

began against Bashar al-Assad's dictatorship. In that time, America and our allies have stood together in opposition to Assad's barbaric regime.

Some in the region may be ready to look past the atrocities committed by Assad's forces. Some countries are even willing to recognize the Assad regime. America must not.

We must go further. We must use our diplomatic strength to counter these misguided steps. Assad, his regime, and their backers have given us no basis whatsoever to justify normalizing relations with a government responsible for the slaughter of 600,000 men, women, and children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass the Assad Anti-Normalization Act.

PAKISTAN'S ELECTIONS MUST REFLECT THE WILL OF ITS PEOPLE, NOT ITS MILITARY

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I will address the results of Thursday's elections in Pakistan and the ongoing vote count there.

I am deeply disturbed by the numerous reports that Pakistan's military is engaging in vote-rigging and violence to overturn the results of Thursday's elections.

These latest actions follow months of targeted suppression, politically motivated arrests, and brutal intimidation tactics.

The results of Pakistan's elections must reflect the will of its people, not its military. It is imperative that every effort is made to ensure that every vote is counted fairly and accurately, and that violence is prevented at all costs.

As we continue to monitor the results out of Pakistan, I urge the State Department to delay recognizing a winner until these allegations are fully reviewed.

#### STOP FUNDING FOREIGN WARS AND GOVERNMENTS WITH TAXPAYER DOLLARS

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

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge the House and the Senate together to consider what terrible days we are in for the American taxpayer.

America has been enslaved in \$34 trillion in debt, and yet over the weekend, the Senate went into overtime throughout the Super Bowl and beyond into the early morning hours to pass a \$95 billion package to fund foreign wars—\$95 billion, and not a penny of that goes to anything for any American.

Our border is completely being invaded every single day by millions and millions of people from all over the world, over 160 countries. Over 2 million got-aways are in America today.

A got-away is a person from a country we do not know where they are from, we do not know where they are inside our country, what State they are

in, what city they are in. We do not know what they are going to do here on our homeland, but we have lost them.

Over 10 million people have crossed the border during the Biden administration, yet the Senate works overtime to fund foreign wars—\$95 billion, and \$60 billion of that is to go to Ukraine.

America has already sent \$113 billion to the failing war in Ukraine. It is a complete buzz saw for an entire generation of Ukrainian men. This is a land where there should be peace talks continuously ending this war, not a place where we continue to write blank checks and keep the money laundering going, keep the corruption going, keep selling our weapons to lands and countries and governments we do not know.

There is so many stories of corruption coming from Ukraine, but they claim that we have to fight for the democracy of Ukraine. That is a lie. Ukraine suspended their elections.

If we are fighting for democracy, why do we fight for a country that suspends their election, locks up American journalists, and destroys free speech.

This is nothing but a money laundering scheme all on the backs of the American taxpayer while the American taxpayer is punched in the gut every single day as our border is kept wide open.

The American people do not support continuing this war. The American people work hard for every single penny they earn, and it is time for the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to remember our oath of office. It is time for us to serve the American people, the American interest, American causes, American businesses, and the American border.

Yet, this institution has lost its way. Madam Speaker, we are \$34 trillion in debt, and the only thing that we are talking about is the continued funding of a war in Ukraine and funding a war in Israel.

That is a danger for Israel. If Israel takes America's money, they open themselves up to the Biden administration and the State Department getting their hooks in their government and telling them what to do in their war.

Israel doesn't need to be told what to do in their war. They need to be allowed to conduct their war as they see fit. They were attacked horrendously by Hamas who are terrorists.

We need to leave Israel alone and let them fight their war, but no. Every single time we come back into town, the main issues we talk about here are how to fund foreign countries, foreign wars, and foreign governments while the entire world invades our country, and the American taxpayers are forced to pay for it all.

This is a complete failure for the American taxpayer. It is a betrayal of our citizens. This institution, the House and the Senate, need to remember our one constitutional duty, and that is to create a budget, a budget that funds our government for our people; a budget that does not enslave our

people into further debt, and yet we have failed to do that. We have only passed 7 of our 12 appropriation bills and the Senate has not finished passing their appropriation bills either.

I am here to urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate that we must come together and remember our oath of office, remember the people that we serve, and do our jobs. We serve the American people, and we should be serving the United States of America.

#### SUPPORTING THE SUPPLEMENTAL AID PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the supplemental aid package for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

This morning, the Senate passed the aid package with nearly all Senate Democrats voting in favor of the bill. I thank Senate Democrats for their tireless leadership on this issue and their commitment to democracy around the world.

Madam Speaker, 22 Republicans also voted with nearly all Senate Democrats to move this bill to the House; 22 Senate Republicans voted to put country over party; 22 Senate Republicans voted to put democracy over Donald Trump.

This bill includes funding to stand with our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. It also includes \$9.2 billion in humanitarian assistance that is desperately needed to provide food, water, shelter, and medical care for the civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, Ukraine, and other war zones around the world.

Now, Madam Speaker, the eyes of the world are watching the House of Representatives. Russia is watching. China is watching. Iran is watching. North Korea is watching.

Authoritarian regimes around the world are watching the House. They are watching the people's House to see if we will honor our commitments and stand with democracies around the globe.

We must stand with Ukraine and our allies.

Madam Speaker, the world is watching the United States House of Representatives.

Just last night, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON said that the bill was dead on arrival in the House, saying: "[In] the absence of having received any single border policy change from the Senate, the House will have to continue to work its own will on these important matters."

He is reading straight out of the Vladimir Putin playbook. Inaction would be a gift to Russia and Vladimir Putin. By doing nothing, we would hand over Ukraine to Russia and Putin.

Madam Speaker, Russia would not stop at Ukraine. As soon as Ukraine

falls, they would move directly to another NATO ally.

Now many of my constituents rightly question the high cost of this aid package. Support for Ukraine and our allies is in our national interest. It is a national security issue. If we hand over Ukraine to Russia, then Putin will win. Our alliances will crumble.

While the costs are high, we will spend 100 times more containing an aggressive Russia around the globe if we do nothing. We must stand with our allies. This will be a vote where Members will be forced to choose between democracy and authoritarianism. That is the great challenge of our time, and we cannot fail.

If Speaker JOHNSON fails to bring this bill to the floor, I believe the House will work its own will on this issue.

□ 1215

Our Speaker has made it clear that he is totally beholden to far-right MAGA extremists—like we just heard from on the floor. It is the tail wagging the dog. However, I believe that a majority of the Republican Conference would vote for the Senate aid package if they were allowed to work their own will on the bill and this issue. However, if Speaker JOHNSON brings the bill to the floor, I believe he will be sacked by MAGA extremists in the Republican Conference. Let's be clear, it is the far right that is running the show in the House Republican Conference today.

Far too much attention has been given to far-right extremists in this Congress. Much more attention should be given to the members of the Republican Conference who are retiring.

Madam Speaker, any one Member can come down to the floor to offer a motion to vacate the chair. Only four House Republicans are needed to elect a new Speaker. If MIKE JOHNSON fails to act, I believe there are many Republicans in the House who agree with the 22 Republicans in the Senate on this issue.

I don't think we would have a Democratic Speaker. I believe, though, there is support for a temporary Speaker, a moderate to move bills that can get 60 votes in the Senate and move those through the House. Maybe a temporary Speaker for 2 or 3 weeks? That is what the Nation wants: Members of Congress willing to work together to get things done and to solve our Nation's toughest problems.

We have just seen 22 Republicans in the Senate willing to vote country over party on this issue, and I believe there are Republicans in the House willing to do the same. That is the way we get bipartisan immigration reform and border security. It is the way we pass this supplemental appropriations bill to stand with our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

House Republicans have a choice, Madam Speaker. Are they prodemocracy, or are they pro-Putin? House Republicans can choose country over party or Russia over the United States.

House Republicans can stand with our allies, or they can stand with Donald Trump.

Will House Republicans stand with democratic nations like Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, or will they stand with authoritarian regimes like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea? I have hope for the retiring Members of the Republican Conference, and I believe there are Members willing to stand with democracy over Donald Trump.

Madam Speaker, you have heard House Democrats come to the floor and talk about voting to put people over politics. This is an issue that is people over politics, and we must not fail.

#### SECRETARY MAYORKAS MUST BE HELD TO ACCOUNT

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote again on two Articles of Impeachment against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

A lot of attention has been paid to the fact that the impeachment vote failed to pass the House last week due to a Republican being absent for health reasons. While I would have, of course, rather that it had passed, it did serve to highlight that House Republicans are largely in this fight to secure our national borders all by ourselves.

House Democrats know that Secretary Mayorkas has intentionally failed to secure our borders, but most agree with President Biden's open-border policy, so not one single House Democrat joined with us to impeach Secretary Mayorkas. Essentially, they like the job he is doing or, should I say, not doing.

The Immigration and Nationality Act requires that those who clearly do not meet the requirements for asylum be detained for removal. Yet, in 2021, Secretary Mayorkas wrote to ICE officials: "The fact an individual is a removable noncitizen therefore should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them."

The law says an alien who is deportable on certain criminal and terrorism-related grounds should be taken into custody. Again, Secretary Mayorkas wrote: "Personnel should not rely on the fact of conviction . . . alone."

Our laws say parole can only be granted on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. That is far from what is happening. Secretary Mayorkas has sat at the helm of a historic, unconstitutional catch and release scheme that has resulted in tens of thousands of illegal immigrants being released into the United States with no way of tracking them.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded in *Texas v. Biden* that Mayorkas' DHS was ignoring the limits Congress placed on their parole author-

ity. Let me say that again. The court found that DHS was ignoring the limits placed on their parole authority.

There have been more than 8.3 million illegal immigrant encounters under Secretary Mayorkas' watch, more than 1.7 million known got-aways, and more than 360 attempted crossings by immigrants on the terrorist watch list. Yet, unfortunately, we will likely see another party-line vote later today.

A Harvard CAPS/Harris poll last month found that 35 percent of registered voters approve of the President's handling of immigration, and 68 percent of registered voters say they believe the administration should make it tougher to enter the United States illegally. Half of those voters identified as Democrats. This shouldn't be a party-line vote, Madam Speaker.

Contrary to what we hear coming from many in the mainstream media, last week's vote was not so much a defeat for House Republicans as it was a defeat for our national security and the rule of law. When the executive branch goes rogue, the Constitution doesn't request, it requires that the legislative branch holds it to account.

We are already getting a look at what this fiscal year will bring. Numbers show we have already reached more than 1 million encounters since October 1. In that time, Customs and Border Protection officials have encountered 50 more people whose names are on the terrorist watch list. This further underscores the dereliction of duty taking place at the Department of Homeland Security.

Last week, Democratic Senator CHRIS MURPHY referred to illegal immigrants as undocumented Americans and called them "the people we care about most." That refers to what the Democratic Party cares about most. I could not disagree with that statement more. I care most about the hard-working Tennesseans I represent, those who play by the rules and embrace legal immigration. It is with them in mind that I will proudly vote again to impeach Secretary Mayorkas.

#### REMEMBERING RAYMOND L. CORDOVA

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my very good friend, Raymond "Ray" Cordova, and his legacy of service.

Ray was a proud Vietnam war vet. After serving in Vietnam, he returned home to help build our Nation through his work with the Communications Workers of America.

Ray didn't care who you were, Democrat or Republican. Ray represented every working man and woman, and he fought for the rights of every worker that he came across. In fact, Ray Cordova is the only man I know that debated Jimmy Hoffa and outlived