

you adjust for the economics, you get about a point and a half of GDP. A point and a half of the size of the economy. For those of us who want to cut spending, add up everything we have talked about cutting, it is about one point of GDP. You have got a big 2½ percent there, 2½ percent for every policy on the other side, every policy on our side.

We are borrowing just a little less than 7 percent of the entire economy this year, and the economy is healthy. Dear Heaven, what happens if there is a war? What happens if there is another pandemic? What happens if parts of the economic clouds come and we have a recession? This is the time when things are good. We should be paying things back.

You look at the math. I know some of these charts are impossible to read from a distance. I am trying just to make the point that interest is our fragility. I have said it here multiple times. Do you want to know who really is about to run your country? It is not the Democrats; it is not the Republicans. It is not rich people; it is not the unions. It is the bond market. If you are borrowing seventy, eighty thousand dollars per second every day and you have got to go to the market, remember, this year, this fiscal year we will bring \$10 trillion to market. About eight of that is refinancing of the bonds that roll over. It is actually a little more than that.

If you look at the short end of the curve, they have to roll over a lot. Then there are a couple trillion of new issuances. If the world, if the bond vigilantes say, well, we don't want those things, we want a premium, you look at the charts, and this is actually assuming everything is wonderful.

When you see the CBO projection, and they talk about debt coming into the future, this is no pandemic, no war, no recession, yet if you listen to these microphones, it is person after person after person coming up with new brilliant ideas to spend money. Many of them you love. They are moral, they are helpful, and we have no damn way to finance them.

This delusion that we will just tax rich people, I have already shown chart after chart after chart, you confiscate all the wealth of those designated rich, you run the country for a few months. You crash every market, there is no retirement accounts, but you wipe out everything. It is just sort of a mathematical delusion.

There are ways to make this work, but are we going to legalize technology?

Last week, I actually did a presentation, and I was trying to show that all these projections of: We are going to take in this much money in additional enforcement at the IRS, and we have only hit like a fraction, a fraction of what was promised.

Remember, we are 2 years in. Remember, we originally appropriated 80, then it went down to 57. According to

CBO, we were supposed to be up around 10, 11 billion of additional tax collections coming in from the rich. We have hit 1, so we have hit basically 10 percent of the promises. That is story after story after story, we are not coming anything close to our fantasies.

Remember, the Inflation Reduction Act was going to pay for itself, and then we realized, hey, the subsidies, the planned economy, the new managed industrial policy that is America now, it is turning out to cost dramatically more. The tax collections didn't come anywhere close.

We are really bad at math here. We are really good at making public policy by feelings, but just try to say, let's have thought experiments. What would happen if the IRS used Chat and other things to answer the phone, customer service, so the vast majority of people who call the IRS could actually have their phone answered? I remember one person online said: Well, that would lose jobs.

I tried to show all that money we set aside for the IRS; it went down. Their auditors went down by 8 percent. We gave them billions of dollars, and it turns out we have a demographic issue.

Remember, starting in 1990, birth rates in the United States started to roll over. It turns out a lot of people don't want to work for the IRS.

There are ways to use technology to crash the price of healthcare, to make the environment healthier, cleaner, to move transportation, to actually do tax collections in an honest, fair, moral fashion.

This place is a protection racket. It is a protection of incumbent bureaucracies, incumbent business models. The hallways are full of lobbyists right now trying to stop us from disrupting and making our brothers and sisters healthier.

Diabetes is 33 percent of all U.S. healthcare. It is immoral what we allow to happen. We can make our brothers and sisters healthier. We can do amazing things for the debt and deficit. We just have to be willing to do things differently.

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

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this CBC Special Order hour. For the next 12 minutes and 30 seconds, Members of the CBC have an opportunity to discuss the importance of Suicide Prevention Month, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for the opportunity to speak.

As we come together for Suicide Prevention Month, I am deeply aware that this heartbreaking crisis is hitting the Black community hard. The CDC reported that in 2023, the suicide rate among Black Americans rose by 19 percent, with Black youth experiencing the sharpest increase of any racial group in the Nation. This alarming trend highlights the urgent need for action.

Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy that makes waves through communities and through families, leaving a void that cannot be filled. Yet, too many of our loved ones don't get the mental health care and support they deserve. As lawmakers, we must confront the uncomfortable truth that our current system is simply falling short.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been at the forefront of addressing this epidemic, working tirelessly to secure critical mental health resources, but our work is far from over. Suicide Prevention Month offers us a moment to reflect on what more we can do, how we can ensure these resources reach every individual in need and especially our youth.

We must expand access to culturally competent mental health care, reduce stigma, and create safe spaces for our open conversations about mental health.

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That is why I introduced the Mental Health Workforce Act, to address racial disparities in the mental health field. The bill seeks to allocate resources and establish programs that focus on the unique needs of marginalized communities, ensuring equitable access to mental health services.

Numerous barriers to access mental healthcare treatment persist in communities of color, including the stigma associated with mental illness, general distrust of healthcare institutions, and the lack of health insurance.

Together, we can change the trajectory of this crisis and ensure a future where every life is valued and protected.

It is critically important that you know you are not alone, and we are here to help.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because we gather on this floor to give recognition to a growing and troubling problem in America today.

Never before have so many young people, and in particular so many African-American young people, been susceptible to the tragic influence of suicidal thoughts.

One of the things that we cannot leave out of this discussion is how much the anxiety of our politics has contributed to the overall dysfunction that has become a cancer on the lives and mental health of America's citizens.

I say to you tonight when people have to worry about political violence and insurrections, that is a strain on mental health. When people have to be concerned about losing their healthcare when they need it most; when people are concerned about the attacks on Medicaid and Medicare; when people are concerned about not being able to make decisions on their own bodies; when people are concerned about whether or not there will be a shooting in their school today; and when people have to listen to the former President of the United States demonize Haitian immigrants with absolutely no evidence for the erroneous claims he happens to be making, it is no wonder that America has become a Nation riddled with anxiety.

Let us be very clear: The will to live is connected to the conditions of one's life.

I am not a mental health expert, Mr. Speaker, but I happen to believe that people who have something to live for are often engaged in the act of living with a sense of promise and hope.

I understand that mental health diseases are real and must be treated separately, but there are a lot of people in this country who contemplate ending their lives not because they have a mental health disease but rather because the conditions in which they have to live have become overwhelming and completely debilitating.

Mr. Speaker, and when people can no longer see a future for themselves, they are more susceptible to the vicissitudes of despair.

The epidemic of opioid abuse is indicative of this analysis.

There are millions upon millions of people in this country who are simply trying to escape the conditions of their lives.

And every day they are fighting not to give in to the encroaching darkness that seems to stalk them both day and night.

And let's be honest, it is a familiar darkness. The content of which is comprised of questions like: How will I pay my mortgage;

How can I afford rent and keep up with my car note; and

How can I pay for the college education of my children while at the same time afford school supplies for the ones who are still in elementary school.

It is a familiar darkness.

It is comprised of concerns about the future of democracy;

the right to vote;

racism and the creeping eradication of America's commitment to diversity; the criminal justice system; questions of war and peace; and clean water, clean air, and clean food.

And my question tonight is this: What about them?

What are we prepared to do in this Congress to make the lives of the American people more secure and worthy of what it means to be called an American?

And contrary to what some have come to believe, not everybody in this country can pull themselves up by their own bootstraps.

There are millions of people who proverbially don't even own boots.

And I still believe that a nation of great wealth owes it to all of its citizens to provide a basic level of support, so that while it is true that not all of us will have maximum success—none of us, however, should be condemned to fail.

We have a moral and ethical obligation to make the future of this country brighter than the one we were born into.

And we do this not just in the policies we legislate, but also in the tone of our politics.

High octane rhetoric will not bring a level of ease to the hearts and minds of the American people.

And so I say to you tonight, let us not just be concerned about preventing suicide without confronting the conditions that make the lives of the American people needlessly miserable and more difficult than it has to be.

Let us dedicate ourselves to the flourishing of all people.

And let us be particularly mindful of the suffering that grows among us.

We want you to know tonight that we see you,

we hear you,

we love you,

and you are not in this battle alone.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 7 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Suicide Prevention Month to bring attention to a deeply troubling issue affecting our Nation: racial disparities in suicide rates, particularly among Black youth.

According to the recent data from the CDC, the suicide rate among Black youth aged 10 through 19 climbed by a staggering 54 percent between 2018 and 2022, exceeding, for the first time, that of their White peers.

In my home State of Florida, where the suicide rate among Black teens is the third highest in the country, the need to address this crisis is especially urgent. Black youth are also significantly less likely to receive the mental health support they need as they face stigma and mistrust toward the healthcare system.

Racial discrimination, economic disenfranchisement, and the lack of culturally competent mental health services fuels disparities and creates barriers to accessing care, even when it is available.

We have long understood suicide prevention and mental health initiatives

to be public health interventions that benefit all Americans. It pains me to see such drastic disparities within these communities.

As Black youth suicide rates continue to climb, investments in cultural competence training, mental health screenings, research, and resources are desperately needed. By taking these steps, we can ensure those at risk are connected to the appropriate accessible and culturally sensitive care they need and deserve.

Lastly, we need to do more research into the specific risk factors affecting Black youth. Understanding the full scope of the problem is essential to developing practical solutions. Federal funding for studies that explore how stigma, cultural identity, and community engagement influence suicide risk in the Black community is long overdue. These studies will guide us in crafting policies and interventions that are both targeted and effective.

The importance of prevention and awareness cannot be understated. This Suicide Prevention Month, we must reaffirm our commitment to addressing the disparities in mental health head-on and ensure that no youth's life is lost to a preventable cause.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward nominees for the Office of President.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 7032. An act to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7377. An act to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 to improve the management of royalties from oil and gas leases, and for other purposes.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on September 11, 2024, the following bill was presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 1076. To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the