several months later, it is still clear that no help has been on the way.

In August, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced that they have made over 200,000 apprehensions of drugs, up 317 percent from just a year ago.

Biden's failure to lead and take control of this situation has created a devolving humanitarian crisis, a national security crisis, and a public health crisis at our southern border.

Biden has also failed to lead on our world stage. Our tragic and disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan is the sole responsibility of President Biden and his colossal failure to lead as Commander in Chief.

The administration still owes the American people answers. Why were billions of dollars of military equipment left behind for the Taliban? Why did we cave to the Taliban's timeline? Why did we fail to evacuate every single American before leaving?

Just this week we learned Biden lied to the American people regarding the advice he received from his top military generals. The commander of the U.S. Central Command testified under oath that he recommended keeping a small force of 2,500 troops in Afghanistan, yet Biden previously told the American people that no one recommended keeping this limited troop presence.

Biden has been silent as the far left wing of his party has attacked Israel and their right to defend themselves. Abandoning our allies, abandoning and lying to the American people, this seems to be the Biden leadership doctrine.

Under the President's leadership, we are no longer energy independent. On his first day of office, Biden killed the XL pipeline, eliminating 11,000 great jobs. He put Paris over Paullina, Iowa, and other communities in my district by rejoining the climate accords, which will cause electricity to skyrocket.

Yet this same woke progressive administration that pretends to care so much about the climate is about to give a huge win to the oil industry. They are undermining clean-burning biofuels by attacking the renewable fuel standard, leaving crop growers and my biofuels producers behind in the dust.

It seems the Biden leadership doctrine in a nutshell has been to ruin this economy and is undermining our independence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded again to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1045

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Chair, from the very first day I was sworn into Congress in January of 2019, I have been on a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable healthcare for people in my northern Illinois district and Americans across the country.

It is actually a mission that started long before I came to Congress. In fact, it started when I was in elementary school. That is when I was first diagnosed with a heart condition that I have lived with ever since. Because of that preexisting condition, I spent most of my life at risk of losing healthcare coverage.

That all changed when the House passed the Affordable Care Act and it was signed into law in 2010, protecting people like me with preexisting conditions and eventually extending coverage to more than 20 million Americans, many for the first time in their adult lives.

These historic gains have always hung in the balance, subject to more than 50 attempts from Republicans to repeal the law over the past decade.

But the ACA didn't just survive; it is now stronger than ever before, thanks to the 2-year version of my Health Care Affordability Act that was included in the American Rescue Plan.

Thanks to the advanced premium tax credit expansion that I championed, marketplace enrollees are seeing savings of more than $40 per person per month, a 40 percent reduction in their monthly spending on healthcare. That means more money for groceries, school supplies, and essentials that families depend on.

Medium plan deductibles for new enrollees have dropped by nearly 90 percent, from $450 to $50.

Half of eligible uninsured Hispanic adults and 45 percent of eligible uninsured Black adults are now able to find a zero-premium plan.

In just 6 months since the American Rescue Plan was signed into law by President Biden, we have cut our Nation's uninsured rate, provided substantial savings for individuals and families, and taken the most significant step toward health equity since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law.

But if we fail to act now and make the American Rescue Plan's advanced premium tax credit plan permanent, all of this progress will be wiped out in just 2 years. Americans will lose the coverage they are now protected by or once again face premiums that render coverage unaffordable and lead them to forgo insurance altogether. The gains that we have made in closing coverage gaps in communities of color will be reversed. The millions of people who might now have health insurance for the first time in their adult lives will once again lay awake at night wondering if they are one illness away from bankruptcy.

We cannot afford to backtrack on the historic progress we have made for the American people. This is our moment to stand on the right side of history and finish the job to reach universal coverage that was started by the Obama-Biden administration more than a decade ago.

We must make the advanced premium tax credit from the American Rescue Plan permanent and close the Medicaid coverage gap in the Build Back Better Act.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make high-quality healthcare affordable and accessible to all. The American people are counting on us to get this done, and we must deliver.

DAYS OF BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS FEW AND FAR BETWEEN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great disappointment as we await a vote on a secretive budget reconciliation package.

I am incredibly proud to serve as the Republican leader of the House Agriculture Committee, and it is an honor to work on behalf of the farmers, ranchers, and foresters who feed, clothe, and power our Nation. I am equally proud of the bipartisan work the House Committee on Agriculture has done on behalf of rural America.

Sadly, though, since the start of the 117th Congress, it seems the days of bipartisan, commonsense solutions are now few and far between. The most recent reconciliation process for the Agriculture Committee is especially concerning, if not utterly bizarre.

On Friday, September 10, my Republican colleagues and I participated in a 9.5-hour markup only for the committee Democrats to recess until the following Monday to gain the votes they needed to ram through an incomplete and unvetted budget reconciliation package to the tune of $66 billion.

Noticeably missing from the package was a whopping $28 billion—$6 billion more than the committee's instruction—in additional spending, left out due to the Democrats' ongoing problems with the Congressional Budget Office and the Byrd rule in the Senate.

During the markup, both Republican and Democrat members asked repeatedly when the committee would know more about the missing funds and whether the committee would be able to engage, review, and mark up the provisions. The committee's majority indicated the $28 billion would be added at a later stage.

This was a stunning admission and a departure from regular order for the House Agriculture Committee. This amount of money would traditionally demand dozens of public hearings, testimony from stakeholders, and rounds of technical assistance from USDA, all conducted by the committee of jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, that was not the case for this bill, a package that rivals