

but every week. Let us do right by them and the American people they serve.

#### REPUBLICANS ARE NOT CUTTING MEDICAID

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

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, a lot of times on this floor and in the press you hear about how the Republicans somehow are cutting Medicaid or slashing Medicaid, but the facts are that in the Republican budget resolution, we increase Medicaid expenditures by at least 25 percent over the next 10 years.

Yes, we will fight fraud, waste, and abuse. We think the American people agree that fraud, waste, and abuse robs the Medicaid system from covering the people like the disabled, the elderly, pregnant women, and children. It robs money from those programs and wastes it.

Even after we eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse, we have enough to increase Medicaid expenditures by at least 25 percent over the next 10 years. Those are the facts. There is no cutting going on. There is no slashing. There is elimination of fraud, waste, and abuse, and it is about time that happened to the U.S. Government bureaucracy, not only in Medicaid, but across the government.

#### OUTRAGEOUS GOVERNMENT- FUNDED INCENTIVES

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

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside four of my esteemed colleagues to both highlight and condemn the misuse of taxpayer dollars funneled to illegal immigrants.

An outrageous pattern of perverse and intentional incentives reveal deliberate efforts to worsen the border crisis and to allow tens of millions of illegal aliens to invade our Nation at direct cost to the American taxpayer.

The Biden-Harris administration cycled through repeated falsehoods: claiming the border was secure, claiming they did not have what was needed to stop this invasion, claiming that they were helpless and needed Congress

to take the lead. Meanwhile, that same administration lined the pockets of leftwing NGOs to shower illegal immigrants with incentives in the form of open-ended access to your tax dollars.

Earlier this year, reports surfaced from the watchdog group, Open The Books, exposing Biden's Department of Health and Human Services for awarding shockingly large amounts of grants and dollars to nonprofits focused on aiding illegal immigrants, amounting to as high as 20 million people who illegally crossed into our country during Biden's term in office.

Taxpayer-funded awards paid for illegal aliens' housing, healthcare, education, even music lessons, therapy. You name it, the taxpayer covered it.

Using NGOs as a proxy, the Biden administration sent a clear message that our laws were not to be taken seriously, and living off of the American taxpayer was both acceptable and encouraged. The same people fueling this elaborate scheme also pushed a false narrative that supporting illegal activity somehow gives them a moral high ground. This, of course, is false.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell the American people that they are right to expect secure borders. They are right to demand law and order. They are right to be outraged that hundreds of billions of their dollars have gone to illegal aliens and politically connected NGOs who facilitated this recent invasion.

President Trump's swift actions to halt illegal crossings and to deport illegal aliens in his first 100 days has made one thing painfully clear: The Biden-Harris administration was never working to fix our immigration system. They actively and deliberately worked to undermine it.

The Center for Immigration Studies found illegal immigrants annually take—and this is a conservative estimate—nearly \$120 billion directly from public services, to include public schools, public welfare, and healthcare. Every American across the country should expect more from their government.

Joining me today are a few of my colleagues. I yield first to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE), my fellow North Carolinian and a fierce border security advocate. Congressman MOORE has been a leading voice in the fight to reform FEMA and to ensure its funds go toward helping American citizens rather than to illegal immigrants, especially those recovering from Hurricane Helene.

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just a couple things about Congressman KNOTT, for folks who don't know, before he was a Member of Congress here, he was actually a very well-esteemed prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office. Congressman KNOTT has shared many stories where he was personally having to prosecute a lot of these violent gang members, these MS-13 gang members. For some reason, some of our colleagues want to go down

and hug a thug or something and see these folks down in Central America.

Mr. KNOTT was helping prosecute these folks, and I know the prosecutors were very frustrated at the time with what they were seeing with these open borders. I appreciate, one, what he did before he came to Congress; two, what he is doing now; and, three, hosting this opportunity today to bring attention of this to the American people.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the people of North Carolina, particularly western North Carolina. I represent hardworking Americans playing by the rules, doing everything they can right—paying their taxes, raising their kids, and taking care of their neighbors whose lives were impacted substantially by Hurricane Helene that hit last year. It tore through our region. It destroyed roads. It destroyed homes. It took lives. It changed so many things.

I will say the good news is the resilience of North Carolinians, not only in government, not only in local government, but also in volunteers and the faith community. I see my good friend, Congressman HARRIS, over there. The churches stepped up in such a tremendous way to help folks out in a serious time of need to do what they needed to do.

We also saw where the Federal Government, in a lot of ways, failed to do the job. Under the past administration, we saw where FEMA wasn't doing the job. I am proud to say that under this new administration, FEMA is getting the job done. Many folks who didn't live there saw pictures of the mass destruction that was in western North Carolina and the lack of response in so many ways.

Just to kind of put some points on that with some numbers, according to the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general, FEMA could not account for \$7.4 million out of an audit sample of \$12.9 million. These sound like small numbers, but that is an audit sample. Think about that. That is 58 percent of those funds were either unsupported or not properly documented.

There was an example where one contractor billed \$9 million for labor and could only support or back up \$1.5 million of it. Another was reimbursed twice for the same \$40,000. Some grantees couldn't even prove they delivered services. FEMA had approved it all.

Then you compare things, Mr. Speaker, where folks were needing help, and they were getting the runaround and getting the delay. Again, I stress to folks that that has changed since January of this year. We are seeing FEMA getting the job done in a lot of ways. I will talk about what FEMA did with some of this other money in just a moment.

Here is another example of some mismanagement by the previous administration. Remember the so-called American Rescue Plan. Democrats passed a

bill of \$1.9 trillion on a party-line vote. Less than 9 percent of that money, by the way, went to combat COVID. Tucked inside that bill was \$110 million to FEMA. We would think that is a great thing, right?

Here is the problem. It wasn't for disaster recovery. It was to fund something they were calling humanitarian assistance. What that was, was to help illegal immigrants at the border. That was just the start.

Mr. Speaker, they followed it with another \$150 million in March 2022 and then \$800 million more in December of that year. FEMA was effectively converted into a border response welfare agency and rebranded as the Shelter and Services Program. It paid for migrant housing, transportation, and services in sanctuary cities, while American disaster victims waited months just to hear back about their applications. It is absolutely shameful.

My constituents were patching their roofs and clearing debris by hand. FEMA was busy footing the bill for nice hotel stays in New York for folks who weren't even supposed to be in the country. This was a willful effort by the other side to just enable this border crisis.

I have to say that Congressman KNOTT pointed out how the border is finally secure, and it didn't require a change in law. It simply required a President who would follow the law.

What do we have going on now that things have changed? My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, respectfully, are not showing up in towns that were damaged by the storm, asking questions of FEMA, and looking to go see what is happening. Who has shown up? Secretary Noem has shown up. President Trump has shown up.

Instead, some of my colleagues—and I don't know why—have decided they want to go to El Salvador and rub elbows and maybe grab a margarita with some former MS-13 gang members. It looks like it is a delegation to meet face-to-face with Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a known member of MS-13.

That gang is responsible for countless murders, assaults, and human trafficking. Instead of demanding justice, Democrats took selfies. For example, I know Congressman KNOTT had to prosecute MS-13 when he was prosecuting in the Eastern District of North Carolina.

We don't need any more hug-a-thug diplomacy. We need a Federal Government that puts the American people first, puts their safety first, their livelihoods first, and their families first.

My friends, we are still feeling the consequences of this failed border policy in North Carolina. Just last week, this picture to my right, the FBI in Charlotte—and I want to give a shout-out to the FBI agents based out of Charlotte. They arrested an illegal immigrant who had already been deported.

That is a picture of him right there. He was charged with the kidnapping of

a mother and her 1-year-old child in Garner, North Carolina. That is in Congressman KNOTT's district right there. They kidnapped her. They tied up her husband, took the woman and the child at gunpoint, demanded a ransom of \$1 million, and then dumped them in the woods.

By the grace of God and the swift action of the FBI, Garner police, and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, they were rescued.

That crime never should have happened. Estrada-Hernandez should never have been in this country in the first place. Do you know what, Mr. Speaker? He would not have been if it weren't for the Biden administration's open-border policy and refusal to simply follow the law.

Mr. Speaker, this is not compassion. This is not justice. This is chaos, engineered and endorsed by some on the other side. I do hope those on the other side who disagree with this will start stepping up and pushing back with what is happening there.

I will say this, too. Thankfully, under President Trump's leadership, we are cleaning house. The Department of Government Efficiency has exposed FEMA's failures in the past administration. Secretary Noem is working to get this agency back on mission, and Congress is moving to eliminate the Shelter and Services Program and return those funds to real disaster recovery where they belong.

To the families who are still recovering from Hurricane Helene and to those who were told there was no money left while FEMA lost track of millions, I hear you. Help is on the way.

This, my friends, is what it means to put Americans first, to restore common sense, and to lead with integrity.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS), my good friend from the Eighth Congressional District, otherwise known as the Space Coast.

Congressman HARIDOPOLOS and I have had many conversations about the cost of illegal immigration on programs that are designed to help and support vulnerable Americans, especially Medicaid.

Congressman HARIDOPOLOS has extensive experience in the Medicaid space, and he knows that it must be guarded to protect those who rely upon it here in the United States. It is not an international charity, and it is especially not for the illegal immigrants here in this country. I will ask him to elaborate on his experience with this issue.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT for yielding and for holding this hearing.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kind of conversations the American public needs to hear. They need to understand the impact that illegal immigration is having on our country and how it un-

dercuts the rule of law and really undercuts those people who truly want to play by the rules and enter the United States in a legal fashion.

It is frustrating when we can bring so many bright, conscientious people who want to come into the United States, yet they are deprived of these opportunities because of the long line that exists because of the challenges we have with illegal immigration.

I very much appreciate the Congressman leading the charge on this and bringing in some of us who have experience with Medicaid to talk about the impacts that it has on our individual States.

As we know, Medicaid is designed to help our most vulnerable citizens—seniors, veterans, kids, low-income families, and especially the disabled. Today, that lifeline is being strained by illegal immigration and open-door policies.

While Democrats and sanctuary States deny the problem, the data is clear. Let's be clear that every dollar spent on illegal immigration is a dollar taken from a senior, a veteran, a child, and a family struggling to pay the bills.

For the past 4 years, the pattern has been very clear. Migrants cross the border and surrender to authorities. They repeat carefully rehearsed lines, provided by NGOs, to meet the bare minimum threshold for asylum. They are released into the country and set a court date years in the future. They will begin to actually receive healthcare benefits at the expense of taxpayers, who have already been hard hit by higher prices for basic things like gas, food, and rent.

The burden is real. From 2017 to 2023, the Federal and State Governments spent \$27 billion on emergency Medicaid for noncitizens, according to the CBO. Also, according to the CBO, around \$18 billion came directly from Federal taxpayers, and I mean every single American.

Under the Biden-Harris years, Medicaid spending on illegal immigrants surged 124 percent higher than under President Trump. In 2021 alone, \$7 billion was spent on emergency care for illegal immigrants. Meanwhile, Democrats in Washington and blue States are demanding we actually pay even more.

To put this into perspective, as the Congressman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT) mentioned, I am from the State of Florida. We actually audited how much we spent on Medicaid emergency care last year. It was \$660 million for hospital care for illegal immigrants, according to the Agency for Health Care Administration in Florida. That was \$660 million that was intended to be spent on healthcare for American citizens, or to maybe move the dollars around for education or roads, or to help our environment.

Instead, \$660 million was spent on people who came here illegally. That is a substantial amount of money, and we

will never get it back. Again, it rewards bad behavior.

How the system works is very frustrating. Mr. Speaker, if you pay taxes in America, you are paying for illegal immigrants to get healthcare, whether you like it or not. Federal law requires Medicaid to cover emergency healthcare, period. That is just the law. If they go to the emergency room and that person qualifies, the American public pays for it. States, of course, pick up the costs initially, but the Federal Government reimburses somewhere between 59 and 73 percent of those costs to the States.

American taxpayer dollars are being spent on this program, whether we like it or not.

Reimbursement quietly channels billions of Federal dollars into care for illegal immigration through State Medicaid programs. States like California and New York are actually the most abusive of this law. These sanctuary States choose to allow illegal immigrants to receive State Medicaid programs and then send the bill to Washington, D.C., for all taxpayers to pay for it. It is not like they are being generous with just their taxpayer dollars. It is spread across the entire system in the United States.

States like California and New York manipulate provider taxes and use creative accounting to maximize Federal reimbursement, thus shifting more of the burden to taxpayers across the country.

Here is the gall of it all. New York even promotes free medical care for illegal immigrants with official State flyers, encouraging them to use emergency services. That is pretty rich.

I mean, think about it. They are saying they are just using their State tax dollars. That is not the truth. They are promoting, with taxpayer dollars, this push to have, again, other people pick up the costs.

This is not some federalism deal where it is handled by one State. This is, again, real life in that someone else will pay the bill. Thus, they are being generous with other people's money.

To counter this myth that the Democrats are trying to push, that illegal immigration does not cost taxpayer dollars—it is just not true. This is why I want people to look closely at what Medicaid is.

Again, every Republican that I talk to—and I go across the country to talk about this issue—wants to provide Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes. We want to provide it for pregnant women. We want to provide it for kids. We want to provide it for the disabled. Mr. Speaker, when that relationship is upset by having people here illegally, you are actually potentially putting Medicaid programs at risk.

For those who really want to study the issue, there is a water balloon effect here. Medicaid really doesn't reimburse doctors for their care. It causes private healthcare costs to go up. Imagine the ire that so many people have.

Mr. Speaker, if you talk to a family of four and talk to the parents, they are going to say, for a family of four, they pay like \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month for private healthcare. Yet, a person who comes into the country illegally pays zero in healthcare because they get Medicaid services where there is not even a copay.

That is the ironic part about this. They break the law and are rewarded for it. That undercuts the American Dream.

People start thinking logically: Why do I play by the rules? Maybe I will manipulate a form so that I qualify for Medicaid, and they might never check it again. Mr. Speaker, that is happening today.

□ 1445

People are even objecting to the idea that we check to see if the person still truly qualifies for Medicaid; that is theft from other taxpayers.

So as the CBO confirmed, \$18 billion in Federal spending was put on emergency care, and these are just the facts that play out.

Again, let's have the honest conversation. If the other side wants to fund it, then say it; but don't say it is not happening or bury it under the typical bureaucratic or political doublespeak. These are the conversations we need to have.

Just so you know, Mr. Speaker, in the policy that we are looking at today where we are going to let's say reconsider the budget, they are going to spend \$45 billion for basically jails for illegal immigrants who come across, because if we don't have that jail space or the detention centers as they are looking at asylum, then they go into the country. That means they might not have a court case for a few years.

Let's just think logically here, Mr. Speaker, there are 10 million people.

How many judges, lawyers, public defenders, bailiffs, and other folks do you need to actually have 10 million court cases in their version of due process?

As our lead prosecutor today, Mr. KNOTT, will tell us: The law is simple. If you came here illegally, then the only thing you are allowed is a ticket out of here.

Let's be honest about immigration. This is about the rule of law. I want to bring in a lot of folks. I want to have an immigration system that works and they actually sign up, they get online, and we find out who these folks are. Just like they check us on an airline, they check them at the border.

Instead, this previous administration literally said: Here is the script. Tell them this, you will get the court case in years to come, and you can go into the interior of the country.

That is a double standard.

I applaud Congressman KNOTT for taking this opportunity to talk about this in a real way and my friends from North Carolina talk about how it impacts every one of us. It is taking from the system, causing people to pay more

for insurance, and undercutting the rule of law.

That is why we had an election last year, and the voice was good. The President said that he would stop this crazy idea because we are already \$1 trillion in debt year by year and \$37 trillion in debt overall.

This is common sense, and the President has finally stood up for those people who have been left behind the last 4 years.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT very much for taking on this real issue. It is the kind of discussion we need to have. If the other side feels that we have not been telling the whole story, then come up and have the debate. We would love to see it.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am ready for that debate any day, and I am ready for that discussion any day.

Again, the Republicans believe that American tax dollars should serve American citizens and not those who are here illegally.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Eighth Congressional District of the great State of North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS).

Congressman HARRIS pointed out back in February that an NGO in North Carolina was actively working to hinder law enforcement, aid illegal immigrants, and further worsen the crisis engulfing our communities both in North Carolina and all over our country. A pastor of more than 30 years, Congressman HARRIS is proof that allowing this humanitarian crisis to continue is not compassionate and that enforcing our laws is not hateful.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure today to be able to share in this time together. I am grateful to Congressman HARIDOPOLOS for sharing, also for Congressman MOORE whom we heard from earlier. I am honored to be a part of this, and I am very thankful for the vision and the passion that Congressman KNOTT has shown in pulling together this Special Order.

When a burglar breaks into your house, Mr. Speaker, you don't set a place for them at the dinner table. That principle seems pretty obvious. However, for some reason, radical progressives just can't understand it.

For the past 4 years, radical, progressive Democrats have openly welcomed criminal aliens into American communities.

Lest we forget, here are just a few of the violent guests the left has invited into our country:

Felix Rojas, an illegal alien who was deported multiple times, was charged just last week for raping a corpse on a Manhattan subway.

In my home State of North Carolina, two illegal aliens whom Congressman MOORE alluded to earlier, Paola Duran Duran and Miguel Duran Duran, were arrested for breaking into a home and kidnapping a mother and her 11-month-old daughter.

Just outside Washington, D.C., an illegal alien, Hyrum Rodriguez, was arrested by ICE after a local court dropped his charges.

What was the crime that he was charged with?

It was abducting a 4-year-old.

These heinous criminals are only a small number of those welcomed into our country by Joe Biden and who were arrested in just the past few days by the Trump administration.

Mr. Speaker, you can only imagine what is happening in our country on a grander scale. While under President Trump's leadership, illegal border crossings are down 95 percent from last year, yet we are still suffering from the impacts of the open-border policies of the last 4 years.

The left did not just facilitate an open-border invasion, they have made the American taxpayer pay for it, and we are still paying for it.

Under former President Biden's open-borders agenda, it is estimated that at least 10 million illegal aliens entered our country, and on top of the massive financial cost of the crimes they commit and the jobs they take away from Americans, a huge chunk of them have been accessing government benefits like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Americans are hard workers. That is why we have the best country in the world. They don't work backbreaking jobs their whole careers for their taxpayer dollars to subsidize the lives of the very invaders who have subverted their sovereignty.

The left loves to fact-check, so why don't we take a moment and hear some cold, hard facts:

Fact number one, under the Biden administration, more than 1 million illegal aliens received Medicaid benefits.

Fact number two, in fiscal year 2024 alone, over 2 million illegal aliens were given Social Security numbers.

Fact number three, a 2023 study showed that the net cost of illegal aliens to the American taxpayer was at least \$150 billion annually.

Fact number four, States are still having to bear the financial burden of Biden's border crisis. Texas taxpayers have to shell out \$8.88 billion a year to pay for the illegal aliens who invaded their State. For Californians, it is almost \$22 billion.

By the way, fact number five, in some States, in a complete affront to citizens, illegal aliens can get mortgages, bank loans, insurance, driver's licenses, in-State college tuition, and free healthcare. For illegal aliens, the U.S. has been an all-you-can-eat buffet. However, the American taxpayer and innocent women like Laken Riley, Jocelyn Nungaray, and Rachel Morin have paid the full price of the left's open-border agenda.

It is time to turn off the faucet permanently. American taxpayers shouldn't have to fund their own demise, paying for government programs that actually encourage an invasion.

President Trump has shown us the path forward. Border crossings are down. As I mentioned earlier, criminal aliens and gang members are being deported left and right. In other words, the forgotten American is first once again.

Nevertheless, there is still much work to be done, especially in this 119th Congress. Under President Biden, Americans' hard-earned taxpayer dollars in the Federal budget were used as a slush fund for the radical left to facilitate a border invasion of millions of illegal aliens, export their woke ideologies across the globe with wasteful pet projects, and weaponize the government against anyone who disagreed with their policies.

However, President Trump's budget proposal, when signed into law, will be a crucial step in taking our country back from the left. It will defund the wasteful government programs subsidizing illegal aliens and provide President Trump with the very tools to solidify his sensible border security initiatives.

For example, President Trump's budget would eliminate the shelter and services program that facilitated swarms of illegal aliens into American communities and save taxpayers \$650 million at the same time. It will also stop funneling \$428 million to migrant education programs that are taking away from struggling American students.

Those are just a glimpse of the countless wasteful projects for which the American citizens should not be footing the bill. It is up to Congress now to come together and advance both the President's budget and the reconciliation package across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, we owe nothing less to the American people who are tired of being placed behind illegal aliens. When illegal aliens are given benefits like Medicaid and Social Security by the thousands, then they will keep coming into our country, burdening the American taxpayer, and exacerbating the crime in our cities.

This is why it is so important that this Congress act now with a budget reconciliation, to give President Trump the tools he needs to keep both the wallet and the soul of America safe.

Burglars are in the house, and they don't just want a seat at the dinner table. They want the entire spread.

It is time for us to use this historic opportunity to correct our course.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT for his vision and his leadership.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HARRIS for his remarks.

At least 1 million illegals are on Medicaid. I would submit that I have heard not one syllable from the Democratic Party from 5 years ago when Joe Biden took power until today protesting that fact. The Republican Party wants to protect Medicaid and

get the 1 million-plus illegals on it out of the country and off of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier that some of the ridiculous benefits that taxpayers have unknowingly funded for illegal aliens include something as unique as music lessons. When digging into this issue, Congressman KENNEDY and I were both outraged and simply shocked at the brazen and flagrant waste of funds on these perverse incentives.

I know Congressman KENNEDY to be a fierce advocate for conservative principles both for his district in Utah and for the country at large.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Third Congressional District of Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT for shining much-needed light on this issue and for the opportunity today to speak about some of the consequences of the Biden-Harris administration's irresponsible actions over the past 4 years and how Congress and the Trump administration are working to claw our way back to sanity for the United States of America.

We have lived through the most devastating border crisis in modern American history. Let's be honest. It wasn't a natural disaster, and it wasn't an accident. It was the direct result of bad choices made by the Biden-Harris administration.

This wasn't mere mismanagement. It was facilitation, it was incentivization, and it was done at the expense of our laws, our national security, and our people.

During their time in office, President Biden and Vice President Harris dismantled nearly every meaningful safeguard at the southern border. Their administration presided over a record surge in illegal immigration, over 700,000 illegal aliens were apprehended at the border from October through December of 2023 alone. That was more than any full year during the Obama Presidency when President Obama famously stated that over 1,000 illegal border crossings a day would be considered a crisis.

The Biden-Harris administration frequently allowed in 6,000 a day.

Unfortunately, instead of restoring our control and protecting our sovereignty, they did the unthinkable. They rewarded the lawbreakers. Rather than empower border enforcement, the Biden-Harris administration threw open the Federal checkbook, funneling billions of taxpayer dollars to private nonprofits like Family Endeavors Incorporated, Southwest Key Programs, and Global Refuge. These NGOs didn't just shelter illegal aliens. They pampered them.

Those contracts paid for luxury hotel rooms, room service, 24-hour snacks, laundry, bilingual television, recreation, cultural events, and individual tutoring for mathematics and social studies. Most shockingly, it paid for

pet therapy, music therapy, and horticultural therapy for illegal alien children.

In 2021 alone, Endeavors paid Christy Merrell, a music therapist, \$533,000 for her services. In addition to this nonsense, the nonprofit conducted 1,656 people-plant interactions and 287 pet therapy sessions between April 2021 and March 2023.

This wasn't emergency aid. It was five-star treatment funded by hard-working American families, families that are struggling to pay their own rent and put food on their own table, much less providing themselves with music, plant, and pet therapy.

I know many taxpaying American families who would love to be able to provide their children with one-on-one academic tutoring but simply cannot afford it.

This all begs the question: Why are we investing in illegal families while stripping financial resources from our own citizens to do so?

In one case, Endeavors Incorporated, a Texas-based NGO, received a \$1.3 billion contract from the Federal Government in a single year. Meanwhile their top executives are paid over \$600,000 annually, and the group spends more than \$700,000 on lobbyists all to keep the money flowing.

□ 1500

Contrast that with the conditions our military servicemembers faced during the same time: moldy barracks, sewage overflows, and rodent infestations to highlight a few. In 2022, a mere \$56 million was spent on housing maintenance for military families, less than one-twentieth of what was spent for illegal aliens.

Who did the Biden-Harris administration care about? It certainly wasn't our men and women in uniform.

Unfortunately, the extreme misuse of funds wasn't their only slight to the American public. The Biden-Harris administration relaxed vetting standards for those who claimed to sponsor alien children. DNA testing was scrapped, and background checks were watered down. There were no public records checks required for other adults living in a sponsor's home, and tragic consequences followed.

In one case, a 24-year-old Honduran man posed as a 17-year-old child and was placed with a sponsor in Florida who he later murdered. Sadly, that was not a one-off failure. This type of senseless violence became a regular news story.

While Americans were working multiple jobs to afford rent and groceries, the Biden-Harris administration was funding a billion-dollar pipeline for unaccompanied aliens, and empowering NGOs that had no incentive to solve the crisis, only to profit from it.

They called it compassion, however, in reality, it was corruption, recklessness, and disregard for the rule of law.

The good news is this: Their time in office is over. However, the ramifica-

tions of their decisions persist. While our southern border is certainly more secure now, we have hundreds of thousands of illegal alien cases that will overwhelm our legal system for years. The nonprofit industry they supercharged is still bloated, and the American people are still waiting for real accountability.

Now is the time to fix what they broke. We must defund corrupt NGOs, restore vetting and enforcement, and put the American people first again. We owe it to our citizens. We owe it to our troops, and we owe it to the integrity of this Nation. The crisis wasn't spontaneous. It was built, funded, and incentivized. Let's make sure it is never repeated.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard today from our colleagues and myself about the outrageous government-funded incentives and plans to keep illegal aliens not only flowing into this country but also to stay in this country. This scheme goes beyond waste. It represents, candidly, a betrayal of the American people and the American taxpayers, who have suffered mightily in this country because of the illegal immigration crisis.

In closing, I simply ask the following of the American citizens who rely on Medicare or Medicaid: Should we allow illegal immigrants to dilute the quality of your benefits and run up costs in emergency rooms who are precluded from turning illegal immigrants away?

I say, along with my colleagues: Absolutely not. No tax dollars should be allocated to covering healthcare costs for any person who is in this country illegally.

To the American parents, whether rural or urban, who are struggling to feed your children, I ask: Should illegal immigrants receive tax-funded meals day in, day out to eat on your dime?

Again, I heartily say: Absolutely not.

To the children at risk of falling behind in lagging schools all over this country, I ask: Should we continue to allow millions upon millions to arrive here illegally and crowd out your classrooms?

I would say, again: Under no circumstances should we give public education dollars to any person or any family who is here illegally.

To the Social Security recipient I ask: Should we take on more debt and endanger your access to continued benefits just to keep our borders open?

With no hesitation, I again say: Absolutely not. We must protect the tax dollars of American citizens.

To the veterans who are battling homelessness or addiction or the western North Carolinians who are left without shelter following Hurricane Helene, I ask: Should your tax dollars go to housing illegal aliens, to transporting illegal aliens while you continually suffer?

Again, I say definitively: Under no circumstances is this appropriate.

I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to join me in reversing this perverse incentive structure by sending a clear message that the United States laws are to be respected. Put candidly, if you are here illegally, leave. If you return here illegally, you will be punished.

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

#### THE MATH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I could almost hear the joy from my staff saying: Hey, it is only 30 minutes this time, not an hour.

Mr. Speaker, I want to do just a handful of things. One of these days we are going to have not enough noise about the facts, the numbers, the data, the debt, those things that we can come in and sort of do our boards, our charts, on things that actually reduce spending and modernize.

I do want to sort of start with this. We have spent time since last summer working on pieces of legislation. The Wall Street Journal series and the ProPublica series came out about the scale of bad acts that were happening in what we call Medicare part C, which is Medicare Advantage for most of us, which is now I think about 55 percent of the Medicare population. We have been working on that to sort of modernize it, and so for all the lobbyists who are making money trying to beat us up for trying to actually fix it, I will warn you that the legislation is almost done. We now have to work with the economists and others to score it. We have been stunned though that it continues. Even last Thursday, I think, there was another whole set of investigations or indictments announced.

Let's get on to some of the math here. Mr. Speaker, I have come behind the microphone many times and talked about the scale of debt. We borrow about \$72,000 per second. Our math next year, that goes up to about \$82,000 borrowing per second. If you are a country that needs to borrow about \$6 billion a day, we borrow about \$6 billion a day, what happens in a world where you actually—the liquidity of the debt markets.

I grabbed an article that was in one of my—I think it was in one of my bond publications because I have some weird reading habits. "Japan prepared to use its role as America's largest creditor as leverage in Trump's trade talks." The point I want to make by reading that headline to everyone is: Japan now is our largest individual creditor country. When you have a country that has \$900 billion, maybe a trillion dollars of U.S. sovereign debt, and you walk in the door and say: We want to renegotiate some of our trade pact with you or we want to build an actual trade pact with you, they look