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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

DEMOCRATS TRUST WOMEN

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Democrats and their efforts to protect women and their reproductive rights.

In 2020, more than 930,000 women had an abortion nationwide, exercising their fundamental human right. These are women who made one of the most intimate and personal decisions for their family and their futures.

However, with the decision to overturn Roe, the Republican-controlled Supreme Court has achieved the dark and extreme goal of stripping away a woman's right to choose. In doing so, they erased nearly five decades of progress. For the first time in America's history, our daughters have less freedom than their mothers. This is plain and simply shameful.

To make matters worse, now MAGA Republicans are determined to take it a step further and strip women of their right to contraception. I repeat: Extreme rightwing Republicans want to strip women of their right to birth control.

House Democrats won't stand for this. We are fighting for you. We trust you. We always have, and we always will.

Today, we will act. We will continue to fight. Tomorrow, we will pass the Right to Contraception Act to protect women's access to birth control.

We are doing this to protect the more than 60 percent of U.S. women of reproductive age who use contraception. This bill will guarantee the right to obtain and use oral contraception, emergency contraception, and IUDs because no one—and I mean no one—should have the right to take away a woman's right to choose their own healthcare.

While Republicans seek to control a woman's body for their political base, Democrats remain the party that puts people over politics and protects women and their reproductive rights.

It is simple. Democrats trust women. We trust women to make their own healthcare decisions without any questions.

To everyone listening, you have my promise that I will never stop fighting for women and their reproductive rights. I trust you, and I will never stop fighting.

BIDEN'S INFLATION CATASTROPHE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BONAMICI). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, you don't need to be an economics guru to understand that President Biden's inflation catastrophe continues to kneecap our country.

But if you ask the President, the White House press secretary, or anyone in the administration, for that matter, they would tell you that the United States is "stronger economically" than ever.

How dense does one have to be to claim that, unless this administration

is trying to cover up its ultimate end goal of turning the United States into Venezuela by taking on so much debt that we implode? That doesn't seem farfetched in the slightest.

Madam Speaker, inflation is the pickpocket that Americans run into every day, from the gas pump to the grocery store, and it is only growing worse.

Since the administration and the President haven't figured this out yet, let me put this in terms that they understand: 9.1 percent. End of quote. Repeat the line. 9.1 percent. 9.1 percent.

A WOMAN'S HEALTH DECISIONS END WHEN THE LIFE OF AN UNBORN BECOMES INVOLVED

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, our colleagues keep talking about the issue of women's health and women's reproductive freedom.

In "The Merchant of Venice," Shylock thought he had won a great victory when he thought he was going to get his pound of flesh. But Portia, the attorney, said to the judge: You may have your pound of flesh but not one drop of blood. I think that is a good analogy for what our colleagues are saying.

No one is opposed to women protecting their health. But those of us in the pro-life movement are concerned about when that woman's health decision destroys an unborn life. So, a woman's health decisions end when the life of an unborn becomes involved.

CONGRATULATING IRENE TOVAR

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a tremendous community leader, a friend of mine, and a friend of the community of Los Angeles and beyond, Irene Tovar, for being conferred an honorary doctorate from California State University at Northridge, otherwise known

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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as CSUN, for her decades of public service as an advocate for education in the San Fernando Valley, throughout the State of California, and across the country.

I think of a quote from Saint Francis of Assisi: "Start by doing what is necessary; and then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." That is Irene Tovar.

Irene's story begins like many of ours: in search of the American Dream. Her mother is from Salamanca, Guanajuato, Mexico, and her father is from Jerez, Zacatecas, Mexico. Her parents met in southern California, where later they married. They first settled in East Los Angeles, where Irene, her sister, and her brother were born, and then they moved to Pacoima and lived on Pinney Street.

Irene was a dedicated student and attended Pacoima Elementary School, San Fernando High School, and San Fernando Valley State College, which is now known as Cal State University Northridge.

While attending CSUN, Irene, who earned a bachelor's degree in social science from the university in 1969, noticed that the dropout rate for Latino students was disproportionately high, so she helped create an organization to address the issue.

It grew into the Latin American Civic Association, known as LACA, which administered the first Head Start program in the San Fernando Valley. This organization helps thousands of working families access quality childcare and education.

Alongside leaders such as Dr. Rudy Acuna, Irene began to advocate and organize for the creation of the Equal Opportunity Program and the Chicano Studies Department at California State University Northridge.

The Chicano Studies Department was established in 1969 with only 100 students. Now, it is one of the largest Chicano studies departments in the country.

Her advocacy caught the attention of then-Governor Jerry Brown, who, during his first tenure, appointed Irene to the State Personnel Board. She was the first Mexican American and first person of color to sit on the board.

She was instrumental in implementing policies and procedures that removed artificial barriers in the California civil service system, including differential pay and affirmative action. She also served as a full-time member of the California Public Employment Relations Board, a quasi-judicial body she joined in 1974.

Irene's passion for education and public service continues. She currently serves as the CEO of LACA, which now focuses on providing multifamily services and affordable housing.

Irene has played a key role in the history of the San Fernando Valley as a founding member of the L.A. Mission College, board member of the United Way, board member of the L.A. Urban Coalition, board member of the CSUN

Alumni Association, and many other organizations.

She currently serves as a commissioner on the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, whose mission is to promote intergroup peace-building, equity, and human rights.

Irene, your service is unparalleled, and this doctorate is a symbol of your sacrifice and hard work for the families of the San Fernando Valley, the great State of California, and our country.

Congratulations, Irene, and I am proud to call you Dr. Irene Tovar.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODRIGO GARCIA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a trailblazer who made a difference across this country.

Rodrigo "Rod" Garcia, founder of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, otherwise known as SHPE, was a man of deep conviction and passion. Not only did he commit to his work as an engineer, but he opened a door for so many, including myself, to follow in his footsteps.

As one of the only handful of Hispanic engineers during the 1973 tech boom, he could easily have gone on to a promising career in the sciences. But when he saw a wrong, he set out to right that wrong.

In gathering a cohort of fellow Hispanic engineers, he was determined to diversify the STEM industry across our country, and that is when SHPE was born.

While Rod Garcia was an incredible man, his legacy in SHPE is equally incredible. Now, the organization has grown into the largest Hispanic STEM association nationwide, with 13,000 members and 286 chapters across the country.

An engineer to his core, Mr. Garcia attributed the success of SHPE as such: "We were engineers. We drew up the plan. . . . To see it take off the way it has, it is really special." And special it is.

SHPE's impact is only growing. In the 2021-2022 academic year, SHPE awarded scholarships to over 200 students across the country, distributing over \$1.3 million.

Rod has passed on, and he will be sorely missed, but his reputation and his memory will live on forever.

CONGRATULATING THE AMHERST ALL STAR DARLINGS

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible achievement in youth sports. The Amherst All Star Darlings, a girls' youth softball team of 7- and 8-year-olds, just finished their season undefeated.

After winning both the district and State championships, they have set their eyes on Cochran-Bleckley, Georgia, where the girls' softball world series will be played later this month.

These young ladies worked hard and enjoyed the competition, and their determination to win throughout the length of their season has been unmatched.

Now, they are planning and working toward making their trip to Georgia possible to get the chance to make this Cinderella story a reality.

Their efforts are a story of camaraderie, hard work, and laying the foundation for a bright future not only in sports but in all of their future endeavors.

Amherst has been a special part of the Sixth District for decades, and it has been an honor to represent the people of Amherst, first in Richmond and now in Washington. The Sixth District, along with the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, will be cheering them on when they compete on July 31 in the Dixie youth softball league world series.

Congratulations to the Amherst All Star Darlings for representing friends and family, the Amherst community, and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia so well.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, over 6 years ago, our former colleague Carlos Curbelo and I launched the Climate Solutions Caucus to have a bipartisan effort to address climate change. We did it because where we live in south Florida, climate change is not a partisan issue.

Republican and Democratic leaders alike, Republican and Democratic business leaders and elected officials, all understand that sunny-day flooding, and sea-level rise brought by climate change are happening right now, and we need to respond to it.

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So we launched action here to try to responsibly address climate change, just as so many are in South Florida and around the country. The 7 years that we have just endured are the 7 hottest years on record. In 2021, the U.S. endured over 20 weather disasters, costing a billion dollars or more. Hurricanes, and floods, and wildfires, all of them made worst by climate change.

Last year, there were at least 688 people who died in the United States attributed to climate change: \$150 billion in damage.

And so where are we now?

Well, our country and our world are reeling from the devastating impact of climate change. For the first time ever, temperatures in the U.K. exceeded 104 degrees; Ireland hit record highs of over 90 degrees; Portugal 117. More than 1,100 people in Spain and Portugal died in this heat wave.

Wildfires are scorching Europe. More than 100 million people in the U.S. have