checks in people's hands, the people who are struggling to keep body and soul together, to make ends meet, the people who really need this money.

No American economist of repute disagrees that this kind of relief is necessary. Now is the time for us to do it. Let's come together and enact the American Rescue Plan.

REVERSAL OF OPERATION TALON

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, ever since President Biden has taken office, he has been laser-focused on overturning every great initiative from the previous administration, regardless of how good it was for the American people.

Today, I want to shed light on President Biden's tragic reversal of Operation Talon. Operation Talon was a program run by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to capture illegal alien sex offenders in America and deport them.

Sex offenders commit some of the most unspeakable and despicable crimes imaginable. We monitor where they are in the United States when those individuals are here legally. Now we have no idea where they are when they are here illegally.

Biden's misguided reversal threatens the physical and mental health of American children and their families.

Even setting aside the debate about illegal immigration, we should all be able to agree that sex offenders who are in this country illegally should be deported.

Of all things that are common sense and bipartisan, we should agree that sex offenders are criminals and are a risk to our citizens. To not deport these individuals just because the present administration wants to erase the last administration is unconscionable.

I strongly urge President Biden's reversal of Operation Talon and urge him to reinstate it immediately.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VALERIE WARD

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a community leader, a constituent, and a friend, Ms. Valerie Ward, who passed away January 6, at the age of 80.

Ms. Ward devoted her life in service to others, as president of the Willow Grove branch of the NAACP, and as an Abington PAL board member.

Val had the heart of a teacher, spending her time mentoring younger generations well into her own retirement. Clipboard in hand, Val could be found most weekends spearheading community events, always leading by example.

Val was a woman of great faith, leading several ministries at her beloved New Bethel AME. As a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she was proud to share her sisterhood with Vice President KAMALA HARRIS.

She was known for her direct, no nonsense approach and her dry sense of humor, warm smile, and infectious laugh.

I join Ms. Val's family, friends, and the wider Abington community in mourning the loss of an incredible woman. The world is a better place for her life.

PELOSI-SCHUMER PARTISAN PAYOFF TO PROGRESSIVES ACT

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

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to the reckless spending plan being pushed through this Congress. This so-called COVID relief bill is nothing more than a liberal wish list of special-interest pork completely unrelated to COVID relief.

With more than $1 trillion of previous COVID relief funds remaining unspent, it would be irresponsible to rush through a massive, partisan spending bill that does nothing to help the American workers or get our kids physically back into school. Our priorities should be reopening our economy, getting students physically back in school, and spending more for our vaccine distribution.

COVID relief should be temporary, targeted and tied to COVID. But this plan does nothing of the sort.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the $1.9 trillion spending boondoggle that is going to be on the House floor this week.

While there are many irresponsible and careless facets of this bill worth noting, the elimination of alternative wage programs for workers with disabilities is one of the most devastating aspects of this bill, impacting over 5,800 Missourians and thousands more across our Nation.

In fact, this provision will likely cause the end of these programs. By doing that, it will strip many individuals of their voice, workplace family, independence, and sense of community.

That is why I am offering an amendment to protect the choices and voices of the Missourians next to me. They deserve a government that supports their efforts, not one that runs them out of business.

With only 35 percent of individuals with disabilities employed in the competitive market, it is our duty to look for ways to expand employment opportunities for them, not diminish them. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and, if it does not pass, please oppose this bill.

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RECOGNIZING SAKA NANKANA SAHIB

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the co-chair of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus to recognize and create national awareness about the Saka Nankana Sahib massacre.

The Sikh community across the world is observing 100 years of this horrific event. The massacre refers to the grim episode during the Gurdwara Reform Movement in which a peaceful batch of reformist Sikhs was subjected to a murderous assault on February 20, 1921, in the holy Gurdwara at Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of the founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak.

More than 260 Sikhs were killed, including children as young as 7. Sikhs pay tribute to all those martyred on this day. Their valor and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Their memory inspires us to work even harder to voice for religious freedom and the right of worship.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National FFA Week.

FFA is a national leader in agricultural education, inspiring our Nation's young people to pursue careers that help support a robust rural economy.

Agriculture is rooted in American heritage, and our Nation's producers provide the food, the fiber, and the energy that we all depend on.

Agriculture is science. It is technology. It is innovation. And the young men and women of the FFA are helping to shape the industry's future.

Every time I see a distinctive blue FFA jacket, I am reminded of the strong character and impressive leadership abilities that come along with it. FFA leaders have gone on to become Ivy League graduates, Federal court judges, innovative farmers, famous performance artists, and even U.S. Presidents.

This week, we celebrate the important success of FFA, and we look forward to what FFA leaders have in store for the future of rural America.

HONORING KATHIE GREEN ON HER RETIREMENT

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