

Alaska, for the purpose of adding co-sponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the minibuss appropriations bill the House passed earlier today.

This legislation includes my bill to support the revitalization of vacant shopping malls like the Gwinnett Place Mall in my district. This provision would catalyze additional investment in these projects and enhance economic activity, access to housing, and mobility for local residents.

The minibuss also includes six of my community project funding requests, including funding for the acquisition of African-American books and historical artifacts at the Hooper-Renwick Memorial Library, as well as projects to increase wraparound services for Latino families and youth through Ser Familia, provide transportation to low-income students through Corners Outreach, and enhance access to transit and clean drinking water for many communities in Georgia's Seventh District.

Altogether, the T-HUD bill and the minibuss include important investments that will make our communities stronger.

HONORING BILL EDWARDS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the inspiring career of Mr. Bill Edwards, who is a native resident of Savannah, Georgia.

After graduating from Groves High School, Bill went on to attend both the University of Mississippi and Armstrong Atlantic State University, completing his education with a master's in the arts and communications.

After serving in his high school JROTC, he furthered his interest in the Army by serving in the Army ROTC at Ole Miss and eventually joining the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He continued this career until he reached the rank of captain in a military intelligence unit in Savannah. Aside from his military career, Bill was blessed with a loving wife and seven grandchildren, whom he adores.

Once he left the service, Bill focused his energy into a successful career in radio broadcasting, eventually becoming host of what is now "AM Savannah" on News Radio. Bill's commit-

ment was rewarded when he was recognized by the Associated Press for sportscasting excellence and when he won the honor of Savannah's Favorite Talk Station for 3 years in a row.

I am so grateful for Bill Edwards and his tireless commitment to improving his community. Bill is an outstanding Georgian, and I thank him for all he does for his community.

WE WON'T GO BACK

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

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These inalienable rights have served as a compass in guiding us as we strive to create a more perfect Union.

Yet, recently, these rights have been the target of relentless political attacks by a Supreme Court that has seemingly abandoned the promises of our Constitution and by far-right extremists with a radical agenda to dismantle decades of progress to take us back, back to a time when people were ashamed and murdered because the person they chose to love didn't have a certain skin color or was of the same gender and back to a time when women could not access legal and safe reproductive healthcare measures.

Today, I stand in solidarity with the millions of Americans who have been angered by these disgraceful acts to say that I refuse to be taken back because we have come much too far.

FAKE HANDCUFFS WON'T SOLVE AMERICA'S PROBLEMS

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, fake handcuffs won't close the southern border. Fake handcuffs won't lower gas prices, curb inflation, harden the supply chain, put baby formula on our shelves, deter Russia, or fix our broken and weak reputation across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, fake handcuffs won't fix our education system, protect our students from CRT and grooming, or create opportunities to lift communities out of poverty.

Fake handcuffs won't increase domestic energy, increase recruitment for our military—go woke, go broke—or solve a single problem that the American people actually care about.

Mr. Speaker, fake handcuffs make for a good photo op, but they don't benefit the American people. Fake handcuffs only benefit those who pretend to wear them.

Mr. Speaker, this body should be delivering solutions for the American people not with fake handcuffs but without restraint.

HONORING ROBERT L. BOWSER

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great mayor from my district, Robert Bowser, after his passing recently.

Mayor Bowser served as mayor of East Orange, New Jersey, from 1998 to 2014. He was the first African American to win a third and fourth term in office in the history of East Orange, and he founded the New Jersey Conference of Black Mayors and served on the board of the National Black Conference of Mayors.

But his legacy in East Orange is more than his time as mayor. He started a small engineering firm that became one of the largest minority-owned consulting firms on the East Coast. He was a board member for the local Girl Scouts organization and was active with the Lions Club and the Kiwanis Club. He even founded a local touch football league.

As we mourn his passing, we remember Mayor Bowser as a dedicated public servant, great businessman, and strong community leader.

□ 1430

FIND AND PROSECUTE COVID-19 ECONOMIC RELIEF FRAUD

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the House Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this important piece of legislation.

I rise today in support of the passage of H.R. 8294, which contained a crucial amendment I introduced to help find and prosecute cases of fraud within COVID-19 economic relief.

My amendment provides critical investment for the Small Business Administration Office of the Inspector General to ensure that they continue to hold Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program fraudsters accountable.

It is deeply disturbing to hear about the recent flurry of fraud convictions related to these two relief programs that provided vital resources to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are dollars that were meant for small businesses struggling due to the pandemic, and to help their families, not to help greedy cheats looking to profit off the backs of their neighbors.

My amendment supports efforts for the SBA to identify and prosecute cases of EIDL and PPP fraud more aggressively. Applicants from businesses in my district may have been denied critical financial resources because of the actions of these crooks, and we owe it to all of our constituents to hold these bad actors accountable.

I strongly urge all my colleagues in the Senate to pass this critically important provision.

FAILURES OF THE U.S. SENATE

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, the West is burning and we can't get the water to put it out, thanks to a 1,200-year drought.

Louisiana insurance companies are failing due to rising sea levels.

Families are paying more than ever to cool their home and fill up their tank with ever more expensive fossil fuels.

And this week, we learned that a majority of the Senate thinks that is fine.

They are fine with Americans paying too much for energy. They are fine with Americans keeping our economy coupled to Putin's war machine. They are fine with stealing from consumers and stealing from our future to subsidize fossil energy producers today.

If you have a solar panel on your roof, if you have an electric vehicle in your driveway or an energy-efficient home, you are helping your planet and you are helping your wallets.

In the House, we are making that opportunity available to all Americans and, yet, the Senate has failed us. Their failure is not only a failure to do their job, it is not only a failure of leadership, the U.S. Senate is increasingly an embarrassment, and I am sick of apologizing for them.

988 CRISIS LINE

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, 988. These three digits represent an important first step toward a transformed crisis care system in America.

Congress passed the legislation to formally authorize 988 as the new number for suicide and mental health crises. This 24/7 hotline and text line is available to people with mental health-related distress, including thoughts of suicide, mental health crisis, or substance use crisis.

Additionally, family and friends can use this service to support loved ones who are struggling.

By calling or texting 988, people will immediately be connected with trained crisis counselors who will do everything they can to help.

Mental health care is healthcare, and the enactment of 988 is a long overdue example of government finally prioritizing mental health and putting crisis care in reach for more Americans. But there is much more to do.

I will continue to work in Congress and in the community to help fight the stigma and increase mental health support for all.

DONALD TRUMP LOST THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump lost the 2020 Presidential Election by over 7 million votes. Trump lost Arizona by over 10,000 votes. Trump lost Georgia by over 11,000 votes. Trump lost Wisconsin by over 20,000 votes. Trump lost Nevada by over 30,000 votes. Trump lost Pennsylvania by over 80,000 votes. Trump lost Michigan by over 150,000 votes.

Trump lost the Electoral College 232-306. Donald Trump lost the 2020 Presidential Election.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the body to talk about Social Security.

I am pleased to be joined by so many of my colleagues from across the country who understand what Martin Luther King called the fierce urgency of now, and why the United States Congress has to act.

It has been more than 51 years since the United States Congress has enhanced the benefits of Social Security. Richard Nixon was President, and a gallon of milk cost 72 cents.

Much has changed in 51 years, and now, I am proud to announce today that the Ways and Means Committee will be marking up Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust, next Wednesday and, in doing so, for the first time in 51 years Congress will be moving forward to enhance benefits for those who need it the most.

Why do I say that?

Everybody in America knows that this pandemic, this global pandemic that we are in, has caused unbelievable harm across the globe and here in this country.

But who has it affected the most?

Of the close to 1 million people who have perished in the United States, over 756,000 of them are over the age of 65.

And who is the group that has been hurt the most by the ensuing inflation that comes from a global pandemic and a war in Ukraine?

It is people on a fixed income. It is the more than 65 million Americans that are on Social Security.

I commend President Biden for taking the leadership in this area; who campaigned across the country, assuring Americans that Social Security was a sacred trust; which, indeed, it is because it has never missed a payment.

We used to have to go back to 1935 and talk about the Great Depression. We only have to go back as far as 2008 and 2009 because people understand during the Great Recession, when they saw their 401(k) become a 101(k), that Social Security never missed a payment, not a pension payment, not a spousal payment, not a dependent payment, not a disability payment.

It is America's number one insurance program. And all Americans know this, and it is easily verified, weekly or monthly, when they look at their paycheck and it says FICA, Federal Insurance Contribution.

Whose?

Theirs. It is an earned benefit that they have paid into throughout their lives.

And yet, Congress has not acted in 51 years, until now. Under the leadership of President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, and Chairman RICHARD NEAL, we are moving forward with legislation that will provide much-needed relief to people struggling in this pandemic and dealing with inflation.

I am pleased that I am joined today by so many of my colleagues who have told their stories over and over again about the citizens that they are interacting with, and what an enormous burden this pandemic and inflation has caused for them, and now, finally, for Congress to act.

And how so?

Improving benefits across the board by more than 2 percent for everyone; making sure that nobody who worked all their lives and paid into a system can retire into poverty; making sure that we have a COLA that actually reflects the cost that people incur; making sure that we repeal WEP and GPO, so that teachers and firefighters—something that Mr. PASCRELL has championed his whole time here in Congress—understand that relief is on its way because Democrats care deeply about this.

We are faced, as well, with an alternative from the other side. And here is the simple difference. Republicans have proposed to end Social Security. Republicans have proposed to cut Social Security across the board by more than 21 percent in 20 different separate proposals in their Republican Study Plan.

They have also called, in committee, in the eight hearings that we have had on Social Security, to still privatize Social Security.

Democrats stand, not just to protect Social Security, but to expand Social Security for those that need it the most. And those assembled here today understand how vitally important it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the "deaness" of the House of Representatives, and someone who understands intuitively, women need this benefit the most. And in this country more than 3 million Americans receive below poverty-level checks from Social Security, and the vast majority of them are women.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LARSON for his tireless leadership and work to safeguard Social Security for the benefit of this generation of retirees and those that are to come. He has worked hard for decades to try to bring this bill to the floor.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman RICHARD NEAL, and Congressman JOHN LARSON, chair of the subcommittee, for