

How does this promising young man's fear make us safer? How can we stand idly by while his family navigates unspeakable anxiety and pain? How can we live with ourselves if we let these hateful policies stand?

Sergio is a bright young man dedicated to public service, and now he is a young man questioning his future and the future of his family. This story breaks my heart; it should break yours.

President Trump's executive orders are not just anti-immigrant; they are anti-American. Most of our families, including my own, came to this country as immigrants.

My father came through Ellis Island in 1913 as an immigrant from Italy. He was in school, and he had to leave school in the seventh grade as he was 11 years old because his teachers and his classmates laughed at him.

He got himself an education, served his country in the United States military for 8 years, served on the City Council in New Haven, worked as hard as he could along with my mother, whose mother and father came from Italy before her. They scrimped and they saved to give me the finest education. And as an immigrant family, they could only dare dream that I would sit in the United States House of Representatives and be here today.

It is the American Dream. It is what this Nation is all about as we stand under this dome in this building, the seat of our democracy.

Do not let any individual, any political party destroy that American Dream. Our country is made richer by immigrants. We have always welcomed men, women, and children to our shores so that they can build a better life and build a stronger nation.

The President's executive orders are an insult to our country's roots and our values. Instead of uniting us, he threatens to further divide us.

I stand with Sergio and the millions of people like him whose futures are in flux because of this administration's misguided policies.

Do not destroy the American Dream.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of National Catholic Schools Week and to recognize the outstanding contributions that Catholic schools have made and continue to make to our Nation.

As a proud graduate of St. Symphorosa Grammar School and St. Ignatius College Prep and as a strong supporter of Catholic education, I have introduced H. Res. 57, honoring January 29 through February 4 as National Catholic Schools Week. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for working with me on this resolution and on other issues.

Following his Catholic faith, Mr. SMITH is one of our greatest defenders of freedom and human rights around the world.

This year marks the 43rd anniversary of Catholic Schools Week. Since 1974, Catholic Schools Week has celebrated the important role that these institutions play in America and their excellent reputation for providing a strong academic and moral education as well as teaching community responsibility and outreach.

□ 1045

This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service," highlights the values that are the centerpiece of a Catholic education.

Today, over 2 million elementary and secondary school students are enrolled in over 6,600 Catholic schools. These students typically surpass their peers in math, science, reading, history, and geography in the NAEP test. The same is true for SAT scores. And the graduation rate for Catholic high school students is 99 percent, with 85 percent of graduates enrolling in a 4-year college. As we continually hear disturbing reports about our national test scores, these statistics are truly remarkable and should be commended.

Notably, the success of Catholic schools does not depend on selectivity. These academic achievements are realized by students from all walks of life. Catholic schools accept 9 out of 10 students who apply and are highly effective in providing a quality education to students from every socioeconomic category, especially the disadvantaged and underserved urban communities. Over the past 30 years, the percentage of minority students enrolled in Catholic schools has more than doubled, and today they constitute about one-third of all Catholic school students. In times of economic hardship, Catholic schools can provide an affordable alternative to other forms of private education.

In addition to learning reading, writing, and arithmetic, students also learn responsibility and how to become persons of character and integrity. America's Catholic schools produce graduates with the skills and integrity needed by our businesses, governments, and communities, emphasizing a well-rounded educational experience and instilling the values of giving back to the community and helping others. That is why "service" is in this year's Catholic Schools Week theme. My own decision to pursue a career in public service was fostered, in part, by dedicated teachers throughout my formative years at Catholic schools.

I celebrated Catholic Schools Week last week at a number of schools in my district. I visited St. Barbara Grammar School, which is located in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago. I met with Principal Nicole Nolzaco and the student council, and I spoke to and took questions from an all-school assembly.

I visited Everest Academy in Lemont, where Principal Lori Broncato and Father Jason gave me a tour of the quickly growing school, and I answered questions from students before the whole school wowed me with an impressive version of the song, "America."

Finally, I visited my alma mater, St. Symphorosa, in the Clearing neighborhood in Chicago. I met with Principal Kathy Berry and Father Idzi and spoke to students about my experiences at St. Syms and how my Catholic education made it possible for me to serve in the U.S. Congress.

These are just three of the many wonderful Catholic schools in my district that are part of the Chicago Archdiocese and the Joliet Diocese.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating and thanking Catholic schools across the country, which provide first-class, well-rounded educations and contribute so much to our Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You that we are a nation fashioned out of diverse peoples and cultures, brought forth on this continent in a way not unlike the ancient people of Israel. As out of a desert, You led our American ancestors to this promised land where they declared their independence and constituted a new nation founded upon unalienable rights given to us by You, our Creator.

Bless our Nation with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and bless the Members of this people's House. Renew in us the adoption by Your Spirit that we may affirm our freedoms, not only with the conviction in the way we understand others, but in ourselves by actions proven beyond words.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.