

We will continue to stand on the side of the American people to solve problems for hardworking American taxpayers to make life more affordable and to ensure that in America, Mr. Speaker, when you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to provide a comfortable living for yourself and for your family. You should be able to educate your children, purchase a home, one day retire with grace and dignity, go on vacation every now and then, and, of course, have access to high-quality affordable healthcare, not to take healthcare away from the American people.

#### CONGRATULATING MO BETTER JAGUARS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2024 Pop Warner Football National Champions for 9 and under, and to welcome them to the House Chamber. The Mo Better Jaguars straight out of Brownsville, "Never Ran, Never Will."

Throughout the season, the Mo Better Jaguars team displayed incredible skill, resilience, courage, intellect, and determination on the field and off.

In a year when our local NFL teams went a combined 8-26—it is rough to be a Jets and Giants fan at this moment—the Jaguars did their thing and put together a remarkable 12-0 undefeated season, not giving up a single touchdown before the Super Bowl.

During their championship run, people from all walks of life, including the owner of the iconic Junior's Restaurant came together to support the Jaguars to make sure they could travel to Florida, participate in the Pop Warner Super Bowl, and bring the trophy home to Brooklyn.

What a show they put on. Running back Ron Rollock made the play of the game with an incredible one-handed catch on fourth down to seal the victory for the Jaguars.

It was an incredible team effort.

I thank the dedicated coaches, loving parents and families, and the entire Brooklyn community for supporting these amazing young men.

I welcome the Jaguars to the House Chamber and congratulate the Mo Better Jaguars on their Super Bowl victory.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

#### HAMAS DOES NOT DESIRE TO COEXIST

(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 the budget resolution document there is no

mention of Medicaid or any cuts to it or Social Security or Medicare, any of them. That is a lie that continues to be told on this floor and in the media. People shouldn't buy into it and then swamp their Member of Congress as a result of these lies and have these aggressive townhalls.

Constituents are being lied to when they say this stuff. We are going to contemplate this budget resolution in the budget reconciliation process, and that will be in front of the people so they can see.

I did want to talk about the situation in Israel a little bit and Hamas and the way they have so brutally murdered and abused people there.

It has been 500 days. It is time that we recognize Hamas for what they are because they are not wearing any "Co-exist" stickers on themselves or the bumpers of their cars. They do not want to get along with Israel.

The goal in much of that world is to destroy Israel. This is what we are dealing with. We need to remember that as negotiations go forward and as we get the hostages back.

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#### MEDICAID

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Republicans' latest budget proposal, which could deny American families of the healthcare they need to survive.

In my district alone, more than 149,000 people on Medicaid are now at risk of losing their healthcare. This includes more than 84,000 kids and over 21,000 seniors. Medicaid is a lifeline for the most vulnerable Floridians.

In Palm Beach County, Medicaid has allowed Reverend Latifah Griffin to care for her 10-year-old son who suffers from pain and has severe difficulty walking. Her son has cerebral palsy and depends on a wheelchair and pediatric extended care.

In Alachua County, Medicaid has meant that Virginia, an adult with a disability, has a home health aide to care for her every single day so that she won't just survive, but so that she can thrive at home, in her environment.

These are the people who will suffer the most if these proposals move forward. I will do whatever it takes to push back and to make sure that every vulnerable American has the services that they need.

#### REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY AND GOP BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing right now is nothing short of a great betrayal. Donald Trump, president Elon Musk, and every single Republican in this Chamber who voted to advance the Republican budget resolution last night have been looking their constituents in the face and lying.

They want to make cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP. These are programs that millions of Americans rely on to survive.

They want to tear apart the safety net that millions of seniors, veterans, disabled folks, working people, and over 38 million children rely on.

They are willing to leave you and your families to suffer. After they voted for the bill, they clapped about it.

Why? It is because, in a few months, they want to pass massive tax cuts for billionaires and mega-corporations, and they want your children and your grandparents to pay for it. This isn't just about politics. It is an attack on everybody who has to clock in and out every day for work.

Yesterday, House Republicans wanted to forcibly remove me from a committee for calling out this administration's grift, but they don't have a single damned thing to say when it comes to protecting healthcare for children and seniors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their comments to the Chair.

#### RECOGNIZING HEART HEALTH MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Heart Health Month.

Heart Health Month is a time to raise awareness about the importance of cardiovascular health and the steps that we can take to protect our hearts. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States, affecting millions of Americans each year.

The good news is that many heart conditions are preventable through small everyday choices. Taking care of our hearts doesn't require drastic changes. It is about simple, constant, consistent habits: staying active, eating a balanced diet, managing stress, and keeping up with regular checkups.

Beyond personal choices, Heart Health Month is also a reminder to check in on our loved ones. Encourage family and friends to prioritize their heart health by scheduling a doctor's visit or finding ways to stay active together.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize this month as a chance to educate, motivate, and take actions because a healthy heart means a healthier, longer life for all of us.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "WASTE EMISSIONS CHARGE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS: PROCEDURES FOR FACILITATING COMPLIANCE, INCLUDING NETTING AND EXEMPTIONS"

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 161, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 161, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 35

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions" (89 Fed. Reg. 91094 (November 18, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 35.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 35, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions," sponsored by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

H.J. Res. 35 will repeal the disastrous rule by the Biden administration that punishes our small and midsize energy producers here in the United States. The so-called waste emissions charge starts at \$900 per metric ton for last year's reported methane emissions. It increases to \$1,200 per metric ton for 2025 emissions, and it increases one more time to \$1,500 per metric ton of emissions for 2026 and the years thereafter.

There are about 9,000 small and midsize independent petroleum drillers in the United States. These mostly small operations are responsible for developing 91 percent of oil and gas wells, producing 83 percent of America's oil and 90 percent of our country's natural gas. We should be thanking them, not punishing them.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not act, American jobs and energy production will be lost. This is really, for all intents and purposes, a punitive tax on natural gas. These folks are not our enemy. They help make the fuel that we use to heat our homes, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, I and other Republicans are not opposed to the regulation of methane. I see it as an asset that should not be wasted when it is practicably able to be captured, but there are cases where it is not practicable. However, we are opposed to bureaucratic overreach that, intended or not, will force some of these small producers out of business, making the energy supply in the United States less.

We should instead be making rules that work with industry to facilitate the progress that our country's energy producers have already made in reducing emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 35, a resolution that will drive up energy prices in the United States. It is a radical measure that will gut one of the Inflation Reduction Act's most critical programs: the Methane Emissions Reduction Program.

With this resolution, Republicans are doubling down on their commitment to lining the pockets of their special interest corporate polluter friends at Americans' expense.

Of course, we shouldn't be surprised that the House Republicans continue to prioritize billionaires and big corporations over everyday Americans. Just last night, Republicans moved forward with a budget that includes devastating, life-altering cuts to Medicaid and food assistance for our kids, our seniors, and our veterans, all so Republicans can give tax breaks to their billionaire buddies.

Mr. Speaker, H.J. Res. 35 is just another giveaway that saddles Americans with higher energy bills, plain and simple, all to help Republicans' corporate polluter friends. What is more, repeal-

ing the Environmental Protection Agency's methane polluter fee slashes revenue for the government, meaning this bill will cost American taxpayers a whopping \$7.2 billion.

This is really shameful and a massive waste of money and resources because the reality is that, without the methane polluter fee, it is cheaper for the oil and gas industry to waste valuable methane rather than install or upgrade equipment to control that pollution.

Currently, oil and gas companies waste enough natural gas from leaks, venting, and flaring to meet the energy demand of 14 million households every year. In other words, the oil and gas industry is throwing \$2 billion worth of American energy down the drain every year, which Americans then have to pay for.

That wasted methane has grave consequences for our environment and for public health. Methane is an extremely dangerous greenhouse gas that accounts for nearly a third of today's global warming and is a key contributor to smog.

That is why key pollution control programs, such as the Methane Emissions Reduction Program, are so pivotal. The program includes a suite of incentives to drive down excess methane pollution, including \$1.5 billion to help industry reduce methane emissions.

Mr. Speaker, at the heart of this program is the methane polluter fee, which is targeted by the resolution before us today. This fee is meant to correct the market failure that makes it cheaper for operators to waste methane rather than capture and sell it. It ensures that polluters pay for their own wasted energy and the harm that it causes, not American consumers.

It is not a tax. It is not at all. Unlike a tax, the methane polluter fee only applies to wasted methane above specific thresholds. These achievable thresholds are based on the oil and gas industry's own climate commitments and methane reduction targets. I have to stress that we worked with the industry when we were putting this together as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

EPA then applies a fee for wasted methane that exceeds these thresholds, and the best part is that companies could avoid the fee altogether by simply not wasting methane. Members should understand that they don't even pay the fee if they don't waste the methane, and we actually have a fund to help them upgrade their equipment so that they do not waste the methane and actually improve the situation.

Many industry leaders are already meeting these thresholds that H.J. Res. 35 is trying to get rid of. Essentially, what my colleagues are seeing here is that the good actors are actually doing the right thing. They are not wasting methane anymore. Some of them have gotten help in order to upgrade their equipment, and then they don't pay any fee.