hands. We are vaccinating as fast as we can, but I am letting you know that Texas has all five of the variants of COVID–19. They have long-haulers in Texas, people who have continued to have COVID–19.

To save lives, I am asking my fellow Texans—as I know President Bush always used to call us, his ''fellow Texans''—to wear your masks, wash your hands, socially distance to save lives.

Let's ignore wrong-headed advice and do what is right to save lives.

HONORING KERRY McDANIEL

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, sadly, Kerry McDaniel passed away in February at just 65 years of age from COVID–19 complications.

Kerry was described as ''can't be replaced,'' ''top-notch in every regard,'' and ''an exemplary model of generosity and selflessness.''

Kerry loved serving his community and did so in various positions throughout the years. For almost three decades, Kerry worked for the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, and most recently, he was the Hart County Emergency Management Director and Solid Waste Coordinator.

As a frontline responder, he worked hard to obtain personal protective equipment and protect Hart County from COVID–19. Throughout the county, Kerry was known for his service and generosity to others.

Kerry is survived by his dear wife, Vicki; his son, Curtis; his daughter-in-law, Tara; his grandson, Briar Allen, and many other family members he loved so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have known Kerry; he was an exemplary citizen. Kerry was a great friend, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WILL MAKE ECONOMY STRONGER

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, for the one in eight Americans who will go to bed hungry tonight; for the 60 million Americans out of work and the 40 million who fear they might be evicted tomorrow; for the 2.3 million women, a million mothers, who have left the workforce, the American Rescue Plan is for you.

It will put money directly in your pockets; expand access to affordable healthcare and childcare; extend unemployment insurance and housing and nutrition assistance; and support 27 million children with an expanded child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, for the 1.4 million public-sector employees who are out of work—our firefighters, our teachers, our frontline public health workers, our first responders—we are going to provide $350 billion for States and localities, including $13.7 billion for my State of Illinois, to get you back to work, too.

We can't fix everything. 524,000 American lives lost to COVID are never coming back. But tomorrow, when we vote to pass the American Rescue Plan, we will honor their memory. We will make things a little easier for their loved ones. We will get their kids back in school safely, their family businesses back in the black, cut child poverty in half, create 4 million new jobs.

Most importantly, we will emerge from this crisis with an economy that is stronger, more equitable, and poised for growth for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues in the House and Senate who made this possible. Let's get this done.

PRO ACT MUST HAVE EXEMPTIONS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am from California, and almost 2 years ago, the State passed a bill known as AB–5, where all workers would be presumed as employees unless the worker can show that they satisfy all three prongs of what is known as the ABC test.

It went into effect in January 2020, and it had quite a few exemptions in it—barbers, musicians, translators, home inspectors, golf caddies, things like that. But after the bill passed, flaws were found in it. They had to go back and legislate again to add newspapers. They had to go back and extend the time for others for when it would kick in.

So, what is happening? Here in this House, we are on H.R. 842. Now, I had an amendment that would provide for some of those exemptions. This provides for zero exemptions for this requirement that all would be presumed as employees.

We are going to go ahead and do actually worse than the State of California, passing the PRO Act without the exemptions.

Government should be here to foster economic growth, not restrict it. The PRO Act would kill growth, squash innovation in the gig economy and the American economy.

Why are we going backward here when we can learn from California's mistake?

SUPPORTING WORKERS BY SUPPORTING UNIONS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's greatest asset, our workers, our essential workers—nurses, teachers, mail carriers, transportation, sanitation, and food industry workers, among so many others—who have lifted the Nation with their sacrifice and bravery.

Just as they have supported us, we must support them by supporting unions. Attacks on unions, and a series of significant actions by the former administration, have weakened worker protections and, in turn, destroyed the middle class.

That is why I was proud to just vote to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, the most significant upgrade for workers' collective bargaining rights in more than 80 years.

If we are to fully recover from this deadly pandemic and build back better, we must invest in and protect the rights of our workers to unionize. American workers and their families are depending on us.

ENTREPRENEURS WILL BE HARMED BY PRO ACT

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I fear that H.R. 842 is going to have serious long-term consequences for entrepreneurialism here in America.

Mr. Speaker, I started a company 30 years ago out of my college dorm room at Caltech, and I grew it the way that most small businesses are grown in America. I grew it organically. That means that when I had a little bit more business than I, myself, could do, I contracted that business out to other people who could do that business for me.

Mr. Speaker, under this bill, that practice will be illegal because it violates the so-called B pillar of the bill that prohibits any contracting that is related to the core business that a company engages.

Mr. Speaker, if H.R. 842 had been the law of the land, I would not have been able to start my company, and the hundreds of jobs that we have created would not have been created here. But they will be created elsewhere, in other countries, with more sane and less restrictive laws.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on H.R. 842.

GETTING BACK ON TRACK WITH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, almost to this very day, is the day when COVID–19 was officially declared a pandemic. One year ago, we didn't know that this pandemic would infect millions of Americans or kill thousands of Texans in my home State and hurt so many disadvantaged communities.

But after a year of darkness, we are finally seeing the light because the