

Republicans alike, as demonstrated by its passage out of the Ways and Means Committee without a single vote in opposition.

It is understandable why it is so popular because the one thing that we can all agree on is that we need to reduce unnecessary burdens on taxpayers and small businesses.

Now, although the Biden administration has already ordered this, I am proud to join Chairman SMITH and put that order into statute, and I would urge my colleagues to vote for the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that we can come together on such a straightforward issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense, bipartisan legislation, the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, back home in our districts, we have heard from workers and small business owners about the struggles they face in today's economy. Today, with this legislation before us, we finally have a chance to give them a bit of a break.

The Paperwork Burden Reduction Act will get rid of a Washington mandate that requires small businesses to waste time mailing unnecessary paperwork instead of serving their employees and customers. Not only will it save small business owners time, but it will also help them modernize their operations by letting workers access their health insurance tax forms online.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help us deliver relief to workers and small business owners across America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3797, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UNITED STATES-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE FIRST AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 4004) to approve and implement the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

#### H.R. 4004

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) As a leading democracy, Taiwan is a key partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) The United States and Taiwan share democratic values, deep commercial and economic ties, and strong people-to-people connections. Those links serve as the impetus for expanding engagement by the United States with Taiwan.

(3) Taiwan is the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States and the United States is the second-largest trading partner of Taiwan.

(4) Since 2020, the United States and Taiwan, under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO), have held an economic prosperity partnership dialogue to enhance economic and commercial ties between the United States and Taiwan, including with respect to supply chain security and resiliency, investment screening, health, science, and technology, and the digital economy.

(5) On June 1, 2022, the United States and Taiwan launched the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade to deepen our economic and trade relationship, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, promote innovation, and support inclusive economic growth for workers and businesses.

(6) On August 17, 2022, the United States and Taiwan announced the negotiating mandate for formal trade negotiations under the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and agreed to seek high-standard commitments.

(7) Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress authority over international trade. The President lacks the authority to enter into binding trade agreements absent approval from Congress.

(8) Congressional approval of the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement will ensure that the agreement, and the trade relationship between the United States and Taiwan more broadly, will be durable. A durable trade agreement will foster sustained economic growth and give workers, consumers, businesses, farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders assurance that commercial ties between the United States and Taiwan will be long-lasting and reliable.

#### SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is—

(1) to approve and implement the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, done on June 1, 2023;

(2) to strengthen and develop economic relations between the United States and Taiwan for our mutual benefit;

(3) to lay the foundation for further cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of the Agreement; and

(4) to establish transparency and consultation requirements with respect to Further Agreements.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AGREEMENT.**—The term “Agreement” means the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan approved by Congress under section 5.

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(3) **FURTHER AGREEMENT.**—The term “Further Agreement” means—

(A) any trade agreement, other than the Agreement approved by Congress under section 5, arising from or relating to the August 17, 2022, negotiating mandate relating to the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade; or

(B) any nonministerial modification or nonministerial amendment to the Agreement.

(4) **NEGOTIATING TEXT.**—The term “negotiating text” means any document that proposes the consideration, examination, or adoption of a particular element or language in an international instrument.

(5) **STATE LAW.**—The term “State law” includes—

(A) any law of a political subdivision of a State; and

(B) any State law regulating or taxing the business of insurance.

(6) **TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.**—The term “Trade Representative” means the United States Trade Representative.

#### SEC. 5. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT.

Congress approves the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, done on June 1, 2023.

#### SEC. 6. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF AGREEMENT.

(a) **CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF AGREEMENT.**—The President may provide for the Agreement to enter into force not earlier than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a certification under subsection (c).

(b) **CONSULTATION AND REPORT.**—The President, not later than 30 days before submitting a certification under subsection (c), shall—

(1) consult with the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(A) explains the basis of the determination of the President contained in that certification, including by providing specific reference to the measures the parties to the Agreement intend to use to comply with the obligations in the Agreement; and

(B) describes, including through the use of economic estimates and analyses, how entry into force of the Agreement will further trade relations between the United States and Taiwan and advance the interests of workers, consumers, businesses, farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders in the United States; and

(3) answer in writing any questions that relate to potential compliance and implementation of the Agreement that are submitted by the appropriate congressional committees during the 15-day period beginning on the date of the submission of the report under paragraph (2).

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—A certification under this subsection is a certification in writing that—

(1) indicates the President has determined Taiwan has taken measures necessary to comply with the provisions of the Agreement that are to take effect not later than the date on which the Agreement enters into force; and

(2) identifies the anticipated date the President intends to exchange notes or take any other action to notify Taiwan that the United States has completed all procedures necessary to bring the Agreement into force.

(d) **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after entry into force of the Agreement, the Trade Representative shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report providing an assessment of the implementation of the Agreement, including by identifying any provisions for which further progress is necessary to secure compliance.

(2) **FORM.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted with any confidential business information clearly identified or contained in a separate annex.

(3) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 5 days after the report required by paragraph (1) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the Trade Representative shall publish the report, with any confidential business information redacted, on a publicly available website of the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

#### **SEC. 7. TRANSPARENCY AND CONSULTATION WITH RESPECT TO FURTHER AGREEMENTS.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to deepen its relationship with Taiwan; and

(2) any Further Agreements should be high-standard, enforceable, and meaningful to both the United States and Taiwan, as well as subject to robust requirements on public transparency and congressional consultation.

(b) **ACCESS TO TEXTS OF FURTHER AGREEMENTS.**—The Trade Representative shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following with respect to a Further Agreement:

(1) Negotiating text drafted by the United States prior to sharing the negotiating text with Taiwan or otherwise sharing the text outside the executive branch.

(2) Negotiating text drafted by Taiwan not later than 3 days after receiving the text from Taiwan.

(3) Any consolidated negotiating texts that the United States and Taiwan are considering, which shall include an attribution of the source of each provision contained in those texts to either the United States or Taiwan.

(4) The final text not later than 45 days before the Trade Representative makes the text public or otherwise shares the text outside the executive branch.

(c) **REVIEW OF TEXTS.**—

(1) **BRIEFING.**—The Trade Representative shall schedule a briefing with the appropriate congressional committees to discuss the texts provided under subsection (b).

(2) **REVIEW.**—The appropriate congressional committees shall have not less than—

(A) 2 business days prior to the briefing under paragraph (1) to review the texts provided under subsection (b); and

(B) 4 business days after the briefing to provide comments with respect to the texts before the Trade Representative transmits any such texts to Taiwan.

(3) **ADDITIONAL TIME TO REVIEW UNITED STATES NEGOTIATING TEXT.**—If, during the period specified in paragraph (2)(B), two Members of Congress who are not of the same political party and each of whom is the Chair or Ranking Member of one of the appropriate congressional committees jointly request additional time to review the negotiating text provided under subsection (b)(1), the Trade Representative shall not transmit the text to Taiwan for a period of 15 business days following the request, unless the request indicates less time is necessary or such Members issue a subsequent joint notification to the Trade Representative that they have concluded their review sooner.

(d) **NOTIFICATION AND BRIEFING DURING NEGOTIATIONS.**—The Trade Representative shall—

(1) not later than one business day after scheduling any negotiating round with respect to a Further Agreement, promptly notify the appropriate congressional committees and provide those committees with the dates and locations for the negotiating round;

(2) ensure that any individual described in section 104(c)(2)(C) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4203(c)(2)(C)) that attends a negotiating round is accredited as a member of the United States delegation during any such negotiating round; and

(3) provide daily briefings to the individuals described in paragraph (2) during any such negotiating round regarding the status of those negotiations, including any tentative agreement to accept any aspect of negotiating text.

(e) **APPROVAL.**—A Further Agreement shall not take effect unless—

(1) the President, at least 60 days before the day on which the President enters into the Further Agreement, publishes the text of the Further Agreement on a publicly available website of the Office of the United States Trade Representative; and

(2) a bill is enacted into law expressly approving the Further Agreement and, if necessary, making any required changes to United States law.

#### **SEC. 8. RELATIONSHIP OF THE AGREEMENT TO UNITED STATES AND STATE LAW.**

(a) **RELATIONSHIP OF THE AGREEMENT TO UNITED STATES LAW.**—

(1) **UNITED STATES LAW TO PREVAIL IN CONFLICT.**—No provision of the Agreement, nor the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance, which is inconsistent with any law of the United States, shall have effect.

(2) **INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.**—The Agreement does not constitute a free trade agreement for purposes of section 30D(e)(1)(A)(i)(II) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Unless specifically provided for in this Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed—

(A) to amend or modify any law of the United States; or

(B) to limit any authority conferred under any law of the United States.

(b) **RELATIONSHIP OF THE AGREEMENT TO STATE LAW.**—No State law, or the application thereof, may be declared invalid as to any person or circumstance on the ground that the provision or application is inconsistent with the Agreement, except in an action brought by the United States for the purpose of declaring such law or application invalid.

(c) **EFFECT OF THE AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO PRIVATE REMEDIES.**—No person other than the United States—

(1) shall have any cause of action or defense under the Agreement or by virtue of congressional approval thereof; or

(2) may challenge, in any action brought under any provision of law, any action or inaction by any department, agency, or other instrumentality of the United States, any State, or any political subdivision of a State, on the ground that such action or inaction is inconsistent with the Agreement.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is sending a bipartisan message to President Biden today that we will not sit idly by as the administration ignores our constitutional role in developing U.S. trade policy.

The relationship between the United States and Taiwan is vital to U.S. interests in the Indo-Pacific. This initial trade agreement negotiated by the Biden administration is a good step. It builds on successful provisions that were included in the USMCA that was negotiated by President Trump, and it shows the world that the Chinese Communist Party will not intimidate the United States from deepening our relationship with Taiwan.

While Congress supports the early agreement that came from these negotiations, we will not stand by passively as the Biden administration, or any administration, attempts to bind the United States in a trade agreement without approval from Congress. Congress must be in the driver's seat on trade policy, not a passenger along for the ride.

Trade impacts every American. When done right, trade can boost small businesses, help American workers, and open up new markets for American farmers. Bad trade policy, on the other hand, can kill American jobs and give other nations unfair advantages over U.S. manufacturers, workers, and agriculture.

Every American deserves a voice in the outcome of these negotiations that impact their lives so much, which is why Congress, as their voice in Washington, must be involved in the development and approval of these agreements.

The Taiwan trade bill before us today restores congressional authority on

trade policy. It celebrates this agreement, but it also makes it clear that it cannot take effect unless this legislation is signed into law. It forces the administration to consult with Congress in a meaningful way moving forward, something that has not occurred to date. It requires any future agreements with Taiwan to be subject to a vote in Congress.

Without a vote on trade agreements, Congress can be ignored. This will ensure trade agreements are in the best interest of American workers, families, farmers, and small businesses. This bill has broad bipartisan support in both the House and in the Senate. Democrats and Republicans agree that U.S. trade policy must come through Congress, and the President will no longer be allowed to sidestep our constitutional authority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up for the voice of the American people and vote to pass this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my Republican and Democratic colleagues in both the House and the Senate in this effort to demonstrate our commitment to the people of Taiwan and to affirm Congress' constitutional authority on trade.

Every Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee has cosponsored this bill, and just last week, this legislation passed out of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Before turning to the substance of the bill today, I remind my colleagues that the House Democrats improved the USMCA. Congress improved both the substance of the trade agreement, especially on matters related to labor, environment, and enforcement, and also the process.

Our commitment to building a modern, proworker deal led to a trade agreement that was endorsed by labor, the business community, and, most importantly, the American people.

Congress' fierce leadership on the USMCA brought about an agreement that reflects the priorities of House Democrats. For instance, we fought hard to establish new structure for aggressive enforcement of the USMCA and to back it up with funding for enforcement actions.

USMCA now stands as a powerful beacon for what is possible when it comes to durable, enforceable trade agreements. I credit that to the work and consensus building of Congress. It is the collaboration between Congress and the executive branch that allows trade policy to live up to its fullest potential and, in this critical moment, that cannot be forgotten. This brings us to the legislation before us today, the Taiwan Implementation Act.

This is a matter of standing up for the prerogatives of the Ways and

Means Committee. Congress is charged with trade responsibilities, and trade falls to the Ways and Means Committee. I believe that you get better outcomes when Congress is included in the trade negotiations, and I believe that going forward making sure Congress is fully included is not only sensible but will lead to a better outcome.

In short, Congress, and within Congress the Ways and Means Committee, oversees trade policy. We should continue to defend that position.

I will now turn to our strong support for the people of Taiwan. Congressional Democrats are unwavering in their support for the people of Taiwan, a people who have built a robust and thriving democracy that serves as a beacon in the region. As Taiwan faces incredible pressure from its authoritarian neighbor, it is vital that this institution stand and support our Democratic partner.

Strengthening bilateral trade relations with Taiwan also strengthens our shared determination to preserve democracy at home and abroad. As we see growing aggression by certain countries toward Democratic values and troubling erosions of the rule of law, it is critical that American trade policy reflect our global commitment to promoting democracy and peace.

The Biden administration has reflected this commitment by prioritizing America's economic and trade relationship with Taiwan, a priority undoubtedly shared by Congress.

The Taiwan Implementation Act demonstrates Congress' strong support for strengthening our bilateral trade relationship with Taiwan and our commitment to ensure trade agreements are durable.

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress exclusive authority to regulate foreign commerce. This legislation approves what the administration has negotiated with Taiwan and sets forth strong consultation and transparency requirements that ensure future trade agreements with Taiwan carry the will of the American people behind them.

Trade impacts every part of people's lives; from the food we eat, to the clothes we buy, to the cars we drive. It is critical that Congress act to support this first trade agreement with Taiwan and ensure that future trade agreements are subject to a congressional approval process. The Ways and Means Committee is an important gatekeeper of our trade priorities and the American people expect us to lead on these matters.

The Taiwan Implementation Act affirms our authority to do just that, while underscoring our shared commitment to furthering the deep, economic, and people-to-people ties America enjoys with Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I recognize the importance of our engagement with Taiwan economically, as well as our military presence to deter conflict and to maintain safe passage through the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. These are international waters.

This incomplete trade agreement that we take up is a modest first step and can only be enforced after the approval by this Congress. The work that we are already doing with Taiwan benefits businesses across America. Taiwan is already our ninth largest goods trading partner with over \$90 billion in two-way trade during 2020.

We have seen the People's Republic of China, unfortunately, violently suppress democracy in Hong Kong, breaching its claim that it would support one country and two systems. We have seen, apparently, over a million Uyghurs who have been placed in concentration camps. There is every reason to be concerned by the threats the PRC has made about the future of democracy in Taiwan.

The opportunity tonight is not only to speak up for Taiwan, but as Chairman SMITH indicated, to reaffirm the role that Congress plays not only with Taiwan, but with all of our trading partners.

No administration, neither Democratic nor Republican, can adopt trading agreements that are enforceable without Congress exercising its constitutional responsibility for international trade. We will not yield that authority. It applies not only here, but to every trading partner.

We do, as we move forward in supporting Taiwan economically and militarily, need to recognize as well that it is not a matter of abandoning Taiwan to talk with China, to seek to avoid war with the People's Republic of China, which would be disastrous for the entire world. While effective military deterrence, strong deterrence is essential, this trading engagement is important. Our diplomatic power is also important, and, in that regard, the recent Republican attacks on Secretary of State Blinken for attempting to normalize diplomatic relations in Beijing are outrageous and totally counterproductive.

As a member of the Taiwan Caucus here in the House, I salute Taiwanese Americans, particularly their contribution to my hometown of Austin, and to the valuable insights that they have given me about the importance of our relationship with Taiwan.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I emphasize this bicameral, bipartisan legislation affirms Congress' constitutional authority on trade and will not only support Taiwan's democracy but strengthen our bilateral trade relations.

I thank my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, on the Ways and Means Committee for supporting this legislation. I thank Senator WYDEN and Senator CRAPO for working with the committee on this bill. The people of Taiwan have built a robust, thriving democracy, and both the Biden administration and Congress have recognized that deepening our economic connection is a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The legislation before us today is an important first step in pushing back against executive overreach on trade. It also reinforces our support for a stronger relationship with our close partner, Taiwan.

I appreciate that my colleagues across the aisle agree that protecting Congress' constitutional powers is vital and that allowing any administration to continue unchecked would only dilute the voices of millions of Americans in Washington and embolden the executive branch to step on more of our Article I powers.

I am especially appreciative of the strong partnership in this effort of Ranking Member NEAL in the House and Senators WYDEN and CRAPO in the Senate.

U.S. trade policy must first and foremost protect American workers, farmers, families, and small businesses. We have a duty today to ensure the American people maintain a say in what those policies look like.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4004, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING MIKE MULLINS

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mike Mullins for his service to the citizens of D'Iberville, Mississippi, for the last 23 years.

Mike moved to D'Iberville in 1969 with his family. Mike was named the first parks and recreation director for the city of D'Iberville in 2001 before taking over public works. He later became a member of the American Public Works Association, serving as a dele-

gate in 2011 and 2012 and then serving as vice president of the local branch in 2013 and 2014 before serving as president in 2014 and 2015.

Mike is retiring with his fiancée, Anne Mikish; his daughter, Michelle; two grandchildren; and Anne's children and grandchildren.

Mike Mullins' dedication to serving his community in so many capacities is inspiring to me, his family, and the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast community.

#### STAND UP TO SAVE LIVES

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, on Father's Day, 23 people were shot and 1 person was killed at a Juneteenth celebration in Willowbrook, Illinois.

Law enforcement has not yet identified a suspect or a motive, but preliminary reports have indicated there were multiple guns and multiple shooters.

In 2 weeks, Highland Park, Illinois, will recognize the 1-year anniversary of its July Fourth parade that killed 7 people and wounded 48 others. In that case, the parade route was lined with armed police officers.

Here is what we know. Having lots of guns around, whether at a parade, a Juneteenth party, a temple, or a school, does not make anyone safer. It just makes it more likely that yet another family is going to get a call to come down and identify yet another bullet-ridden corpse.

Yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to walk through this Chamber with AR-15 lapel pins, proudly announcing their service as foot soldiers in the NRA's war on the living.

I don't want a moment of silence. I don't want thoughts. I don't want prayers. They are all far too quiet, and they don't do a damn thing.

Mr. Speaker, I need my colleagues to be brave. I need them to be loud. I need them to stand up and act like saving lives matters.

#### CONGRATULATING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALISTS NAMIT KAPOOR AND ARMAAN SINGH

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

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two of the best and brightest of New York's Third Congressional District.

This week, hundreds of youth, ages 14 to 24, will gather in the Capitol to celebrate their achievement of being Congressional Award gold medalists.

Each gold medalist must complete over 400 hours of community service, dedicate 200 hours to a personal development activity, 200 hours to a physical fitness activity, and complete a 5-day, 4-night expedition or exploration over at least 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize two from my district who rose to meet this challenge: Namit Kapoor and Armaan Singh.

As a participant in the prestigious Senate Page Program, Mr. Kapoor completed many of his requirements while balancing a workload of courses beginning at 6:15 a.m. and long days on the Senate floor.

Singh is graduating next year and is looking to attend medical school to give back to the community. His gold medal journey took him far and wide, from a tae kwon do studio in Levittown to a glacier to the depths of his own soul as he found his voice for writing poetry.

Both young men have bright futures, and they are stellar examples of fine leadership in New York-03. I am proud to recognize them today.

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I feel like a broken record talking about the invasion of our southern border over and over again, but it continues to get worse day by day.

When we have a President and an administration that do not take the crisis seriously, someone has to talk about it. We need to talk about it. We need to speak about it until we get it fixed.

From day one, Joe Biden has completely and utterly neglected his duties as President of the United States to enforce our rule of law and protect the national security of our great Nation. It is truly shameful.

From day one, Joe Biden abandoned strong and effective border policies put in place by President Trump that had our border nearly totally under control.

From day one, Joe Biden and his administration created this crisis. This is a crisis of their own doing, and Democrats have no one to blame other than themselves as to why thousands of illegal migrants come to our border daily. Ironically, some of them actually wear Biden T-shirts.

To make the border crisis even worse, and it is hard to believe that you could make it even worse, the radical Democrats are now using elementary and secondary schools to house these illegal immigrants. It is shameful.