CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to vote for the American Rescue Plan because I knew it was the transformational investment we needed to get the pandemic under control and our economy back on track.

Two months later, it is clear the investment has paid off. We have gotten more shots in arms, lifted families out of poverty, helped children get back to school, helped businesses stay open, and helped workers keep their jobs. And we are just getting started.

Much of the vital support for workers and families included in the American Rescue Plan is still underway. One of these measures is the expansion of the child tax credit, a historic investment in the future of our country.

It has become harder and harder to afford a college education, a home, and childcare.

□ 1045

As the cost of living continues to soar and wages continue to stagnate, the American Dream is slipping out of reach for many working families. We need to level the playing field so every child has the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

The child tax credit expansion means working-class families will get $300 per child under 6, and $250 per child for children aged 7–17. $300 a month helps put food on the table so kids do not go hungry. It helps pay for child care so parents can get back to work and build a better life for their families. And it helps cover healthcare expenses so children stay healthy.

This lifeline benefits a whopping 85 percent of the children in my district on the central coast of California. That means a stronger economic foundation for over 135,000 children in our community. For the 11,200 children in my community living in poverty, the child tax credit could make all the difference in their lives and their futures.

I come from a low-income family myself, a working-class family, so I know that $300 a month would have lifted a financial burden off my parents' shoulders, who already worked so hard to give me and my siblings a chance for a better life.

Advance monthly payments of the child tax credit will start to be sent out in July and last through December 2021. Families will get the remaining tax credit when they file their 2021 tax returns. Families can make sure they get an accurate payment quickly by filing their 2020 tax return as soon as possible.

Even individuals who lost their jobs during the pandemic or do not normally file taxes, should file this year to receive the credit. The IRS needs the information from the tax returns to calculate and issue the monthly child tax credit payments.

I will continue to fight for working families in Congress so they keep their hard-earned money in their pockets, and every child has the means to achieve the American Dream.

NYPD SERVES EVEN THROUGH TURMOIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to thank and show support for our police officers, particularly the New York Police Department, and also warn my colleagues of what happens when politicians think that they know how to do the job in the street better than our cops do because I have seen it happen in New York City. I have seen the quality of life deteriorate, I have seen crime skyrocket, and we must learn from what has happened here to not make this mistake and adopt those very policies on the Federal level.

This past weekend, we saw three innocent bystanders, one of whom was a 4-year-old child, shot in broad daylight in the middle of Times Square. Fortunately, NYPD Officer Alyssa Vogel was there. She sprinted into action to save these individuals' lives. That is what this mother was doing Mother's Day weekend, and we thank her for her heroic efforts.

Sadly, we also lost a police officer, Anastasios Tsakos, who was in Queens directing traffic in the middle of the night after there was a car accident, and he was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver who was under the influence and operating an unlicensed vehicle.

Sadly, this is what our police officers do each and every day, put their lives at risk, sometimes giving up their life to protect the rest of us.

All through the pandemic, we praised them as heroes for working the front line. COVID was the leading cause of death for our police officers in 2020. We lost eight NYPD officers, sadly. Also, as we approach the 20th anniversary of 9/11, let's not forget the sacrifices of our police officers, not only on that day, but in the days since. We continue to lose people to 9/11-related illnesses. In the NYPD's case, they lost seven since January 2020.

Mr. Speaker, in New York City, we have seen policies that have hurt our law enforcement officers. How did we get here? Well, decriminalizing quality-of-life crimes, which was something I warned in 2017 that would lead to crimes skyrocketing. The broken windows theory is real.

Then you add the State legislature's attempts to reform bail, the rush to close Rikers Island, emptying the jails, putting dangerous criminals with lengthy rap sheets back onto our streets.

The Governor's Parole Board has released over 16 cop killers and other murderers and rapists, once again putting people who are dangerous back on our streets; eliminated the NYPD plainclothes unit, tying the hands of our police; and then lastly, cutting $1 billion, one-sixth of the NYPD budget.

As I mentioned, the 4-year-old girl who was shot this weekend, she was just one of 43 individuals shot in the last week, 169 percent increase over the same period last year. There were nine murders last week in New York City, up 350 percent over the same period last year.

But the trend is not just starting now. It is not just the result of defunding the police. It is the other policies, as I have mentioned. Homicides in 2020 soared 45 percent, shootings doubled, with 1,868 people shot in 2020, up from 923 in 2019. This is a result of an abdication of responsibility from my colleagues on the city and State level.

Now they want to take away the qualified immunity from our police officers, something that many of you voted to do here for our Federal law enforcement officers, despite when they already give up their immunity if they are not operating within the NYPD guidelines, or if they violate someone's constitutional rights.

There is no question that the demoralization of law enforcement over the past year has contributed to a sharp rise in departures from the NYPD, which are up 75 percent compared to 2019, with the lowest number of NYPD officers in uniform in over a decade, when we have all this rising crime taking place across our city. It is absolutely disgraceful, Mr. Speaker, and it must end now.

City and State have a responsibility to keep the public safe. Quite frankly, if they are not going to do it, if my mayor and my Governor continue to tie the hands of our police officers and not allow them to do their job, then we need the Federal Government to step in. Send DOJ, ATF, FBI, DEA, and the U.S. Marshals, because we have a responsibility to the citizens of our city and Nation to keep them safe.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE DEDICATED HEROES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Police Week, it is important that we remember the innumerable sacrifices that are made every day by the men and women of law enforcement.

In communities across America, they serve as the gatekeepers of law and order. Even as the far left calls for defunding the police, these dedicated heroes will not hesitate when called upon to serve.

I believe that their hard work should be recognized every day because, without them, law and order would cease to exist and criminality would reign.