I congratulate Staff Sergeant Abbott on his outstanding accomplishment, and I wish him great success as he continues to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia in the next round of this prestigious competition.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

(Mr. STANTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STANTON. On this Transgender Day of Visibility, I want to speak about a young constituent of mine, an 11-year-old girl from Mesa, Arizona.

She wrote me a few days ago to say that one day she wants to grow up to be a doctor or maybe even President. Her favorite color is pink. She loves cats and the yellow minions. She also wants to play on the local soccer team with her friends.

However, because of the wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation introduced in Arizona and other legislatures around the country and right here in Congress, she is afraid, and so is her family.

To that little girl, I want you to know that you are anything but. You are exceptional and you are deserving of every opportunity to pursue your passions and your dreams. Please know that you are loved and you are not alone, and that I and many of my fellow colleagues right here in Congress will continue to work to protect your rights.

Trans youth are kids and they should be able to spend their time being kids, not writing their Congressman to defend their basic rights.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

(Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the International Human Rights Defense Act, which I am honored to have joined with Senator MARKEY and Representative JACOBS in introducing just this week.

Now, this is the first bill I have introduced as a Member of Congress and it is an issue that is very personal to me. As the first LGBTQ+ immigrant to serve in this body, I know how important it is for the U.S. to stand for human rights around the world.

Right now, there are nearly 70 countries around the world where LGBTQ+ people are criminalized just for being themselves. In 11 countries, you can be executed for loving your partner, and we know that discrimination exists all across the country and the globe.

Here in the U.S., even our freedoms are being rolled back as we see what happened just this last week in this very Chamber attacking trans people. Our bill ensures that regardless of who sits in the Oval Office, our foreign policy should always reflect a strong commitment to human rights.

This bill permanently creates an LGBTQ+ global envoy office at ambassador-rank level and codifies numerous goals and initiatives within the State Department. LGBTQ+ rights are human rights.

CORRECTING THE ISSUE OF CHILD LABOR IN WEST MICHIGAN

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, this week I am introducing bipartisan emergency legislation to correct the devastating issue of child labor in west Michigan and across the country.

In west Michigan, we believe in protecting kids. When big companies and corporations go against that goal, we take the necessary steps to hold them accountable. I have heard from my constituents, and I am responding.

Here is what my bill, the Justice For Exploited Children Act, will do and why it is important. Right now, the maximum fine per violation of child labor laws is around $15,000, and there is no minimum. No minimum.

If you think that is an embarrassingly low price to pay for exploiting a child, you are right. That is because these are the fines that have been on the books since this law was first introduced almost 100 years ago, and they have not been raised.

These meager penalties, effectively pennies for big corporations, allow guilty parties to evade meaningful consequences, and as a result, continue these shameful practices. It is unacceptable. This legislation makes clear that exploiting kids cannot be the cost of doing business.

USING THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE AS A TESTING GROUND

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

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I am GREG CASAR, and I represent the heart of Texas. I rise today to sound the alarm. Extremist Republicans are using the Texas legislature as a testing ground for their most extreme policies that they plan to spread across the country.

Right now, top Texas officials are considering new laws to, one, create vigilante bounty hunter groups to go after immigrant families; two, defund our public schools; three, bar doctors from providing healthcare to transgender Texans; four, cap how much renewable energy our State can create; five, ban books and drag shows; six, block water breaks for construction workers; seven, ban citizens from Asian countries from attending public college; eight, they have already banned abortion and now they are going after emergency contraception.

This vile blueprint may be the Republicans' plan for our State and our country, but they are not representative of Texas values. Texans take care of our neighbors, look out for each other. Americans want decent healthcare, housing they can afford, and a decent future for their kids.

As public servants, we should lead with love and integrity. After all, Texas is a native word that means friendship, not cruelty. I may yield back my time, but not my efforts.

LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 260 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1.

Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) kindly take the chair.

□ 0911

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) to lower energy costs by increasing American energy production, exports, infrastructure, and critical minerals processing, by promoting transparency, accountability, permitting, and production of American resources, and by improving water quality certification and energy projects, and for other purposes, with Mr. FLOOD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, amendment No. 29 printed in House Report 118–30 offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in part B of House Report 118–30.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title I of division B the following:

SEC. 20115. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON OIL AND GAS ROYALTY RATES.

It is the sense of Congress that the royalty rate for onshore Federal oil and gas leases should be not more than 12.5 percent in amount or value of the production removed or sold from the lease.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, Amendment No. 30 expresses the sense of Congress that the royalty rate for onshore Federal oil and gas leases be 12½ percent. This amendment establishes that it is the sense of Congress that the royalty rate of onshore Federal oil and gas