

not succeed, but having laid the foundation for the President's impeachment in the past, I know that impeachment can succeed.

I also know that should Democrats reclaim the House and the Senate by margins that are sufficient to not only impeach but to convict, I believe that the President can be removed from office.

He talks of having another term. Well, Mr. President, you are not going to have another term. That is not going to happen. I know that you have incited persons to come to the Capitol, the citadel of democracy, and engage in an insurrection. I don't know what you have up your sleeve, but I do know that we will prevent you from having a third term, and the best way to do it is to not have you finish this term. The best way to do this is to have you impeached and convicted and removed from office. It can be done. I am telling you, it can be done.

The law says it can be done. We but only have to have the will to do it. The way is before us. The will is what is necessary to implement the way to an impeachment and a removal of Donald John Trump as President of the United States of America. It would be the appropriate thing because he is unfit to be President, unfit to enforce the laws of the land in such a way as to bring honor to the process—unfit.

When you consistently, repeatedly flout the laws, flout the notion of due process, when you have agents of the State approach a female and approach her with persons who would surround her, and then pull up a mask, and then take her away, all in plainclothes, masks, I don't believe that the American people want to see that kind of episode take place in this country. It looks like we have secret police.

America is not a country with secret police that come and take you away, away from your home to some distant State where you are not known, where you don't have resources, and they don't give you any due process. This is not America.

The President is destroying the lawful, judicious processes that we have enjoyed. He is chipping away at them. If the President can do it for a person who is here for whatever reasons, the President can do it to any one of us, especially when the President believes that you don't have to allow a person to say: "Hey, you have the wrong person. I didn't do that." It doesn't matter because the President believes that he has the sole authority, by and through his agents, to determine who can stay and who must leave. Unfortunately, someone who should be here is not here as a result of the President's behavior.

The President is harmful to the processes that we have enjoyed in this country. He is unfit to be President. He is also unfit because he disrespects the judiciary. When he loses a case, it is always the judge's fault.

What is amazing to me is that I have colleagues who are buying into that,

that it is the judge's fault. Let's impeach the judge because it is the judge's fault. It is always the judge. It is never his fault. It is always the judge.

When we start this process of having the person who holds the highest office in the land continually say that judges are not fair when they are dealing with him and things that he would have done, when we allow that, we are now sending a signal to the rest of society that the judges are the reason why we are not succeeding, the reason why we can't have whatever it is that we want and can't acquire, and we have to take it to court. It is always the judges.

At some point, people will have a disrespect for the law and the process that will cause others to disrespect the country. People invest in this country because they know that we have a good judiciary, that it is a process that has been in place and that will be honored. They invest in this country also because they know that your money is safe here. You invest in our bills, our bonds. It is safe.

We have stability except when you do as the President has just done, and that is tariff some 90 countries and do it in such a way as to cause people to start to equivocate when it comes to our bonds, our notes.

When that happens, you can see how the President backs off. He understood finally, at last, that he was making a terrible mistake, and he backed off. He has extended what he calls a 90-day pause, but I don't think he is going to go back to where he was. I don't think he will. Even he understands that he was making a serious mistake.

Here is the problem with that mistake: He has hurt the brand, the American brand. He has hurt the image of the country. He has put the country in a position such that people may no longer think that this is the safest place for their investment dollars. They may not want to buy our bonds as readily. If they don't buy them readily, that would then make it difficult for us to sell them to pay bills.

The President is hurting the image of the United States of America. We are now seen as a country that doesn't honor its word. The President negotiated a trade deal with Canada and Mexico; he breaks the trade deal. The President says that he wants Canada to be the 51st State; Canada is not about to become the 51st State.

I will be quite candid with you, I admire the way the Canadians have made it perfectly clear to the President that this won't happen. Someone has to stand up to him.

He wants to take Greenland. He wants to make Gaza a resort. The President has to understand that he is not a king. He is not the emperor. He is not a dictator. He has awesome power, but he doesn't have the power to just go around people and take what he wants. He doesn't have that kind of power, and we can't let him have that kind of power.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, it is important for us to move to impeachment because impeachment is the means by which a reckless, ruthless President can be brought into check. This is the balance that we have. When all else fails, when the Congress majority refuses to act, and when he disregards the orders of the court, impeachment is still available.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to bring Articles of Impeachment. I don't know what the vote would be. My guess is that you are not going to get the vote required, but you will get the opportunity to see who believes in what we have said.

We said that the President was a detriment to democracy. We talked about how he would harm the country if he got back into office. Let's find out if we meant that. One of the ways we will find out is with Articles of Impeachment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to serve my country. I am proud to be an American. It means something to me. I want to protect what this country stands for in a positive way, the positive image that our country has had. I am trying to change the negative image to a positive, but I want to protect that. It means something to me to be an American.

Mr. Speaker, I want this country to be the one that people look up to, as opposed to frowned upon. Many do now because of the way our President behaves.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I am censured but not silent, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIGAN). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### HIGHLIGHTING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight ten ways in which the State of California is currently under Federal investigation. In particular, the Newsom administration is under Federal investigation.

The New York Times recently ran a story on this topic with the headline, "Trump Takes Aim at California Six Times in 24 Hours."

The question was asked: Why is the administration targeting California? They call it a multipronged assault on California that has begun in earnest. That is actually the wrong question. Why the administration is targeting California is the wrong question. The appropriate question is: Why is California so flagrantly violating Federal law in so many different ways?

In the article, the junior Senator in our State, ADAM SCHIFF, is quoted as

saying: "The President had a 'partisan vendetta against California.'" Senator SCHIFF says that he is "continuing to weaponize the Federal Government against the one in ten Americans."

Of course, that is not it at all. Protecting the civil rights of Californians is not weaponizing the Federal Government. It what is the Federal Government is supposed to do and what it is required to do under established law.

What Senator SCHIFF and others are so upset about is that they are used to one-party rule in California being absolutely unchecked. They are used to radicalism and having absolutely no counterweight. They are used to Governor Newsom. His only motivation is his own political self-promotion. He has a supermajority legislature and other statewide-elected officials that simply go along with whatever he says or does, regardless of how much damage it does to our State and regardless of how clearly it violates Federal law.

When The New York Times asked my opinion for this article, I said: "Extreme policies and unchecked one-party rule have lowered the quality of life across our State. All Californians will benefit from greater accountability. We need balance and common sense."

#### INVESTIGATION INTO MALE ATHLETES PARTICIPATION IN GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S SPORTS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I will discuss today the ten ways in which Federal investigations are restoring that sense of balance and common sense and assuring compliance with the law.

Number one is on the issue of men in women's sports. The State has continued to be defiant. Recently, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights announced a direct investigation into the California Interscholastic Federation because of its refusal to follow antidiscrimination laws related to girls and women's sports. This includes the possibility of allowing male athletes to compete in women's sports and use women's intimate facilities.

Governor Newsom has received a letter from U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon. The letter warns the Governor that California could lose Federal funds if the State continues allowing transgender athletes to play in girls' and women's sports.

Secretary of Education McMahon wrote: "I am officially asking you to inform this Department whether you will remind schools in California to comply with Federal law by protecting sex-separated spaces and activities."

She also wrote: "Allowing participation in sex-separated activities based on 'gender identity' places schools at risk of Title IX violations and loss of Federal funding. As Governor, you have a duty to inform California school districts of this risk."

Interestingly enough, Governor Newsom actually recently stated that he believes it is unfair for the State to allow men to compete in women's

sports. Yet, he has taken absolutely no action to stop this unlawful practice.

#### INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the second ongoing investigation relates to California's policy of forcing school districts and schools to keep secrets from parents about their own children. The U.S. Department of Education's Student Privacy Policy Office has launched an investigation into the California Department of Education for alleged violations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, FERPA, which gives parents the right to access their children's educational data.

It is alleged the California Department of Education has abdicated the responsibilities FERPA imposes because of a new California State law that prohibits school personnel from disclosing a child's gender identity to that child's parents.

What happened in California is there are a number of school districts that have said that they are simply going to hide this information from parents. They will not tell parents if their child changes their name or pronouns or anything like that.

There are other districts that say that this is not right. We actually want to make sure we are being open and transparent with parents. They passed their own policy, saying, no, our policy is that we believe that parents have a right to know this.

What the State then did is they started suing these districts. They tried to get legal judgments against them, saying they were required under law to lie to parents about their children. Fortunately, those lawsuits are being rejected.

The State legislature then followed up with a statewide law, saying that it is now the policy of the State that they are not allowed to communicate this information with parents. The school districts are not allowed to have any policy that allows them to communicate this information with parents.

Mr. Speaker, think about the absurdity of this. In California, teachers are forced to use one name and one set of pronouns with a student in class. Then their parents come in for a conference, and they are supposed to switch names and switch pronouns and doctor their assignments and the names written on them. This has actually been done in documented cases in California.

Thankfully, this Federal law of protecting the privacy right of students and the right of parents to know this information is on the books. Accordingly, the Department of Education has launched a Federal investigation.

#### INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN CALIFORNIA HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the third ongoing investigation relates to the issue of racial discrimination in California higher education. The Department of Justice under At-

torney General Bondi is investigating several California universities to assess compliance with the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that ended affirmative action in college admissions. This is notable because not only is this now the supreme law of the land, per the recent Supreme Court decision, that there must be equal access but it is also overwhelmingly the expressed will of California voters.

Just a few years ago, in 2020, the supermajority legislature tried to repeal an existing State constitutional provision that forbade racial discrimination in college admissions. They put it directly on the ballot. By a supermajority, they passed a measure to put it on the ballot. The people of California said no.

Despite the fact the campaign for this initiative had a massive 10-1 spending advantage, the people of California voted 57 percent to 43 percent to say, no, we want equality under law to continue to be the policy of our State. This investigation by Attorney General Bondi is not only about assuring compliance with Federal law but it is also going to protect the clearly expressed will of the people of California.

#### INVESTIGATION RELATING TO THE CRISIS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AT UNIVERSITIES

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the fourth investigation relates to the crisis of anti-Semitism at our universities. The Federal Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism has announced that the Department of Justice has opened a civil pattern or practice investigation into the University of California under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The investigation will assess whether the University of California has engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination based on race, religion, and national origin against its professors, staff, and other employees by allowing an anti-Semitic hostile work environment to exist on its campuses.

Attorney General Bondi said: "This Department of Justice will always defend Jewish Americans, protect civil rights, and leverage our resources to eradicate institutional anti-Semitism in our Nation's universities."

We have seen over the last 1½ years or so absolutely abhorrent, outright anti-Semitism at many universities throughout the country, including at California universities, which our Committee on Education and the Workforce did a lot of work to expose through a number of hearings.

While there have been some positive reforms that have occurred on some campuses, there are still many ongoing and very severe problems. These issues are aided and abetted in a lot of cases by university faculty and administrations. This is an investigation into the full gambit of that activity.

Then there is a related set of investigations that are looking at the extent to which students who are here, international students, are actually working to advance not only anti-Semitic but pro-Hamas activity.

Related to all of these anti-Semitic incidents on university campuses, we saw illegal activity with encampments that violated the law, violated university policies, and violated the civil rights of other students. We saw buildings being taken over, and we have seen connections between these activities and the agenda of Hamas and groups affiliated with Hamas.

Recently, the administration has revoked about 100 student visas at universities across California, including the University of California, Berkeley, which is part of a broader assessment of individuals who are involved in activities deemed contrary to U.S. interests.

This is actually a small number—100 out of 140,000 international students—that are in California. We do know that there are people who are here and not from this country. They have participated in these illegal activities because, as the President's order cites, Federal law bars noncitizens from being in the U.S. if they support terrorism.

Any connection with pro-Hamas activity falls under the purview of those statutes. Indeed, the executive order from the White House quotes the President as saying that his intention is to deport Hamas sympathizers and revoke student visas.

In a similar vein, UCLA been sued in Federal court in a case alleging that it enabled protesters at an encampment to block Jewish students from accessing certain campus pathways. To the extent that folks who are here on a visa were involved in that sort of illegal, pro-terrorist activity, the administration is doing an assessment to take appropriate action.

#### INVESTIGATION INTO POTENTIAL ILLEGAL POLICIES RELATING TO CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the sixth investigation against some of the insane and potentially illegal policies in California relates to high-speed rail which is the biggest public infrastructure failure in United States history.

I was at Union Station in L.A. a couple of weeks ago. We were with Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy. He announced this investigation specifically into the Federal money that has gone into high-speed rail.

□ 1245

The review that we launched on that day will help determine whether roughly \$4 billion in taxpayer money should remain committed to the project to build high-speed rail in the California Central Valley between Merced and Bakersfield.

I have also requested an investigation by the FBI into how exactly it is that California has so far spent some \$17 billion on this project, which was approved in 2008. We are talking over 15 years, and it has yet to lay any track. At this point, even The New York Times has said that the project isn't

going to be completed this century at the current pace.

The overall cost has ballooned over \$130 billion. That is more than \$100 billion more than it was supposed to have been. The whole thing was supposed to be completed by now, per the initial projections, but at this point, even the first segment from Bakersfield to Merced, a very modest segment, they are saying isn't even going to be completed by 2033. Indeed, just last week, there was a report from the non-partisan legislative analyst that there is another \$9 billion funding gap, and they are continuing to rely on Federal funding.

This is an investigation that is ongoing, and I fully expect it will result in those funds being clawed back and hopefully then used on infrastructure projects in California that will actually serve to move people and goods, create jobs that have positive economic value, and actually be helpful in improving the quality of life for folks in our State.

The seventh ongoing investigation relates to California's cap-and-trade program. An executive order from the President has directed Attorney General Bondi to identify State and local acts that may be unconstitutional or preempted by Federal law. It singles out California's cap-and-trade program, which sets limits on greenhouse gas emissions and then has companies buy and sell credits.

As the order says, California punishes carbon use by adopting impossible caps on the amount of carbon that businesses may use, all but forcing businesses to pay large sums to trade carbon credit to meet California's radical requirements.

What is the result of this? Even as we have seen gas prices that have gotten much lower across the entire country, Californians continue to pay astronomical prices when they fill up their cars. Indeed, California is now some \$1.60 above the national average. We have the highest gas prices in the country, higher than even Hawaii.

The major cause of that is the State's taxes and regulations and other requirements, foremost among them being this cap-and-trade program, which adds substantially to the price of each gallon of gas.

The eighth ongoing investigation relates to the homelessness crisis in California. California is the national leader in homelessness. It is not even close. We have roughly one-half of the unsheltered homeless in the entire country, despite spending absolutely staggering amounts of money. Indeed, over the course of the last 5 years, we have seen \$24 billion spent on homelessness, and homelessness has continued to go up significantly.

A recent audit actually found that the State has lost track of the money and can't even tell us where it went or what outcomes it has produced. Now, the new United States Attorney for the Central District of California, Bill

Essayli, has announced the formation of a homelessness, fraud, and corruption task force, which will investigate fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption involving funds allocated toward the eradication of homelessness within the seven-county jurisdiction of the Central District of California.

The task force will be comprised of Federal prosecutors from the major fraud section, the public corruption and civil rights section, and the civil division's civil fraud section of the U.S. Attorney's Office. It will specifically look into what is going on in Los Angeles, where recently a court-ordered audit found that homelessness services provided by the city and county were "disjointed" and contained "poor data quality and integration."

There is a lot of Federal money at stake and at issue, by the way. During COVID, the Federal Government sent \$100 million in emergency aid to L.A. County to address homelessness, and last month, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded more than \$200 million to address homelessness in L.A. Now, there is a Federal investigation ongoing led by the U.S. Attorney's Office into exactly what has happened to all of this money.

The ninth ongoing investigation relates to concealed carry. As part of a broader review of restrictive firearms-related laws in California and other States, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has announced an investigation into the L.A. County Sheriff's Department to determine whether it is engaging in a pattern or practice of depriving ordinary, law-abiding Californians of their Second Amendment rights.

The release from the Attorney General's Office notes that a recent Federal court decision found that the law and facts were clearly in favor of two private plaintiffs who challenged the lengthy, 18-month delays that the L.A. County Sheriff's Department had imposed when processing their concealed handgun license applications and that the Civil Rights Division has reason to believe that those two plaintiffs are not the only ones in this county of some 8 million people experiencing long delays that are unduly burdening or effectively denying the Second Amendment rights of the people of Los Angeles.

The release from the Attorney General goes on to note the ways in which the Second Amendment rights of Californians have been unduly burdened in countless ways. They call California a particularly egregious offender. In response to recent Supreme Court caselaw, California enacted new legislation to further restrict the ability of ordinary, law-abiding Californians to keep and bear arms.

Many California localities appear to be imposing additional burdens beyond those required by California State law, including by subjecting ordinary, law-abiding Californians to expensive fees

and lengthy wait times associated with applications for concealed handgun licenses.

Now, there will be some counterweight to these measures that are restricting the rights of Californians. In fact, there was even a recent proposal in the legislature that went to the very core of the Second Amendment that would have said that you are no longer allowed to defend yourself against an intruder who breaks into your own home. Luckily, that bill was defeated, Mr. Speaker, but it just shows you how far California has gone from what is protected by the Constitution.

Finally, of course, there is ongoing Federal action, this being the 10th Federal action related to California, when it comes to sanctuary jurisdictions. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, pursuant to an executive order from the President, are, to the maximum extent possible under Federal law, evaluating and undertaking any lawful actions to ensure that so-called sanctuary jurisdictions which seek to interfere with the lawful exercise of Federal law enforcement operations do not receive access to Federal funds.

Further, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, per the terms of the order, are evaluating and undertaking any other lawful actions, criminal or civil, that they deem warranted based on any such jurisdiction's practices that interfere with the enforcement of Federal law.

When it comes to sanctuary policies, California has been the very worst offender in the country. The State has a sanctuary State policy that was passed in 2017 and is responsible for many tragedies that have been documented throughout our State. We even have jurisdictions like Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco that were already sanctuary jurisdictions on top of being within a sanctuary State but are now even going further. One of them is even passing what they are calling a super sanctuary jurisdiction ordinance.

Those of us who represent districts in California that are not sanctuary jurisdictions have also asked the administration to be sure to recognize those counties and jurisdictions that are, in good faith, trying to comply with Federal law, very much unlike jurisdictions like Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco.

These are 10 ways in which we see, finally, something of a check on the runaway lawlessness of the Newsom administration and a number of jurisdictions in California.

In Congress, we are very much a partner in those efforts. Indeed, I am working on a number of measures here in Congress in the House of Representatives that are seeking to push back on the radical, harmful policies of the Newsom administration.

For example, we recently introduced legislation to overturn Newsom's ban on gas-powered vehicles.

I have introduced legislation called the No Medicaid for Illegal Immigrants

Act, which will seek to preserve Medi-Cal benefits for American citizens at a time when the policy of expanding those benefits to everyone in the State illegally is literally bankrupting the system.

In addition to Secretary Duffy's investigation into high-speed rail's staggering failures, I have introduced legislation to ensure that the high-speed rail project will be ineligible for any Federal funding going forward.

California has a long way to go toward restoring sanity, but these actions are very important steps, and I look forward to following these investigations as they protect the civil rights of Californians and protect our citizens against truly radical and failed policies.

#### TAX CREDITS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am excited to announce new legislation that I am introducing, along with Representative CLAUDIA TENNEY, called the High-Quality Charter Schools Act, which is going to be among the most significant pieces of legislation for school choice that we have had in this country in a very long time.

What it will do is create a new tax credit for charitable contributions to nonprofit charter school organizations. Specifically, it will establish a 75 percent Federal tax credit for qualified charitable contributions made to nonprofit charter school organizations with a proven record of success, incentivizing donations to support the development of more high-quality charter schools.

This could be truly significant, allowing perhaps millions more kids in this country to gain access to charter schools. That is because the reality that we see right now is that we have very successful charter schools that get tremendous results for students.

For example, Success Academy in New York is the number one school system in the entire State, but there are a limited number of seats and it costs a lot of money to start a new school. A lot of times, especially in States like California or New York, you are disadvantaged under State law. We have politicians like Gavin Newsom or the supermajority in California who do everything possible to try to stop us from helping our students succeed.

There are all of these obstacles that exist, often under State law, as well as the inherent obstacles that exist to starting up an enterprise as complicated and complex as a school, and the Federal charter school grant program has actually been critical to helping a number of charter schools start.

What this legislation seeks to do is to help those that have proven to be successful to expand and replicate their model. That is because the ones that are really successful often have very long waiting lists. We can have thousands of kids on a waiting list for a school.

By the way, charter schools are required to conduct lotteries. They can't show any sort of favoritism in their admissions or anything like that. They have to be open to all, so they have a lottery. If a student doesn't win the lottery, unfortunately, then he or she can't go to the school. If their local neighborhood school is not a good one, then the child misses out on the opportunity to go to a high-quality school and has to end up going to a low-quality school.

The best and most effective way to expand educational opportunity and excellence in America today is to facilitate the expansion and replication of charter schools that have proven to be successful.

That is precisely what this legislation does, and I am hopeful we will get it passed into law, perhaps even as part of the reconciliation process as a way to start to turn around this sharp decline in education outcomes that, unfortunately, is posing such a risk to our country's future.

I look forward to hopefully getting bipartisan support, seeing it passed into law, and seeing what it will do for so many kids across this country.

#### RESTORING PUBLIC TRUST IN ELECTIONS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, I introduced, along with my colleague JAY OBERNOLTE, as well as Representatives CALVERT, FONG, VALADAO, and ISSA, the Election Results Accountability Act, which will restore some measure of public trust in our elections.

The problem in California, one of many problems with our elections in California, is that they take forever. Not only do voters have about a month to cast their votes, but it then takes about a month to actually count the votes, with updates being made periodically throughout what is called a monthlong canvassing period. You see results that flip. Someone is ahead on election night, but somehow, 3 weeks later, they are behind. If you are in a tight race, Mr. Speaker, you are just living and dying with each update: Am I going to be the next city council or school board member?

It limits your ability to plan, Mr. Speaker, because you don't know if you are going to be coming into office or you need to find some other job or if you will be planning to run again, whatever the case may be. The voters don't know who is going to be their Representative when they should.

It also just fosters a sense of distrust in the process, and it is, frankly, embarrassing to our State. Every other State manages to get its act together. Most of them can give us the results on election night. That is kind of the way it is supposed to work, Mr. Speaker. You go to the voting booth, cast your vote, and find out who won that night.

Mr. Speaker, you don't find out a month later and have it change several times in the process. This is beyond embarrassing for California, and it is time we brought some accountability.

We introduced this legislation, the Election Results Accountability Act, which will require all States to count and publicly report no less than 90 percent of ballots cast in Federal elections within 72 hours of polls closing.

Additionally, it mandates that States complete the ballot count and certify the final results within 2 weeks of election day.

These are not onerous requirements. Ninety percent of the votes within 3 days need to be counted, and we need to have the results within 2 weeks. Our State should be more than capable of complying with this.

By the way, even though we are requiring it in Federal elections, that likely will mean we will get the results up and down the ballot, as well. This, along with measures that we passed today, the SAVE Act to require proof of citizenship in order to vote, as well as an initiative that I think is likely to be presented to California voters in the near future to require voter ID, will go a long way toward ensuring election security, election integrity, and the sense of democratic legitimacy on which our State and country's political identity depends.

□ 1300

#### REVERSE CALIFORNIA BAN ON GAS-POWERED VEHICLES

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this last week, I introduced legislation in the House to reverse California's ban on gas-powered vehicles. This is a special resolution under the Congressional Review Act that provides a fast-track procedure not subject to a Senate filibuster to overturn an agency action.

In this case, it is the action of the Biden administration that gave Gavin Newsome special permission to ban gas cars in California.

This is a measure that will affect almost everyone in our State. It is set to go into effect in 2035. It is utterly unrealistic, and yet, it has not been subject to a vote of the people, a vote of the State legislature, or a vote of the United States Congress.

That will change soon.

This measure, I believe, will pass hopefully with bipartisan support, and it will restore the ability of Californians to select the vehicle of their choice. It will also prevent massive increases in costs for Californians who are already burdened with the highest cost of living, the highest gas prices, the highest energy prices, and much more of any State in the country.

I think this is a pretty commonsense measure. Unfortunately, California has dragged a lot of other States along with it with this measure, so it is truly an issue of national concern, as well.

I look forward to seeing this passed to reverse the Biden administration's waiver under the Clean Air Act for California, and I think this will go a long way toward restoring some sanity to our State.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this last week as chair of the House

Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education that covers K-12 education, I held a very important hearing on the topic of artificial intelligence in education.

Now, we are in the midst of a truly unprecedented period in which AI is advancing at a mind-boggling rate in terms of its capabilities, and there is truly no end to this progress in sight. We see all of the leading labs introducing new models it seems like every day that demonstrate increasingly astonishing capabilities.

There are a lot of risks and concerns that tend to come to mind when people see this progress and a lot of, I think, legitimate fears as it relates to AI and its impact on society. It is very important that we are attentive to these concerns in taking whatever measures we can to make sure we get these questions right.

I think that it is equally important that we make sure that the benefits of this technology as it exists now and as it is likely to exist in the future are understood, as well.

I think that there is, frankly, far less dialogue and conversation on a national level than there should be about the absolutely enormous changes that could well be ahead of us.

I wanted to use this hearing to examine one particular domain where AI holds the potential to dramatically expand opportunity and benefit our country and bring unprecedented opportunities to American kids across the country.

I am a former high school teacher, and we have in this country truly shameful achievement gaps when it comes to the educational opportunities that are available to kids depending on their ZIP codes. In my view, much of that is as a result of failed policies, none more so than in California, which has just about the widest achievement gaps of any State in the country.

We absolutely need to have policy reforms that bring accountability, that empowers parents, that expands school of choice, and that supports teachers among many other policy reforms.

The correct use of artificial intelligence could go a long way in itself toward bridging these achievement gaps. Not only that, I believe that it will very soon be possible for any child in our country to receive a richer educational experience than any child did just a few years ago. This is because of the absolutely incredible capabilities that are now accessible to anyone for free or at very little cost on a computer or smartphone.

We saw during our hearing examples of how these possibilities are already being realized in many classrooms across America. You could have, for example, a personalized tutor who knows just about everything there is to know, who knows everything about your own strengths and weaknesses, your own interests, and who engages with you directly to learn any topic.

Now, this is no small matter because studies show that having access to a

high-quality tutor is one of the most important interventions that improves educational outcomes by a significant degree, potentially moving you a half standard deviation or so or giving you more than a years' worth of additional learning in any given year if you have access to a high-quality tutor.

Well, with AI tools, any child will have that access at a level that has never been known before in a more personalized way than has ever been known before. What is more, these tools allow for learning across different modalities through text, through images, through voice, and can engage with different students in different ways.

Just to give you another example, they can take on the form of different characters. When you are learning history, you could actually have a conversation with an animated version of a historical figure. If you are reading a book, you can actually have a conversation with a character in the book. If you are learning physics, maybe you can learn physics from a reanimated version of Einstein himself.

This is just the tip of the iceberg.

When you look at the technologies that are advancing when it comes to augmented reality, when it comes to VR, we are already seeing ways in which AI is being deployed for sort of career training-type learning, whether it is welding or other types of careers or trades where these environments can be simulated in very realistic ways to help students learn regardless of whether they go to a school or you can get hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of expensive machinery.

I think that we are still just scratching the surface of what is possible here. One of the suggestions at our hearing is that we need to continue to facilitate ways of sharing best practices; importantly, as well, when it comes to how these tools can be used by teachers because a teacher's role is as important as ever, potentially more important, in the sense that having access to AI tools that can assist students in individual ways actually frees teachers in many ways to provide the sort of mentorship and instruction and teaching that only a caring human can.

We saw examples in our hearing of how AI tools have been used to assist with lesson planning, have been used to help grade papers, or to provide direct immediate feedback to students to help with the assessment process and many other ways, as well.

For those who think that the AI tool is somehow going to change the role of the teacher, these tools can change the role of the teacher but I think in very positive ways, as well.

Of course there are risks in this domain, as well, when it comes to academic dishonesty, when it comes to the potential of further absorbing students into digital worlds and thereby exacerbating some of the harms we have seen in excessive use of smart phones. All of those things we need to be very mindful of, as well, which is why following

our hearing we are exploring ways to establish forums where these sort of best practices can be shared so different teachers, different schools, different States can see what is happening elsewhere, see what the results are, and see the impact it is having on the well-being and learning of our students.

This is one area where I think there truly is unbounded potential, and I am looking forward to working with our subcommittee to try to assist districts across the country and unlocking that potential.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF BOB PHELAN

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MCCLINTOCK of California was recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Bob Phelan of Modesto, a valued and beloved member of my congressional staff for these past 3 years. His was a remarkable life and one that should inspire every American to realize the opportunities that freedom provides.

When Bob's father died, he was forced to drop out of high school to work odd jobs to support their family. For nearly 10 years, he worked as a crab cracker at Alioto's restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

Searching for a better life, he came to Modesto where his outgoing personality made him an ideal salesman and a manager for such well-known companies as Keebler cookies and Earl Scheib.

There in Modesto, he met his wife of 31 years, Alta, and raised their family.

When his son joined the Navy in the Gulf war, Bob's attention turned to politics. He became a devotee of Rush Limbaugh and began working for local candidates. He ended up starting his own political consulting firm. Ultimately, he served as a trusted adviser to state assemblymen and then-State senator and also county supervisor Tom Berryhill for nearly 15 years.

When reapportionment brought my district into Stanislaus County, I was fortunate to bring him into my congressional office where he served ably as my district representative.

His work ethic, his love for people, his sunny disposition, and his simple decency made him an exemplary figure in our community.

He was always the picture of fitness and health until he was diagnosed last year with cancer. He never let that slow him down, and until the very end he continued to attend to his duties.

He was an exemplary father, husband, grandfather, citizen, and human being, the kind of person who holds a community together even through trying times, and he will be particularly missed.

Mr. Speaker, it was a great loss for our community, a great loss for our of-

fice, but most of all, a great loss for his family. We mourn his passing today.

HONORING MARLEE LAUFFER

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, the College of the Canyons Foundation will honor Marlee Lauffer with the 2025 Silver Spur Community Service Award in recognition of her longtime philanthropic work.

I first met Marlee as a high school student leader in Tustin, and she was my first and only choice as chief of staff when I was elected to the California State Assembly in 1982.

Somehow, she was able to clean up every mess I made in those years. She continued in that capacity until Newhall Land and Farming Company, the largest land developer in California, recognized her talents and offered her a senior position in their company when she was still in her twenties.

Well, four decades later, she is still in her twenties, and her energy and devotion to the community has never been stronger. I am deeply gratified to see her honored by her community and to join in their accolades of her work.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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#### TRUMP TARIFFS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of deep concern for the manufacturing workers and families of northern Ohio, from Toledo Jeep to our numerous parts suppliers and union shops across the Great Lakes in both the United States and Canada. The Trump administration's reckless and arbitrary tariff policy is putting their jobs and livelihoods at risk.

These billboards just started to go up in our region. Trump's tariffs are a tax. They are a tax on everything.

While yesterday President Trump claimed to pause all tariffs, he left in place a 10 percent across-the-board tariff on all global trade entering the United States, even in places like our region where we have a very wonderful relationship with companies in Canada. We are an integrated economy. We don't need any tariffs, not at our end of the country.

Let me be clear. Tariffs are not a strategy. They are a tax on working Americans and the firms that employ them. If not wisely applied, jobs hang in the balance on both sides of our border between the United States and Canada.

A part in a car or truck, in a steel mill, all of this that happens in our area can cross over the border six times. Is it going to be a 10 percent tariff put on every time it crosses the border? This is crazy.

Tariffs threaten good-paying jobs. They raise prices at the checkout line. They disrupt deeply integrated supply

chains, like ours, especially with Canada, Ohio's largest fair trade partner that keeps our auto industry strong and globally competitive.

We don't need any more problems. We have been fighting global competition now for half a century, and it is rough. Instead of a blunt Trump instrument, we need a targeted approach that brings real investment to American manufacturing and in the communities hollowed out by decades of bad and broken trade deals and outsourcing.

I call on this administration. We do share in common a deep worry about the trade deficit, but work with us. Work with Congress to craft smart, strategic reciprocity agreements with each country. Ensure that workers, like United Auto Workers, have a seat at the table, a voice, and real power to negotiate on all sides of all borders.

For too long, what has been happening is billionaire companies and corporate executives have been taking our production and outsourcing it to penny-wage nations. It is slave labor, really, where people make hardly anything, if \$1 an hour, maybe \$2 an hour, competing against a First World economy like ours.

As the proud daughter of union workers, I know that the road to rebuilding American manufacturing runs straight through our heartland, through the working class, the people who work hard, the spine of America's industrial economy in our Great Lakes region and the Midwest.

America's enemies around the world today are applauding the self-inflicted tariff chaos that has been exacted on our people. They are also plotting as they watch the U.S. stock market plummet, and then bounce back a little bit, and then go down again, endangering and impacting markets around the globe. Reckless and cavalier economic policy could lead us into a Trump recession.

A record of trillions of dollars in U.S. wealth was just lost this past week due to chaotic moves on tariffs arbitrarily imposed by the Trump administration. This week, the hole was being dug deeper as markets continued to free-fall. There was a partial rollback. Where will the roller coaster head next week? Nobody really knows.

None of the tariffs that the President has proposed and implemented have ever had a single vote in this Congress. This is unconstitutional, and it has caused a loss in the 401(k) retirement accounts of tens of millions of Americans. Those took a nosedive. They have been yo-yoing up and down. We are talking about \$10 trillion of market losses these past few days. That is unprecedented.

Where is Speaker JOHNSON? Is he asleep at the wheel? Where is the Republican Committee on Ways and Means? Is it on vacation?

The Trump administration's dangerous overreach is totally damaging to our economy and unnerving to our