

vote that took place in 2023, but it is paying off in real-life benefits for 53 million elderly and people on disability who rely on the Medicare system to get their lifesaving medication and drugs.

This is real change that means something in real life for people. Hopefully, with this new Congress, we are going to follow up with this. We can extend that prescription drug benefit by passing the Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act, which would extend these Medicare cost controls for prescription drugs to working-age families, to people's employment-based plans.

Why not? Why should they have to pay more than their fellow Americans for healthcare and people all across the globe? Let's pass that law. Let's help the Americans in this country in this next Congress.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FORCING OUT-OF-TOUCH MANDATES ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, even as his time in office is coming to an end, President Biden and his administration are still forcing out-of-touch mandates on the American people.

To confront President Biden's Green New Deal agenda, I am proud to reintroduce the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, which passed this House in a bipartisan manner in the last Congress. This legislation would ensure that California is unable to move forward with a ban on the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles.

This dramatic change would alter the way that vehicles across our Nation are sold at a time when our electric grid is not prepared to meet the demands of a fully electric fleet. It is time to put a stop to the Biden administration's far-left agenda. It is time to allow American drivers to be able to choose the vehicle that they want to drive.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT SAFE STREETS AND SECURE BORDERS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the election in this past November was a loud and clear signal from the American public that they want a secure border and safe streets. That is why my Republican colleagues and I are quickly moving legislation to secure our border and ensure that violent criminals are removed from our communities.

The Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act would make any sexual offense committed by illegal immigrants a deportable offense and would ensure that they are banned from these United States. This commonsense legislation is just one step toward creating safer streets and communities for Pennsylvania families and for all Americans.

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as President Trump prepares to begin his second term in office, the Biden administration is trying to limit his ability to ensure that our Nation is energy dominant once again, this time by banning drilling from certain Federal lands.

Like President Trump, I know that energy independence moves us away from relying on foreign actors for our energy resources while also helping our allies remove their dependence on adversarial nations, as well.

As vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I look forward to working with President Trump and his administration to unleash our Nation's energy production. Together, we as Americans can lower prices at the pump and protect our national energy security.

PROTECTING OUR KIDS IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I will start by welcoming all of our new Members to the 119th Congress and to this esteemed Chamber. I look forward to finding a way that we can work together to better our country.

I am introducing myself as one of the proud co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. I am here to tell you that protecting our kids is not a partisan issue.

I am inviting you to join us in protecting our most valuable asset in this country, our future workforce, our children.

In any given year, there are 390,000 children and youth who experience foster care in the United States. Foster care impacts every congressional district across the country, regardless of whether it is red or blue or urban or rural.

Our Members come from all over the country and have vastly different backgrounds and experiences. However, we all share one thing in common, and that is the commitment to finding solutions that aim to improve the lives of children in care.

Last Congress, we made great strides in child welfare policy by working across the aisle to deliver real results for children and families. In July last year, the Supporting America's Children and Families Act passed unanimously through the Ways and Means Committee. In September, it passed this House by a vote of 405-10.

This bill provided the first major increase in child welfare funding in almost 20 years and reauthorized title IV-B funding for another 5 years. It also included provisions to prevent States from separating families solely on the basis of poverty; strengthen the Indian Child Welfare Act; recover overdue child support by intercepting Federal tax funds; expand evidence-based

services to prevent abuse and neglect; and support foster youth transitioning out of care, among other important provisions.

I am so proud to say that the Supporting America's Children and Families Act was signed into law by President Biden on January 4, 2025.

This feat was made possible by bipartisan efforts from members of the Ways and Means Committee and the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. This bill is proof that we have one theme uniting us regardless of party: Our children and youth deserve loving, stable, and safe homes.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, your fresh ideas and new perspectives will help address the ever-changing challenges that foster youth in our country face. You will hear directly from advocates, child welfare professionals, and even children and families with lived experience on how we as policymakers can better the foster care system.

The caucus' largest event is shadow day where our members spend the day with a former foster youth. This allows us to learn about issues facing children involved in the child welfare system directly from people with lived experience. Our goal is to turn their feedback into action.

If you care about the well-being of our most vulnerable children and families, like I know all of you do, please join us as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. We will be having our welcome back event on Tuesday, February 11, from 10 a.m. to noon, and it is open to Members and staff willing to learn about issues related to foster youth. I hope to see you there.

□ 1215

SOLVING FIRE CRISIS IN THE WEST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, it is everywhere. You can't avoid it in the news, and it shouldn't be avoided. It is so horrible. The fires we have now in southern California are devastating so much there, so much value, so much loss, and up to 24 lives lost now. It is an incredibly unnecessary happening that has been raging in L.A. It happens every year with the Santa Ana winds.

Up in the northern California area that I represent, we have had that devastation already many times: The town of Paradise, town of Greenville, town of Canyon Dam, and others were completely obliterated.

Our Governor Gavin Newsom has been up there to see those fires, especially the Paradise one when President Trump came to Paradise and visited to see the devastation. At the time, President Trump asked him and others: What are you doing to clear the land in

such a way that makes it less fire prone, to rake the forest floor?

Then people made fun of that word, "rake," which is actually a technical term for some of the equipment used in forestry to make sure areas can be a little more fire safe by thinning trees, removing brush, and removing dead material on that.

The question is, as Governor Newsom goes out on site and waves his arms and tells us it is someone else's fault, then what has he learned in the last 6 years? More importantly, what has he applied since he had this photo op in Paradise as the new Governor of California? It looks like not much, not much action.

Certain promises were made to be aggressive on land management in California and certain claims were made, but the actual numbers are one-fifth of the amount claimed that had been treated, the work that had been done in California.

We have seen time after time more and more fires: the Camp fire in Paradise listed here, 85 lives lost, 90 percent of the homes; the Carr fire near Redding; the Zogg fire on the other side of Redding; the Park fire last year, 400,000 acres from Chico all the way up to Mount Lassen; the Dixie fire, 1 million acres. This is all northern California. Now southern California is getting international coverage, and rightfully so.

What are we going to do? What is Newsom going to do? Well, he wants to blame it on climate change. Time and time again, we are hearing about climate change and we are hearing about carbon dioxide. Here is the same chart I show off and on on this floor: Carbon dioxide represents 0.04 percent of the atmosphere. It has barely changed. Look at the rest of the chart, what isn't CO₂. They want to just make it a climate change story.

What are we doing to make things more fire resilient in southern California?

This is the Santa Ynez Reservoir just up the hill from Pacific Palisades. The portion on the right here is what it looks like more or less when it is full. Here is what it looks like presently. It is empty. It has been empty since last February. They have been fooling around for nearly a year supposedly repairing the cover over the thing. It holds 117 million gallons of water.

They report to us that there are three one-million gallon tanks that ran out, the third one by 3 a.m. on the night of the fire above Pacific Palisades. What would another 117, approximately 40 times the storage of those three tanks, have been able to do for them had it been available, had the maintenance been done?

Well, the Governor is going to start an investigation on it now, kind of like when he starts an investigation on high gas prices due to policies he does that drive up the cost of fuel, make fuel and the refineries not available, and quit drilling for fuel in California,

which we have so much abundance of near that Bakersfield area, et cetera.

What are we doing here? Why is this reservoir empty? Why has it been empty for nearly a year to make a little repair in the cover that may have been able to be done by reservoir staff? It is incompetence at all levels here.

What do we have going on? Is there enough water supply? He says, well, we have plenty of water.

Presently, this is Shasta Dam in northern California, and it is dumping water right now. It is dumping water out. It still has a million acre-feet of space left, but it is dumping water because they want to have room at the top to conserve for more weather. Okay. I guess I understand that.

However, what are they doing with that water down below? Newsom's plans have stopped the delta pumps from running at full capacity to fill other water systems around the State, such as San Luis Reservoir, which is about 70 percent full right now and doesn't have a storage problem for flood, as well as making sure the aqueducts are filling all the other reservoirs such as the one we just looked at, Santa Ynez. They could fill that in a short amount of time. The amount of water that runs out wasted, running through the delta in an hour, would fill that Santa Ynez Reservoir. It would take a long time locally because they have to rely on either wells or coming from some other water source we haven't quite ascertained yet because it is hard to find information.

Is Governor Newsom going to help or is he going to be a detriment and just go on camera and blame everybody else and blame the President? We need real work done to make fire conditions much safer in California and the West.

MAKE 199A DEDUCTION PERMANENT

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's 2017 tax package created section 199A, a 20 percent small business deduction to help small businesses and family farms like those in my district. In fact, three out of four small business employers in this country have benefited from this tax provision.

Unfortunately, this deduction is one of many set to expire this year. The National Federation of Independent Business has circulated a petition, which has over 100,000 signatures, urging Congress to make this vital tax deduction permanent and stop a massive tax hike on our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to listen to our local business owners and join me in supporting making the 199A deduction permanent.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, You who never change, nor change Your mind, accompany us into this day. Shine Your steady light onto our proceedings and reveal Your unwavering wisdom. Illumine every good and perfect gift that You offer us this day.

May we approach with alacrity the tasks ahead, but never let us deceive ourselves to think that we can do them all on our own, but let us seek Your assistance in our efforts. As we commit ourselves to our labors, let us not assume that it is our own strength which will carry the weight of the day, but our reliance on You to enable us to bear our burdens.

Remind us again that all we have and all that we strive to do were Yours to give us and Yours to entrust, however long, into our keeping. In the time that we have, may we steward Your gifts with integrity and in accordance with Your divine counsel.

Let us then be quick to listen and slow to speak, rejoicing in the privilege we have to serve You again this day.

Unto You we offer our prayers and do so calling on the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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