

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.

□ 1045

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

Month by honoring the organizations that have served as the training ground for many of our Nation's most extraordinary leaders. I am talking about the Divine Nine, the historically Black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. They serve as a pipeline for Black leaders across business, academia, and, of course, right here in the Halls of Congress.

The Divine Nine organizations are:

Alpha Phi Alpha, whose colors are black and gold, founded in 1906 at Cornell University.

My colleagues who are a part of Alpha are: CBC Chair STEVE HORSFORD; Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER; Congressmen DANNY DAVIS, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, DAVID SCOTT, and BOBBY SCOTT; the National Urban League president, Marc Morial; and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Their honorable general president is Dr. Willis L. Lonzer, III, my constituent.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, whose colors are salmon pink and apple green, was founded in 1908 at Howard University. Their sisterhood proudly boasts Vice President KAMALA HARRIS; my colleagues SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TERRI SEWELL, FREDERICA WILSON, ALMA ADAMS, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, LAUREN UNDERWOOD, LISA BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, and NIKEMA WILLIAMS; the late, great Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson; civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King; and my current and former staffers Meagan Thompson, April Williams-Luster, Evan Mitchell. Their honorable president is Danette Anthony Reed.

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, whose colors are crimson and cream, was founded in 1911 at Indiana University. Among their notable achievers are: Our leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES; Congressmen TROY CARTER, GLENN IVEY, and BENNIE THOMPSON; former Congressmen Al Lawson and William Lacy Clay; the late Don McEachin, Alcee Hastings, and John Conyers; Atlanta mayor, Andre Dickens; tennis champion Arthur Ashe; and my former staffers, Brandon Webb and Brandon Garrett. Their former grand polemarch was Reuben A. Shelton, III.

Omega Psi Phi fraternity, whose colors are purple and gold, was founded in 1911 at Howard University. They include in their ranks: My colleagues, Assistant Leader JIM CLYBURN; Congressman HANK JOHNSON and Congressman KWEISI MFUME; former Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.; poet, playwright, and author Langston Hughes; Earl Graves, Sr., of Black Enterprise; and my former staffers Charles Bolden and Vaughn Roland. Their immediate past grand basileus is Dr. David Marion.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority, whose colors are crimson and cream, was founded in 1913 at Howard University. Delta counts as sisters my esteemed colleagues YVETTE CLARKE, JOYCE BEATTY, STACEY PLASKETT, LUCY MCBATH, SUMMER LEE, JASMINE CROCK-

ETT, VALERIE FOUSHEE, and JENNIFER MCCLELLAN; HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge; former Congresswoman Val Demings; my former chief of staff Mia Keely; Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American woman elected to Congress; Nikki Giovanni, Susan Taylor; as well as my current intern, Traniah Neal; my fellows, Ebony Caldwell and Cecilia Vaughn-Guy. Their current honorable president is Elsie Cooke-Holmes.

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, whose colors are royal blue and white, was founded in 1914 at Howard University. Not only are the Sigmas the fraternity of my late husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn, they also include my colleagues ADRIANO ESPAILLAT and MAXWELL FROST; the late Congressman and civil rights leaders John Lewis and Elijah Cummings; and civil rights pioneer and leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. Philip Randolph. Their honorable international president is Chris V. Rey.

Zeta Phi Beta sorority, whose colors are royal blue and white, was founded in 1920 at Howard University, the sisters of Phi Beta Sigma. Notable sisters include my colleagues, Congresswomen SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE and RASHIDA TLAIB; former Congresswoman Donna Edwards; the late Congresswoman Julia Carson; Anita Hill; author Zora Neale Hurston. Their honorable president is Stacie N.C. Grant.

Sigma Gamma Rho, whose colors are blue and gold, my sorority, was founded in 1922 at Butler University. The sisters of Sigma Gamma Rho include my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE; my former colleague Corrine Brown; the late Congresswoman Lindy Boggs; the first African-American winner of an Academy Award, Hattie McDaniel; the first African-American woman journalist to cover the White House, Alice Allison Dunnigan; my current and former staff, Glennita Williams, Danielle Echols, and Mia Carter. Our esteemed grand basileus is Rasheeda S. Liberty.

Last, but not least, is Iota Phi Theta, whose colors are brown and gold, and was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University. Their notables include former Congressman Bobby Rush; Terrence Carson, star of "Living Single"; and former NBA player Calvin Murphy. Their honorable grand polaris is Dr. Sean D. Housen, Sr.

The Divine Nine has helped to make our Nation a better place for all Americans.

As we prepare for the road ahead, I know that the Divine Nine will continue to foster a new generation of great leaders and help guide our Nation on its journey to equality.

Last, but not least, please, let's get money to Ukraine.

A TALE OF TWO PRESIDENTS

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there is an old adage that goes something like: There are no problems in our family; there are a lot of things we don't talk about.

For years, we have been talking about a crisis at our southern border. In 2016, candidate Trump talked about building a wall to protect American citizens from the surge that was taking place. He was laughed at. He was continually laughed at by the current administration until the polling came out that said the number one concern of the American people now is illegal immigration and the fact that we are being overwhelmed at both our southern border and our northern border.

Now, why do I bring that up? Well, the southern border is about 2,000 miles long, and I believe today former President Trump will go to Eagle Pass and President Biden will go to Brownsville to take a look at what is happening.

The current administration is now acknowledging the fact that maybe there is a problem down there and maybe we should be taking a look at what is happening. Polls do cause people to react.

□ 1100

It is truly a tale of two Presidents.

Now, the northern border, which is being totally ignored, is 5,500 miles of border. It is the longest continuous border between two countries anyplace in the world. It is virtually unwatched. Eighty-five percent of the terror watch list suspects caught at ports of entry come through the northern border.

More than 12,200 people were apprehended crossing illegally from Canada into the United States last year. That is a 241 percent increase from the previous year.

Northern border encounters are up 41 percent from last year. Seventy percent of illegal crossings in 2023 happened in New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire. This is called the Swanton sector where there is a surge when it comes to fentanyl coming across our border and killing hundreds of thousands of our citizens.

There are already more northern border land encounters in fiscal year 2024, which is October 2023 until right now, than in all of 2021. To date, in 3 months, 44,801 have come across. Northern border encounters in December 2023 and in January 2024, 31,150 of them, are more than all of fiscal year 2021.

At some point, whether you like it or not, this problem is taking place in real time, in real areas of the United States of America and on your watch, Mr. President. I am sick and tired of hearing that Congress needs to address these problems when the executive office—and I would just mention to people that we are the lawmakers. The executive branch are the enforcement people of the laws that are already passed and on the books.

How can you totally ignore a situation and say that the real problem is