

I support securing dedicated, sustainable revenue to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent well into the future and increasing Federal investment that is not looted for other purposes.

We need a variety of funding options, including mileage-based user fees; raising or indexing the gas tax; user fees on electric vehicles or batteries to create parity with gasoline-powered vehicles; slightly increasing the corporate tax rate and dedicating the incremental revenue gains toward infrastructure, both expanded and new bond programs.

We must think strategically and use lifecycle cost analysis to account for the operating and maintenance needs of an asset across its entire lifecycle. Thus, we will help guard against deferred maintenance.

I support investing seed capital to capitalize an infrastructure bank that would leverage its funds for everything from roads, to water, to broadband projects. The bank would be accessible to States, localities, and regional groups and would be able to loan them money with favorable terms as well as offer bond insurance.

I and the task force support grant programs that would specifically target areas in desperate need of revitalizing their infrastructure, including those recovering from natural disasters, communities with higher rates of unemployment and poverty, and rural areas. That means new avenues to fund infrastructure projects in communities that have been left behind and in areas that traditionally struggle to attract infrastructure funding for projects that have holistic community support.

The task force recognizes the importance of continued regulatory streamlining in a way that balances expedited construction with appropriate environmental and safety safeguards. The administration must work to implement the numerous streamlining provisions already passed into law by Congress in the FAST Act transportation bill.

In addition, I support encouraging the use of regional partnerships and public-private partnerships.

We must also think about broadband and realize that this is the new transportation of the 21st century, making sustainable and innovative public and private investments across the U.S. to repair and upgrade existing assets and build vital new projects.

We must seek to support projects that help communities become more energy efficient, resilient, and better prepared to deal with the impact of climate change and environmental clean-up.

Finally, we must seek to give communities ownership of local development and encourage innovation, regulatory streamlining, and more comprehensive multiproject long-term planning.

PROVIDING RESOURCES TO REOPEN SAFELY

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, the overwhelming majority of constituents in my district are eager to get back to work, and I believe it is Congress' duty, our duty, to ensure that our citizens have the necessary resources to reopen in a safe and responsible way. That is why I am proud to have introduced two bills that focus on this very need.

The SAFE at Work Act would create a tax credit for businesses that allow their employees to work from home. This not only protects employees and employers against the spread of COVID-19 but also encourages employers to create telework opportunities for those most susceptible to the virus.

I also introduced the KEEP Act, which supports the President's push for a 3-month payroll tax holiday. This initiative would allow millions of Americans to keep more of the money that they already earn, thus providing critical capital to weather this crisis without involving Federal bureaucracy.

No government program, no matter how generous, can replace a functioning economy. These measures would support hardworking Americans' efforts to get our economy back on track, so I urge their immediate adoption.

HIGHLIGHTING BORDER WALL EFFECTIVENESS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my voice to the fight to protect our Nation by securing its borders.

Since arriving in Congress, I have stood by the President and his efforts to protect our children from traffickers, dealers, terrorists, and other criminal elements by building a wall.

For decades, our porous borders have threatened our national security, and it wasn't until President Trump took office that our government took this threat seriously.

Just how effective has the wall been?

It is a fact that nearly 1 million people were stopped at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2019, but in the last 12 months, illegal immigration has been down 84 percent and illegal crossings from Central America are down 97 percent.

It is a fact that President Trump has deported over 6,000 MS-13 gang members.

And it is a fact that this barrier between the countries is helping stop the flow of illicit drugs. Nearly 450,000 pounds have been seized this year alone.

For far too long, too many have ignored the facts, but I haven't, and I will continue doing everything I can do to keep Florida 15 residents and its businesses safe.

HONORING SERGEANT ANDREW BOSKO

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Andrew Bosko, a Lakeland, Florida, World War II veteran who is 98 years young.

Andy was born in Ohio, raised in Pennsylvania, and one of 13 children of immigrant parents from Austria and Czechoslovakia.

He entered the Army Air Corps in 1943, assigned to the VII Fighter Command in Hawaii. In 1945, the command was reassigned to Iwo Jima, which had been seized by Marine units, to provide emergency landing fields supporting bombing operations against Japan.

Meanwhile, his wife and true love, Sophia, was supporting the war as a Rosie the Riveter. Yet, they still found time to write to each other each day.

Following the war, Andy worked as a machinist in New York and later launched some of Lakeland's favorite restaurants.

Andy, you, together with your bride of 74 years, represent the greatest of our Greatest Generation. You experienced economic and social turmoil and a World War, and then you rebuilt our Nation into the greatest on Earth.

It is our honor to serve you, as you, for so many years, have served us.

SALUTING ELLA ERICKSON, VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the inspiring story of a World War II veteran from Lakeland, Florida.

At 100 years young, Ella Erickson is a unique personification of what heroism is about.

Raised in Wisconsin, she joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. Following basic training, she reported to Marine Corps Headquarters here in Washington, and for the next 2 years, Staff Sergeant Erickson maintained the records of Marine prisoners of war.

Discharged at the end of the war, Ella married and began her family and career.

While holding demanding jobs at Wheaton College and as a nurse caring for the ailing, she also found time to be a supportive wife to international evangelist Victor Erickson and raise four children, two of whom went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force.

She has been a hero to the sick and to our Nation and an even greater one to her family. She epitomizes what heroism is all about, sacrificial service.

Thank you, Ella. Thank you for serving us and showing us how to live well.

On behalf of Florida 15, I salute you.

CALL TO REPLACE SICK CARE SYSTEM WITH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a father, an American, and a Congressman in support of H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act.

I rise today as a father because healthcare is personal. I know the pain of caring for a sick child. My daughter, Pia, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's

lymphoma when she was just 14 years old.

Parents and children who have been through the fear, the hospitalizations, the chemotherapy, and the years of anxiety-evoking follow-ups know the nightmare all too well because they have lived it.

But Pia and our family are among the lucky ones. She survived cancer and is now a thriving 20-year-old pursuing her college studies.

And I know how lucky I was to be at Pia's bedside during the toughest days and to do so without worrying about how I was going to pay her medical bills.

I know, in fact, we all know that this is not the case for too many American families throughout our country.

We need this legislation because it will lower healthcare costs, costs that are the very highest in the entire world, yet our outcomes are mid-pack.

In the United States of America, we should have the highest quality care in the world, the most efficient delivery of care in the world, and the best value in the world. In the United States of America, the wealthiest nation in the entire world, no one should have to choose between seeing their doctor or seeing food on their table—no one.

I rise today as an American because healthcare is patriotic. I am sick and tired of Americans paying more money for less quality than other nations. And I am sick and tired of Americans paying more money for the very same lifesaving medications than patients in other countries.

Americans are getting ripped off, and we, every single one of us in this Chamber, can do something about it. Ensuring that every American has access to high-quality and affordable healthcare and medications is indeed a moral decision, but it is also an economic decision.

Let's not kid ourselves. We do not have a healthcare system in our country; we have a sick care system. And it is not even a system, which has made the epic failure of our Nation's COVID response even more glaring.

You see, we tolerate, even condone, incentives for procedures over prevention and profit over people. It is costing us billions of dollars and bankrupting thousands of families and, surely, costing American lives.

We need this legislation because there is meaningful economic and societal value in ensuring that every American enjoys healthcare coverage no matter their age, their race, their gender, their ZIP Code, their income, or their condition.

I rise today as a Congressman because finding common ground, building consensus, and fixing our broken healthcare system is my job. I am on a mission to inspire collaboration in this Chamber and restore Americans' faith in government, and I cannot imagine a better place to begin than healthcare.

Let's rise to this moment and improve it together.

Mr. Speaker, we need this legislation because it will help all Americans, not red State or blue State Americans, but all Americans.

We need this legislation because no one in this country, Republican, Democrat, independent, or otherwise, thinks that our healthcare system is working.

We need this legislation because healthcare is collective, and this pandemic presents an extraordinary opportunity to build a true health system in this country. COVID-19 has taught us that one's health and well-being are directly dependent on the health and well-being of one's entire community.

We are in this together, and we must take care of one another together.

We need this legislation because whether it is my daughter, Pia, a cancer survivor, or Cindy with diabetes in Eden Prairie or Nikki with MS in Brooklyn Park or every single mother in our country who has ever given birth to a child, preexisting conditions are part of being human and should never be a barrier to care.

We need to pass this legislation because it is personal, it is patriotic, and it is our job.

I am grateful to my colleagues in this House for doing so yesterday, and I call on our colleagues in the Senate to join us in ensuring a healthier and more equitable future for every single American.

HONORING GEORGIA STATE SENATOR JACK HILL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and to honor the life of one of my mentors and my very good friend, Georgia State Senator Jack Hill, who passed away on April 6 at the age of 75.

I sat next to Jack in the Georgia State Senate for 5 years, and he was truly a mentor to me. Through listening and interacting with him over the course of those years up until his death, I understood what it really meant to be a dedicated public servant.

Jack lived his entire life in Reidsville, and his love for his hometown and community was evident throughout his life.

After he graduated from Reidsville High School and Georgia Southern University, he came back to his hometown and went into the grocery business as owner and operator of Hill Shopping Center.

In addition to running his own successful business, Jack still found time to serve in the Georgia Air National Guard for over 33 years, both as a unit commander and a State inspector general.

He was appointed to the board of directors at The Tattnall Bank in the early 1980s before heeding the call to public service.

In 1990, he ran for and won his first term as Georgia State Senator for the Fourth District of Georgia.

Throughout Jack's 30 years of steadfast service in representing the Fourth District, he served on many prestigious committees, including the Senate Rules Committee, where he was vice chairman, and chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

Both Jack and I liked to write columns. We would write weekly columns. Jack always chided me and said mine were very chatty. I always chided him and said his were very nerdy.

□ 0930

He was a numbers cruncher. He knew the budget like no one in the State of Georgia knew it. He was always the last to leave the capitol each day because of how dedicated he was to serve the people of our State.

Because of Jack's leadership, my colleagues and I were always driven to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and uphold our mission in all that we did to serve Georgians to the best of our abilities.

Jack was a man of overwhelming integrity, compassion, and humility. He was a true statesman. While he certainly worked hard to be selected for this role, he never used his prestigious title to gain praise or acknowledgment.

He was one of the few people who taught me the importance of placing people over the politics and praise. If anyone ever needed to talk to him, he was always available and listened to what you had to say no matter who you were.

Jack also taught me the importance of humility and keeping a common, steady hand at the helm. I will always remember his immense dedication to everyone he interacted with.

He made a huge difference in the lives of countless students, in the reputation of the university system, and in the holistic improvement of the State of Georgia.

Jack's legacy will always be remembered, and those he knew will never forget the impact he had on the lives he touched.

It is for these reasons that all 14 Georgia Members of the U.S. House, including myself, signed proposed legislation to name a post office building in Jack's hometown of Reidsville after him. Naming a post office after him will honor his remarkable contributions to our State for years to come, and we will work to preserve his legacy of public service for his fellow Georgians.

Jack's advice has stayed with me throughout the years, and he helped make me the person I am today. I am forever grateful to have known Jack Hill, and I will never forget him. His family, friends, and those he worked with will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as we all mourn the death of a great Georgian and a great American.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN TARBUTTON, JR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mr. Benjamin Tarbutton, Jr., who passed away