

victims of discrimination and brutality throughout the history of our country.

Two months before her death, Sandra Bland posted a video raising awareness about this important and deadly issue. “Black lives matter,” she said. “They matter. In the news that we’ve seen as of late,” Sandra said, “you could stand there, surrender to the cops, and still be killed.” That is what Sandra said 2 months before it happened to her.

Well, I am here on the floor of the House to say that Sandra Bland’s life mattered, George Floyd’s life mattered, Breonna Taylor’s life mattered, and Black lives matter, and it is past time that the laws of our Nation reflect it.

#### HONORING GROCERY AND CONVENIENCE STORE WORKERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, America found itself in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a crisis, the likes of which many have not experienced in their lifetimes. There are those who run from the crisis, those who run toward it, and those who find themselves right in the middle without any say in the matter.

Today, many of those in the middle are the men and women stocking, sanitizing, and serving our communities in grocery and convenience stores throughout our country. These employees are among the unsung heroes in the fight against COVID-19 who have been overlooked not only in appreciation, but also in our support.

Grocery stores and convenience stores play a critical role in our Nation’s food supply chain, and reliable access to healthy foods is essential for all Americans, as we have seen throughout this crisis.

To thank them for working around the clock and putting themselves at risk throughout the pandemic, I would say that the employees working our grocery stores and our convenience stores have probably had more exposure to the public than any other position out there.

To thank them for what they do, I have introduced the Giving Retailers and Our Convenience Employees Relief Act, or the GROCER Act. The GROCER Act would alleviate the Federal tax burden for grocery store and convenience store workers from February 15, 2020, to June 15, 2020, for individuals making less than \$75,000 a year. The bill also gives the Treasury Secretary discretion to extend this benefit for an additional 3 months.

The hardworking men and women stocking our shelves are among the unsung heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic. These frontline workers are putting in overtime to ensure that we have the resources we need to weather this storm.

In times of crisis like these, we learn to fully appreciate these workers who

play a valuable role in our food supply chain. Food is something that connects all of us, and access to food is something we all depend upon.

I am proud that this is a bipartisan bill, and I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman DWIGHT EVANS from Philadelphia, for joining me to lead this effort.

The GROCER Act is a simple way to say thank you to these workers who leave their families each day, risking exposure to the virus, in order to ensure that our families and constituents have access to the food and resources we need. Without these workers, millions of Americans would struggle to access necessities.

The GROCER Act is a commonsense way to compensate and support our grocery and convenience store workers. The Federal tax holiday for these workers would put more of their hard-earned money back into their pockets to support themselves and their families.

I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in thanking these frontline workers by supporting and cosponsoring the GROCER Act.

#### REBUILDING AND RENEWING AMERICA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, people every day are struggling to make sense of the most challenging times our Nation has seen in more than a century, and that is saying something.

A hundred years ago, we were recovering from the Spanish flu pandemic that hit America hard and people around the globe. Ten years later, we had the stock market crash, the Great Depression, and massive unemployment.

But today, we have all of those circumstances and more. We are in the middle of a pandemic. We have the resulting economic upheaval. We reached near depression-era levels of unemployment, and rather than take 3 years, as happened in the 1930s, it has happened in a matter of 3 weeks.

We have the climate crisis which my colleagues have addressed so eloquently today both in terms of the challenge and what we can do about it. Luckily, the world is finally acknowledging that, but it is still too slow to respond.

We have some lessons that we, I think, have learned from what we quaintly called the Great Recession of 10 years ago. As somebody who was legislating in the middle of it and watching the impact in my community and around the country, it seemed horrific. But it pales by comparison with what people are facing today and the demands for racial justice.

My colleagues in introducing their handiwork of the Select Committee on

the Climate Crisis all acknowledged that that is at the forefront of our thinking. There is a recognition that demands for racial justice, long overdue and now widely acknowledged, is more than just law enforcement and criminal justice reform.

Racial justice means addressing the dramatic health disparities that have been put in the spotlight as a result of the COVID-19 disaster. It means they must address the housing defunction in this country, the lack of affordable housing, a crisis of homelessness, people on the verge of losing their homes to eviction, and foreclosure that is looming on the horizon.

We need more affordable housing and we need more of it if we are going to deal with those demands for racial justice. We need safer, sustainable communities and economic justice and opportunities.

Luckily, the House this week is dealing with ways to advance a vision that addresses all of those. The climate blueprint that has been acknowledged, the hard work of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis to protect the climate, protect the planet, also has embedded in it: opportunities to improve the quality of life in every community, new economic opportunities that will be widely shared, reducing costs for families, and strengthening the capacity of local government to meet their climate challenge.

H.R. 2, the handiwork of my friend and colleague, PETER DEFAZIO, the chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, is a modest 1,067 pages. It is full of opportunities to rebuild and renew America in a sustainable fashion, to share economic opportunity, to have a low-carbon future, energy efficiency, and electrification of the transportation system. Part of it rescues the post office, replacing hundreds of thousands of their vehicles with electric cars which will help build the platform for further electrification.

These are a variety of elements that, woven together, is a new vision for Congress and this country. It can start yet before we adjourn this Congress. I hope that we will have some bipartisan cooperation to embrace these critical principles and move that forward.

But the extent to which there is delay, we are setting the stage for the next Congress, for the next administration being able to engage people around the country with a new way of rebuilding and renewing America, making our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

#### RECOGNIZING KIM CHAMBERLAIN

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize my good friend Kim Chamberlain for her service to Shasta County.

Kim was born and raised in a pear orchard just out of Seoul, South Korea,