

unacceptable that billionaires and corporations are consolidating their power and price gouging the American people, our families.

This crisis should be our focus. I understand that there are many dynamics that they keep putting forward. Why aren't we doing anything about it? Fear and division keep us distracted from what is really going on. Those that are rich and wealthy in our country become richer under every single decision I have seen so far.

One glaring thing missing in the 200 executive orders that we have seen this week is any mention of lowering the grocery prices for our families, not one word. We know there have been promises made by this current administration that they are going to lower costs for Americans on day one. Three weeks into the new Congress, we haven't seen a single bill come to the floor on this issue.

In my district they are drowning in the high costs of healthcare. Don't get me started about auto insurance, which is now up 40 percent, many paying almost the cost of rent, the cost of their mortgage to have auto insurance which is required by law to have if a person owns a vehicle.

Instead, we are seeing threats of tariffs that will drive grocery prices higher. Instead, we see them getting rid of protections for discriminatory actions by companies, by actors that we know fully intended to benefit from racist policies.

I know that this doesn't matter to the current President and his billionaire friends. They don't worry about the cost of a carton of eggs or milk or groceries, especially when the three wealthiest men in America are sitting right behind the current President at his inauguration. Their combined worth, so that the American people understand, is \$911 billion.

It is clear that the billionaires now control our government, and this Chamber can't let that happen. We need legislative action to lower the cost of living for the American people. Trust me that this is a bipartisan issue. Every corner of our country is asking us to do something about this.

These are issues that, again, matter to many, many families. That is why my residents care about it so much. Stop with the fear-mongering and the hate. I know you are distracting us because you are helping your billionaire friends, but you are hurting so many American people who are drowning right now with the cost of living.

EMBRACING IMMIGRANTS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, immigrants in our country are already under attack, especially our undocumented neighbors. These are hateful and divisive executive orders and a violent assault on our communities and our country. Our very identity, as we all know, is a nation of immigrants.

I wouldn't be here as a child of immigrants. My father, with only a fourth grade education, was able to work in

the auto plant line. My mother only had an eighth grade education. They were able to achieve the American Dream to see their daughter become a United States Congresswoman.

What are we doing instead of embracing that identity? We are punishing sanctuary cities that embrace our immigrant neighbors. We are dismantling asylums and humanitarian paroles. We are dehumanizing our immigrant neighbors. We are banning all refugees, even those who waited patiently for years, who followed the law, had flights booked, already cleared, and were denied entry.

We are already laying the groundwork. He is already doing it for the Muslim ban, many of our neighbors, myself, my family, all of us. Even though it is not directly targeted toward us, attacking a whole faith is un-American. Sending ICE to schools, hospitals, and churches is hateful and divisive.

He is even trying to override the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to end birthright citizenship. It is clear from my residents and folks around the country there is absolutely no doubt if you are born in the United States, you are a U.S. citizen. The President does not have the authority to change that, period.

We must fight back to prevent these policies rooted in racism and white nationalism. That means opposing plans for mass deportation. Our families must protect each other. It has nothing to do with public safety. They want us distracted so they can help their billionaire friends become richer.

That means opposing his plans for mass deportation. It means showing up to defend our friends, coworkers, and neighbors when they raid our communities.

It means my colleagues must stop voting to pass racist and authoritarian legislation that expands deportations and paints our immigrant neighbors as violent criminals.

Trump's executive orders call immigrants coming to our country seeking a better life an "invasion." The only invasion we face is ICE coming into our communities to sow chaos, racially profile our neighbors, and tear our families apart.

This has nothing to do with public safety, it is about stoking fear and hate because they want to distract us from what is really happening.

Making the wealthy class richer.

Corporations are already celebrating.

Meant to keep us silent as this administration goes after every single marginalized group in our country.

Now is the time to resist this fearmongering, to stand with our immigrant neighbors and make it clear that our communities are stronger than those that hate us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and Vice President.

ACCESSING MILK AS A VITAL PART OF SCHOOL NUTRITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a critical gap in school nutrition affecting students across this great Nation.

Today, I will introduce the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, a much-needed win for students, parents, schools, and dairy farmers across America.

This bipartisan legislation expands milk options in school milk programs to include whole and 2 percent milk. It addresses a critical gap in child nutrition. We all know that milk is an essential source of 13 vital nutrients, including several underconsumed nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D, and potassium. These are foundational for building strong bones, maintaining healthy blood pressure, and supporting overall development.

However, in order for kids to benefit from these nutrients, they need to actually consume the milk. As we all know, kids deserve options and choice when it comes to choosing milk at lunchtime. Unfortunately, thanks to a flawed Federal policy based on outdated science, since 2012 schools have been prohibited from serving whole or reduced fat milk in school lunchrooms.

We all know whole milk tastes the best because it is the best. It is long overdue that kids in our Nation's schools have access to the most naturally nutritious beverage available to them. According to the dietary guidelines for Americans, nearly 90 percent of Americans including our children fail to meet their daily dairy intake recommendations.

Thanks to the Federal ban on whole milk, we have lost an entire generation of milk drinkers. Along with them, hardworking dairy farmers across this country have suffered. When students are presented with limited, unpopular milk options, they drink less milk and are more likely to turn to sugary, caffeinated alternatives that offer little nutritional value.

Research has repeatedly shown that whole and 2 percent milk are not only not responsible for childhood obesity, but several studies show that children who consume whole milk are less likely to experience obesity and have healthier levels of body fat. Since whole milk was banned from school lunches, body mass index scores, rates of obesity, and the prevalence of diabetes among young people have increased significantly. According to one case study, childhood obesity rates climbed 13 percentage points between 2008 and 2020.

Clearly, whole milk was not the problem when it came to childhood obesity. Emerging science supports what many parents already know. Whole milk is a nutritious and satisfying option for their children. Whole milk for healthy kids doesn't mandate schools to serve whole milk or for any student to drink milk but, rather, gives them the flexibility to meet the preferences and nutritional needs of their students.

Importantly, this bill aligns with parental choice, empowering schools to offer a wider range of milk options that mirror what kids enjoy at home. This is not just about nutrition, it is about practicality. Low-income children who rely on school meals for a majority of their daily dairy intake deserve access to nutritious and appealing options.

By reintroducing whole and reduced fat milk to school lunchrooms, we can combat food waste, support local dairy farmers, and ensure that our children are well-fed and ready to learn. This crucial legislation already has broad support from the farming community, school groups, Members across the aisle, and Senators across the Capitol.

I especially thank my partner on this legislation here in the House, Dr. KIM SCHRIER, as well as my Senate counterparts, ROGER MARSHALL, PETER WELCH, DAVID MCCORMICK, and JOHN FETTERMAN, for joining me in introducing this commonsense effort.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this commonsense solution that provides essential nutrients to our Nation's youth and supports America's dairy farmers. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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HONORING RICH KOHNG

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Rich Kohng, assistant vice president for civic engagement at Illinois Third's own North Park University, for his lifelong commitment to civic justice and civil rights.

Rich's parents, Roy and Susan, came to the United States as refugees of the Korean war and arrived in Chicago after immigration quotas were removed after the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.

Inspired by his family's commitment to their faith and service, Rich obtained his master's in divinity and began his career at North Park University by coordinating their urban ministry program. Nearly 15 years later, through his leadership at the Center for Civic Engagement, Rich exemplifies the transformative power of education to promote civic engagement and foster stronger, more connected communities.

Through initiatives like the Catalyst program, Rich has created opportunities for students to engage deeply in Chicago and with Chicago residents, learning directly from local leaders of color and working collaboratively to address pressing social issues.

Rich's work reminds us that when our universities invest in civic engagement, they not only shape the next generation of leaders, but they are strengthening the fabric of our very own communities.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Rich Kohng

for his commitment to promoting civic engagement, his leadership at North Park University, and his dedication to live out his faith through public service.

HONORING LAURA AVILA-PETERSON

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated educator and my constituent from Bensenville, Illinois, Laura Avila-Peterson.

Laura's commitment to fostering civic engagement ensures that her students are prepared to be active, informed participants in our democracy.

Laura is an experienced high school educator specializing in bilingual social studies and supporting English language learners at Fenton High School. Over the past 5 years, she has taught grades 9 through 12, fostering inclusive environments that celebrate the diverse backgrounds of the students that she serves. Her dedication to supporting English language learners is evident in her tailored approach to teaching.

I recently had the privilege of meeting Laura and speaking with her bilingual civics class at Fenton High School. Together, we talked about how we build a multiracial democracy and the importance of uplifting students as they engage in civic life, particularly by creating multilingual spaces, regardless of their immigration status, for them to be able to talk about what they see in the news, how they experience it, and how they belong in this country.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Laura Avila-Peterson for her dedication to education and her invaluable contributions to shaping the next generation of leaders.

HONORING JOSE "CHA CHA" JIMENEZ AND RAINBOW COALITION LEGACY

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Jose "Cha Cha" Jimenez, a beloved community organizer and activist, founder of the Young Lords, and one of the architects behind Chicago's original Rainbow Coalition. To this day, the Rainbow Coalition is remembered as a powerful model of multiracial unity and solidarity that continues to inspire all of us.

Cha Cha was born in Puerto Rico and eventually moved with his family to Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood in the midst of the city's planned urban renewal. Today, we would call it gentrification. Cha Cha and his peers faced housing and educational discrimination and harassment at the hands of the police and were motivated to create the Young Lords street organization to protect themselves and their Puerto Rican neighbors.

Under Cha Cha's leadership, the Young Lords evolved into a political organization that hosted free breakfast programs for children, free community medical clinics, and other projects of survival. Through his work, he connected with other activists organizing in their own low-income communities across the city.

On April 4, 1969, Cha Cha co-lead an effort to form the Rainbow Coalition, an anti-racist, multiracial, working-class movement uniting the largely Puerto Rican Young Lords in Lincoln Park, the Black Panther Party on Chicago's South and West Sides, and the Young Patriots representing poor Appalachian Whites in the Uptown neighborhood. These organizations connected after beginning to understand the shared conditions they were facing had more commonality than division, particularly in their largely poor neighborhoods.

Cha Cha, Fred Hampton of the Black Panthers, and William "Preacher" Feserman of the Young Patriots helped their organizations overcome their differences and understand the potential in collaborating to organize their working-class communities.

Together, the Rainbow Coalition united these three organizations to cooperate on projects of survival and demonstrate solidarity at each other's protests and pickets across the city.

In memory of Cha Cha's passing and in honor of his contributions to uniting our community, I commend him and the leaders of the original Rainbow Coalition. May their legacy be a powerful reminder that we are, in fact, stronger together.

HONORING ROCKINGHAM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEPHEN KING

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Rockingham County Administrator Stephen King on his well-deserved retirement after a lifetime of public service to Virginia's Sixth District.

Stephen earned his degree in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. He went on to work for the city of Buena Vista as a civil engineer and worked his way up to assistant city manager.

From there, he accepted an offer to become Rockingham County's director of public works. He began serving as deputy county administrator in 2004 and was finally appointed county administrator by the board of supervisors in 2016.

Stephen brought his levelheadedness and no-nonsense approach to oversee a period of some of the county's largest growth, helping to establish a positive reputation for Rockingham County as a great place to live and do business.

Stephen always took care to acknowledge county employees' hard work and had a great relationship with everyone he came in contact with.

I wish him, his wife, Mary, and his entire family the best as he begins this new chapter in his life. He is a shining example of the leadership that every local government hopes to have.

PROTECTING LIFE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 21, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.