

an issue that I think most Americans, certainly most Members of Congress, believe is of urgent importance, and that is on the issue of immigration.

Immigration is now part of a larger negotiation that is going on, largely in the Senate, in addition to funding things like Ukraine, the Middle East conflict, and support in Taiwan. It is all in the mix.

Truth be told, since becoming a Member of Congress, I have never seen an issue more politicized than the issue of immigration. I think most of us, regardless of party, would agree that our immigration system is broken. It is not working for anyone—not the communities struggling to handle thousands of migrants; not our own economy, where we actually really need immigration; not the migrants themselves who are walking, in some cases, a thousand miles with their children to get to our border.

Both Democrats and Republicans share blame on this situation. We have had chances to reform this totally broken system in the past, but we have fallen short over and over again.

It does not have to be this way. I think, as rational, practical people, we should be able to come together and have a conversation about how we think this most American of issues should go, and as we do, we should follow what I consider the five core pillars to address this comprehensive crisis:

Number one, immigration in the United States should be based on the needs of the U.S. economy and the employers in the United States. Right now, every single employer that I know is looking for legal labor, and our economy can take new people coming into the workforce.

We should key our immigration numbers to the economy. Immigration numbers, visa numbers, are set by Congress—not by the White House, but by this body that I sit in, so if we want to raise the caps of legally allowed visas in the United States, that is on this body.

Number two, we have to change the system so that immigrants can come to this country by applying from their home countries. Have it be faster to get a legal work permit from your home country rather than walking, as I said, a thousand miles, making this dangerous journey to the border, or paying a whole bunch of unsavory people to get themselves over.

This is how it works on the northern border. I am from Michigan. You don't have border agents making decisions about whether someone gets to come into our country or not. They are checking the visas and the paperwork, stamping approved or unapproved and moving them through.

Number three, we need to invest in border security. Every country in the world deserves to know who is coming inside their borders.

I am a national security person. I spent my entire life trying to make sure our homeland was protected.

Every country has the right to know who is coming in. We need strong border security, and there are plenty of bipartisan proposals, including ones that I have presented, that can accomplish this.

Number four, we have to address the root causes of migration. Why are people risking their life to come to this country in the first place? It is poverty. It is violence back home. We have got to help those countries improve their situation, so we don't have such a flood of people feeling desperate to come to the United States. That is in their interests and ours.

Lastly, we need to live up to our values and morals as a country of immigrants, as a Nation of immigrants. I am guessing everyone in this room right now owes their lives in America to an immigration story, and we always should remain a place where people fearing persecution and death can come to for a chance to live.

I am willing to talk with anyone, Democrat or Republican, who wants to uphold commonsense conversations. I am willing to make progress, even if it is not popular, even if plans are imperfect. The truth is there are a lot of bipartisan ideas out there. They are just not sexy. They just don't get attention.

I am the cosponsor of something called the Dignity Act. It is a comprehensive reform plan. It is bipartisan. It was put together by folks in the Problem Solvers Caucus. To be honest about those future negotiations, we have to be honest that our immigration system is broken because of that partisanship, because all sides—Members of the House, the Senate, and the White House—are pointing fingers at everybody else.

There is a way out of this mess. It is the same thing our constituents do every day. They go to work. They have negotiations. Not everyone is happy, but they come up with a compromise.

As we kick off 2024, we know that this issue of immigration is on the top of all of our news feeds. It is being discussed in the Senate right now. I am willing to work with anyone who is actually focused on getting something done.

CONGRATULATING SUNY CORTLAND FOOTBALL TEAM ON FIRST-EVER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARBARINO). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SUNY Cortland's football team for winning its first-ever national championship.

In a thrilling showdown at the 50th Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the Red Dragons defeated the previously unbeaten and top-ranked North Central College by a narrow 38-37.

This victory marks the culmination of a phenomenal season where

Cortland's junior quarterback, Zac Boyes, showcased brilliance with 349 passing yards, 5 touchdowns, and 123 rushing yards.

□ 1045

The championship game, a showcase of two prolific offenses, unfolded in dramatic fashion, featuring three lead changes and three ties. In the closing moments, North Central sought a comeback, narrowing Cortland's lead to 38-37, with a 60-yard pass, but the Red Dragons held firm, stopping the two-point conversion and securing the win.

This triumph is not just a win for the team, but a testament to their resilience defeating a program that held a 29-game winning streak and defending the Division III national champions. Cortland's journey through the playoffs, with five consecutive wins against top 25 opponents, underscores their exceptional prowess.

As we applaud this victory, we also acknowledge the broader significance. This is the first New York school to reach the Division III title game since 1991.

In a season that saw them ranked 11th nationally, the Red Dragons soared to unparalleled heights, achieving their 26th team title overall. Today let's recognize and celebrate their hard work, dedication, and indomitable spirit that defines champions.

On behalf of the people of the 19th Congressional District, congratulations to SUNY Cortland on this historic and well-deserved win. May their success inspire future generations to strive for greatness on and off the field.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JIM
DUNHAM

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a cherished member of our community, Mr. Jim Dunham of Kinderhook, New York.

Jim passed away on December 18, leaving behind a legacy of selfless dedication and a profound impact on the Kinderhook community. Jim's early life was shaped by the support of his family, and he went on to become an exemplary son, husband, father, and grandfather.

A devoted public servant, Jim volunteered for over five decades, ultimately serving as a village trustee and mayor. This summer, Dunham Park in the village square was named in his honor, recognizing his extensive service and lasting impact.

Jim's commitment to family, community, and public service extended to his roles in the Kinderhook Reformed Church, as a volunteer firefighter, and a Little League coach. An avid baseball fan, he found joy rooting for Cleveland and his hometown Kinderhook Robins.

In addition to his civic contributions, Jim earned a B.S. in civil engineering and had a 35-year distinguished career with the New York State Department of Transportation.

Today, as we express our condolences to Jim's family and friends, let us also

celebrate the life of a man whose humility, sincerity, kindness, and love for his community were the hallmarks of his character.

May Jim rest in peace, and may his memory inspire us all to serve.

INVESTING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly announce that two of my communities in various parts of southern New Mexico will receive \$63 million in Federal investment to construct two medium- and heavy-duty commercial electric truck charging stations along Interstate 10 thanks to the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Lordsburg, in Hidalgo County, is home to only 2,300 people, and Vado in Dona Ana County is home to nearly 3,000 people.

This type of investment in these small, rural communities will spur economic development in these places for generations to come.

While we talk about these new electrification opportunities across the country, I am always asked: What jobs will this bring to the rural communities like mine?

This \$63 million award coming to New Mexico is the largest award in the United States and will go a long way to not just helping us transition to cleaner trucks and transportation but it will also boost economic development in rural communities.

Larger metropolitan areas continuously benefit from Federal investments, so this is why I fight to make sure that towns like Lordsburg and Vado are not being left behind by the decisions here in Washington.

The construction of these new charging centers will provide critical resting places along the I-10 corridor, a route that facilitates the transportation of millions of dollars in goods from the Ports of Los Angeles through New Mexico and through the rest of the country.

Along with this project comes new jobs and other investments like lodging, food services, and fuel stations that will serve the truckers who are utilizing the new center.

This critical funding is also helping grow American manufacturing, including in my district in New Mexico. In fact, in September, Hota, an auto parts maker, announced that they are opening a factory in Santa Teresa that will support 350 new jobs building these parts for electric vehicles.

I am committed to growing the rural economies in my district, whether that is supporting new manufacturing jobs or establishing new charging hubs along I-10. This shows that we can work together in a bipartisan way and deliver for the American people and for our rural communities.

SECRETARY MAYORKAS HAS FAILED TO UPHOLD HIS OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, Americans have had enough.

I rise today to call upon the House of Representatives to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and for the Senate to convict and remove him from the office he has failed to uphold.

Since being sworn in 3 years ago, Secretary Mayorkas has neglected his duty to secure the border; he has abused his power to exercise proper discretion over America's immigration process by refusing to enforce Federal laws, and he has breached the public trust and put the safety of the American people at risk.

Secretary Mayorkas is the worst Cabinet-level official in our Nation's proud history, and he has subverted our Nation's laws so many times. With respect to his impeachment and removal, I want to focus on two main points: the reassigning of Border Patrol agents away from the border, and the lack of vetting of migrants paroled into our interior.

First, Secretary Mayorkas continues to require Border Patrol agents be taken off of the border and, instead, sit behind a desk at migrant processing centers to process more and more dubious asylum claims and facilitate migrants' parole into our Nation's interior.

This is an abuse of power by the Secretary to exercise proper discretion over our Nation's immigration process. The diversion of border agents away from the border leaves the already mostly unsecured border even more vulnerable to cartels looking to illegally traffic people and narcotics, including fentanyl.

Fentanyl has been coming through legal and illegal border crossings, overwhelming our law enforcement. The open and agentless border can be tied to the death of the 73,000 Americans who were poisoned by fentanyl in 2022 alone. In redirecting personnel away from the border, leaving it wide open for tens of miles in many places, Secretary Mayorkas has neglected his duty to secure America's southern border and to keep our communities safe.

Second, Mr. Speaker, Secretary Mayorkas' scheme of paroling hundreds of thousands of migrants into the United States who have not and cannot be properly vetted undermines our national security efforts to keep America safe in a post-9/11 world.

In just 2 years in office, Secretary Mayorkas paroled and allowed 541,000 migrants to enter the United States through immigration parole authority, which gives Federal officials the power to authorize the entry of foreigners who lack visas. Moreover, while this number on its own is objectionable, the impeachmentworthy part is Secretary Mayorkas has allowed these individ-

uals into our communities without a proper understanding of their criminal backgrounds or national security intentions.

According to the not-so-conservative New York Times, more than 24,000 Chinese citizens illegally crossed into the United States in a 1-year time period under Secretary Mayorkas. Mayorkas then paroled a large fraction of them into the United States without any proper vetting whatsoever.

This has brought us to this week, where the Homeland Security Committee opened impeachment proceedings against Secretary Mayorkas. This was not an easy decision, but it is necessary for the well-being of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans' calls for the Secretary's impeachment and removal from office comes after exhausting all other efforts.

In May of last year, the House took action and passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which, among other things, would counter Secretary Mayorkas' alternative immigration scheme by reinstating the remain in Mexico policy and requiring the construction of more physical barriers at the border. Yet, this bill languishes on Senator SCHUMER's desk.

Despite the inaction from our Senate counterparts, we House Republicans have hosted multiple public hearings to show the American people the failures of Secretary Mayorkas' alternative immigration process with the hope that he would change course. These hearings have been complemented by numerous trips to the southern border to allow Members of this Chamber to hear directly from border communities, local officials, law enforcement, and families harmed by his crisis. House Republicans understand Americans want a more secure border, as is demonstrated by the staggering 68 percent disapproval rating on the President's handling of immigration.

Mr. Speaker, to summarize, Secretary Mayorkas has, one, neglected his duty to secure the border; two, abused his power to exercise proper discretion over America's immigration process; and, three, breached the public trust.

Secretary Mayorkas is intentionally circumventing the immigration and border security laws passed by multiple Congresses and signed by previous Presidents of both parties, and I believe he holds partial responsibility for thousands of our children dying from fentanyl poisoning. The majority of Americans want accountability.

FIRST-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the first year of the 118th Congress, my focus was clear: ensuring the people of eastern North