

We all said we were going to try to address this using math, using science. But beyond that math and science—that is your benchmark—please, we need part of the consideration to be the emotional well-being of our kids. It also needs to be the well-being of their scholastics.

Another project we are doing in the Joint Economic Committee—and I am going to geek out for a second—we are starting to do some math that says we may be damaging millions of Americans in their future earning power. We are setting them back. We may be damaging millions of Americans in their retirement.

Because if you come to the tables, these actuarial tables that we have, and say: What happens if I lost earning power or I lost growth in my Social Security, in my pension, and even my career path for several months, for a year? Have we taken a step backward and understood what other things are happening in our communities?

It turns out one of the linchpins for the next part of the spiking of employment coming back, people getting back into society and our communities, is a barrier called daycare and schools. How many parents are doing their darndest to work from home, but the difficulty is doing it when your child is in the next room sitting behind a laptop completely depressed, trying to do tele-school.

We really need to have a tough conversation and be honest with the numbers and strip the crazy partisan debate over: Is opening schools partisan?

It is insanity. We have loved and cared for our kids. Let's love on them. Let's do the right thing.

I am sorry to personalize the story, but I saw it through the lens of a 5-year-old. I can only imagine what so many others have gone through with their children.

I mean, I am hearing stories of adolescents—we had another one in my community just last week—who have taken their lives. Now, I don't know if that is tied to not being able to socialize or not being able to get counseling services or just the human relations of being at school. I don't know. But you do have to take a step backward and think about it.

Are we willing to engage in this type of cruelty to our children, to those who are trying to build their careers so they can have a healthy retirement, take care of their family for future investments, for just the ability to be part of the American Dream? Because we have some well-organized groups out there that see a political advantage. That is the definition of cruelty.

Let's take a step backward, go back to our earlier promises that we were going to do this through science. It is as much as the COVID statistics in your community and your school district as the human element of let's take care of our kids, let's actually also take care of those parents. Let's do the right thing here.

I am so disappointed in so many of my brothers and sisters who are in the world of politics who are just blinded with a level of rage, that the need to win the election—well, I have sort of said it.

Let's move away from this sort of cruelty and move back to solutions. Whether it be my hope that we found a way to make healthcare more accessible and more affordable to what we are going to do for our families to allow them to safely go back to school.

My friend from Louisiana is here. I want to share my time with him, but I also want to understand what is about to happen with the hurricane.

Didn't you get blasted just a couple of weeks ago with very, very heavy rains?

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Incredibly powerful winds, good sir. Yes, sir.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Look, I have a soft spot. My mother was from Baton Rouge. It is one of the reasons I love the food. And every time I hear your accent, I think of my extended family.

But I wanted to give you some time. Tell us what is happening in your community, and let us know, beyond thoughts and prayers, what is needed.

I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. I thank my friend, the gentleman, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today simply to remind America of southwest Louisiana's plight in the wake of Hurricane Laura. While the national media and much of America has moved on, I will not allow the people of Louisiana to be forgotten here in Congress.

Just 2 weeks ago, my district witnessed the most powerful hurricane in our State's modern history, sustained winds above 150-miles-per-hour, a storm surge over 10 feet, a catastrophic loss across much of the State.

Thousands of families have been displaced. Many are still without power, without water, without access to the internet, without sanitation. Virtually all infrastructure, public and private, was heavily damaged.

Behind me are images from my district. These are not isolated examples. This is every street, every neighborhood, and every business across two entire parishes of southwest Louisiana and beyond.

I am grateful to President Trump for his quick response. He was on the ground just as soon as we could safely land Air Force One. I am grateful for his response and his strong commitment.

I am so thankful for the outpouring of support from faith-based and charitable organizations and from the countless first responders and volunteers who are working tirelessly to help Louisiana recover.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HURRICANE LAURA RECOVERY IN LOUISIANA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2019, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in Congress should provide, as I was saying, every necessary Federal resource. We must do everything in our power to ensure that southwest Louisiana is not forgotten as we work through the long and difficult recovery.

I have seen firsthand the best of Louisiana, neighbors helping neighbors, communities coming together to rebuild and recover.

It is what Louisiana does. We stand back up. Our people are resilient. We will rebuild.

Louisiana, stand strong. You are not alone. You are loved. You are respected. You will never be forgotten. We stand with you as one through this recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1815

DEFENDING AMERICA'S VALUES AND PROTECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, today's Special Order, which I am proud to host, is about defending America's values and protecting America's communities.

I have no doubt that the greatness of our beloved country can be found in "We the People," and I would say that America is great because of the people and the values which they hold so dear: the things that we believe collectively, the ideals that we hold out and strive for as a nation, imperfect people striving for a more perfect Union. And those values distinguish this experiment in liberty and democracy.

There is a reason that people from all over the world literally risk their lives to come here to be a part of this experiment in self-government, and I would say those ideals consist, first and foremost, in the belief that the American people run the affairs of this country, and we believe in that doctrine of popular sovereignty.

We believe that strong and healthy nations are nothing more than the cumulative effect of strong and healthy families; that is, the family is the cornerstone, at the cellular level it is the