

Capitol, representing the State of Nebraska. With these three monuments, thousands of Nebraskans and millions from around the world will come now to know the Poncas and their story.

Unfortunately, social disconnects of racial disparity and basic human rights still exist in our country. In recognizing the Ponca Tribe's abundant history, we highlight a story of oppression, despair, struggle, and perseverance.

Today, we honor and celebrate the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and every Native American once considered a half person. American author and civil rights activist Audre Lorde once said: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." Now more than ever, we must unite as Americans and celebrate our diversity to heal the wounds of social injustice.

BIODEFENSE MUST BE BIPARTISAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the passage of H.R. 7574, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act, which builds on the bipartisan work done by the Energy and Commerce Committee on pandemic preparedness issues.

I am honored to have co-lead this bipartisan bill with my colleague Congresswoman SLOTKIN from Michigan. I also thank Ranking Member BURGESS and Chairwoman ESHOO, who has been a longtime champion on biodefense issues, and importantly, the Energy and Commerce Committee staff for their tireless bipartisan work on this legislation.

I think all of us can agree that biodefense must be a bipartisan issue. COVID-19 has clearly exposed weaknesses in our Nation's public health infrastructure.

I have spent a good part of my career in Congress focused on biodefense and pandemic response legislation.

I became a U.S. attorney back in 2001, just one month after the 9/11 attacks on our country. Shortly after that were the anthrax attacks here on our Nation's Capitol. In my U.S. Attorney's Office, we actually received a hoax anthrax attack, which served as a stark reminder of the importance of staying vigilant and the threat that even a single individual can pose.

As former chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, we worked on things like Project BioShield.

When we talk about biodefense, people often think about things more commonly known: chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats. Pandemic threats though are yet, as we are learning, some of the most dangerous threats to everyday Americans.

Every bit as complex as cyber threats, more of an imminent threat in the 21st century than even conventional conflicts, biotreatments can come from anywhere. Bad actors, malicious organizations or nation-states, random industrial accidents, or even an act of nature can be the original source. And once events like this begin to unfold, they can be extremely hard to predict and respond to.

That is why I am glad that we continue to focus on this and have been proud to have been part of co-leading the package, which we hope will dramatically improve our Nation's ability to respond to these threats. I am very proud that Congress came together to get this done.

The Strategic National Stockpile is a cornerstone of our Nation's biodefense infrastructure. It is responsible for keeping large quantities of pharmaceuticals, medical countermeasures, personal protective equipment, and other lifesaving products for rapid deployment in the event of an emergency.

This bill builds on the bipartisan work done by the Energy and Commerce Committee when last year, in June 2019, the Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act was reauthorized and signed into law by President Trump. Our committee's work has continued to improve our Nation's response to pandemic events.

I commend Ranking Member WALDEN and Ranking Member GUTHRIE of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for their incredible work on Energy and Commerce Committee's Second Wave Preparedness Project. This critical report will serve as the most detailed analysis thus far of our Nation's public health response to date, and some of their recommendations were in this legislative package.

The Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act addresses these shortcomings and will improve the ability of the SNS to manage and maintain its inventory, empower it to partner with industry to reshore some of our most critical manufacturing infrastructure, dramatically increase transparency of the stockpile, and create innovative new programs to help States create their own stockpiles.

I thank all the Members of the House for their unanimous support of this important legislation because biodefense must be bipartisan to keep this country safe.

□ 0945

UNLEASHING THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the chairman of the Republican Study Committee's American Worker Task Force. This task force was established to provide policy recommenda-

tions to empower millions of American workers to reclaim their version of the American Dream.

This task force, really, Mr. Speaker, is all about the American Dream, which is the idea that the condition of your birth should not determine the outcome of your life and that, in America, because of the blessings of freedom that we are given, anyone, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, or any station in life, through hard work, persistence, and determination, can achieve upward mobility, can achieve his or her God-given potential, and can realize that American Dream.

This afternoon, the American Worker Task Force will unveil its report to change flawed policies from Washington, D.C., to unleash the spirit of the American Dream and to give workers their opportunity at upward mobility.

First, we are going to propose policy changes that will refocus labor policy to unleash American workers and allow them to realize their God-given potential. This includes increasing opportunities for apprenticeships, not just Department of Labor, Washington-directed, centrally planned registered apprenticeships, apprenticeships that may or may not yield fruitful careers in in-demand jobs in the labor market, in the real world, but, instead, also recognizing apprenticeships that are industry-recognized, industry-driven, and that meet the jobs that are actually available in the labor market.

We are going to be proposing ideas about eliminating overly restrictive occupational licensing requirements and giving workers greater flexibility in the way they are compensated, to choose comp time as opposed to just overtime.

Secondly, we want to reimagine our failed welfare policies to remove the trap of government dependency and, instead, create a system that propels American individuals and families to extraordinary success and prosperity.

This includes providing alternatives to the failed Housing First policies: to provide Americans access in housing assistance with wraparound services to actually meet those individuals where they are; to provide them with career counseling and perhaps, if needed, addiction recovery services and financial literacy.

We want second-chance employees to have access to the labor market. Whether they have been incarcerated before, whether they are struggling with an addiction, whether they have failed to get the skills that they need, we believe that second-chance and third-chance employees are desperately needed in America's economy today.

We also want work incentives for able-bodied, work-capable adults, especially those without dependents, because we know that work is a blessing; work is not a punishment.

And, third, we want to refine our education system to debunk the bachelors-