infrastructure they use every day, and it is a losing deal for our kids and grandkids who will be forced to foot the bill.

We must reject this harmful proposal and work together on a bipartisan surface transportation bill that meets the mark for every American who relies on our Nation's transportation systems.

STOP PALESTINIAN EVICTIONS

(Ms. NEWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NEWMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the thousands of Palestinian families in the West Bank that face the prospect of eviction, demolition, and displacement from their homes by the Israeli Government.

We have received word that demolition orders have already begun for homes in the al-Bustan neighborhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem. A few months ago, families in Sheikh Jarrah and other neighborhoods faced a similar fate. Tomorrow, others will also.

After the devastation and bloodshed of the past few months and the continued toll of the coronavirus pandemic on Palestinian families, we cannot allow these evictions, demolitions, and displacements to further exacerbate this humanitarian crisis.

No individual or family should ever be forcibly removed from their home, not in the West Bank, not in Gaza, not in Europe, not in Asia, not really anywhere. It is wrong.

This crisis must end now. This is about human rights, dignity, and respect. If we are ever to achieve peace in the region, a true two-state solution, there must be a mutual understanding.

I once again urge the Biden administration to do everything in its power to stop the evictions.

CONGRATULATING ISABELLA KERN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District 2021 Congressional Art Contest winner, Isabella Kern.

The annual art competition, organized by the Congressional Institute, showcases the artwork of high school students from across every congressional district in the country.

Isabella just graduated from Richland High School earlier this month. Her artwork titled ''America's Working Woman'' is an oil painting on canvas.

Isabella's work was selected by an independent panel of judges from 70 entries, which is the largest group of students to participate in the 15th District's congressional artwork competition.

All the winning pieces will be displayed for the year in the Cannon tunnel, where they will be viewed by Members of Congress, staff, and many visitors to the Capitol every day.

Congratulations, Isabella, and congratulations to all those in Pennsylvania's 15th District and throughout the Nation who participated in this competition and expressed their creative skills.

COMMENDING PENNSYLVANIA FOR REACHING FOURTH OF JULY VACCINATION GOAL

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, after a year of battling the coronavirus pandemic, my home Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ended its mask mandate.

I am proud of Pennsylvania for exceeding President Biden's goal for vaccinations by the Fourth of July. With over 75 percent of adults with one dose and 60 percent with both doses, we are safely lifting our mask mandate.

I salute my State's leadership in putting health and science first as we sought to get the virus under control.

When this pandemic started, no one knew how long it would take to get past these precautions. At times, it was difficult to see any return to normalcy, but we got there together.

I thank my constituents for their sacrifice. Pennsylvania families, teachers, students, workers, and businesses saved lives, jobs, and businesses.

As we are on our way to beating this pandemic, I look forward to seeing their smiling faces again on Independence Day.

Let's take lessons from this pandemic. American workers need higher wages. Healthcare is a right. School and childcare funding is vital. It is time to upgrade our infrastructure.

KENNY BEDNAREK REPRESENTS IOWA AND USA IN OLYMPICS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the Summer Olympics in Tokyo will kick off in less than a month, and I would be remiss not to mention a young track star from a college in my district who is making his first Olympic appearance.

Kenny Bednarek, a 22-year-old sprinter who hails from Indian Hills Community College in my hometown of Ottumwa, earned a spot on the USA Olympic team when he finished second in the men's 200-meter dash, with an impressive time of 19.78 seconds, becoming the first Iowa junior college athlete to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Though COVID–19 might have delayed the 2020 Summer Olympics, we are all glad to see that it is back on schedule, and Iowa's Second District is proud to be represented by such a stellar athlete on Team USA.

I wish you the best, Kenny, and I know you will do great as you go on to Tokyo to represent both the United States and Iowa in the Summer Olympic Games.

I would also like to wish my brother Richard Miller a happy birthday. Richard was a Secret Service agent who guarded five Presidents. Happy birthday, Rick.

And happy Independence Day to our Nation.

TAKE ACTION ON WILDFIRES

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, 2020 was California's worst fire season on record, and 2021 has the potential to be even worse.

Wildfires damage property, pollute our air, and threaten lives, and we need to take action.

I have been calling for fair pay for Federal firefighters. These brave Americans put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe, and I am glad that the Biden administration recently committed to paying Federal firefighters at least $15 an hour.

As we begin another fire season, we need to strengthen our coordination across levels of government to learn from past disasters. I have introduced legislation to create an independent board to closely examine and report on natural disasters. This will keep families safe and save taxpayers money.

And, of course, we need to tackle a key contributor to worsening fire seasons, the climate crisis.

As we move forward on infrastructure legislation, environmental protection must be a priority.

For the millions of Americans and Californians hurt by wildfires each year, doing nothing is not an option.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend the unborn and protect taxpayers from being forced to fund abortions.

The Hyde amendment, which prohibits taxpayer dollars from paying for abortion, has enjoyed broad, bipartisan consensus since 1976, and a majority of Americans support it today. It is estimated to have saved nearly 2.5 million lives.

It saddens me that I now have to defend this commonsense provision from attacks by congressional Democrats and the Biden administration. Americans should not be forced to financially support the destruction of life.