

I am grateful to have the support of Chairman CHABOT and stakeholders like NADCO, Mountain West Small Business Finance, and Utah CDC, who know better than anyone just how critical the 504 program is.

I am squarely on the side of helping small businesses and am committed to keeping the Federal Government from getting in the way of their success. I believe the Small Business ACE Act is a great step in the right direction, and I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

HATE CRIMES INCREASE

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, in my community and in communities across this Nation, we have seen in the past year a dramatic increase in hate crimes and attacks against immigrants and, generally, against people of color.

In New York City, we saw how a lawyer named Aaron Schlossberg launched a racial verbal attack against workers at the Fresh Kitchen restaurant in Midtown Manhattan simply because they spoke Spanish.

Think about that for a minute, Mr. Speaker. This was in New York City, a city that prides itself on being a city of immigrants, a city which touts the presence of Lady Liberty herself on the harbor. Still, this lawyer felt compelled—without any hesitation, shame, or guilt—to confront workers at the Fresh Kitchen restaurant, verbally assaulting them simply because they spoke Spanish.

Yet we keep seeing more and more examples of aggressors and harassers launching vicious attacks and directing hate speech toward those whom they wrongfully perceive to be un-American.

In another recent incident, Rodolfo Rodriguez, a senior citizen, 91 years old, was brutally attacked for his ethnic background. He is of Mexican descent. He was told to go back to his country before being brutally assaulted with a brick.

In another recent incident at the Caldwell Woods Forest Preserve, Ms. Mia Irizarry was another victim of verbal harassment, abuse, and physical intimidation in an almost unthinkable 20-minute racial rant. Her harasser caught sight of Ms. Irizarry's shirt, patterned with a Puerto Rican flag such as this one, and proceeded to verbally assault her simply for the sight of a proud American wearing a flag that represents 3.5 million American citizens on the island of Puerto Rico and several million more here in the United States.

The perpetrator said: If you are an American citizen, you should not be wearing that shirt in America.

Let me remind him that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, that they have a long and distinguished tradition

of defending freedom and democracy for our Nation across the world. They have spilled the blood of thousands in support of America and democracy.

Each of these instances and situations come on the heels of a 2017 California report, the first published since President Trump took office, indicating a 17 percent increase in hate crimes. Specifically, anti-Latino, anti-Hispanic hate crimes have soared, with increases of more than 50 percent last year.

Mr. Speaker, according to a Quinnipiac poll, 58 percent of Americans disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling immigration, and 55 percent of Americans say that the President has made it easier for racists to share their views publicly.

Like Attorney Schlossberg in New York City, like Jones in Los Angeles and Timothy Trybus in Illinois, we find aggressors and perpetrators who do not represent our values as a nation of immigrants.

The problem we have is that these individuals have seen our leaders in elected office participate in hateful and intolerant acts with hateful and intolerant words. Whether in New York City, Los Angeles, or Cook County, we have seen naked racism and blatant bigotry.

To these bigots I say this:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

The United States is for all of us—regardless of the color of our skin or the language we speak.

Los Estados Unidos es para todos—independientemente del color de la piel o el idioma hablado.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

U.S. ATTACK ON BREASTFEEDING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is just hard to keep track of the daily outrages: the President is not just insulting, but attacking allies like Canada on national security grounds; a tariff war; reckless and inaccurate attacks on NATO and our allies, the bedrock of stability in Europe; the President of the United States cozies up to one of the worst people on the face of the planet. Kim Jong-un, the dictator of North Korea, has imprisoned over 100,000 of his people in concentration camps, starved millions more, murdered members of his own family and is held up as some sort of exemplar by Trump. Trump says he likes the way his people pay attention to him. Well, maybe because if they don't, they get killed or sentenced to a concentration camp. This notion that we are forcibly separating children from families at the border, where the family simply is looking for asylum, inflicting probably permanent damage

on these children; and, of course, the countless environmental attacks and the activities of corrupt cronies who have been put in positions of authority.

Last week we witnessed one of the most despicable acts of this disturbing administration: The United States launched a global attack on breastfeeding—yes, breastfeeding.

Think about it for a moment. Mother's milk is the most nutritious way to feed a baby. It contains antibodies that provide it with health protections as a baby and throughout its life.

There was an innocuous resolution that was being advanced before one of the United Nations affiliates, the World Health Assembly, to promote breastfeeding.

This is a serious problem in developing countries. Global giants that sell baby formula have been touting this as a healthier, more convenient alternative. Recent studies show that less than 40 percent of poor women in developing countries are breastfeeding. The use of infant formula in these poor countries not only is inferior, not only does it lack the long-term health benefits, and is it not a cheaper alternative for low-income people. Actually, in many of these countries, mixing formula with dirty water poses a direct threat immediately to the health of the child.

Ecuador, a member of this assembly, was prepared to introduce a routine resolution promoting breastfeeding. Then this administration sprang into action, pressuring Ecuador—allegedly, with retaliation in the trade sector—to not offer the resolution. Ultimately, the bullying was successful; the resolution was not advanced by Ecuador. Although, irony of ironies, it was Russia that stepped up and moved forward with the resolution, which was ultimately adopted with minor changes.

What does it say about America and this administration that it would be doing the bidding of giant international corporations, promoting a practice that actually undermines health in many poor people? Just having a resolution promoting the benefits of breastfeeding was threatening to their business and to this administration.

We have seen a lot of disturbing and shameful acts since Trump became President, but it is hard to imagine something worse than what was on display last week.

It is time for my Republican colleagues to join us, expressing outrage about behaviors like this. We are better people, and we ought to demonstrate it.

NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon my colleagues to join me in addressing our Nation's rising debt. As of this week, our national debt is