

in Federal student loans for 150,000 borrowers.

As Americans, we have always followed a simple rule: If you take out a loan, you pay back the loan. It is time to call a spade a spade. This student loan scam isn't forgiveness; it is an election-year handout to President Biden's far-left voters to transfer debt to the American taxpayer. This gimmick transfers the burden of the loans from the students who took the loans onto every American taxpayer.

Repaying these loans certainly has no personal benefit to 87 percent of taxpayers who don't have student loans and to the 100 million Americans who never attended college.

This program takes advantage of Americans who are already struggling to support their families under the weight of President Biden's inflation. It is time to send a message to President Biden and his administration that we cannot allow hardworking Americans, who have kept their word and repaid their personal loans, to be ripped off by yet another pandering scheme to the far left.

RARE DISEASE WEEK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Rare Disease Week.

Right now, more than 25 million Americans and their loved ones are impacted by over 7,000 conditions which are classified as rare diseases.

Since the Orphan Drug Act was enacted in 1983, more than 600 drugs have been developed to combat these illnesses and ultimately save lives. Now, because of President Biden's so-called Inflation Reduction Act, the environment that has allowed these treatments to develop is being threatened.

This week, I am proud to be working alongside my colleagues to advance bipartisan legislation, the ORPHAN Cures Act, which would expand the orphan drug exemption for medicines with multiple indications involving rare diseases and cancers.

It is critical that Congress acts to support research and development into treatments and therapies that address rare diseases and further work to ensure that patients have access to the care and treatment that they need.

As we recognize Rare Disease Week, let's commit to standing with patients who are living with rare diseases, including pediatric cancers and diseases like cystic fibrosis, classified as rare, but they are not rare to the families and the patients who are suffering with them.

Let's commit to working together to ensure that every patient, regardless of the rarity of the condition, receives the support, the care, and the treatment that they need.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LARRY MAKOBEN

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the life of Larry Makoben of Bettendorf, Iowa.

Larry's remarkable work in the Quad Cities was transformative. Over the years, Larry was president of the Bettendorf Jaycees and the Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce, where he served for many years as an Ambassador. He was also a member of the Bettendorf and Quad Cities Morning Optimist Club, the Bettendorf Kiwanis Club, and Larry served as the district chairman for the Boy Scouts of America. His unwavering dedication, leadership, and passion for excellence set a standard that will continue to inspire us all.

As we reflect on Larry's achievements, his military service, and his service to our community, let us remember the positive influence he had on those around him.

I offer my deepest condolences to Larry's wife, Carolyn, and his family during this difficult time. May we honor Larry by carrying forward his spirit of resilience, creativity, and commitment to making a difference.

ZACH BOTT NAMED IOWA WINE GROWERS ASSOCIATION WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Zach Bott, a winemaker at Fireside Winery in Marengo and Ackerman Winery in Amana for being named the 2024 Iowa Wine Growers Association Winemaker of the Year.

In a region known for its rich agricultural history, Zach's dedication and passion for winemaking have truly set him apart. Zach Bott has not only mastered the art of winemaking but has also become a symbol of excellence in the industry. His commitment to producing high-quality wine reflects the spirit of innovation and hard work that defines Iowa's winemaking industry.

Congratulations to Zach Bott on this well-deserved honor. May his success inspire a new generation of winemakers and continue to elevate Iowa's presence in the world of wines. Cheers.

PERMANENT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ATHLETICS DIRECTOR BETH GOETZ

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Beth Goetz, who was recently named the permanent athletics director for the University of Iowa. She is now the first woman to oversee the university's entire athletics program since Christine Grant led the then-separate women's athletic department from 1973 to 2000.

Beth's groundbreaking appointment not only marks a significant milestone for women working in athletics, but the promotion also reflects Iowa's commitment to excellence and diversity in leadership. With an impressive track record and a visionary approach, Beth is ready to lead Iowa athletics to new heights. Congratulations, Beth, and Go Hawks.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Iowa Department of Transportation, the city crews, the county crews, and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly during the recent winter storm in Iowa's First Congressional District.

With another storm coming in today, their work has been so helpful to all Iowans, and to those who are crossing the country on Interstate 80 or Interstate 35. Their unwavering commitment and dedication ensured that our roads were cleared, our sidewalks were usable, our communities remained safe, and ensured that our essential services continued uninterrupted. It was a challenging and dangerous job to do.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the women and men who, through their hard work, kept our cities running smoothly and our roads safe. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BORDER BRUTALITY

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week our country lost yet another innocent soul to President Biden's administration's inexcusable and shameful open-border policy when 22-year-old Laken Hope Riley was brutally murdered by a Venezuelan citizen who illegally entered our country in September 2022.

Laken Riley was a nursing student at Augusta University's Athens campus who was out on a morning run near the intramural fields at the University of Georgia. May her soul rest in peace.

Unfortunately, this is what Americans across the country have come to expect since President Biden took office. His administration has enacted and implemented numerous open-border policies which directly and inevitably result in these sorts of tragedies.

In addition to this terrible tragedy that occurred in Georgia, local authorities in Virginia arrested a 32-year-old Venezuelan migrant in connection with the sexual assault of a minor. Just like the murderer who allegedly killed Laken Riley, this individual also entered the country in September of 2022 after being detained and released by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in El Paso, Texas.

In our Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C., a man accused of shooting three District of Columbia police officers was found to be in our country illegally with an active deportation order with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. All three of these terrible, completely avoidable tragedies occurred in the same calendar month, just a week apart.

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Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, pure and simple, these are the consequences of

the Biden's administration indefensible open-border policies.

There is no doubt that President Biden's feckless border policies are the direct causes of this once unimaginable level of crime and loss of life.

To make matters worse, just days after both of these immigrants entered our country illegally, President Biden, instead of trying to secure the border, erroneously stated that the border was actually secure and that it was "not rational" to deport illegal immigrants from Venezuela.

If deporting illegal immigrants is not rational, then that begs the question, Madam Speaker, what is rational? Simply doing nothing but keeping the border wide open surely isn't rational.

As a father of two young children growing up in President Biden's United States where every town has become a border town, I fear it is only a matter of time until one of these families that I represent in middle Tennessee faces the same consequences of the Biden administration's open-border policies.

I pray that day never comes. I also pray the President comes to his senses and ends the humanitarian crisis at the southern border that his administration's policies have caused.

The administration has already admitted they have the authority to restrict migrants' ability to seek asylum at the border. It is well past time that the President used that authority.

Until then, House Republicans like me will continue sounding the alarm and beating the drum to shed light on this administration's open-border policies and blatant abuse of our immigration laws.

Border security is national security, and strong borders make for strong countries and safe countries.

STANDING WITH AMERICA'S FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, at this very moment, America's dedicated farmers and the Nation's entire agricultural community are facing a serious threat.

That threat is the Communist Chinese Party's continued purchasing of American farmland. This is a threat that I take very seriously and one that I remain committed to fixing.

Here is the truth: The Chinese Communist Party has absolutely no interest in supporting our Nation's food supply.

It cares only about improving its own bottom line while kneecapping a community that has always put food on the tables of families in every ZIP Code in America.

Think about the threat that is being posed to our national security as more American farmland is acquired by the Chinese Communist Party.

My record is crystal clear on standing with farmers, and I have recently

taken action to confront and expose the Chinese Communist Party's covert agenda.

I have cosponsored H.R. 7131, the AFIDA Improvements Act of 2024, legislation that makes serious reforms related to how the United States Department of Agriculture shares data on foreign investments in agricultural land.

What is more, I have cosponsored H.R. 809, the Prohibition of Agricultural Land for the People's Republic of China Act.

This legislation requires the President to take necessary actions to prohibit the purchase of public or private agricultural real estate located in the United States by nonresident aliens, foreign businesses, or any agent, trustee, or fiduciary associated with the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Further, under this legislation, individuals or businesses with direct ties to the Government of the People's Republic of China will be prohibited from certain programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, the simple truth is that our Nation's food supply and supply chain are better off when American farmers are put first.

The interests of the Chinese Government should never be put first. This threat is one that should not be ignored.

I have long held that North Carolina's agricultural industry is the best that our Nation has to offer. It has always been and will always be a force to be reckoned with.

Last Congress, I was proud to be a recipient of the Friend of the Farm Bureau award in recognition of my voting record in support of farmers across North Carolina and the Nation.

These hardworking men, women, and families work tirelessly every day to support our Nation. I will always stand with them and push back against every attempt to undermine their livelihoods.

CONTINUED ACCESS TO FERTILITY CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join my resolution in regard to IVF. My resolution expresses support for continued access to fertility care and assisted reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization in light of Alabama's court ruling last week that has jeopardized access to in vitro fertilization and other assisted reproductive technology in the State of Alabama.

For years now, since 2019, I have been advocating for women's issues and women's rights on the issue of contraception, on the issue of contraceptives, and on the issue of abortion exceptions, particularly for the life of the mother, rape, and incest.

In 2019, as a State lawmaker, I told my story as a survivor of rape. When the State of South Carolina was doing its fetal heartbeat bill, it had no exceptions for women who were raped or for girls who were victims of incest, and I was frustrated by that argument because very few women are actually speaking up about women and about those exceptions.

Ever since then, I have become very passionate about protecting women, about protecting their rights, and about protecting access to IVF, et cetera.

Today, I want to point out I have cosponsored legislation and resolutions by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle as it relates to contraception, as it relates to contraceptives, as it relates to providing information and protecting IVF, and, yet, not a single one of them got criticized for the legislation because they were Democrats.

Yet today, I am trying to work with Members on both sides of the aisle together to condemn the ruling in Alabama, to express our sentiment and express our support for IV access for women all across the country.

When a Republican does it, it should be equally supported by the corporate media, but, apparently, it is not.

I am urging my colleagues today to get beyond the divisive politics and look forward to how we can actually work together because this IVF issue shouldn't be Republican, and it shouldn't be Democrat.

The vast majority of Americans—I dare say almost every single American in this country, almost a hundred percent—support efforts to protect women's access to IVF.

I also want to mention, last year I cosponsored H. Res. 345, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ' resolution, that recognizes that infertility is a widespread problem that affects populations of diverse ages, races, ethnicities, and genders.

Madam Speaker, 12 percent of women in the U.S. have difficulty getting pregnant or staying pregnant, and 9 percent of men experience infertility.

The resolution acknowledged that infertility is a disease and that infertility is not just a women's issue because it impacts men also. This is a families' issue.

The Federal Government has a moral obligation to ensure the availability of infertility-related services to all individuals and families without barriers such as access, cost, and coverage.

I remind the press that I also was only one of eight Republicans that voted in favor of KATHY MANNING'S Right to Contraception Act.

The Greater Access to Contraceptive Options Act ensures women and families across the country have a right to obtain and use contraceptives. It is a commonsense measure in the case of rape, incest, or in order to maintain a healthy and well-functioning body. Reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies requires ensuring contraceptives are available to couples, women, et cetera.