROLLING IN OUT-OF-STATE MEDICAID PROGRAMS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, later today, the House will consider the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act. This important legislation will streamline the process for doctors to enroll in out-of-State Medicaid programs in order to provide much-needed care for children.

Last year, I met with two of my constituents from Perry County, Derek and Amy Nesbit, who shared with me the story of their son, William, and William's battle with leukemia.

Throughout William's treatment, the Nesbit family was met with red tape and bureaucracy that led to difficulties in receiving the treatment that William so desperately needed and the treatment that William deserved.

Tragically, William lost his battle with leukemia, and since then, the Nesbits have dedicated their time and resources to advocating for a better system for the children and families who are affected with diseases.

Children enrolled in Medicaid deserve access to the best possible care, and we have a responsibility to remove obstacles that exist because of where a patient lives.

Today, I am proud to support this important bill, the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act, which will remove these barriers and enable access to timely and quality care for all of our kids.

COMMEMORATING COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant program, known as CDBG, and I recognize its tremendous contributions to the viability of American communities.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG program provides funding to over 1,200 States, local jurisdictions, and ancillary areas across the United States.

Since the creation of the program in 1975, HUD and Congress have invested more than \$1.7 billion in job creation, building affordable housing, funding disaster recovery efforts, and supporting economic development and infrastructure projects, primarily serving low- to moderate-income populations.

Notably, the CDBG program is the most flexible source of Federal funding to States, localities, and ancillary areas for economic and community development purposes. State and local governments work with their local program partners with input from the public to develop programs that are initiated, planned, and developed at the local level and meet national objectives.

As a former mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, Missouri's largest municipality, I know firsthand the importance of having a flexible Federal program that can meet unique local challenges. Due to its nature, CDBG is often layered with other HUD funds or used for gap financing to add the final necessary funds that make transformative community projects viable.

In 2023, the CDBG program provided funding for housing-related activities

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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that served nearly 62,000 families, including direct homeownership assistance and rehabilitation of homes; assisting more than 25,500 individuals to find permanent employment or to keep full-time jobs they were at risk of losing through economic development activities; improvements to homeless facilities that served more than 52,000 people; and operating costs of homeless and HIV/AIDS patient programs, senior services, food banks, services for the disabled, youth services, transportation services, and general health or mental health services that assisted more than 5.4 million Americans.

HUD requests that grantees report on leveraged funds as well as public-private partnerships to demonstrate local investment. Grantees reported that CDBG investments leveraged an average of \$5.02 for every \$1 of CDBG grant funding during 2022, amplifying the program's return on investment with \$4.9 billion in other resources.

The 50th anniversary is now an opportunity to commemorate this milestone and commit to strengthening the CDBG program with additional funding and programming improvements.

My legislation, the CDBG Improvement Act, would permanently authorize the CDBG program, increase funding to offset inflation and account for the increase in the number of entitlement jurisdictions since 1974, and authorize housing construction as an eligible program activity, among other purposes.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, with jurisdiction over the CDBG program, I congratulate the CDBG champions and advocates and look forward to working together on this mission.

ESTABLISHING REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT FOR IVF EXPENSES

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 in support of my bill to establish a refundable tax credit for expenses incurred through in vitro fertilization, or IVF.

For many, including some of my own family members, the struggle with infertility has been profoundly heart-wrenching. While IVF presents its own challenges, it offers a vital opportunity for pregnancy and parenthood that should be accessible to all families facing these difficulties.

With the U.S. birthrate declining and IVF contributing to 2 to 3 percent of births, it is crucial to support families seeking to grow.

As a physician, I value every life, and as a mother, I understand the importance of empowering families to expand on their own terms and their own timelines.

This measure will provide a fully refundable tax credit for IVF-related medical expenses up to \$30,000 over a

lifetime. It will cover essential costs, such as transportation, egg retrievals, counseling, and medications.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, making the dream of parenthood more attainable and reaffirming our commitment to helping families.

HORRIFIC ACTS IN GAZA STRIP

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today disgusted by the horrific acts which have taken place in the Gaza Strip. This brutal execution of six hostages taken by the Hamas war criminals is nothing more than the most recent development in a campaign of terror with one goal: the extermination of the Jewish State of Israel.

One of these hostages, an American man by the name of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, was enjoying the Re'im music festival when this band of thugs turned this peaceful day into a living hell. During the attack, Mr. Goldberg-Polin's arm was blown off by a grenade. He spent the next 330 days terrified that he would never see his family again. On August 31, 2024, they executed this badly wounded American music lover.

I recently visited the families of some of the hostages in Israel as well as here in the United States. I saw firsthand the unimaginable hope and strength these families have lived with for the past 11 months.

Hope for Goldberg-Polin's family has run out, but strength remains as they mourn their loss.

The thoughts and prayers of the American people will continue to be with the Israeli people. May God be with them.

HONORING KIDS FOR VETS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Kids for Vets, which raised over \$10,000 through lemonade stands for veteran causes in the Quad Cities.

As a 24-year Army veteran, it warms my heart to see America's youth so deeply concerned about our service-members.

Kids for Vets partners with amazing nonprofit organizations, such as the Quad Cities Outreach Center and SEAL Family Legacy, to provide support to Gold Star families, food banks, job placement, housing assistance, and so much more for America's heroes.

Because of the outstanding work of Kids for Vets and their partners, veterans in the Quad Cities and greater eastern Iowa have a support system that puts their essential needs first.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the amazing work of Kids for Vets, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting and thanking this incredible organization.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING MATT STUTZMAN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matt Stutzman of Fairfield, Iowa, for winning the gold medal in archery in the 2024 Paralympics. Matt is a distin-

guished athlete who has overcome the immense obstacle of being born without both arms to set the new Paralympic record of a score of 149 points out of 150 points possible.

In admiration of his father, Matt developed an interest in bow hunting. Upon noticing his interest in hunting, Matt's father bought him his first bow at age 16. From that point on, he was passionately dedicated to enhancing his skills. His first achievement came in the form of an Olympic silver medal in the 2012 Paralympics.

Next, in 2015, he set a new world record by hitting a target from 283 meters away, a record previously held by an able-bodied athlete.

Matt is a testament to the will and determination of Iowa's First District, and we expect further great things from him in the future.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S SPACE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND EDUCATION PROJECT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the \$1.5 million in Federal funding secured for a space technology innovation and education project at the University of Iowa's department of physics and astronomy. This funding will be used to build state-of-the-art space equipment to help train the next generation of cosmic leaders.

I was happy to visit the university shortly after securing these funds to speak to students and faculty about the impact this will have.

The University of Iowa is already a leading school for researching the skies above, and this critical investment will further the University of Iowa's standing as a leading university in the development of space instruments for NASA and for America's astronauts.

Our country is in dire need of leaders in the astronomical field, which is why I am proud to secure this funding for one of America's leading educational institutions. With that said, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the best for the University of Iowa's future astronauts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CURT MEEKS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I extend the warmest birthday greetings to a most amazing man and life partner, my husband Curt Meeks.

JUSTICE FOR DR. SEIF FATEEN

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand justice for Dr. Seif Fateen, an MIT-educated professor who has been unjustly detained in Egypt since 2018.

Dr. Fateen served in Egypt's Ministry of Education before the government was overthrown in a coup in 2013. His home was later raided without a warrant, and he was arrested.

For the last 6 years, he has been held without a trial date despite an Egyptian law that sets a 2-year maximum