

Americans can't afford the gas to drive to work, pick up their kids from daycare, or make it to doctor's appointments with these kinds of prices.

Now, the President wants to suspend the Federal gas tax to fix it. He is trying to put a Band-Aid on a bullet wound. Suspending the 18 cents a gallon gas tax is a fine step, but it falls far short of what Oregonians need.

Mr. Speaker, we need to put Americans first. Right now that starts at the gas pump.

HONORING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S FED- ERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

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

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service and its brave law enforcement officers for their essential role in protecting Federal facilities and the homeland.

FPS law enforcement officers are on the front lines, defending Federal properties and the people who work in and visit them.

I appreciate the sacrifices our FPS law enforcement officers make every day to protect Federal facilities and ensure the safety of Federal employees and visitors.

Their dedication and commitment to safeguarding our Nation's critical infrastructure often go unnoticed, and their professionalism, courage, and selflessness are crucial to our homeland security.

In my home State of Colorado, the fentanyl epidemic has devastated communities and stolen thousands of lives. FPS officers serve as a critical shield that is essential to intercepting fentanyl trafficking networks and stopping this weapon of mass destruction from reaching our families and neighborhoods.

During National Police Week especially I am proud to introduce this resolution to honor the FPS, to recognize their service, to promote greater awareness for their important work, and to show our unwavering support for their vital mission.

This resolution recognizes and appreciates the dedication of FPS law enforcement officers and extends gratitude to them and their families for their sacrifice and service, honors the memories of those who have fallen in the line of duty, and encourages continued collaboration.

AMERICANS DON'T NEED LECTURES

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, at the Oval Office yesterday, Dr. Oz said that

one in three Americans are under-babied.

First of all, that is not a thing. What are you even talking about, Dr. Oz?

If Americans are having fewer kids, maybe it is because people don't think they can afford to have a family right now. They are working longer hours for flat wages while the cost of housing is crushing them.

Maybe it is because millions of Americans can't afford healthcare for themselves, let alone their kids.

Maybe it is because people are drowning in student debt, paying outrageous rents, and can't imagine adding childcare to their list of expenses.

Dr. Oz, Americans are overworked. They are underpaid. They are struggling to get by while you, among the rich and powerful, stand and lecture them in a gold-plated room among other people who are clearly and totally out of touch with the American people.

You can't serve in an administration that cuts healthcare, attacks Medicaid, drives up costs for working people and then act shocked because people say they can't afford to have kids.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

COMMENDING DUBOIS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the eighth consecutive year, the DuBois Area School District has received a national music education honor. The district was once again recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants.

The NAMM Foundation, the world's largest not-for-profit music trade organization, honored more than 1,000 school districts this year for their outstanding efforts to provide music access to all students.

The DuBois Area School District provides music classes for all elementary school students, and by fourth grade, students are offered the opportunity to start a band instrument. In middle school, students begin performing in music ensembles.

Over the years, many of these students have qualified for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association all-State ensembles, while others have furthered their education at universities while performing with performing arts programs.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, I commend the DuBois Area School District for this fantastic achievement and for providing students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in music.

□ 1930

CONGRATULATING MARIACHI AZTLAN DE PUEBLO HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate Mariachi Aztlan de Pueblo High School for making history once again with their 12th consecutive first-place win at the 44th Annual Tucson International Mariachi Conference student showcase, the longest running continually held mariachi festival in the world.

For 12 straight years, these talented young musicians have carried the spirit of Pueblo Warriors and Tucson onto the stage with excellence, talent, and pride.

Under the outstanding leadership of Director John Contreras, Mariachi Aztlan continues to set the standard for high school mariachi programs across our Nation.

This moment is especially meaningful to me as a proud Pueblo alumna and mom of a recent grad of this amazing mariachi.

Driving these students and their instruments all across Tucson as a mariachi mama, I witnessed firsthand the dedication and "heart," "corazon" that make this group so extraordinary.

To the students, families, fans, and Director Contreras of Mariachi Aztlan, your community could not be prouder of you.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

"I am so proud of all of you and send my congratulations on this historic victory."

"Estoy muy orgullosa de todos ustedes, y muchas felicidades por esta victoria historica."

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF GLASS CITY MARATHON

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the thousands of runners who took to the streets of Toledo this spring for the Glass City Marathon.

Seasoned competitors and first-time participants alike demonstrated grit, discipline, and indeed courage to complete all 26.2 miles.

Today, we especially celebrate 25-year-old Ohio native Vincent "Vinny" Mauri. His extraordinary performance quite literally redefines what is possible. In his very first marathon, he shattered the course record with his breathtaking time of 2:05:54. This earned him the title of fourth fastest American marathoner ever.

We also honor Andie Cozzarelli, who posted the top female time of 2:36:57.

Vinny's and Andie's times qualify them for the U.S. Olympic trials and a

chance to compete in Los Angeles in 2028.

Congratulations also to Kevin Kirk, Matt Carter, Ashton Swinford, and Andrea Klima who took home second- and third-place medals.

Every runner, volunteer, and supporter shows the very best of America. We are so proud of them. Bravo.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UNITED STEELWORKERS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the hard-working men and women of the United Steelworkers who have been locked out of their jobs for almost 2 months at the British Petroleum facility in Whiting, Indiana.

Since day one under the administration's Project 2025, we have seen attacks against organized labor, the gutting of the Department of Labor, and a National Labor Relations Board that only sides with corporate interests.

At the same time, an estimated \$8 billion hydrogen project at the same British Petroleum facility was canceled after the administration demanded that the tax credits be removed in the Republican reconciliation bill to offset tax cuts for the corporations and the most wealthy.

This project would have created new energy, put these union men and women on the job today, creating new economic activity and jobs for a generation. Instead, they are locked out.

Union workers also undergo specialized training to operate in this high-risk environment at a refinery. Today, the replacement workers not only put their lives at risk but everyone in my community.

I continue to call on British Petroleum to lift the lockout, to realize negotiation is not accepting the terms that created the lockout, and be able to return to good-faith negotiations and put skilled workers back on the job before a preventable tragedy occurs simply due to corporate greed.

HONORING BRAVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(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, I rise to honor the brave law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting our communities.

Dedicated officers put their lives on the line every single day. Their selflessness and determination to keep us safe serve as a powerful reminder of the risk they face in the line of duty.

We remember their names and the legacy they leave behind, and their memories will forever be etched in our hearts and minds.

Let us stand united in gratitude ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

ANOTHER BLIGHT ON AMERICAN HISTORY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. MCCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to anchor this Special Order hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to address another blight on American history.

Mr. Speaker, 250 years ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence "that all men were created equal and endowed by their creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Yet, Mr. Jefferson did not include the nearly half a million enslaved men, women, and children in the Thirteen Colonies, including at his beloved Monticello.

Eleven years later, the Constitution of the United States created a government by, of, and for we the people in order to form a more perfect Union, yet it considered the enslaved people three-fifths of a person for purposes of House of Representatives apportionment and taxation and excluded indigenous people altogether.

Since 1789, the history of our country has been one of each generation attempting to make true for all Americans the promise of American democracy embedded in our founding documents by expanding suffrage beyond White, landowning men. It is a story of cyclical trauma.

As the Civil War tore this country apart, Reconstruction sought to bind its wounds, and a violent backlash of white supremacy erased gains made by formerly enslaved men.

In the wake of the Civil War, Congress passed the Reconstruction amendments to end slavery, guarantee equal civil, legal, and voting rights to formerly enslaved Americans, and all three granted Congress the power to enforce their provisions.

Even with these amendments, southern States resisted, resorting to organizations like the Ku Klux Klan to terrorize Black citizens for seeking to vote, run for office, and serve on juries.

Congress passed the Enforcement Acts to allow the Federal Government

to intervene. As a result, Black men gained political power across the South for the first time.

In 1870, Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first Black Members of Congress. A total of 22 Black men served in Congress between 1870 and 1901, including John Mercer Langston, who served in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, a seat that I now proudly serve as the first Black woman elected from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

□ 1940

The political, social, and economic power gained by Blacks across the South during Reconstruction faced a violent backlash as the KKK and other similar organizations began a reign of terror across the South. The Compromise of 1877 ended a deadlock in the Presidential election of 1876 and brought Reconstruction to an end. As a result, widespread violence, fraud, corruption, gerrymandering, malapportionment, and legislation intended to disenfranchise Black voters went unchecked for 50 years.

Then the Supreme Court issued two decisions gutting the Enforcement Acts, one which arose from the tense aftermath of a Louisiana gubernatorial election and the Colfax massacre, one of the bloodiest racial confrontations of the Reconstruction era. States wasted no time adopting measures that technically applied to all voters but were designed and enforced to disenfranchise Black voters: literacy tests like the one my great-grandfather took in 1902 in Alabama to be able to vote, poll taxes like the ones my father and my grandfather paid in Tennessee, and more restrictive residency requirements. Yet, we marched on.

Then in August of 1965, nearly 100 years after passage of the 15th Amendment, Congress passed the most effective piece of legislation to enforce its provisions: the Voting Rights Act.

As Justice Kagan wrote in her dissent in the Callais decision that put the death knell in the coffin of the Voting Rights Act by gutting what is left of it. She wrote that the Voting Rights Act was one of the most consequential and amply justified exercises of Federal legislative power in our Nation's history.

Born of the literal blood of the Union soldiers and civil rights marchers, it ushered in awe-inspiring change bringing this Nation closer to fulfilling its ideals of democracy and racial equality.

It has been repeatedly and overwhelmingly reauthorized by the people's Representatives in Congress, and only we have the right to say when it is no longer needed.

Yet just as the backlash came in response to Reconstruction beginning with *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013, the Roberts Court has systematically, from its ivory tower in Washington, gutted the Voting Rights Act.