under assault in the last administration.

He has created nonprofit NGO advocacy infrastructure to support his various missions. From 1986 to 2020 he founded and led Waterlines, which provided technical help and funding for over 1,000 water projects in rural communities in 15 developing countries around the world.

In 2005 David founded the D.C.-based Water Advocates, the first advocacy organization devoted to increasing American support for affordable and sustainable drinking water and sanitation.

He has two other time-limited advocacy organizations to further elevate national and global attention to WASH.

Most recently, David is fighting to focus attention on safe water and sanitation for hospitals, which impacts some 2 billion of the planet's poorest citizens. Try to imagine treating patients in a clinic where there is no safe clean water to wash your hands. You can't.

David has a gift for creating organizations for a specific time, to concentrate efforts and get the job done and move on. Some become captive of organizations. Not David. He is currently wrapping up efforts with the promise of spending more time in the great outdoors and with his family.

However David spends his time, wherever he goes, whatever he does next, we are deeply indebted to him for his leadership and vision. The world is better for his service and for his example.

STOP ATTACKS ON RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge President Biden and his administration to back off on the attacks on rural America and rural Iowa.

The administration has proposed changes to the stepped-up basis tax policy, which is, effectively, the death tax with a new coat of paint.

I have heard from farmers all across the Fourth District who are concerned about these changes, and they would be financially devastating, especially when it comes to passing on that family farm to the next generation.

This was confirmed in a recent study by Texas A&M and the Agriculture and Food Policy Center. It noted that the stepped-up basis changes would impact 98 percent of family farms and impose an additional $1 million tax on farms in the Midwest.

It is simple. The hardworking men and women of the Fourth District and those who feed the world should not have to foot the bill for the Democrats' reckless spending agenda.

The Biden administration isn't just looking at penalizing rural Americans with higher taxes. They are also looking at implementing burdensome regulations that will crush rural Main Streets and our agricultural community in the Midwest.

Administrator Regan of the EPA recently announced that the EPA would look into undoing the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which replaced waters of the U.S. as a smarter, more efficient, and more straightforward approach to defining what waters warrant Federal regulation.

A return to WOTUS, which allowed the Federal Government to regulate water on 97 percent of the land in Iowa, would force unnecessary and costly government regulations on the backs of Iowa farmers. There are many places the Federal Government bureaucrats just don't belong, and specifically, they don't belong on our family farms.

When the executive branch's power exploded under the Obama administration, we saw ridiculous rules implemented and enforced, leading to rising costs in the ag industry and snuffing out economic growth on our rural Main Streets and in our rural communities.

This attempted power grab ultimately proved why water regulation is best left to States and localities.

Put simply, the Biden administration's Big Government agenda for rural America includes higher taxes and more regulation, but this administration isn't stopping at this one-two gut punch. President Biden is also looking to undermine the RFS and lowering biofuel blending requirements. This will hurt both crop growers and biofuel producers, two industries that are so critical to our economic activity in rural Iowa.

At the same time, the administration is laughing as they propose spending $174 billion on electric vehicles and charging stations. A study by Biden's own Department of Energy found that four out of every five vehicles will still require liquid fuels by 2050. Think about that. Four out of every five cars in 2050 will still need liquid fuels.

Why is President Biden taking aim at this critical industry? It seems the Democrats are shrugging their shoulders, comfortable with turning their backs on the rural Midwest, farmers, our rural Main Streets. I say enough is enough.

Rural Iowans are already suffering from high gas taxes and grocery prices due to this incredible inflation, which is a direct result of Democrats' massive and reckless spending. Gas prices are over 50 percent higher than they were a year ago. Our food and energy prices continue to rise because of inflation.

In May 2021, the Consumer Price Index increased at a rate that has not been seen since the 2008 recession. On top of the Biden inflation tax, our farmers can't afford additional taxes, more regulations, and other policies that will hinder the most important industries and will stifle growth in the rural Midwest, creating a disaster for rural Main Streets, our producers, and our family farmers.

Iowa is the breadbasket to the world. That is why President Biden must back off rural America. Please back off agriculture.

CONGRESS MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, as we reach the middle of 2021, this House has made incredible progress, including fighting the global pandemic by passing the American Rescue Plan.

Already, more than 300 million vaccine shots have been administered. Communities are opening up, and business is picking up, creating jobs and opportunity.

Next month, parents will begin receiving their monthly child tax credit, legislation that will cut the Nation's child poverty rate in half.

We have a pathway to recovery and transformation that offers real promise to every American. But underneath all of this, our country faces a deep divide that threatens to undo the foundations upon which our country rests.

These divisions reached an apex on January 6, when our Capitol came under attack and five people died.

□ 1215

The immediate threat to the Capitol may have receded, but the threat across the country still simmers.

It is therefore imperative that we fully understand the events leading up to and including the siege on the Capitol on January 6.

As someone who was here in the gallery during the attack, someone who watched in horror as they rushed the Speaker off the floor, who took cover as the Capitol Police barricaded the door against the mob, who fully understands the cost to our Nation and the implications of simply moving on, I am personally, deeply invested in preventing such an attack on our Capitol from ever happening again.

The divide in our Nation threatens the prospects of our recovery and the potential for America to lead on the global stage.

Congress must now work in unison, Democrats and Republicans, to institute the policies we need to prevent future acts of domestic extremism. For years, I have worked to pass legislation like the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act that would invest in the types of programs built to spot and intervene in this type of extremism.

When my friend Republican Congressman JOHN KATKO negotiated a bipartisan committee to investigate January 6, he did it because he knew the stakes we faced as a Nation.

The work of the Select Committee will be essential to history's understanding of what took place on January 6 and protecting the future of our Republic.

My hope is that the members of this committee will be committed to the

sober and relentless pursuit of the truth so that such a crisis never happens again.

NO END IN SIGHT

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

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS was named border czar on March 24, 2021. It was 93 days later when she finally went down to visit a border community amidst this unprecedented humanity crisis. There is just one problem: she didn't actually visit the border.

Last Friday, Vice President HARRIS hopped off her plane in El Paso for a few hours on her way to California. She quickly toured a border patrol station 10 miles away from the actual border avoiding a visit to ground zero.

And what do I mean by ''ground zero''? I mean the actual border where thousands of migrants are flooding across daily, like the Rio Grande Valley sector where over 50,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended in May alone, which is 128 percent, more than the entire El Paso sector.

Or in the Del Rio sector where every afternoon buses on the Mexican side of the border pull up and they unload hundreds of migrants who cross the Rio Grande River in knee-high water.

I saw it myself firsthand when I visited the Del Rio sector in June. While I was there getting a tour of the actual border, a couple of men crossed the Rio Grande over to the American side, and when they got to the bank of the river, DPS agents and I questioned them.

We asked them where they were from, why they were here, and why they thought they could get into America. They told us they were from Cuba and they had come here to work. Then they told us something that shouldn't surprise anyone: They thought they could get into America because President Biden said they could come.

Within minutes, agents of Border Patrol pulled up in a van, loaded with other migrants who had crossed down river, and away they went. Situations like this are happening in the thousands every day along our border. And Border Patrol is the one being forced to pick these migrants up, process them, straining their manpower and resources, resulting in our border being completely open for criminal illegal aliens who want to cross undetected.

Americans have been hearing about this Biden border crisis for months, and they see nothing changing. They see the cartels are getting rich trafficking these migrants across our border. And they hear the horror stories of children being abandoned and abused during their journey to our southern border. All of this has a real world impact on Americans.

As a former county sheriff in Texas, I know all too well the second and third order effects of an unsecure southern border. Americans will undoubtedly become victims of crime from the illegal aliens successfully avoiding detection when they cross. Like Ms. Bowie who was run over and killed while I was sheriff by an illegal alien who had been deported six times prior.

Our open border will strain local law enforcement and border State resources who are tasked with cleaning up the mess. A mess created by the Biden administration's failure to stem the flow of illegal aliens pouring across the border.

But it really doesn't need to be this way. The Biden border crisis all started when Biden reversed the Trump administration's remain in Mexico policy and stopped construction of the wall. We can get back to operational control of our southern border if the Biden administration just reverts back to the Trump administration's policies. Until then, there simply is no end in sight.

TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak on the recent ruling by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to allow taxpayer dollars to be spent to provide sex reassignment surgeries. I have been a board certified urologist for 30 years, so I am quite knowledgeable about patients who suffer from gender dysphoria. Those who experience this mental and physical ambiguity may seek care that involves years of psychological and psychiatric evaluation counseling, years of hormonal manipulation, and then multiple cosmetic surgeries. The cost of these interventions may easily run into the hundreds and thousands of dollars.

Recent numbers cited by the National Center for Transgender Equality stated there were an estimated 134,000 transgender veterans in our Nation. However, using the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders data from 2019, that calculated number appears to be far less. Regardless, the new Secretary has mandated that sex reassignment surgery be covered by the VA.

Again, I am very empathetic to the challenges that these patients face, but as a surgeon and a Member of Congress, I must question the surgical priorities here. The VA is already understaffed and overburdened, and now requiring a competing array of treatments may lead to a delay in diagnosis for serious life-threatening disorders. It is an issue of resources and priorities.

There is actually a much heated debate on whether this sex reassignment surgery is truly appropriate or beneficial. In fact, in 2016 the Obama administration came to the conclusion that it was not. In 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services revisited the question of whether sex reassignment surgery would be covered by Medicare plans. Despite receiving a request that its coverage be mandated, it refused. It refused to cover it on the grounds that we lack evidence that it truly benefits patients.

It is well documented that up to 40 percent of the transgender population will attempt suicide at some point. There is no clear evidence that this tragic statistic changes anything after having sex reassignment surgery. In fact, as recent as August of 2020 in the American Journal of Psychiatry, it states that comparing those with gender dysphoria who had sex change surgery with those who did not, that the results demonstrated no advantage of surgery in relation to subsequent mood or anxiety disorder-related healthcare visits or prescriptions or hospitalizations following suicide attempts in that comparison. I could go on with the medical statistics, but suffice it to say, there is no clear consensus regarding surgical intervention in this population.

Madam Speaker, I represent the sixth largest number of veterans in any congressional district in the country. These surgeries that are required require complex surgical intervention by highly trained surgical specialists that the VA does not have, nor has any prospect of employing in the future.

The Nation is already suffering a severe shortage of surgeons. The American College of Surgeons cites severe shortages of general surgeons, urologists, and plastic surgeons. Those that we have are needed to take care of cancer, bowel obstructions, and limb reconstructions following battlefield injuries, real life and death issues. They are not going to jump ship to be paid less in a bureaucratic Government-run healthcare system.

We already know the VA is shortstaffed. They need mental health treatment individuals for PTSD and traumatic brain injury from injuries sustained by veterans in battle. We already have 17 veterans dying a day from service-connected psychiatric issues. They do not need to compete for resources with those who are suffering from issues that have nothing to do with being a member of the military.

We do not have enough psychiatrists or psychologists to deal with the trauma that our veterans have faced in their fight to keep this Nation free. Is it right to divert resources away from those who require years of therapy for nonservice-connected issues? The answer, I submit, is no.

Further, gender dysphoria requires years of hormonal transitioning, needless to say requiring medications for anxiety and depression. This increase of pharmaceutical needs will further strain the VA pharmacy system that is already overtaxed.

But now the Secretary in an effort to appease the far left wants to stress the