

## HEALTHCARE CRISIS

(Mr. SUOZZI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, there are so many issues in our country right now that are affecting our people, but one of the biggest concerns is an urgent matter that on December 31 of this year, premiums for people's health insurance are going to be skyrocketing because of the expiration of the premium tax credits.

We have heard so much talk. We have heard so many petty partisan messages, people attacking each other, but right now, we have to actually do something about this issue.

In my district, if you are a family of four and make \$130,000 a year, right now under the premium tax credits you have to pay 8.5 percent of your income for your health insurance. That is about \$10,000 or \$11,000 a year.

Those premiums are going to go up to \$30,000 on January 1. People are going to go broke. They are not going to buy health insurance. When less people are on health insurance, everybody's health insurance rates go up.

Right now, there are three discharge petitions in this House giving people options as to how to address this, two of which are bipartisan, negotiated ideas. There is one for a 1-year extension and another for a 2-year extension.

Mr. Speaker, we need the Speaker of the House, the majority leader, and the President of the United States of America to engage in this issue. Pick a way forward and solve this problem that is affecting so many Americans.

WOLVES SHOULD NOT BE AN  
ENDANGERED SPECIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about the word "affordability" around here these days. I am going to touch on the burdensome regulations that make the cost of everything go up.

There is a lot of worry about what the cost of beef is, the cost of groceries in general, but what is helping drive up the cost of beef? I will tell you what is hurting the cost of producing it for growers is the introduction of more and more wolves to the areas where they grow their product, like in north-east California, Colorado, and other areas around the country.

What is the issue there? Under the Endangered Species Act, somehow the wolf is still seen as an endangered species, even though there are tens of thousands of them scattered across the country. A lot of them end up in the upper Midwest.

The rule seems to be that you have to have them in every single county, in every rural area. Otherwise, they still count as endangered.

It is costing growers thousands and thousands of dollars, while the government is operating many millions of dollars of an operation to spread these wolves around. The latest scheme is to pull them out of places like Washington and bring them down into Colorado, capturing wolves that are already there.

Why are we doing this? Why are we driving the cost of food up? Why are we making it impossible for the growers to be able to keep their livestock alive as well as the wildlife that are devastating areas because of a nonendangered animal?

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
MARIO CORDERO

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Mario Cordero, a visionary leader who has served on the Federal Maritime Commission and also as a member of the Long Beach Harbor Commissioners, and he currently serves as the CEO of the Port of Long Beach since 2017.

Under his guidance, the port achieved record cargo movement and advanced modernization projects, but what distinguishes his leadership is not only growth, but it is the values behind it.

Early in his service, Mr. Cordero proposed the Green Port Policy, a transformational shift that made the port an environmental leader. Twenty years later, the port has dramatically less pollution and a landmark commitment to zero-emissions operations.

Mr. Cordero's story is uniquely American. The son of immigrants from Mexico and the first in his family to attend college, he embodies the promise of opportunity when service meets purpose. His leadership will have a lasting impact.

Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize Mario Cordero for his extraordinary service, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him fulfillment in the years ahead.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF  
THE YEAR: DANIELLE  
CRANKFIELD

(Ms. ELFRETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise here today on behalf of the 2026 National School Counselor of the Year, Ms. Danielle Crankfield of Annapolis.

Ms. Crankfield of Crofton High School in Anne Arundel County is the first Marylander to earn this national distinction for going above and beyond and inspiring young minds.

When she first arrived at Crofton, she found that African American and His-

panic students were underrepresented in advanced classes, so she created a framework for teachers when making course recommendations and worked from the ground up to better publicize high-level courses for students.

Thanks to her efforts, the gaps in advanced coursework decreased and now these advanced classes more closely reflect the composition and diversity of our students.

As we all know, good teachers, good counselors, and good classes stay with us for a lifetime. I would not be in Congress today if I did not have my own Ms. Crankfield.

Mr. Speaker, closing disparities and exposing more students to new ideas and opportunities sets them up for success in the years to come and perhaps even a seat in this very Chamber.

Congratulations to Ms. Crankfield.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO IVF FOR  
MILITARY FAMILIES

(Ms. MORRISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to condemn the betrayal of President Trump and his Republican majorities. Trump called himself the fertilization President and promised to expand access to IVF, but his Speaker of the House just blocked critical IVF expansion for military families.

The American people overwhelmingly want to expand access to IVF. It is what Donald Trump promised them as he was running for President last year. I quote word for word: "Under the Trump administration, we are going to be paying for that treatment, or we are going to be mandating that the insurance company pay."

Here we are, and the Republican Congress is sending a bill to President Trump's desk that fails to expand coverage for military families to do just that.

The brave servicemembers who put their lives on the line for our country and our freedoms will not be able to access the care they need to grow their families if they suffer from infertility.

Mr. Speaker, this is sadly only the latest betrayal by the Republican majority talking a big game about being profamily but blocking policies that would actually support them. It is beyond disappointing. It is cruel.

□ 1120

## NDAA WINS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the House's authorization of the National Defense Authorization Act, we are actively safeguarding the American people and making strategic investments in eastern North Carolina.

At Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, we authorized \$54 million for the child development center. During multiple base visits, we toured the existing center, which is in dire need of repair, met with staff, and visited the precious children of our servicemembers, who are in dire need of this support.

We also authorized \$41 million for Seymour Johnson's Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Complex to ensure our airmen are ready to deploy.

Additionally, we authorized a timeline extension for the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Flightline Utilities Modernization project in full support of our F-35s.

Our investments here in eastern North Carolina will not only strengthen our economy but also contribute to America's safety.

#### RECOGNIZING POLICE CHIEF DENTON CARLSON

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of San Ramon, California, Police Chief Denton Carlson as he retires after 27 years of service.

Chief Carlson began his law enforcement career in 1998 and later joined the San Ramon Police Department during its founding in 2007. Quickly rising through the ranks, he became captain in 2017 and chief in 2022.

Chief Carlson additionally served as the director of the city's Office of Emergency Management from 2015 to 2022. His leadership was instrumental in launching the police department's community resource and crime prevention division and its social media and emergency communications systems.

Deeply respected in the community by all the citizens, please join me in thanking Chief Carlson for his extraordinary and many years of public service and for public safety and congratulating him on a well-deserved retirement.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1884. An act to clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

S. 2584. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, regarding additional assessments on convicted persons, and for other purposes.

S. 3424. An act to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

#### PROMOTING EFFICIENT REVIEW FOR MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE TODAY ACT

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. 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 H.R. 3898.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OWENS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 936 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3898.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McDOWELL) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1124

##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3898) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make targeted reforms with respect to waters of the United States and other matters, and for other purposes, with Mr. McDOWELL in the chair.

The CHAIR. The House is in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of H.R. 3898, which the Clerk will report by title.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in section 1 of House Resolution 936 and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 3898, the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act, or the PERMIT Act, which will make permitting processes under the Clean Water Act more efficient, consistent, and transparent while continuing to protect our Nation's water quality.

Our Clean Water Act permitting regime is broken.

When it takes up to 18 months to receive a permit under just the Clean Water Act to build a pipeline, dam, road, pond, or home, something is simply wrong.

When wastewater utilities are being sued by radical environmentalists be-

cause the EPA didn't give them a permit they could trust, something is wrong.

When one State can weaponize the Clean Water Act to stop a pipeline that would allow citizens in other States to move off heating oil in the winter to a cheaper and more reliable source of energy, for reasons not remotely related to water quality, something is wrong.

When the Federal Government is allowed to write water quality standards that no one can afford without passing on costs to the ratepayers, or for which the technology to achieve such standards isn't even available in this country, something is wrong.

I believe that regulations should be simple to understand, achievable, and easy to follow. Good process often leads to good decisionmaking, more consistent outcomes, and prosperity, and that is what this bill seeks to achieve.

The partnership between the private sector, States, and the Federal Government envisioned by the Clean Water Act has worked to improve water quality nationwide. This is a very good thing. We all share the goal of achieving clean water. However, 50 years after its passage, the Clean Water Act needs modernization. It is just as simple as that.

This bill makes commonsense reforms, such as clarifying the section 401 process to stop it from being weaponized; codifying longstanding, bipartisan exemptions from the definition of waters of the United States; placing clear timelines on judicial review for permits; and increasing transparency in the development of water quality standards.

It also directs the Corps to eliminate the backlog of outstanding section 404 permit applications and jurisdictional determinations and eliminate duplicative and unnecessary permitting processes for areas such as pesticides, aerial fire-retardant use, and so much more.

The bottom line is that without reforming the Clean Water Act, America cannot efficiently build roads, bridges, pipelines, ponds, dams, levees, airports, homes, farms, and other infrastructure that we need.

This bill acknowledges that we can both protect our natural resources and allow for development that benefits everyone in this country. Because of this, H.R. 3898 enjoys support from a wide range of stakeholders, from water utilities to energy developers, the construction industry, farmers, and Main Street businesses.

I urge my colleagues who support commonsense solutions to vote in favor of H.R. 3898.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3898, the PERMIT Act, but I rise for so much more than just simply to oppose this bill.

The Clean Water Act was enacted into law 50 years ago at a time when