

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to remind my colleagues who Dreamers are. Dreamers and DACA recipients came to this country as young children by no fault of their own. They follow the law and pay taxes. They are nurses, teachers, police officers, and police chiefs.

There are Dreamers like Dr. Oliver Lopez, a professor of mathematics at Chapman University in my district. What America needs are more STEM degrees. What America needs are more STEM instructors. We need more people like Dr. Oliver Lopez.

Dreamers are also people like Officer Mitchell Soto-Rodriguez, a police officer in Blue Island, Illinois. She dreamed of being a police officer all her life. She achieved her dream because of DACA.

Officer Soto-Rodriguez and Dr. Lopez are essential pillars of our community. They are Dreamers, and they deserve an opportunity to earn the American Dream.

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STOP FEDERAL OVERREACH

(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, in one of the many eleventh-hour actions by the Biden administration, the EPA handed California unprecedented power to enforce extreme vehicle regulations, giving them the green light to ban new gas-powered cars by 2035 and impose crushing new emissions standards on heavy-duty trucks, and also using the ever-increasing price of fuel to price people out of being able to drive or into these vehicles they don't want to be in.

This wasn't about cooperative federalism. It was about one State backed by Washington, D.C. bureaucrats forcing its agenda on the rest of the country.

The EPA's waivers let California dictate the future of the auto and trucking industries, driving up costs for regular consumers, squeezing small businesses, and putting even more strain on an already struggling supply chain, at the same time that they are now trying to put in a high-speed rail system whose costs quadrupled what they told the taxpayers just 15 years ago.

Instead of letting Congress weigh in, the Biden EPA let California call the shots for everyone across the country, bypassing the legislative process we hear so much complaining about here, and pushing policies that could force everyday Americans to pay more and get less for their hard-earned money.

That is not how this country is supposed to work. We are about having choice, choice of automobiles, choice of trucks, and what have you.

This Federal overreach needs to be stopped.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSEPH BERNAL

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Joseph Bernal, a veteran, educator, and pillar of San Antonio and Texas politics who passed away on January 25.

Born on San Antonio's westside during the Great Depression, Dr. Bernal graduated from Lanier High School before enlisting in the U.S. Army where he supported postwar reconstruction efforts in Japan.

Upon his return to San Antonio, he earned a bachelor's degree through the GI Bill, which was soon followed by a master's degree and a Ph.D.

As a young teacher, he witnessed the grave inequities facing Hispanic students, an experience that would lead him to elected office in the Texas Legislature and the State Board of Education, where he fought to repeal laws that banned speaking Spanish in public schools, championed the State's first bilingual education law, and led efforts to create the University of Texas at San Antonio and the UT Health Science Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the life and service of a trailblazer who will be long remembered in my hometown and across the State of Texas.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have already spoken on the very significant hearing we had in the subcommittee regarding what is normally called welfare on Tuesday. There is another point I would like to make.

In that hearing, it came out that, while it varies from couple to couple, there are about 90 programs which largely make up the welfare safety net, which if somebody were to get married, a single parent would get married to someone with an income, they would lose the benefits of those programs.

We heard testimony from Robert Rector that you could easily come up with hypotheticals in which someone would lose \$28,000 if getting married.

In the 1950s in this country, the rate of children born without a mother and father at home was only 4 percent. We are now at 42 percent. This didn't happen by mistake. It is something that the radical feminists and the Marxists have always wanted: the destruction of the American family, particularly not having a man in the American family.

As we work our way through the budget process and reconciliation process, I hope we all remember that it is not anticipated that America would be a country without families and get rid of these perverse incentives.

DREAMERS

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an urgent issue facing our Nation, and that is a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. These were children who were brought to our country oftentimes as infants. Mr. Speaker, you have already heard about them.

It has been almost 13 years since President Obama announced DACA. Since then the program has provided needed relief for Dreamers, including work authorization and temporary relief from deportation.

However, more than a decade later, Dreamers still do not have permanent protections. As the program continues to be challenged in the courts, Dreamers are left stuck in limbo.

For so many Dreamers, again, this is the only country they have ever known. They came as children and infants. They grew up here. They studied here. They worked hard here.

As you heard, Mr. Speaker, they are nurses, teachers, businessowners, and they are beloved members of our communities. This is their home.

Congress must finally come together to make a real difference for our Dreamers and our families, our businesses, and our communities. We have to get this done. It is the right thing to do.

I also believe in the family.

Why are we not allowing these families to stay, Mr. Speaker?

It is the right thing to do. We are good-hearted people as Americans. Let's get this done.

THE DESTRUCTION OF USAID

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, so we now know what a \$280 million investment in a Presidential campaign will give you: the opportunity to totally destroy one of America's most important soft power, and that is the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. Musk and Mr. President, before you set about destroying USAID and the work that it does to provide necessary support for people, refugees and starving children around the world, I want you to hold in your hand a starving child. Look at their extended belly, look at their eyes, and understand what you are doing to hundreds, indeed millions, of people around the world when you take USAID and put it in the wood chipper.

Reverse it.

Have you any sense of humanity?

Do you have any compassion?

If you do, you will reverse the policy of destroying USAID.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

STRENGTHEN CONGRESS' OVERSIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced an amendment during the House Natural Resources Committee markup to strengthen Congress' oversight of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, specifically addressing net metering policies and the PREPA bankruptcy.

Though the amendment didn't pass, it received bipartisan support from Representatives TOM MCCLINTOCK, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, DARREN SOTO, and others. It is critical that Congress ensures transparency and accountability in Puerto Rico's financial and energy decisions.

The FOMB's stance on net metering harms our people, and the PREPA bankruptcy remains unresolved. After 7 or 8 years of questionable Federal oversight, it is time to hold the overseers accountable.

I will continue to fight for fairness and transparency for Puerto Rico, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

FEDERAL WORKERS SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise because many people want to paint Federal workers and contractors as unskilled bureaucrats who waste taxpayer dollars. However, the reality is the opposite. I know this because Virginia is home to hundreds of thousands of our country's Federal workers and contractors, and I have heard from many of them.

These Federal workers actually save taxpayers money, and they keep all Americans safe and healthy, despite all the regulations imposed on them by Congress. That is the bureaucracy. In almost all cases, they bring critical skills or expertise that are hard to replace.

One GSA employee says firings in her department, which is focused on threats to America's crops, could cost us hundreds of millions of dollars down the road.

One contractor who supports anti-terrorism efforts overseas was fired despite his track record of success countering extremism.

These firings even threaten border security. A contractor who vets refugees has to lay off 100 security experts because of the cuts.

No one will want to serve our government if Federal workers and contractors are treated this way. The attacks on Federal civil servants will cost taxpayers money and make all Americans less safe and less healthy.

RIISING UTILITY BILLS

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

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, working families are getting screwed. Last year, I met a young family in Sullivan County who was struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, do you cut back on the groceries to pay the rent? Do you maybe pick up a couple of extra shifts at work? However, then you have to pay for more childcare.

They are the tough conversations families are having at kitchen tables across Upstate New York.

Then, as if that is not enough, they get a letter in the mail from the utility company saying they are going to jack up rates again. These corporations are raking in billions of dollars, bragging to their investors about it, and now they want to take even more money from families struggling to get by.

Hell no.

Today I am fighting back. I am introducing a bipartisan bill to create good union jobs making homes more efficient. My bill will save families up to \$400 per year on their utility bills.

Mr. Speaker, \$400 is a lot of money for daycare, groceries, and rent because that young family in Sullivan County needs that money a hell of a lot more than the utility monopolies do.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TIM TOOTEN

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

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, a great journalist, a humanitarian, and a man of faith, Rev. Dr. Tim Tooten.

Tim was an admired journalist having spent more than 35 years reporting at Baltimore's WBAL-TV. He was a distinguished pastor at Harvest Christian Ministries and an accomplished writer.

Tim was also an award-winning filmmaker, a documentary person who believed in reporting and sharing facts, as well as a cherished teacher to so many.

He confronted life with the courage of his convictions and confronted death with the conviction of his faith.

Our condolences across the Baltimore area go out to his wife, Charlene; his loving children; and his grandchildren during this time.

We will miss you, my friend, but we will never ever forget you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANK) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 13, 2025.

I hereby designate the period from Thursday, February 13, 2025, through Sunday, February 23, 2025, as a "district work period" under clause 13 of Rule 1.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DISMANTLING OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am a stand-in. This is actually MARCY KAPTUR's Special Order hour. She is tied up in a hearing, so I will try to do my best to lay it out.

She was going to speak for 7 minutes on the issues of the Trump administration's dismantling of the Federal Government and the hiring of, or I guess the acquiescence of, Elon Musk as the principle agent of destruction.

What has happened over the last 17 days is an extraordinary display of contempt for the American Government. If you think about this, Mr. Speaker, in its totality, right off the start, all funding stopped.

What does that mean to the programs that Americans depends upon?

Healthcare, education, research, infrastructure programs, for what purpose was that done?

Perhaps it was in order to set up the next step which is the dismantling of extraordinary important programs for me and for my wife. More than almost 58 years ago, we participated in a USAID program which at that time was just 4 years old set up by Kennedy.

It was a vaccination program, an effort of the United Nations, funded by the American Government through USAID, to eradicate smallpox. We spent 1 month in rural Ethiopia doing vaccinations.

As our life worked on, we continued working to provide the necessary services so that people could survive, the Food for Peace program. Patti actually ran that when she was at the USDA as an assistant administrator.

The famine camps, we were there. We saw the children who were dying of starvation. We saw the American grain arrive. I remember clearly one evening at the famine camp in Ethiopia in the mid-eighties, a woman literally in rags, was picking up individual grains of wheat that had spilled from the bags trying to fill a cup so that there would be enough food that she could take back to her children.