

DANGEROUS BIPARTISAN
CONSENSUS ON UKRAINE

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

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to warn of a dangerous bipartisan consensus that is walking us into war with Russia.

In the days following Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, Senator ROB PORTMAN said: "I haven't seen this kind of unity since 9/11." It is a nice statement, but what does it really mean?

Unity always seems to come before the worst decisions we make. Our drive to unity often overruns our reason and discernment. The post-9/11 consensus gave us the Iraq war, the PATRIOT Act.

The COVID lockdowns and mandates came from unity bundled by fear. Defund the police took off because dissent wasn't allowed. You were shouted down as a racist, just as now questioning our actions in Ukraine makes you a traitor.

Do we have amnesia in this House? Is memory loss a consequence of the gerontocracy of Congress? Just a year ago, we lost a war against goat herders waving rifles. Now, we are rushing to fight a nation that possesses 6,000 nuclear warheads.

Representatives now recklessly assert that we are at war. Congressman MOULTON said last week: "We are not just at war to support the Ukrainians. We are fundamentally at war, although somewhat through a proxy, with Russia."

The clandestine services are supposed to be the quiet professionals. Seems now they can't stop bragging to news outlets about how America helped Ukraine assassinate Russian generals and sink Russia's flagship.

How exactly is this supposed to end? It is as if the administration is probing Putin's nuclear red line.

A game of chicken between nuclear powers is insane, and this from Joe Biden, who campaigned to be America's calming sedative. From Russia, I worry about nuclear weapons, not broken tanks.

Last night, this House approved \$40 billion for Ukraine as American families go without baby formula. To put that in context, Biden's budget calls for \$15.3 billion for Customs and Border Protection, so apparently, Ukraine is more than twice as important as our homeland.

Two weeks ago, we voted on the Ukraine lend-lease act. I was 1 of just 10 Representatives to vote "no," and here was the response from MSNBC: "GOP's 'Putin wing' balks at supplying weapons to Ukraine."

So, you are a supporter of Putin if you think it is a bad idea to give the White House blanket permission to send "any weapon, weapons system, munition, aircraft, vessel, boat, or other implement of war" to Ukraine while surrendering our rights to repayment.

We are sending so many weapons to Ukraine that we are depleting our own stockpiles, and we aren't just sending bullets and rifles. Now, we are sending howitzers that can fire up to 15 miles. This means weapons we supply and train Ukrainians to use could potentially strike Russian territory.

These weapons aren't just ending up in the hands of the Ukrainian military, either. One official said weapons drop "into a big black hole."

Many of these are ending up in the hands of the Azov Battalion. Forty House Democrats called them a neo-Nazi foreign terrorist organization just 3 years ago. Now that they are killing Russians, are these avowed ethnonationalists apparently not so bad?

Democrats go on a daily snipe hunt for white supremacy here in America, yet they are fine giving rockets to actual white supremacists in Ukraine.

Taking the position that we arm anyone to the teeth who will shoot at Russians has actually not always worked for America. It is Javelins to neo-Nazis today; Stinger missiles to the mujahideen in Afghanistan yesterday.

In Syria—another conflict that Washington had consensus on—we supplied jihadist terrorists in their fight against Assad. Assad, like Putin, is an evil man, but does that mean the American taxpayer must arm his enemies without any further inquiry? I don't think so, and I would imagine most Americans don't think so. But that is why we never have real debate on these issues.

The swamp would rather talk about saving democracy than our actual dangerous reality. If we are at war, like Congressman MOULTON says, then why not vote on an Authorization for Use of Military Force, or are we just going to operate in Ukraine like we have in Yemen and throughout the world? Forever, undeclared wars.

I suspect many in this body won't want a vote or a debate because regime change in Russia is their actual objective, not defending Ukraine. To achieve this goal, they are willing to send billions to Kyiv that will line the pockets of corrupt officials, just like we did in Afghanistan. We are sleepwalking into a war, and the American people are left in the dark.

□ 1100

ACCESSING ABORTION CARE WITH-
OUT GOVERNMENT INTER-
FERENCE

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today as women across this country face the most devastating blow to our rights and our freedom in decades.

For nearly 50 years, Roe v. Wade has been the law of the land, but the Supreme Court is poised to strike down

Roe, and 28 states are ready to strip away everyone's right to access abortion care without government interference.

I grew up Catholic. I have a deep understanding of the moral and personal dilemma that the decision to have an abortion can present. But that decision should be a woman's, not the government's. Five Justices should not be able to overrule our will, our rights, and our healthcare decisions.

The House passed legislation to protect everyone's access to abortion care, and the Senate must do the same. In 1990, in fact, Nevadans came together and voted by a 2-to-1 margin to protect a woman's right to choose.

But Washington Republicans don't care. If they take the majority, they will ban abortion nationwide and overrule our State's law. They are out of touch, out of line, and out to take control of women.

This hyperpartisan Supreme Court won't stop at clawing back rights from women. Our Nation's highest court is opening the doors to rip apart individual rights and liberties across the board. Marriage equality, privacy rights, access to contraception, and more, it is all on the line. These are the stakes, and that is why we cannot back down.

About 70 percent of the American public supports a woman's right to access abortion care, and we must make our voices heard. We must call out the partisan extremists on the right who are hiding in the wake of this immensely unpopular decision.

The past week in the news has been absolutely devastating, but this is a fight worth fighting. I am not giving up on this country, I am not giving up on democracy, and I am certainly not giving up on a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

HONORING CHRISTIAN J. KOCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACOBS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation to designate the post office in Honeoye Falls the CW4 Christian J. Koch Memorial Post Office.

Christian was an American hero who passed away tragically in January of 2021 during a training mission with the National Guard when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed.

Christian joined the U.S. Army shortly following 9/11 as an infantryman and became a helicopter pilot in 2008. He was a veteran of both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he flew MEDEVAC missions and saved countless lives. In the wake of Hurricane Florence in 2018, Christian and his unit rescued 87 people, along with numerous cats and dogs.

In his civilian life, Christian served as a helicopter pilot for the New York State Police. Shortly before he passed, Christian was honored by the Red Cross

of Western New York for his role in rescuing an 11-year-old boy who had become trapped in a deep gorge.

Christian was truly a selfless servant. As his sister-in-law told the local news following his passing: "There are many, many people walking this Earth right now who owe their lives to Christian."

Above all else, Christian was a devoted family man. He leaves behind his loving wife, Teressa, and his children, Everett, Addison, Ari, and Talia.

Christian was a model citizen. He was the kind of American we all should strive to be. He leaves behind a profound legacy of selfless service to our Nation and a deep impact to his community, our community. Our Nation mourns him as a hero.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this brave veteran for his service and sacrifice to our Nation and pass the legislation to designate the Honeoye Falls Post Office as the CW4 Christian J. Koch Memorial Post Office.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM SCAMMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bipartisan, bicameral legislation, H.R. 5914, the Empowering States to Protect Seniors from Bad Actors Act, which will help stop financial scammers from targeting vulnerable older Americans.

According to a report from the Senate Special Committee on Aging released last Congress, senior scams cost older Americans nearly \$3 billion a year, often hitting their retirement nest eggs, not to mention the pain and anxiety you can't put a dollar figure on.

Additionally, a survey from the Investor Protection Trust found that last year about 7 million Americans reported being a victim of financial exploitation. What is worse is that only 1 in 24 cases of elder exploitation actually gets reported.

Millions of seniors across the country, including in my district in northern New Jersey—even my own mother of blessed memory—have been the victims of financial scams, and far too many have been cheated out of their retirement savings.

I remember my mom called me and claimed that I had messed up her tax return, and my mom wasn't exactly shy about that. Luckily, we figured it out and stopped that "IRS agent" in his tracks. Obviously, it was a fraudulent IRS agent. But how many others paid?

My bipartisan bill will create a new Senior Investor Protection Grant program to support State enforcement agencies and task forces charged with protecting and educating seniors on financial fraud. They will be able to hire

additional investigative staff, invest in equipment and training for law enforcement, and better educate seniors on financial scams.

I am confident that with this work at the State level, with law enforcement and with more outreach to local communities and seniors, we can more fully fight back against these hucksters who are scamming our seniors.

My Empowering States to Protect Seniors from Bad Actors Act is a key part of my senior security strategy, to make sure we are doing everything we can to end financial scams targeting our seniors, including stopping the unending stream of robocalls and unwanted text messages. It also builds on my bipartisan, bicameral legislation, the Senior Security Act, which the House passed last year, as well as my ongoing work to put an end to the annoying robocalls targeting our seniors.

It is time we acted. Older Americans have given so much to our great country. We should always have their backs and help protect them from predators who want to take advantage of them. It is incumbent on us to protect them from scammers and abuse and to make sure we do everything we can to stop robocalls. We have passed legislation in this Chamber to do just that.

It is time we make sure the Federal Communications Commission acts to hold all of those phone companies who are part of all of these robocalls accountable. It is time. That is what my Senior Security Strategy is all about and what this bipartisan legislation that the House will be voting on is also all about, protecting our seniors. They need a cop on the beat, and we are here today to do something about it.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of my bipartisan bill to stop bad actors from cheating older Americans out of their hard-earned retirement savings and stand by our seniors when they need it most.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FIRST, AMERICANS LAST

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, when a Federal judge struck down the Centers for Disease Control's 15-day extension of the mask mandate on public transportation, Americans celebrated this action as a welcome win for freedom. This decision was long overdue and was welcomed by almost everyone, except those in the Biden administration who immediately announced they would be appealing this decision.

After hearing this announcement, I was perplexed. After all, President Biden had just recently announced that he would be lifting pandemic restrictions on our southern border by rescinding title 42 enforcement. The American people got the message loud and clear: illegal immigrants first, Americans last.

Madam Speaker, 2.4 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the border since President Biden took office, 221,303 just in the month of March of this year. This is all before President Biden announced title 42 would be rescinded, which is sure to lead to an even larger influx of illegal immigrants as we wait to see the April numbers from Border Patrol.

Madam Speaker, it is past time to put the politics aside and put this country first. We must secure our border by finishing the wall and enforcing our laws. I urge President Biden to reverse his decision to rescind title 42 and put America First.

RECOGNIZING MRS. OPAL BOHANNON

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Opal Bohannon as she celebrates 95 years of life. She is a beloved mother, grandmother, Cookeville native, and one of the best cooks in all of Tennessee. Mrs. Bohannon made her entire State proud when she was named the "world's grand champion down-home beef stew chef" at the Music and Molasses Festival in 2007.

Opal is the oldest of 10 children. She learned how to cook by helping her mother in the kitchen, as so many do, and she got good at it. Her beef stew not only won awards, but it was also a dinnertime staple in her family for more than 60 years. Mrs. Bohannon went on to hone those cooking skills by working in the Cookeville High School cafeteria for 15 years before retiring in 1989. Her culinary gifts were featured in the Tennessee Home and Farm magazine and even recognized by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2008.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Bohannon exemplified what it means to have a servant's heart. She regularly brought her blue-ribbon stew to friends, neighbors, and church potluck dinners for guests to enjoy. She frequently volunteered for the Putnam County Fair. While she spent countless hours in the kitchen, it is clear her real talent in life has been bringing joy to others.

Madam Speaker, I hope Mrs. Bohannon has a great 95th birthday and many more great years to come.

INFRASTRUCTURE LAW IN ACTION

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

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, access to affordable high-quality internet is not a privilege in today's day and age. It is a necessity and a right.

Yet, the sad truth is that too many families in my district and across America simply cannot afford it. In Cleveland, more than 30 percent of all households lack access to high-speed internet.

That is why the bipartisan infrastructure law created the new Affordable Connectivity Program. The program provides a \$30 per month internet