

more than three dozen Democratic cosponsors, decriminalizes illegal immigration, makes it nearly impossible for border authorities to detain and deport immigrants with criminal convictions, and forces taxpayers to foot the bill to bring back previously deported criminal illegal immigrants.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, if this bill were to become law, it would enable illegal immigrants who have committed crimes abroad to be returned to the U.S., and it would allow them to gain a pathway to citizenship.

The bill eliminates the provision in current law that forbids an immigrant from entering the United States if they have committed drug crimes or any crimes involving moral turpitude. Examples of crimes involving moral turpitude include child molestation, kidnapping, rape, murder, and more. It is unthinkable that we would allow anyone who has committed those crimes to freely enter our country.

To add to the egregiousness of this legislation, it calls on the Department of Homeland Security to pay for the return of previously deported illegal immigrants. Under the bill, any immigrant deported since April 1996 would be allowed to return to the U.S. as long as they met a stunningly lax set of criteria. It is ridiculous to require American taxpayers to foot the bill to bring previously deported individuals back onto U.S. soil.

The bill would make it more difficult for ICE to detain an immigrant with a criminal record. Agents would be forced to prove that a suspect poses a danger or a flight risk without using the immigrant's past criminal history as a sole factor.

One of the Democratic cosponsors on this bill even proclaimed that it would end deportation for people who had contact with the criminal legal system. I would say it is common sense that a serious criminal conviction should lead to deportation.

Worse yet, this prevents ICE from deporting immigrants who have been convicted of crimes with an average sentence of less than 5 years. This bill would allow an alien who committed crimes like auto theft, weapons crimes, identity theft, and fraud to remain in the country.

Like many Americans, I want people to enter our country through the legal process—we want them here—and then to stay on the right side of the law. Legal immigration is what makes our country great. But we cannot pass bills, like this one, that incentivize more people to come here illegally or imposes no penalty on those who commit serious crimes.

I think most Americans would agree that we should welcome those who come to our land in a legal, merit-based way and that dangerous, illegal immigrants should not be allowed to come into our country or stay in our country.

Unfortunately, this bill makes a mockery of that principle and replaces it with a set of radical, open-border policies that are dangerous to our citizens and our communities. It is for that reason that it should be soundly defeated.

HONORING FALLEN SOLDIERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to honor and express my deepest sympathy, as a fellow Texan, to the family of Sergeant 1st Class Javier Gutierrez, who lost his life in battle in Afghanistan. I also want to acknowledge Sergeant 1st Class Antonio Rodriguez of New Mexico, as he lost his life in battle as well.

It is a war that is endless. Nonetheless, the service of our giants, our young men and women in uniform, is to be constantly honored.

Sergeant Gutierrez, a family man, a husband, a father, engaged in the service of his Nation, enthusiastically joining. He came from a long legacy of service to the Nation: his grandfather, another hero in our Nation, and his father, another hero in our Nation.

I pray for this family, who has now given the ultimate sacrifice and never refused to put on the uniform to fight in battle for this Nation's freedom, its justice, and its equality.

May God bless his family, and may he rest in peace.

DEFEAT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As I move to another topic, I would like to say that this is a message to my constituents and the American people.

As you have heard in the news, and were probably frightened by the excerpts, I hold in my hand a budget for America's future. This was offered by the President of the United States. It is frightening in its attack on the basic security, domestic security, of the American people.

I would venture to say that even our young soldiers have found the need for their families to sometimes have assistance with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, food stamps. Tragically, this budget digs deep to hatchet away the basic safety net that we have come to understand is not a handout for working families who may be impoverished but a hand-up.

I am startled by the cuts, draconian cuts, in this document. I am startled by \$1.6 trillion in cuts for Medicare and Medicaid.

I am startled by, in the midst of the coronavirus, a more than \$4 billion cut in funding for the NIH and the Centers for Disease Control, the very entities that provide lifesaving research and possible cures for the American people and people around the world.

The World Health Organization is begging to go into China at this time, and they are looking to have American researchers who are ready and able to

go, to determine how to stop, how to determine the origins, and how to thwart what might be a horrific pandemic around the world. How can you cut \$4 billion?

Then, the precious children in my congressional district, I have the privilege of representing a number of school districts, not just one, but a good number of school districts. Every day, the administrators, teachers, and parents, dropping their beautiful children off, are looking for an opportunity so that they, too, might serve and contribute to this great Nation. Yet, a number that is so startling it takes your breath away: \$6.2 billion in cuts for education.

After Hurricane Harvey, with 51 trillion gallons of floodwater, people are still suffering from the losses of their homes, still trying to fix flooding areas and mitigate the damage through infrastructure work. Yet, \$1.7 billion has been cut from those needs of people who have experienced heinous and horrific natural disasters and still need the repairs that are necessary.

Of course, every child knows that climate change is real. So in this Nation—the innovative, important leader of the world—we are slashing the dollars for climate research.

We are not aware as well, I guess, in this administration, that terrorism is on the rise, domestic terrorism in particular. But we must also be vigilant for the terrorism that brought down the Twin Towers on 9/11. Yet, those dollars are being cut from FEMA, \$746.9 million.

Then, let me say, as I close, that we are also saying to those who are unsheltered, the homeless, those who seek better housing, that they, too, can't get housing. Affordable housing for the homeless and others is now waning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to defeat this budget, as we will.

HONORING LITTLETON ALSTON

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to recognize Littleton Alston for his lifetime contributions in the fine art of sculpting, both as a renowned artist and as a professor.

Littleton was born in Petersburg, Virginia, and grew up in northeast Washington, D.C., where he had his first encounter with great art and public sculpture. He still vividly remembers looking from his home down East Capitol Street and seeing the Capitol dome.

His mother, who was divorced and raising five children on her own, acknowledged and recognized a unique gift that Littleton seemed to possess: drawing. Her devotion and his talent helped him land an opportunity to attend the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., where he graduated from high school.

Awarded a scholarship to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, he received his bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture and went on to earn his master of fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art's Rinehart Graduate School of Sculpture in Baltimore.

There, he was the recipient of the school's top honor, the Rinehart Award. In 1989, he was accepted to the artist residency program at the Bemis Center of Contemporary Arts in Omaha. A year later, he joined the faculty of Omaha's Creighton University, where he has attained the rank of full professor of sculpture.

For the past 30 years, he has consistently given back to the community. Littleton served on the Omaha Public Art Commission for 9 years, and he has volunteered often for local charities and community service groups. He is especially proud of his educational outreach, having often led classes and workshops at schools in low-income neighborhoods.

In 2013, he was recognized by the city of Omaha for his artistic and civic contributions with a Community Excellence Award and by Governor Dave Heineman with the Community Development Excellence Award.

Littleton says he chose the art of sculpting because he believes sculpture is the best vehicle through which he can best express the joys and sorrows of the human condition. He says that he has explored many mediums and conceptual approaches. As an artist, he tries to convey the beauty and power of the sculpted form.

Littleton Alston has been commissioned to create a variety of sculptural projects, including monumental bronze figures such as: The Archangel Michael, Christ Among Children, Dr. Martin Luther King, Baseball Legend Bob Gibson, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and many others.

His work has included international artist residencies. In 2019, Littleton was selected from applicants from across the country to create a larger-than-life-size bronze statue portraying Willa Cather, a sculpture that will be one of the two statues representing the great State of Nebraska in the U.S. Capitol.

This achievement is a hallmark for our country and a homecoming for Littleton, who will become the first African American artist to create a work to be displayed in the Statuary Hall collection, a compelling achievement, 50 years in the making, for a young man who grew up in eyeshot of the Statue of Freedom.

This wonderful addition to these hallowed Halls will be dedicated to his late mother, Gilbertha Otelia Alston, a fitting tribute to the person who helped cultivate his great talent at an early age.

We are proud that Littleton; his wife, Anne; and his children, Sarah, Taylor, and Daniel, call Omaha, Nebraska, home.

I salute and thank Littleton for his impression upon the community, which will be felt for years to come.

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 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of infinite wisdom, of faithfulness, of mercy, of justice and love, we gather in this place at this hour by grace, and we are grateful.

We pray for clarity of mind for the work of service that must be accomplished by each one here. We pray that they will use today wisely, for today will become yesterday, and today is creating tomorrow.

We pray that broken places are made straight and the bridges we are building are strong and mighty, for we all must walk upon them.

We pray for the persons who support them, the family members, support staff, the unnamed and unknown as they carry out the awesome responsibilities of being their brothers and sisters, communities, and country's keepers.

As we gather, charged with the awesome responsibilities for which we have been called, we are reminded of all that is divine, all that is good, all that is merciful in each of us. And we pray that each of us is able to unabashedly declare at the end of the day, with sincere hearts: May the works I have done speak for me.

In the name of the One who reveals truth, the One who is the light that is showing in the darkness that cannot be extinguished, we offer this prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr.

CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NEW YORK WILL NEVER FORGET FLIGHT 3407 AND NEITHER SHOULD CONGRESS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 11th anniversary of the tragic crash of Continental flight 3407.

On February 12, 2009, flight 3407 crashed in Clarence Center, New York, killing all passengers and crew members on board and one person on the ground. The National Transportation Safety Board determined that the crash was due to pilot error and inexperience.

Thanks to tireless advocacy of the families of flight 3407 who lost loved ones in the crash, reforms like 1500 hours of flight training for first officers have been enacted. However, more than a decade later, we still anxiously await implementation of the pilot records database to allow airlines to access records of pilots applying for jobs.

Madam Speaker, western New York will never forget flight 3407 and neither should Congress. I urge my colleagues to continue to strive for One Level of Safety and remain vigilant about aviation and safety standards.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BILLIE SUE HOGGARD

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my close friend Billie Sue Hoggard, who passed away on Sunday evening.

Billie Sue was a lifelong public servant, a political pioneer, and a devout follower of Jesus. She was a nationally board-certified teacher.

Countless students in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas, across five decades and four schools, were blessed to find themselves in her classroom.

She was selected for three international teaching exchanges in China, Japan, and Mexico. Her passion for teaching could not be extinguished, coming out of a well-deserved retirement just a few years ago to go back into the classroom.