

invariably line up on the side of freedom, of liberty, of the right of all individuals to make their own decisions, to not be told by dictators or by mullahs or by totalitarians what to think, how to pray, or who will lead them—every generation.

My generation was 9/11 when we were brutally attacked by extremists who hated our way of life; my grandparents' generation was the Cold War in which we stood against totalitarianism and communism in Europe and elsewhere; my great-grandparents' generation was World War II in which we stood up to fascism—always on the side of freedom, always on the side of liberty.

While we don't always get it precisely right, and the cost in blood and treasure has often been horrendous, we are invariably there. We have stood against the odds for freedom and democracy.

Now we waver. This generation, now we waver.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, something that we didn't imagine we would ever see again: Russia invades a sovereign country, crosses a border with tanks. Now we waver.

Our parents and our grandparents, who fought those wars and the Cold War against Nazism, are saying: What is wrong with you? What has become of the instinct to stand for freedom and democracy?

Mr. Speaker, we hear these objections about the border over and over again. My Republican friends are right about the border. We need to move.

By the way, we did move. We had a bipartisan agreement supported by Republicans in the Senate, and the Republicans in the House said no.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker? This country, this body, can do more than one thing at the same time. We can stand for freedom and democracy and fix the border. Do not tell me that we choose between the two.

We hear that the objectives in Ukraine are unclear. The objectives are as clear as can be. We will sustain this fight until Vladimir Putin realizes it is too expensive for him to stay in that fight.

We hear that the Ukrainians are corrupt. We didn't hear that about our Afghan allies or about our Iraqi allies, but we hear that about the Ukrainians.

Meanwhile, China, North Korea, and Iran are watching. What they are seeing is that Republicans—forget about loss of life—if it is a little bit of money, we don't sustain the fight.

Do you think President Xi is not watching this moment carefully? Can you imagine what the implications are down the road for Taiwan?

Failure to respond to Russian aggression will be something that we pay the cost for in years to come. A leader of this body said it: A failure to respond to that aggression “empowers other dictators, other terrorists and tyrants around the world, because if they perceive that America is weak or unable to act decisively, then it invites aggression in many different ways.”

That was Speaker JOHNSON, the leader of this body.

Mr. Speaker, in 1938, Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister, went to Munich, where a bunch of us just were, and he appeased. He came back to England and said, I have achieved “peace for our time.”

Of course, that was not true; that was appeasement. As a result, the name “Neville Chamberlain” stands in history for the legacy of appeasement.

Is that the legacy that you want for yourselves? Do we want to abandon, for the first time in hundreds of years, our tradition of standing for democracy and freedom? I don't think so.

Maybe you do. Maybe you do because Donald Trump wants that to happen.

At least bring the bipartisan Senate bill to the floor so that those who are infused with the legacy of this country's fight for freedom, and not infused by doing whatever Donald Trump demands of us on this particular day, can stand up for what this American country has always stood for.

Bring the Senate bill to the floor.

CONGRATULATING PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy boys' soccer team for winning the 3A State championship.

By beating the number one ranked Gilbert Christian School, they secured the title with a score of 2-1.

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy is known for its sports and does not fail to disappoint when it comes to State championships.

Head Coach Geoff Neale led the team to the championship alongside Assistant Coaches Adam Odell and Taric Doyle.

This team has a great future ahead of them. I am excited to see what the future holds for all of them.

As Congressman of Arizona's Sixth Congressional District, I take pride in the accomplishments of these talented young athletes.

Keep up the great work. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING SALPOINTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salpointe Catholic High School boys' soccer team. The Lancers won their fourth straight 4A State championship, defeating the Mica Mountain High School Thunderbolts 4-1.

Salpointe's fourth straight State title ties the school with Lakeside Blue Ridge, Chino Valley, and Yuma Catholic for the most consecutive State championships in Arizona's history.

Wolfgang Weber, head coach of the boys' soccer program and a legendary local youth soccer coach, led the team to their 11th State championship.

I am so proud of these boys, and I am excited to see where their soccer careers take them.

Go Lancers. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING THE SALPOINTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salpointe Catholic High School wrestling team. Nate Higgins and Che Jenkins, class of 2025, secured the State championship for the Salpointe Catholic Lancers this year.

Their dedication, skill, and perseverance have brought immense pride to their school. Salpointe Catholic High School is a hub for athletes in our district, offering 26 sports with 52 teams. With those, the Lancers have won 78 State championships.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited to see the bright and promising futures of these exceptional athletes as they excel both on and off the mat.

Congratulations.

CONGRATULATING WALDEN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Walden Grove High School girls' soccer team for winning the Arizona 4A State championship.

In an exciting match, Coach Troy Bosley and his team secured victory over Salpointe by two goals with a final score of 3-1.

This was Walden Grove's first State championship since 2014. Their dedication and perseverance throughout the past year has been truly commendable. It is no surprise that they emerged with the victory this season.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such talented student athletes, determined coaches, and supportive parents.

Keep up the great work, and congratulations.

CONGRESS MUST WORK TO AVOID A SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear: We cannot shut this government down.

Mr. Speaker, 4 pages, 5 pages, or 20 pages of a stopgap measure, the government cannot shut down. The rules of this House and Senate require the Congress to do its work.

As the President said, we have the purse strings to be able to ensure that the government remains open; that law enforcement is paid; that Medicare and Medicaid are provided for our families and our seniors; that we are able to ensure that the young families of young soldiers, men and women of the United States military who put on the uniform unselfishly and are on the front lines, are paid.

As we have seen, a number of tragic incidents have caused the loss of lives of the men and women in uniform, including many of our tragic flight incidents. We have lost many lives over

this last year, including those who are in combat.

Mr. Speaker, are you telling me that we are not going to put pen to paper and work together, work with the Budget Committee that I sit on, to ensure that there are Members who will advocate for your Members to join in, without poison pills, of the funding of the CR?

This paper allows us today to work through an extension until March 8 and an extension until March 22. It includes a response to our student loan crisis, which is extremely important. It ensures that the doors of the government remain open.

What I hope that we will be able to do is to fight against the dastardly position of underfunding or not funding the women, infants, and children program. My community needs to be able to provide funding for women, infants, and children, a major component of the Federal Government's budgeting.

What else do I want to make sure that we do? As I walked through my district over these last couple of days, in particular, I heard about the crisis of seniors and housing.

Mr. Speaker, we know that young families need housing, but do you realize that in the later years of a senior's life, sometimes they are priced out of their own home? Because of building around their home, their home values increase. They cannot afford the taxes or the upkeep. Where do they go?

This government should be committed, with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to developing a serious housing program for seniors. This program would, in essence, ensure that we could provide housing for seniors all over America.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator TESTER, who, in speaking about the House, said that we can't fool around. If that is what it takes to get this done, we need to stop kicking the can down the road. We need to stop it. We need to get a real budget. Mr. Speaker, I am standing with him.

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We can't be far right. We can't be far this. We can't be far that. We have to be for the American people. We can't be against the rights of women, where we are denying them the ability to get medication dealing with abortion. We cannot help our veterans who are in need of mental health care and not allowing them to go under the NICS check so that if they are in danger by getting guns that we can protect them. Again, as I said, we cannot stop the nutrition programs for low-income women.

Homeland Security, the border, providing relief for the people in Gaza, humanitarian relief for our children and pausing for peace, we have to work to fund all of those elements and resources at the southern border.

I thank the President for being at the southern border. We already know his insight. We know the work that he can

do with Ranking Member THOMPSON of the Homeland Security Committee and those of us who are Democrats who want to see the border solved. We have to do it with a budget, and we have to also do it with passing the supplemental that he has put before us that takes care of the people of Ukraine and the soldiers on the front line and, as well, those elements in Taiwan and around the world.

Let me say this: I am here to work. I started out by saying we cannot shut the government down. There is too much work to be done. I am here to work. I am here to work and get the job done. Pass the budget.

BIDEN'S BORDER DISASTER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, on day one of the Biden Presidency, the President reversed many, if not all, of the successful border policies implemented by the previous administration, the Trump administration, that kept our Nation safe and kept our border secure.

Joe Biden ended remain in Mexico, halted border wall construction, loosened asylum requirements, issued a moratorium on deportations, essentially telling the world: Our border is open. Come on in.

Meanwhile, Customs and Border Patrol, on any visit you make to the border, will tell you that just by instituting remain in Mexico, 75 to 80 percent of those trying to enter our country illegally would be deterred and would not enter.

These policy reversals led to, at the time, caravans of migrants in Mexico wearing "Biden, thank you" T-shirts as they approached the United States border.

Since that time, Mr. Speaker, there have been 8.5 million illegal border crossings, as well as an estimated 1.7 million got-aways, over 10 million illegal entries, most of whom we don't have any idea who they are or where they are throughout the United States of America.

So why did President Biden take these actions? Ideological idiocy? What he did was anything but humanitarian or rational. Migrants made this journey here, Mr. Speaker, under false, deadly pretenses. People have drowned. People are drowning. Probably today, Mr. Speaker, people are drowning in the Rio Grande and under false pretenses coming to our country.

People are being killed. The reports are that one-third of women are sexually assaulted. At the same time, drug cartels are getting rich, coyotes are getting rich, and much of Mexico, thanks to the Biden administration's wonderful policies, is a gangland.

Along with the suffering of the migrants, the American people are suffering. During Biden's time in office, there have been over 300,000 American

deaths from fentanyl and other opioids which were smuggled across the southern border—nothing to smile about.

American teens and young adults are dying at alarming rates. To date, this administration has done nothing to correct course. We are experiencing all of this locally. Don't we all know an individual, usually a young person, who has died from a fentanyl overdose?

While it is no match for the cost of life that has been lost, we cannot forget the immense financial cost our cities, States, and taxpayers have incurred as a result of Biden's disastrous border policies, exponentially disastrous.

The Center for Immigration Studies reports the annual cost of Biden's immigration crisis to the United States is \$452 billion of American taxpayer funds. The Federation for American Immigration Reform notes that the cost to my home State, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is \$1.64 billion per year.

Mr. Speaker, what about the crime epidemic? We now have something called migrant crime. Mr. Speaker, is there anything more horrific than we have seen from the Laken Riley situation, how an illegal from Venezuela made it across the border illegally, went to New York, committed all kinds of crimes, was let out by the weak, foolish, ideological prosecutors in New York, and then went on to Georgia and murdered a beautiful young girl?

To add insult to this injury, the Biden administration takes the American people for idiots by trying to blame this border crisis on Republicans and Donald Trump, after 3 years of Secretary Mayorkas and Vice President HARRIS and everybody else in the Biden administration telling us that the border is secure, along with 90 percent of the media.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not buying it. The facts don't lie. Our eyes don't lie. No matter how many times they tell us they do, this unmitigated disaster is a direct result of this administration's weak policies, and it is the height of hypocrisy.

After causing this catastrophe, President Biden going to the border today is clearly nothing more than a sad, sorry attempt to save him from a political standpoint. This trip is not about solving the border problem. It is about solving a political problem that is getting worse.

Perhaps more shameful is Biden's attempt to blame those who want to protect our border for a lack of support for Ukraine. That, too, is outrageous. We can do both. The will of the American people matters. Let's not forget who we represent in our constitutional Republic.

HONORING THE DIVINE NINE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Black History