

that Republicans haven't stepped up to take responsibility for this?

This administration, without anything else, can end catch and release. They can reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, enter into the asylum cooperative agreements, end parole abuses, detain inadmissible aliens, use expedited removal, and rein in taxpayer-funded benefits for all illegal aliens.

That is right, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, you are paying for all these people who are here illegally. They ought to send you a thank you note for your hard work and issue a proclamation of suspending re-entry.

Mr. Speaker, as we watch what is happening in this country today, everything that you see happening right now, the concern that you see happening by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle is because the polls now indicate that the American people are awake and are aware of this administration's failure to enforce the laws of the land. It is that simple. It is the polling that is driving them to react. It is not the fact that it has been happening; that is incidental.

If you can ignore it long enough, then it will go away.

No. You can't ignore it any longer. Horrific things are happening to our own citizens as this administration sits back and says that there is really no problem and that this is being made up by the Republicans.

I encourage our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to remember that our oath of office is to the citizens of the United States and not to a particular party or to a particular officeholder.

When we ignore our basic responsibilities, then we have a huge problem in the United States of America.

I encourage all my fellow Americans to forget about being woke and wake up. Your country is being taken from you, and we are watching it happen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. STEEL). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF SENATOR LOMBARDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative AMO, to honor Rhode Island State Senator Frank Lombardo III, a devoted public servant who passed away this month following his battle with cancer.

Starting with his election to the State senate in 2010, Senator Lombardo was a champion in that body for the working people of Johnston. A successful small business owner with his own HVAC company, Lombardo & Sons, Senator Lombardo was a fierce advocate for the small businesses across our State that are the backbone of our economy.

Moreover, the values that guided his work were rooted in the town of John-

ston. He championed legislation to improve public health by guaranteeing insurance coverage for pain treatments, worked to expand programming to combat climate change, and increased transparency in Rhode Island's State tax credit program.

Senator Lombardo was also deeply involved in the community, particularly in the Boy Scouts of America. He was an Eagle Scout with Troop 4 in Greenville and was also a camp counselor for 2 years at Yawgoog Boy Scout Camp.

He was a passionate and hardworking public servant who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. I join Frank's friends, family, and the entire State of Rhode Island in mourning this loss.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MAGAZINER for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments made by my colleague to honor the life and legacy of Senator Frank Lombardo. His compassion, empathy, and purpose serving Rhode Islanders will be dearly missed.

#### SHILOH GOSPEL TEMPLE

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the pain that our community is going through on Senator Lombardo's passing, but another issue involves the Shiloh Gospel Temple community. All of our families should be able to gather and worship free from the fear of harm. Our community in North Providence was attacked on February 11.

That someone would set this community ablaze in a hate-fueled act shakes me to my core.

I stand with Pastor Eric Perry and his congregation during this difficult time. The fact that this incident, this fire at the church, happened at all is despicable. That it happened during Black History Month is abhorrent.

This allegedly racist attack has shaken our community. I am glad a suspect has been identified, and I hope that justice will be vigorously pursued.

Madam Speaker, I yield back to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, we stand united with the Shiloh Gospel Temple congregation and Rhode Island's Black community in the face of this heinous attack. Churches are more than just a place of worship. They are a place of refuge and community. They are safe spaces and sacred spaces, and no one should fear going to their place of worship or anywhere for that matter and in particular because of their race.

Let me be clear. This attack on Rhode Island's Black community is an attack on all of us and an attack on the principles and values that we believe in as Rhode Islanders.

I am thankful that a suspect was apprehended quickly and charged. Nonetheless, we must recognize that this is

a part of a larger trend and an alarming rise of white supremacist violence across the Nation. We have seen too many racially motivated attacks across the country in recent years from Buffalo to Jacksonville to Charleston.

As ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do everything we can to root out our domestic violent extremism in Rhode Island and across the country.

Our hearts are with Pastor Perry and the entire Shiloh Gospel Temple congregation. There is no place for hate in Rhode Island or anywhere.

#### BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of the new status quo at our Nation's borders.

I am absolutely appalled and disgusted that President Biden and Democrats running sanctuary cities have yet to take any real action after the recent violent crimes committed by illegal immigrants; namely, the murder of Laken Riley in Georgia.

We must take action now to end the reckless open border and sanctuary city policies before it is too late for another American family. Laken Riley's murder was entirely preventable.

Jose Ibarra entered the United States illegally last year, and he was given a one-way ticket to New York City where he was subsequently arrested for child endangerment, but, then, because of liberal bail reform laws in New York, he was released back out on the streets and not held behind bars.

New York's bail reform has shattered lives not just in New York, but now in the State of Georgia. Moreover, now the mayor of Athens wants to gaslight the American people and claim that there is no connection between illegal immigration and this heinous crime.

In less than 1 week, there have been four vicious attacks against innocent young Americans, all committed by illegal immigrants. This is simply madness. It is sickening, and it has to end now. President Biden has the power to secure the border by executive action, and Governor Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams can end New York's sanctuary policies with the stroke of a pen.

Laken Riley and these other innocent Americans deserved so much better from their government. We cannot allow another moment to pass before this border is closed and closed for good.

Mr. President, we must act now.

#### STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, President Biden recently announced another \$1.2 billion in inflationary student loan forgiveness, further pursuing a reckless policy that only incentivizes

universities to continue to raise costs which are already out of control.

What is particularly troubling is that this burden is being shifted onto the shoulders of hardworking Americans who may not have had the opportunity to pursue higher education for themselves or they consciously opted against doing so.

This policy only adds more financial burden to families as Americans already struggle to keep up with the staggering cost of inflation. Instead of offering meaningful relief, it adds yet another layer of economic hardship, further challenging the financial stability of countless households across our great Nation.

It is simple. If you take out a loan for your education, then you commit to paying it back. It is a simple equation. Biden's student loan redistribution scam is a slap in the face to every American who built their career without attending college or attending a trade school or those who worked to pay off the student loans that they took out, the notes that they signed.

As Representatives of the American people, it is our duty to advocate for policies that help our economy and allow individuals to pursue the American Dream, not ones that perpetuate dependency and fiscal irresponsibility.

Mr. President, abandon this misguided approach and work with House Republicans toward solutions that promote genuine opportunity and prosperity for all Americans regardless of their educational background.

#### OUR NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, today the United States' national debt is more than \$34.408 trillion. That puts our debt per citizen at over \$102,000. Since President Biden took office, inflation has increased by more than 17 percent. It is simple: Bidenomics is pricing Americans out of the American Dream.

Bidenomics continues to fail the American people as it creates one of the most unaffordable housing markets in recent memory, putting homeownership out of reach for millions of hardworking Americans. Average monthly home payments have increased by 90 percent since Joe Biden entered the White House.

That is why this legislative body is working to block the policies that drive up our national debt and push costly and burdensome regulations that increase costs for consumers.

Just look at Biden's war on American energy producers. His administration is doing everything it can to block domestic oil and gas production, ban gas stoves and gas cars, and even hinder the export of American energy to our allies.

It is clear that President Biden and my colleagues across the aisle would rather push their woke Green New Deal policies than do what is right for the American people. Hardworking Americans are still struggling to pay their bills and balance their family budgets

while the President and Democrats in Washington continue to spend carelessly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### HUNTER BIDEN AND JARED KUSHNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday I sat in on the Hunter Biden deposition for hours. Republicans, once again, provided zero evidence—zero evidence—and failed to show any sort of link between Hunter Biden and the President. There are no links between those business dealings.

This entire case is a political stunt and a joke. Donald Trump ordered House Republicans to smear President Biden. They tried and tried and tried and failed.

Nonetheless, I want to remind everyone about the real White House crime family.

Why did Saudi Arabia give Jared Kushner \$2 billion—billion with a b—just months after he left the Trump White House?

Moreover, why did the Saudis spend hundreds of thousands of dollars at Trump properties while he was still the President?

We also know that Jared Kushner used his cushy White House job to secure a \$100 billion arms deal for Saudi Arabia and did other favors, as well.

Some Members of the majority actually agree that this was unethical. In fact, a few weeks ago, Jared Kushner was asked by a reporter about his gift. He responded: "Are we really still doing this?"

Yes, Jared, we are still really doing this.

The American people deserve answers.

I rise yet again to urge my colleagues across the aisle to answer our calls and subpoena Jared Kushner's companies once and for all. We are not stopping, and we demand answers.

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#### FLOOD INSURANCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, as I prepare to leave office at the end of this Congress, one of my greatest disappointments has been an inability to make progress dealing with our flood insurance system and the dangerous pattern of development and infrastructure.

What is so frustrating to me is that the handwriting has been on the wall. Even though I have tried to sound the alarm, we really have precious little to show for it.

I was on national TV 2 weeks before Hurricane Katrina, sketching in very vivid terms what was going to happen to New Orleans when the big one hit. Sadly, that was true even though Katrina wasn't the big one, but it could have been much, much worse. The devastation was unimaginable, and our efforts at recovery were woefully inadequate, inefficient, and unfair. We keep having to learn the same lessons with new victims in new disasters.

This inspired my first major piece of legislation, which aimed to reform the flood insurance program. However, looking back, it was simply inadequate. We tried to provide incentives which simply weren't strong enough. There are all sorts of examples.

Houston has been a poster child for repetitive flood loss. I used an example of one home flooded 22 times over 35 years and received more than \$1.8 million in flood insurance claims for a home worth a fraction of that amount.

While we labored mightily through the legislative process to make modest gains in the flood insurance program, it was too little and too late. Our incentives weren't strong enough to overcome a 200-year history of people making poor decisions on where and how they live and how we designed our infrastructure.

People continue to live in low-lying, flood-prone areas because we are attracted to water. Rich and middle-class people are attracted to it, and poor people are forced to live in vulnerable areas because the land is less expensive.

Both strategies are flawed. What is so frustrating is that we spend enough money to potentially do things much better. Madam Speaker, \$1 in prevention saves \$6 in costs of damages, but we continue to make the mistakes of the past by spending billions of dollars on flawed reactions to catastrophes like Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

Additionally, it is not just massive storms. Day in and day out, we continue to put people in harm's way. We treat our rivers, waterways, and wetlands like machines that make the inevitable floods worse. We are happy to invest in decidedly suboptimal solutions. Traditional infrastructure that paves wetlands, channelized our rivers, and fortifies our coastlines make the inevitable flooding worse.

By giving people the illusion of protection, we encourage more people to move into harm's way. Over the past 20 years, we have failed in fundamental reforms. Making people respond to accurate flood mapping is too painful in the short term, so more people suffer pain in the long term.

The national flood insurance program is hopelessly inadequate and insolvent. The fundamental solutions have not changed over the last 25 years I have been working on this problem. We need to have accurate floodplain mapping, so people know exactly the situation they face and can act accordingly.