



**TO:** Republican Study Committee members  
**FROM:** Chairman Jim Banks  
**DATE:** March 1, 2022  
**RE:** State of the Union

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## **Republican Study Committee Messaging Memo: Domestic Crisis to Global Catastrophe**

In January, [I sent out a memo](#) explaining how Biden's first-year policies caused a series of domestic crises and how the RSC can solve them.

Biden didn't listen. He kept making America weaker, and in turn, emboldened our adversaries.

*Now, Joe Biden's domestic crises have caused a global catastrophe.*

Americans know Biden is responsible: According to a [new ABC poll](#), just 33% approve of his actions in Ukraine and just 37% approve of his presidency.

*The crisis in Ukraine should be communicated in the context of Biden's past year of failures, especially inflation, his war on domestic energy and the Afghanistan debacle.*

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In November 2020, Biden voters thought they were supporting a moderate whose decades of experience qualified him to defeat COVID and help our economy recover. Back then, many Americans could overlook Biden's absence on the campaign trail—but no longer.

*Americans were hoodwinked, and they know it.*

[54% of Americans](#) think Biden is mentally unfit for the presidency. 40% trust Biden in a crisis and just 36% think Biden is a "strong leader."

*Putin is now threatening nuclear war. Americans want trustworthy leadership, not finger-pointing.*

On Tuesday, Republican Study Committee Members should build off what Americans already know: Joe Biden and the left are incapable of responding to these crises, but the **RSC is here to help.**

Biden can't keep turning to the far left. He must reach across the aisle to hold Putin accountable, meet Europe's energy needs, protect Americans' pocketbooks, and fix the numerous crises we still face at home so that America can lead again.

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Biden's speech will focus on Ukraine, but he will also touch on inflation, COVID and crime. Below, find talking points and messaging documents from RSC to help you explain how Biden's policies caused the crises America faces today:

## **UKRAINE/RUSSIA**

Putin's invasion could've been prevented through preemptive sanctions, according to the [Biden White House](#) itself. Yet Biden's sanctions were imposed after the fact, and on almost every day of this crisis we have seen the President lag behind the Europeans who are now taking an even tougher stance than the United States.

Joe Biden's SWIFT sanctions and sanctions on just a few Russian banks include unacceptable carveouts for Russia's energy industry, which is [over 1/3<sup>rd</sup>](#) of its economy. It also does not include secondary sanctions, giving China a green light to bail out Russia's financial sector.

- See [HERE](#), for an RSC memo from last week about the steps Biden can take to hold Putin accountable.
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's *Putin Accountability Act*, which lists tough sanctions Biden should impose on Putin.
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's April '21 memo *Biden and Putin: Return of the Reset?*

## **ENERGY:**

Biden's crackdown on American energy meant the [US imported a record amount](#) of Russian oil for much of 2021, leading to [record profits](#) for Russia's oil and gas industry and giving Putin an economic foothold to invade Ukraine.

The US continues to fund Putin's war of aggression by purchasing hundreds of thousands of barrels of Russian oil each month.

Europe [imported](#) a third of its oil from Russia in 2021, because it embraced "green energy" initiatives. Psaki's claim that the US can decouple from Russia's gas industry by going green is a fantasy.

Biden must end his war on American energy and make American energy independent again, by:

- Ending his ban on domestic drilling on federal land.
  - Reinstating the Keystone XL permit.
  - Reversing EPA's [ethanol tax increase](#).
  - Reversing EPA's WOTUS rule.
  - Withdrawing from the anti-competitive Paris Climate Agreement
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's Midlands Over Moscow Act, which directs the Biden administration to produce a strategy to counter Russia and strengthen U.S. energy security.
  - See [HERE](#) for an RSC memo about Biden's Green New Deal reconciliation proposals.

## **AFGHANISTAN:**

Biden's Afghanistan debacle embarrassed America and emboldened Putin and our adversaries.

Biden's weak response to Putin's invasion is consistent with this administration's weak posture towards [Iran](#) and China and failure in Afghanistan.

- See [HERE](#) for RSC's comprehensive January 20th *Foreign Policy Report Card*.
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's memo *Biden on China—Bad Policies, Bad Personnel*

## **INFLATION:**

Inflation has been an issue for close to a year—inflation is the result of Biden and House Democrats out-of-control spending—Biden cannot blame this on Putin.

Inflation is costing the average US household \$5,000 per year, according to the [CBO](#)—the Biden administration must make inflation its top issue.

The federal government [has spent \\$58,000](#) on its COVID response per American household—the inflation crisis isn't a mystery. Stop the insane spending!

- See [HERE](#) for RSC's bill requiring the CBO to score legislation's effect on inflation.
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's May 2021 memo tying inflation to Biden's agenda.
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's memo tying the supply chain crisis to Biden's agenda.

## **COVID:**

Biden's unconstitutional vaccine mandate, mask mandates, and harmful COVID restrictions didn't even work—more Americans died of COVID in Biden's first year than under the Trump presidency.

Biden promised a “100-day” masking campaign on the first day of his presidency. He is nearly a year behind schedule.

The Biden administration's COVID policies were [created](#) by teachers' unions. You can't trust this administration to follow the science. Biden's loosening of restrictions is another political play meant to distract from his failed presidency.

It's too late—Biden and the Democrats' anti-science COVID policies have already needlessly [damaged](#) a generation of American children.

## **CRIME**

Democrats are directly responsible for the historic rise in crime, and they know it. Their own pollsters are [begging them to walk back](#) their pledge to “defund the police,” but Democrats in Congress are [still doubling down](#).

Democrats' vile campaign against law enforcement coupled with their efforts to install rouge, lawless prosecutors have led to spikes in violent crime and organized shoplifting across the nation.

- In 2021, murders were up 44% from 2019, marking a near record high.
- In our nation's capital, murders were up 16% with car jackings also spiking at an 18% increase from 2020 to 2021 and a staggering 153% increase from 2019 to 2020.
- The National Retail Federation reported 69% of retailers saw a spike in organized retail crime in 2021.

### **Border:**

Biden's lax border policies have caused fentanyl trafficking to double, and fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18-45.

Immigration is consistently among the issues that the Biden administration [polls](#) the lowest on.

Biden undid President Trump's immigration agenda on day one, leading to an unprecedented influx of over 2 million illegal immigrants in 2021.

- See [HERE](#) for RSC's memo *Biden's Immigration Legislation*
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's memo *Bien's Dangerous Immigration Agenda*
- See [HERE](#) for RSC's memo *Biden's Border Criss*

**CONCLUSION:** Biden didn't decide to speak about Ukraine, inflation, crime or COVID because he thinks voters approve of his handling of those issues.

Biden has no choice—Americans are demanding it.

Remember, voters know that Biden has failed. RSC Members must remind them that Republicans are offering common-sense solutions.