

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.

Finally, beyond the numbers as it relates to my resolution regarding support for IVF, IVF has a genuinely positive impact on individuals, families, and communities.

IVF and other assisted reproductive technologies contribute to the birth of over 10 million babies globally every single year. In the U.S., 12 percent of women of reproductive age have utilized assisted reproductive technology.

Infertility is a deeply personal and obviously devastating issue. I am calling on my colleagues today on both sides of the aisle, Republican and Democrat alike, to join me in expressing the sentiment in the whole House of Representatives that we are dedicated to protecting the American Dream of starting a family by cosponsoring this resolution.

BRINGING KAI LI HOME

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

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, we, the United States Government, must do everything in our power to bring my constituent, Kai Li, home from his unlawful imprisonment by the Chinese Communist Party.

Since 2016, Kai Li, of Huntington, New York, has been unjustly imprisoned by the Chinese Communist Party.

In 2016, Kai Li visited Shanghai to mark the first anniversary of his mother's death. When he arrived at the airport in Shanghai, Chinese Communist Party authorities immediately arrested him on what they called espionage charges.

For months, Kai was held in secret detention without access to legal counsel. Almost 2 years later, in July of 2018, in a one-hour secret trial, Kai was convicted of espionage.

This is yet another example of the Chinese Communist Party's long history of aggressively targeting and detaining individuals on trumped-up charges of spying.

Since coming into office 14 months ago, I have called on the administration to do everything in its power to bring Kai Li home to his family, including his son, Harrison.

Soon, I will be introducing legislation to urge this administration to prioritize bringing Kai Li home and end his unlawful detainment. We must right this wrong and fix a broken situation.

POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, the Suffolk County Police Department has an exciting program to increase interest among teenagers in pursuing a career in law enforcement. It is called the Police Explorers.

Participants in the program must show an interest in a law enforcement career, meet minimum academic standards, and have no criminal convictions or history.

The Police Explorers program is a learning-for-life program, which pro-

vides participants with police training and community service experience.

I had the chance to meet with Sergeant Linda Piotrowski of the Suffolk County Police Department in my Hauppauge office, and she briefed me on this program.

We had a great discussion about public safety and how to increase awareness among young people interested in a career in law enforcement.

As the son and grandson of police officers, I am thrilled to see efforts to increase law enforcement recruitment numbers and to help those interested in a career in law enforcement. Together, we must continue to support and back the blue at every opportunity.

COMBATING THE RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the disturbing rise in anti-Semitism in this country and around the world, especially in the months following the October 7 terrorist attacks committed by Hamas against the people of Israel.

Since October 7, America has seen a demonstrable rise in anti-Semitism on college campuses where students have been harassed and even insulted simply for being Jewish.

Despite their years of elitist rhetoric, talk of safe spaces, and feigning how they welcome all cultures, duplicitous liberal college presidents have refused to take action to protect these students.

In America, every student should be free to live and learn without fear of harassment or physical violence. America's colleges must do better.

Here in Washington, I am proud to cosponsor several pieces of legislation to support Israel, hold Hamas and Iran accountable, and condemn anti-Semitism, including H.R. 6090, the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, which would require the Department of Education to clearly define anti-Semitism and ensure anti-Semitic hate crimes on college campuses are properly investigated and prosecuted.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O sovereign Lord, 2 years into this unrelenting conflict between Russia

and Ukraine, we appeal to You to act in condemnation against the unprovoked and the unjustified aggression and the heinous and hateful crimes against the Ukrainian people.

Uphold the cause of justice and defend these men and women who have called to You in their need. For they have been a testimony to faith, waiting patiently for You, fearing not when evil people have succeeded, and never losing heart even as the wicked carry out their schemes.

Protect them from their enemy but preserve them also from themselves, that they would refrain from acting out in anger and responding in wrath. In the horror of this interminable war, prevent them from resorting to vengeance, deliver them from exercising the very evil they are now enduring.

May all who suffer at the hands of such aggressors be assured that You, O Lord, laugh at the wicked for You know their day is coming. Though they draw the sword and bend the bow, You, O righteous one, will cause their weapons to pierce their own hearts. You will cause their strongholds to break.

Make firm the steps of those who delight in You. Though they may stumble, they will not fall, for You, O Lord, will uphold them with Your hand.

In the strength found only in Your name do we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PLASKETT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

LEAP DAY

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Leap Day, which means the folks I represent in Tennessee will be subject to an extra day of the disastrous economic policies of the Biden administration that have resulted in record-high inflation and an unaffordable cost of living.

Look no further, Mr. Speaker, than a recent report that said December was the least affordable month on record to own a home, as home prices hit an all-time high.