

While Republicans are offering workable and commonsense justice reform, the Democrat leadership digs in saying “no” to any negotiation. Yet they continue to support or remain silent about the senseless destruction of our cities and history.

Chances are if you were to list the greatest Americans, you may think of George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, and Ulysses Grant, men who have made tremendous positive impacts on our country, and in doing so, the entire history of humanity. Yet this week, enlightened leftists have gone after statues of these men, attempting to rewrite history and tarnish America’s overwhelmingly positive legacy for humanity.

As with other humans, these men are not perfect, but none of these monuments were erected to honor their shortcomings or faults; they were erected to honor their extraordinary contributions to society.

These men are responsible for some of the most important distinctives: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the ending of slavery, victory over the Confederacy, and conservation of America’s greatest natural treasures.

Ironically, the rights these vandals and anarchists enjoy, like the right to assemble, would not be possible if not for the very men they ignorantly tear down.

Even the Lincoln Memorial was vandalized recently, the Great Emancipator, who was the first President nominated and elected by the party formed in my district in 1854 Under the Oaks in Jackson, Michigan, the Emancipation/Republican Party.

Make no mistake: this is an attack on America itself, not an attempt to make reforms or anything else the defenders of these cowardly acts may claim.

Few in the Democratic Party have spoken out against these acts, which leads me to wonder, at what point did pride in America become a partisan issue?

□ 0945

Is it because these anarchist acts are taking place in Democrat-run cities?

Is it because these are the same people that they have directed all of their so-called antipoverty, social welfare, Big-Government-will-take-care-of-you programs toward?

Or is it because Democrat leadership fears crossing the big-moneyed, sinister individuals and organizations masterminding radical societal change?

What exactly is the endgame of these attempts to erase and rewrite history? Could it be the destruction of the American idea or America itself?

I call for my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, and America-loving patriots to stand with me as proud Americans in our fight against anarchy and ignorance. May we be people who, with courage and humility, echo the words of our Framers in pledging “our

lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor” to defending and perfecting America.

ELEVATING VOICES OF BLACK LEADERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Rayshard Brooks by police officers have highlighted the anguish and injustices that Black communities have experienced for generations; have shook our Nation to its core; and made evident, starkly, the racial injustice in our Nation.

As we watch the unrest, as we hear the pain, it is imperative we ask ourselves: What are we doing about it?

It is more important than ever that we have the difficult but necessary conversations to address racially targeted excessive use of force and racial profiling by police who do not follow their own professional code of conduct. There must be dialogue. There must be a humble willingness to listen, reflect, and come together to make change.

In the last few weeks, that is exactly what we have done in my district, in California’s 36th. Over the past few weeks, I held listening sessions and roundtables to elevate the voices and experiences of leaders in the Black community. They shared their stories, perspectives, and recommendations for change.

I also convened an important dialogue between African-American leaders and our local police chiefs. Our local police chiefs have come to the table with open ears and a willingness to be part of that change that we seek.

These conversations were impactful and productive. We outlined next steps, steps like banning choke holds, expanding the use of body cameras, increasing transparency and accountability, increasing community engagement, and annual mental health wellness checks for police officers.

I am encouraged by the progress, and I look forward to the hard work that will lead to real change in our community, change that will move our community and Nation from internalizing despair to externalizing hope and action for change.

SUPPORTING ACA ENHANCEMENT

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, as an emergency physician, I have seen the faces of failed healthcare policies. I have looked into the eyes of the suffering when they couldn’t afford care. I have cried with families who have lost a loved one, knowing it could have been prevented with routine care if only they had health insurance.

Even now, I have gone into hard-to-reach and high-risk communities and personally conducted COVID-19 testing, watching the health inequities and disparities play out in real time, seeing disproportionately higher rates of transmission and deaths in low-income,

uninsured, Latino, farmworker, and the homeless communities.

As a physician and humanitarian, I find it unconscionable, repulsive, that during a global pandemic, while millions are infected by COVID-19 and millions more are unemployed and struggling economically, that the Trump administration is actively working to repeal the Affordable Care Act through the Supreme Court.

Repealing the ACA would be a disaster, leading to millions of families facing financial hardships and many, many more deaths from COVID-19.

Repealing the ACA would eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions, the very same conditions that render a person more likely to die from COVID-19.

Repealing the ACA would take away health insurance from millions of Americans who, for the first time, have health insurance because of the Medicaid expansion.

It is precisely during this time that we must work to expand healthcare access and make it affordable, which is what H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act, would do.

It is precisely now that we need to lower healthcare premiums for middle-class families, encourage States to expand Medicaid, strengthen protections for preexisting conditions, and lower the cost of prescription drugs.

I support this bill for the people, and I will continue fighting for the people to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for the people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord of us all, thank You for giving us another day.

With the House back at the Capitol, we ask Your protection on them and all who work for and with them in their important work. The ravages of the coronavirus are spreading still in various sections of our Nation, sections from which Members have returned to gather here.

Bless and inspire those who labor to bring treatments and cures to those suffering from and threatened by COVID-19.