

So she walks toward the tracks, picturing all that can go wrong—a jacket snags, a backpack tangles, the wheels begin to turn. She prays that this will be one of the days their path isn't blocked and that she doesn't hear the sound she has most come to fear, a horn in the distance.

"It's like, 'Oh my God, the train is coming.'"

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, children are forced to crawl over or under very long parked trains that block their path to school. ProPublica and InvestigateTV witnessed dozens of students in Hammond climbing over, squeezing between, and crawling under the train cars just to make their way to and from school.

Railroads of America, wake up.

In my district in northwest Ohio, I have also witnessed situations with students in extremely dangerous and deadly situations.

In December of 2009 along that same mainline rail crossing at McCord Road in Lucas County, Ohio, a train hit two students on foot in my district, killing one of them and putting the other in critical condition at Toledo Hospital where she underwent surgery.

Cody L. Brown, a 15-year-old freshman, was pronounced dead at the scene. Brianna Mullinger was taken in critical condition to Toledo Hospital. The students, both band members, were walking to school when that westbound Amtrak train struck them.

In the wake of this tragedy, our community constructed an underpass below the Norfolk Southern rail line at McCord Road to try to avoid future tragedies at this same rail crossing.

There are numerous such places across this corridor. Our effort protects students, pedestrians, and drivers without interrupting traffic or flow of trains, pedestrians, or cars that pass through this intersection.

These stories are emblematic of some of the longstanding and unaddressed real issues America continues to face to this day.

Railroads of America, wake up.

Let us use our bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to fix these rail problems that exist and take steps to address them coast to coast. Now is a pivotal point where our Nation can fix these challenges with funds available from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and President Biden to pay particular attention to this regional corridor from Pittsburgh to Chicago. It is so dangerous. Help us convene rail stakeholders to relieve congestion and identify key infrastructure improvement projects.

This is a time freight companies like Norfolk Southern, CSX, and Amtrak should come together at the same table. Let us craft solutions to address longstanding issues regarding rail safety.

Communities are begging to work with these companies that never return phone calls to help fix these longstanding, solvable challenges. We must

look to the future and join together to protect the public: our students, our rail workers, and our communities.

Let us deliver both transformative and safe commercial and passenger rail solutions. The tools are at our disposal. The money is there.

Where are the rail companies?

The time is now. Let's do what we in the industrial Midwest do best. Let's get to work.

#### BIDEN'S STUDENT LOAN BAILOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Education and the Workforce Committee passed H.J. Res. 45, a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn Biden's student loan bailout.

I thank Representative BOB GOOD for sponsoring this crucial resolution.

If passed through both Chambers, the joint resolution being debated today would nullify President Biden's radical plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in student debt by executive fiat. For 2 years, President Biden has attempted to push a free college agenda through radical regulations including income-driven repayment, executive actions like blanket cancellation, and his permanent pause on repayment.

Student loan forgiveness is nothing more than a transfer of wealth from those who willingly took on debt to those who did not or had the grit to pay off their loans.

Just 13 percent of Americans hold student loan debt, and over one-half is held by graduate students. In other words, President Biden is forcing the very people Democrats claim to care about—low-income families, disadvantaged populations, and blue-collar workers who never stepped foot on a college campus—to pay someone else's tuition bill.

How much would it cost the American taxpayer?

President Biden's student loan bailout alone will cost taxpayers an estimated \$315 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Coupled with his reckless income-driven repayment plan and other expansive regulations, his student loan scams could cost as much as \$1 trillion. In fact, at a cost exceeding \$3,500 per taxpayer, the President's income-driven repayment plan and mass cancellation represent the most expensive executive actions in American history, period.

These illegal actions also come at a time of rip-roaring inflation as Democrats' reckless spending spree pushes our economy to the precipice of recession. The President's debt transfer plan alone could increase inflation by as much as 27 basis points, making it even harder for families to put food on the table and gas in their car. With our national debt quickly approaching \$32 trillion, a bailout for graduate students

and high-income households is the last thing we need on our Nation's credit card.

Our economy is a debt-fueled balloon waiting to pop, and this plan could be the proverbial needle. With all this spending, one would, at the very least, expect the broken student loan program to be repaired. Yet, even if the President is able to move forward with his debt transfer plan, we will be right back to \$1.6 trillion in outstanding debt in less than 6 years.

Why?

Because colleges will increase their tuition and force students to borrow even more because they know taxpayers will foot the bill.

The problems that plague postsecondary education cannot be solved by one-time debt jubilees. Solutions require hard work.

Specifically, it means addressing the lack of accountability for the hundreds of billions of dollars that flow to colleges and universities that charge far too much for degrees with little or no financial value and reforming our student loan program which Democrats are dead set on running into the ground.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### ADOPTING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this week I was pleased to introduce legislation to adopt the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands and its amendments as the constitution of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

My legislation provides for the adoption of the Revised Organic Act, as it has been approved by Congress, signed into law, and amended, as the constitution of our territory.

While the Revised Organic Act presently serves as the main governing document of the Virgin Islands, we have been unable to enact changes on a territorial level. If the Revised Organic Act and its amendments are adopted as the constitution by Federal law, it would then free the Virgin Islands to make further amendments without congressional engagement or approval.

As such, my legislation includes an amendment process to allow the Virgin Islands to revise the constitution once adopted.

In May of 2020, the Virgin Islands legislature passed bill 33-0292, which included a referendum on the general election ballot on calling a constitutional convention to adopt the Revised Organic Act. This proposal was approved by 72 percent of people voting on this measure.

There is a clear public preference for the adoption of a constitution for the

Virgin Islands. My legislation enables a base constitution to be enacted and a local process for self-determination and a level of autonomy in our constitutional maturation.

I am asking all Virgin Islanders to speak with individuals you know who can help support this act, and I am asking Members of our diaspora living in the mainland to lobby their current congressional and Senate Representatives for support.

**PREVENTING FURTHER GROWTH OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK ON ST. JOHN.**

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced legislation to prohibit the net increase of federally owned land in the Virgin Islands National Park Service on St. John. The Virgin Islands National Park boundary encompasses nearly two-thirds of the island of St. John. Within the park boundary, there is both federally owned and privately owned land. There is a finite amount of land for the residents of St. John who are already confronting housing shortages. This legislation takes the necessary steps to prevent an increase in land owned by the park.

This legislation prevents any net increase of federally owned land in the park. Individuals and entities would still be able to donate or exchange land with the park, but if the Virgin Islands National Park acquires any land, an equal acreage of land must be conveyed out of Federal ownership.

The legislation includes stringent guidelines to ensure the park does not utilize bureaucratic processes to cause excessive delays. When the park elects to sell Federal land to avoid an increase in net acreage, it must offer the land for sale within a year at fair market value. Six months after the land is first offered for sale, if it is not under contract or sold, then the price is reduced by 10 percent each month.

This legislation addresses the concerns I hear consistently from Virgin Islanders about an ever-expanding presence of the park on St. John. The park has a responsibility as stewards and also as partners of the Virgin Islands. That has not always been the case.

Unfortunately, often the park seems to be solely engaged in protecting land, not the people who were the original inhabitants of that land or the people brought over as enslaved people who fought for freedom and through sweat and toil were able to obtain land on that island.

Albeit sometimes well-intentioned, what they have done is effectively crowded out Native people in furtherance of neocolonial bourgeois wildlife ideals acting under the assumption that the local people—interestingly, people of color—cannot care for the land themselves.

As we look at the history and the future of the Virgin Islands National Park, our decisions must be intentional to support St. John and the entire Virgin Islands, which includes its land, its people, its history, its culture, and our future.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.

**SOLVING THE WORST BORDER CRISIS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, since his first day in office, President Biden has actively worked to weaken our southern border through radical open border policies that have resulted in the worst border crisis in our Nation's history, turning every community—including mine, the Sixth District of Virginia—into a border community.

Despite the President's and Secretary Mayorkas' desperate attempts to downplay the crisis and tell Americans to deal with it, the facts don't lie.

Under Biden's failed leadership, Border Patrol officials have encountered a record high of more than 5 million illegal immigrants at our southern border, and nearly 2 million of them have been released in the United States by the Department of Homeland Security. At the same time, over 1.5 million known got-aways have illegally crossed the border undetected.

From halting construction of the border wall to reinstituting Obama-era catch-and-release policies and deciding to halt title 42, President Biden has willingly and knowingly failed to protect the southern border and uphold the rule of law.

Now our Border Patrol is underresourced, our national security is jeopardized, and drug cartels are empowered to smuggle deadly fentanyl into our interior.

In fact, Virginia communities are being overrun. According to the Virginia Department of Health, in 2021, Virginia had a 15 percent increase in overdoses from 2020, with synthetic fentanyl being the leading cause of those 2,033 deaths.

This is an invasion, and it must be stopped. House Republicans know that border security is national security, which is why we have brought to the floor H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act.

The Judiciary Committee played a leading role in crafting this legislation, and I am proud of the work we have done to make this the strongest border security package that Congress has ever considered. However, we must get it enacted.

H.R. 2 will secure America's borders by improving the asylum system, deploying urgent resources to the southern and northern borders—including walls, manpower, and technologies—and ending incentives for illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, innocent lives are at stake. Our Nation's sovereignty is at stake. We owe it to the American people to tackle Biden's disastrous border crisis. That starts with passing this legislation, and I urge every one of my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill to address this national crisis.

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**CONGRATULATING STATE CHAMPIONS GLENVAR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD TEAM**

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Glenvar High School Boys Indoor Track and Field Team on winning the combined class ½ State championship held at Liberty University.

The Glenvar Highlanders won the trophy at the 2-day meet with a score of 58 points, a 9-point victory over the runners-up.

Glenvar's senior Heath Bowker dominated the meet, winning the boys 500-meter dash in 1:08:20.

Highlanders Jackson Swanson, Zach Curfiss, Avone Noel, and Heath Bowker joined forces to win the 4x200 relay in 1:33:25.

Another Highlanders squad of Heath Bowker, Caeden Bowker, Colby Thompson, and Zach Curfiss won the 4x400 relay in 3:29:38.

Congratulations to all these athletes, including Marshall Berryman, Caeden Bowker, Zach Curfiss, Tyler Davis, Charlie Horrell, Bryce King, Nathaniel King, Aldin Smith, Colby Thompson, Aiden Woodie, Josh Woods, and seniors Heath Bowker, Avone Noel, Davis Norman, and Jackson Swanson.

The team is led by head coach Bekka Loder and assistant Madison Bourne.

Congratulations again to these athletes, parents, coaches, and staff on an incredible season and well-deserved victory.

**CONGRATULATING NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM**

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Northside High School boys basketball team on winning the Virginia Class 3 Basketball State Championship held at the VCU Siegel Center.

The win marked the second basketball State championship in school history and the first since 2019.

Northside came out strong, leading by 17 in the first quarter. As the game entered the final minutes, Northside was down by 4, but this squad dug deep to come out with the trophy and pull out the 58-52 victory against Hopewell.

The Vikings' final push was led by double-digit scorers, Lawrence Cole, Cy Hardy, and Mykell Harvey, a trio that combined for the 53 of the Vikings' 58 points.

I extend congratulations to all the players, including Cy Hardy, Xavier Garrison, Nick Crawford, David Via, Mykell Harvey, Michael Pankey, Kai Logan, Jamareay Lavender, Javin Gibson, Will Smith, Kavon Brown, along with special recognition to seniors Ja'Chan Anthony, Lawrence Cole, Jayden Smith, Elijah Trigg. Congratulations also to the head coach, Billy Pope, and assistants Jake Paysour and Josh Malave.

Congratulations again to all the players, coaches, parents, and staff on a historic season.