

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT MARK KIPPHUT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Kipphut of McLendon-Chisholm, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Mark has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

After graduating from The Citadel with a political science degree in May 1979, Mark commissioned into the United States Air Force. He served as a Command Intelligence Officer during the Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism for many years. In his last assignment, Mark became the Director of Intelligence for the Pacific Air Forces at Hickam Air Force Base. He later received a master's degree in management from Embry-Riddle University.

When he retired from the military as a Colonel, Mark served as the Director of Strategy for Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Arizona. In 2010, he and his family moved to Texas, where he became the Program Director of Tactical Intelligence Systems for Raytheon. In this role, Mark oversaw hundreds of millions of dollars in annual sales and government contracting. He currently works as a Senior Advisor for BCE Consulting, in which he focuses on enhancing our operational capabilities to defend against cyber and unmanned threats. In addition to protecting our national security, Mark is passionate about giving back to his community and supporting our veterans. He is the Commander of the Rockwall Terry Fisher American Legion Post, where he created college scholarships for the children of veterans. Moreover, Mark organizes annual trips for students to attend the Youth Leadership Conferences. I am proud of Mark's contributions to our community, and I am sure he will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Mark with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

OPPOSITION LETTER BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER ON THE COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5107) AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5214)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives debated the Com-

mon-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act of 2025 (H.R. 5107) and the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025 (H.R. 5214). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing these bills by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER,
Montgomery, AL, November 18, 2025.

VOTE NO ON H.R. 5107 AND H.R. 5214

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization committed to advancing racial justice, public safety, and democratic accountability, we write to urge you to vote NO on two deeply harmful bills—H.R. 5107 and H.R. 5214—that together constitute a direct assault on the District of Columbia's right to self-govern and on decades of evidence-based progress in public safety. Far from addressing genuine community needs, these proposals would drag the District backward into punitive "tough on crime" strategies that have already devastated Black and Brown communities nationwide while failing to make anyone safer.

Further criminalization and incarceration are not the answer to complex societal challenges rooted in poverty, inequality, and disinvestment. True public safety comes not from harsh punishment, but from transforming the criminal legal system, investing in community-based supports, and reimagining safety in ways that are fair, effective, and rooted in public health. The District's recent reforms—including the accountability measures strengthened under the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022, which H.R. 5107 seeks to overturn, and its long-standing risk-based pretrial system, which H.R. 5214 would upend—reflect precisely this kind of thoughtful, data-driven policymaking. These reforms enjoy broad public support, align with national best practices, and have contributed to meaningful gains: D.C.'s crime rate is now the lowest it has been in 30 years, and violent crime fell 35 percent from 2023 to 2024.

These achievements were not accidental. They are the result of decades of community organizing, research-informed policy, and consistent engagement with impacted residents. They reflect a growing national consensus that smart, preventative investments are more effective than reactionary criminalization—and they save taxpayer dollars by shifting scarce resources away from mass incarceration and toward education, housing, mental health, and violence prevention.

H.R. 5107 and H.R. 5214 would undo this progress. By stripping away essential police accountability measures and re-imposing wealth-based pretrial detention, these bills would re-entrench systems that have already been proven ineffective, discriminatory, and fiscally irresponsible. They would override the will of D.C. residents, destabilize communities, and reinstate practices that make the District less safe.

The residents of Washington, D.C., like those of any other jurisdiction, deserve the right to elect leaders who determine their own laws, public safety policies, and budget. Yet these bills, introduced under the guise of improving safety, are part of a broader political effort to impose ideologically driven federal control on Black-led cities and to roll back successful reforms through fear-based

narratives about "law and order." This is not about safety; it is about weaponizing federal power to score political points and undermine civil rights protections. An administration that truly cared about public safety would not have rescinded hundreds of millions of dollars in federal grants for gun violence prevention, victim services, and community-based safety programs.

We urge Congress to reject these attacks on D.C.'s autonomy. Allowing such federal overreach would set a dangerous precedent for undermining local governance nationwide, particularly in jurisdictions with progressive or Black leadership. This fight is not just about the District of Columbia, it is about protecting democracy, equity, and self-determination in communities across the country.

Vote NO on H.R. 5214—"District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025"

This bill seeks to do two things: create a list of offenses for which a person must be detained for the entire pretrial period based solely on what they were charged with, without regard for the particular circumstances and without providing due process; and create a list of offenses for which a person must pay money in order to be released from pretrial detention, even if they do not pose a risk to public safety or a risk of flight. This bill would create a wealth-based, two-tiered system of justice that benefits the multibillion-dollar for-profit bail industry, all without improving public safety.

Money bail creates a two-tiered system of justice without protecting public safety

Money bail has created a two-tiered justice system—one that privileges wealth over safety. It allows people with money to purchase their freedom regardless of the risk they pose to others, while those without financial means remain jailed even when they present no threat. This system doesn't ask whether someone is dangerous; it only asks whether they can pay. The result is a system where wealth, not justice, determines who waits for trial at home and who waits behind bars.

By setting a price on freedom, cash bail effectively divides our justice system into two: one for the wealthy and one for everyone else. Those who can afford bail walk free; those who cannot are punished for their poverty without even having been convicted of anything. Beyond being fundamentally unfair, this practice undermines public safety. Pretrial detention destabilizes lives—causing people to lose their jobs, homes, or even custody of their children. Research shows that the likelihood of a future arrest jumps from 24 percent after one day in jail to 45 percent after three days, proof that unnecessary detention fuels instability and recidivism. When someone cannot afford bail, they can sit in jail for days, months, or even years without a conviction. That is not justice—it is punishment for being poor.

Jurisdictions that have reformed their bail practices have been successful

Every person deserves to live in a community that is safe, fair, and just. Bail reform advances that goal by ensuring that decisions about pretrial detention are based on public safety—not on a person's wealth. Across the country, study after study has proven that jurisdictions that have reformed or eliminated cash bail have made their systems fairer without increasing crime. Judges

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in **this typeface** indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

who focus on safety rather than money make decisions that better protect both individuals and their communities.

The results speak for themselves. After Illinois eliminated cash bail, violent crime dropped by 7 percent and property crime by 14 percent. New Jersey's reforms led to a 20 percent reduction in violent crime while maintaining high court appearance rates. In Harris County, Texas, ending cash bail for most misdemeanors did not increase crime. A nationwide study by the Brennan Center for Justice found the same pattern across nearly two dozen jurisdictions: bail reform does not lead to higher crime. The data is consistent and compelling—bail reform enhances justice and preserves safety, despite fearmongering from its opponents.

D.C.'s risk-based bail system has served as a national model since 1992

For more than three decades, Washington, D.C. has shown that a justice system without cash bail can work, and work well. Since 1992, judges in D.C. have made pretrial decisions based on a person's risk to public safety rather than their ability to pay. The outcomes are impressive: in the last four years, 88 percent of people released pretrial in D.C. remained completely arrest-free, and 98 percent remained free from arrest for violent offenses. These numbers demonstrate that when freedom is tied to fairness, not finances, communities are safer and more stable.

Under D.C.'s system, judges assess risk through evidence-based hearings. Detention is used only when no safe alternative exists, ensuring that pretrial incarceration is a rare and deliberate outcome—not the default. D.C. also invests in supportive pretrial services such as court date reminders, transportation assistance, and access to mental health care. These measures help people appear in court and stay on track, strengthening both accountability and public safety. Transparent hearings and timely decisions make the process fair, fast, and equitable—showing that justice does not have to come at the expense of compassion.

Mandatory cash bail only benefits the multibillion-dollar for-profit bail industry

Mandatory cash bail doesn't protect communities—it protects profits. The effort to roll back bail reform is a handout to the for-profit bail industry, which thrives on the desperation of working families. Bail bonds function like predatory payday loans: families must pay a nonrefundable fee to a bail bondsman, money they never get back—even if charges are dropped. This \$2 billion-a-year industry depends entirely on maintaining cash bail, because without it, its exploitative business model collapses.

The bail industry has built a powerful political machine to protect its profits. The American Bail Coalition, its chief lobbying group, spends millions to oppose reform efforts across the country. It has partnered with well-funded conservative organizations to push legislation that criminalizes charitable bail funds—programs that help families avoid these predatory practices. In short, mandatory cash bail enriches a few at the expense of justice, safety, and the public good. Congress should not allow corporate greed to dictate who sits in jail and who walks free.

Mandatory pretrial detention based on charge alone violates the Constitution

The proposed bill's provision requiring automatic pretrial detention based solely on the charge is not only unjust—it is almost certainly unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court made this clear in *United States v. Salerno*, holding that pretrial detention must be a "carefully limited exception," not the rule. Detaining someone without an individualized hearing strips them of due process and violates one of our most fundamental constitutional rights: the presumption of innocence. Liberty cannot be taken away solely based on accusation, without more.

We are not aware of a single jurisdiction in the country that allows detention based solely on the nature of the charge, and for good reason—it would not withstand constitutional scrutiny. This bill would set a dangerous precedent, eroding basic civil liberties and undermining decades of legal precedent that protect fairness in our criminal justice system.

VOTE NO ON H.R. 5107—"THE COMMON SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN D.C. NOW ACT"

Congress should reject H.R. 5107 because it would override critical public-safety reforms adopted unanimously by the District of Columbia Council in the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022—reforms designed to hold officers accountable, improve transparency, and strengthen community trust. These are not abstract ideals; they were enacted in response to concrete, well-documented failures within the Metropolitan Police Department.

The D.C. reforms were necessary to hold officers accountable for serious misconduct

Before the Act, D.C. had no effective mechanism to remove officers who engaged in egregious criminal behavior. A 2021 audit revealed that at least 64 officers were found by internal investigators to have committed criminal misconduct. The department attempted to fire 24 of those officers—but 21 were shielded by procedural barriers, often driven by union intervention. Even more troubling, the department made no attempt to fire more than 40 officers involved in criminal conduct such as drunk driving, harassment, property damage, theft, and stalking. Every officer credibly accused of domestic violence remained on the force, including one officer who admitted to punching his wife so hard in the face that he fractured her eye socket, and another officer who used a car to run over the mother of his child. Some officers remain on the force due to the powerful police union's refusal to allow officers to be held accountable. This was true for a D.C. officer who, ultimately, remained on the force after having been convicted of sexually assaulting a woman in his patrol car.

The Act responded to these failures by streamlining the process for removing officers who commit serious misconduct and by prohibiting agencies from hiring officers with known records of abuse. It also established a police-misconduct database to prevent the well-documented problem of "wandering officers"—individuals fired or forced out for misconduct who quietly move to new departments. States like Florida and Texas have documented hundreds to thousands of such cases annually. There are almost 1,100 wandering officers in any given year in Florida; in Texas, about a quarter of law enforcement officers fired for misconduct were subsequently hired by another law enforcement agency. Weakening the Act would mean turning a blind eye to the recycling of abusive officers. Databases to keep track of officer misconduct help law enforcement agencies avoid unknowingly hiring an officer with documented behavioral problems.

The Act includes essential safeguards to address excessive use of force

D.C. law enforcement reports roughly 2,300 use-of-force incidents every year—a number that demands oversight, especially since a small group of officers account for a disproportionate share of these incidents.

Eighty-six officers reported five or more uses of force, and 17 reported at least 10. Use of force overwhelmingly targets Black residents, who are the subjects in roughly 94% of documented incidents. Importantly, these numbers reflect only cases officers self-reported, meaning the true numbers are likely far higher.

To confront these issues, the Act created a Use of Force Review Board, required robust de-escalation training, and mandated public release of body-worn camera footage after shootings and other serious events. Jurisdictions that release such footage consistently see improved community trust and enhanced transparency. Body cameras provide an impartial record, encourage better policing practices, and allow communities to participate meaningfully in oversight. These policies do not endanger public safety—they strengthen it.

Transparency and accountability lead to safer communities

Contrary to fear-based narratives, reforms that require accountability do not undermine law enforcement; they help restore public confidence and encourage collaboration between police and the communities they serve. As the District's Attorney General has explained, "the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act is designed to improve public safety by strengthening cooperation between officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the community they serve. This legislation is essential in ensuring the swift and certain discipline of officers who use excessive force or violate constitutional rights, which will go far to improve trust and mutual respect between police officers and the community."

By overturning D.C.'s locally enacted reforms, H.R. 5107 would reinstate a system where officers who commit serious misconduct remain on the force, where excessive use of force goes unaddressed, and where transparency is weakened. Congress should respect D.C.'s democratic process, support evidence-based public-safety measures, and vote NO on H.R. 5107.

In this pivotal moment, Congress has a choice: to respect the District's democratic will and its proven, evidence-based approach to public safety, or to impose regressive federal mandates that endanger civil rights, destabilize communities, and undermine decades of progress. H.R. 5107 and H.R. 5214 are not solutions—they are setbacks that would weaken accountability, revive discriminatory practices, and replace effective reforms with policies long discredited by research and experience. We urge you to stand with the residents of Washington, D.C., to uphold the principles of local self-governance, and to vote NO on these bills. The nation is watching, and your leadership in defending justice, equity, and democracy is essential. For more information, please contact Aiden Cotter, Senior Policy Counsel for Decarceration and Decriminalization.

Best regards,

LASHAWN WARREN,

Chief Policy Officer.

SAKIRA COOK,

Federal Policy Director.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call

No. 289; YEA on Roll Call No. 290; YEA on Roll Call No. 291; YEA on Roll Call No. 292; NAY on Roll Call No. 293; YEA on Roll Call No. 294; YEA on Roll Call No. 295; YEA on Roll Call No. 296; and YEA on Roll Call No. 297.

HONORING LORNA KIPPHUT WITH
A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Lorna Kipphut of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor her with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut honorably served in the United States Air Force from 1978 to 1998, dedicating twenty years to the defense of our Nation with distinction, leadership, and trailblazing service.

Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut began her career as an intelligence officer, serving in pivotal assignments across Korea and Germany during the Cold War. She went on to serve as a desk officer for the National Intelligence Center, providing critical intelligence support during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and later oversaw intelligence operations for Operation Southern Watch. Throughout her career, she set a standard of excellence, becoming the first woman officer assigned to the USAF Red Flag Combat Readiness Program and the first female combat operations officer assigned to the Air Combat Command Inspector General Program.

For her exemplary service, Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut received numerous awards, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one device, the Meritorious Service Medal with three devices, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one device, the National Defense Service Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one device, among many others recognizing her exceptional performance and commitment to excellence.

Following her retirement from the Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut has continued her legacy of leadership and service in her community. Under her direction, the Terry Fisher Boys & Girls State Program grew by more than 600 percent, now over 25 students participate in this nationally recognized civic leadership program each year. She remains an active member of the Rockwall Terry Fisher American Legion Post No. 117, where she serves as Post Adjutant, and is also an engaged member of the Rockwall Republican Women's Club.

I am deeply honored to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Lorna Kipphut for her courage, pioneering leadership, and lifelong dedication to serving her country and community. She represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

HONORING NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH DAY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Rural Health Day and to bring attention to the crisis gripping rural communities in Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District. My district is majority Black, deeply rural, and medically underserved. Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress continue to push policies that weaken our health care system, close rural hospitals, and leave families with fewer providers, fewer services, and fewer places to turn in an emergency. Their so called "One Big Ugly Bill" drives 338 rural hospitals nationwide closer to shutting down, including eight in Mississippi and four of them are in my district. Five counties I represent have no hospital at all, and some families must travel more than 90 miles just to see a doctor. These failures have devastating consequences. Harmony Ball Stribling of Humphreys County, nine months pregnant, died on the way to the nearest hospital because the one that could have saved her closed years earlier. When a mass shooting devastated a rural Mississippi Delta town during the 2025 homecoming season, victims were rushed to a hospital that often operates with limited staff and what it needed. Rural America is being left behind. Access is shrinking, costs are rising, and entire counties are without essential care. My constituents are scared, frustrated, and tired of being treated like their lives do not matter. We must act now to protect the health, safety, and dignity of every rural family.

LETTER LED BY THE LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AND
HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE COM-
MON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN
DC ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5107) AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025
(H.R. 5214)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives debated the Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act of 2025 (H.R. 5107) and the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025 (H.R. 5214). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing these bills led by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,

Washington, DC, November 19, 2025.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 5107, the "Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in D.C. (CLEAN DC) Act of 2025, and to H.R. 5214 the D.C. Cash Bail Reform Act.

H.R. 5107 would largely overturn the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Policing

and Justice Reform Amendment Act (CPJRAA) of 2022, while H.R. 5214 would require mandatory pretrial detention and cash bail for an arbitrary overly broad list of offenses.

These bills are part of a long line of attacks on democracy in the District of Columbia. D.C. citizens pay federal taxes and comply with all the other duties of residence, yet they are deprived of not only any voting representation in Congress, but also of control over their own local governance. With these votes, Congress would yet again micro-manage the affairs of the District and relegate the more than 700,000 residents of D.C. to second-class citizenship—and without a single vote representing D.C.

D.C. autonomy and D.C. statehood are civil rights and racial justice issues. D.C. residents deserve the same right as residents from any U.S. state to decide the laws that are best for their communities. It remains painfully clear that the right to vote is meaningless if the will of D.C. residents can be overturned by a Congress that gives them no say in the matter. Congress must listen to Mayor Bowser and the D.C. Council and reject this attempt to roll back duly passed D.C. legislation.

Washingtonians are best situated to address police reform policies in their own community and deserve to determine these policies without congressional interference. The CPJRAA includes commonsense reforms to increase police accountability and government transparency, and it directly responds to the calls from District communities for additional law enforcement oversight. Many of the reforms in this bill echo provisions in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, as well as President Biden's executive orders on policing—including improving access to body-worn camera recordings, restricting access to military-grade weapons, and creating a public discipline database of information related to sustained allegations of police misconduct. D.C., like many other jurisdictions, initially passed these reforms in response to the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the need to enact systemic police reform. In the wake of the deployment of the National Guard and surge of federal law enforcement in D.C., there has been an increase in instances of police brutality and unwarranted searches. Congress must not block D.C. from heeding the calls of its residents by rescinding police oversight law.

Legislation like the CPJRAA is not anti-police, rather it helps restore public confidence in law enforcement both by deterring abuses of power and demonstrating that law enforcement is not above the law. Holding police officers accountable for violating the law does not lead to an increase in crime in fact, D.C. saw a 30-year low in violent crime in 2024, after the CPJRAA was enacted. Between 2010 and 2020, Washington, D.C. paid out more than \$91 million in police misconduct settlements. Yet, according to an audit, between 2015 and 2021, D.C. was forced to rehire 37 Metropolitan Police Department officers who were fired due to sustained misconduct allegations, with the city awarding them more than \$14.3 million in back pay. Police oversight is crucial to preventing and holding officers accountable for misconduct against the very people they have sworn to protect.

H.R. 5214 proposes drastic, harmful changes to D.C.'s pretrial laws, which ensure that pretrial release decisions are based on assessments of true risk, rather than wealth. It would impose mandatory pretrial jailing of people who are simply accused of certain offenses, a change that is flatly unconstitutional. Its requirement of cash bail for other offenses would have a devastating impact on

low-income people who are also simply accused. These changes would swing the door wide open to abuses, and they would disproportionately impact people of color.

These bills and other attacks on D.C.'s autonomy are emblematic of larger efforts to allow state and federal legislatures to exert control and authority over Black localities and roll back democratically authorized criminal-legal and police reforms. We call on you to fight this trend and vote NO on H.R. 5107 and H.R. 5214. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rob Randhava of The Leadership Conference or Nicole Zayas Manzano of The Bail Project.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, The Bail Project, Advancement Project, Black Voters Matter Fund, Center for Policing Equity (CPE), DC Vote, Human Rights Campaign, Interfaith Alliance, Juvenile Law Center.

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, National Council of Churches, National Education Association, National Organization for Women, NCNW, Pax Christi USA, Prison Policy Initiative, St. Joseph Justice Center—A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Vera Institute of Justice.

HONORING JOSEPH LYNCH WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer Three Joseph Patrick Lynch of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CW3 Lynch honorably served in the United States Army for twenty-three years.

During his distinguished career, Joseph served with honor in both combat and intelligence operations. From 1967 to 1969, he served in Vietnam, including in the Battle of Khe Sanh, before joining the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He later spent six years with the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion in Pirmasens, Germany, as Officer in Charge of the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) and Communications Platoon Leader. His expertise then led him to the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade in Munich, where he oversaw and adjudicated communications security violations across Europe. He concluded his career at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, with the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, serving as Brigade Signal Officer and Officer in Charge of the SCIF.

CW3 Lynch's exceptional service earned him numerous commendations, including the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, 17 awards of the Air Medal—including the Air Medal with Combat "V" for heroism—five Army Commendation Medals, including one with Combat "V" for heroism, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Since retiring from the Army, Joseph has been a founding member of the Rockwall Band of Brothers and the Rockwall Veterans' Court. He has been a longtime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Rockwall, and the Purple Hearts Society, while volunteering his time at Lakepoint Hospital to continue serving his community.

I am deeply honored to recognize Chief Warrant Officer Three, Joseph Patrick Lynch for his extraordinary courage, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to service. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of our great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM "BILL" KNAPP

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of William C. "Bill" Knapp, a proud veteran of the United States Navy, a devoted husband and father, and one of Iowa's most influential builders of opportunity and community.

At the age of seventeen, Bill enlisted in the United States Navy during the final year of World War II. He deployed to the Pacific theater as a landing craft pilot during the Battle of Okinawa, where he carried Marines ashore under fire and returned with the wounded and fallen. That experience, faced at such a young age, instilled in him a lasting sense of duty and courage.

After the war, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Irene, and began a life marked by hard work and vision. He moved to Des Moines in 1948, attended AIB College of Business, and soon founded Iowa Realty. Under his leadership, the company expanded into commercial development and hospitality, becoming the largest real estate firm in the state and helping shape modern Iowa.

Bill believed success came with a responsibility to serve others. He gave generously to strengthen Iowa's communities, supporting institutions such as Drake University and the Iowa State Fair, as well as numerous local efforts to expand opportunity and civic life. A proud veteran, he never forgot those who served, donating the land for the Iowa Veterans Cemetery and sponsoring a Central Iowa Honor Flight so that fellow veterans could visit the memorials built in their honor.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Knapp's legacy is one of service, generosity, and enduring love for Iowa. He is survived by his wife Susan, his daughter Ginny, stepdaughters Sara and Anna, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He leaves behind a state shaped by his vision, strengthened by his leadership, and made better by his unwavering commitment to others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of William C. "Bill" Knapp, a patriot, a community leader, and a faithful servant of the people of Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD L. CARLSON

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. AMODEI of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Donald L. Carlson, who passed away peacefully at his home in Carson City, Nevada. Mr. Carlson was a native of rural Davis County, Iowa, but I believe

he would have considered Nevada his true home. His son, Sev Carlson, shared that his father described Nevada as "the land of opportunity, not only for others who migrated to the Silver State, but particularly for himself."

He moved out west in 1974 to pursue a career in education, specifically a professor of sociology at Western Nevada Community College. During his tenure, he served on WNCC's Faculty Senate, was recognized as an Outstanding Faculty Member in 1991, and received the Nevada Board of Regents' Academic Advisor Award in 2003.

Mr. Carlson also owned Survey Research Systems, a political opinion research company, to study and analyze what motivates voters. While he agreed to represent clients all over the Nation, his particular interest was polling the needs of Nevadans and ensuring their policy goals for elected officials were heard.

I owe immense gratitude to Mr. Carlson, who played a pivotal role in both my personal and professional life. He was deliberate in choosing whom to support, and I am deeply thankful for his support of me over the years. While we did not always see eye to eye, I always valued his insight, honesty, and the lessons he shared. He was an exceptional teacher, not only in the classroom, but also to countless individuals he inspired and guided with principle in their pursuit of public service throughout our great state.

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Nevada, I want to recognize and honor the extraordinary life of my friend Don Carlson and the lasting impact he made on our community. He was a remarkable man, and while he will be deeply missed, his legacy will not be forgotten.

HONORING JOHN KISIC WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant John Kisic of Cooper, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Staff Sergeant Kisic honorably served in the United States Air Force from 1983 to 1986 and in the United States Air Force Reserve from 1986 to 1989.

During his time in the Air Force, Staff Sergeant Kisic served as a loadmaster and was actively involved in transportation coordination and operational logistics. His responsibilities included overseeing the safe loading and unloading of cargo and equipment, managing flight line support operations, and serving as both a vehicle operator and vehicle commander. He played a key role in repositioning aircraft on active flight lines and preparing aircraft for long-term storage, ensuring all operations were conducted safely, efficiently, and in support of mission readiness. He was stationed at Altus Air Force Base, and Carswell Air Force Base, and achieved the rank of Senior Airman in the active force and Staff Sergeant in the Air Force Reserve. For his service, he received the Air Force Training Ribbon and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

Since separating from the Air Force Reserve, Staff Sergeant Kisic has continued a

life of dedicated public service and community involvement. He has served as a volunteer firefighter with the Delta County Fire Department for over 21 years. His entry into the fire department was a natural extension of his work as an employee and manager with Texas Parks and Wildlife, where he maintained and managed Doctor's Creek State Park. Following his service with the park, John joined the Texas Department of Transportation, beginning in the maintenance division and steadily advancing into the engineering department, eventually managing traffic signals for the area and ensuring the safety and efficiency of local transportation infrastructure.

Within the veterans' community, Staff Sergeant Kisic currently serves as Vice Commander of American Legion Post No. 483, where he contributes to local veteran initiatives. He is also an active member of New Hope Church, serving on the leadership council, and a devoted family man, who supports his children and grandchildren with the same dedication he has shown to his country and community.

I am deeply honored to recognize Staff Sergeant John Kisic for his exceptional leadership, patriotism, and lifelong devotion to serving his country and community. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JAMES "JIM" NEIL CRAIN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the life of James "Jim" Neil Crain and recognize him for the excellent work and impact he had on the Grandview community. Introduced to public service at an early age as an Eagle Scout, Jim dedicated the rest of his life to serving the City of Grandview and caring for anyone he crossed paths with. Jim showed endless love for his community, and the impact he had will be remembered forever.

Born on October 3, 1945, in Kansas City, Missouri, Jim spent his early years studying in the Grandview school system before moving onto William Jewell College where he graduated with his bachelors in 1967. To further his studies, obtained a master's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In addition to his education endeavors, Jim served during the Vietnam War in the U.S. army as First Lieutenant and was later honorably discharged in 1971.

As an Operations Manager at Hallmark Cards, Jim had a 34-year successful career before retiring in 2004. Being a Grandview native, Jim decided to seek ways to get involved with his hometown and committed himself to improving and growing the City of Grandview. Leading with kindness, service, and compassion, Jim served as a Grandview Alderman for 40 years and remained active on the Parks and Recreation Commission during his tenure. Jim's dedication to the constituents of Grandview is evident through the various groups he was involved in, including serving as Board Director for the Grandview Assistance Program,

and as a founding member of the Grandview Youth Court where he acted as treasurer and board member.

Beyond his professional life, Jim led a life of faith, empathy and wisdom. Jim could often be found spending time with his family, watching a Kansas City Chiefs game or NASCAR race. He spent his life uplifting and empowering the residents of Grandview through his leadership and commitment to being a voice for the community. Though Jim has passed, his legacy and impact on his community will remain long past our mortal lifetimes. I am reminded of Mark 10:45—"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jim's life was one dedicated to serving others in need, improving the lives of countless people throughout. Jim's legacy will live on through his loving family, friends, and the current and future generations of Grandview. As we celebrate and fondly appreciate the decades of devoted service from Jim, let us be inspired by him to uplift our community.

OPPOSITION LETTER BY THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. ON THE COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5107) AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5214)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives debated the Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act of 2025 (H.R. 5107) and the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025 (H.R. 5214). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing these bills by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND,
November 18, 2025.

Re "Vote No" on H.R. 5107 and H.R. 5214.
Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
House Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) strongly opposes The Common Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability in D.C. Now Act (H.R. 5107), and The D.C. Cash Bail Reform Act (H.R. 5214). These bills will make the District of Columbia (D.C. or the District) less safe and just. Congresses must cease these repeated attempts—against the will of D.C. residents and locally elected leadership—to override D.C. laws that were enacted by and for the District. We urge all members to "Vote No" on these harmful bills.

COMMONSENSE POLICING REFORMS HAVE NOT HINDERED HISTORIC LOW CRIME RATES IN D.C.

H.R. 5107 would strike down, without sufficient justification, the majority of Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 (CPJRAA), which enacted police transparency and accountability measures informed by the recommendations

of the D.C. Police Reform Commission, a body of retired law enforcement, community leaders, experts, and directly impacted residents. While only two years of crime data is available since the implementation of the CPJRAA, that data shows drops in violent crime each year following the passage of the law in 2024 and again in 2025. Therefore, the CPJRAA's passage, at a minimum, had no negative impact on public safety in D.C. In fact, after the CPJRAA was enacted, D.C. saw a 30-year low in violent crime and thus the law is associated with MPD's successful crime reduction efforts.

The 2022 D.C. statute also includes measures D.C. residents deemed important such as mandatory public release of body worn camera footage within five days of officer-involved deaths or serious bodily injury, strengthened civilian oversight of police use of force, limitations on consent searches, requiring additional law enforcement training on racial bias and de-escalation tactics, the creation of public databases of sustained officer misconduct cases, and the prohibition of the possession or acquisition of military weapons by law enforcement agencies.

Historically criminal justice laws and policies have been determined by local jurisdiction based on their specific needs. Several other jurisdictions have enacted policies similar to those in the CPJRAA. States across the country have enacted policies like these because many believe that holding law enforcement accountable for abuse of power and racial bias can deter misconduct. Some jurisdictions have seen reduction of crime after holding law enforcement accountable for violating the law and their department policies.

Moreover, the power provided through the CPJRAA to remove disciplinary matters from collective bargaining was much-needed. Before the law's enactment, a 2022 report from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor found that the reinstatement of 36 fired Metropolitan Police Department D.C. (MPD) officers had cost the city \$14.3 million in back pay. Notably, 15 of the reinstated officers had been terminated for misconduct classified as a "threat to safety" which includes cases when an officer imposed risk or harm to people, through action or inaction, including physical or sexual violence and mishandling firearms. The CPJRAA, by excluding disciplinary matters from collective bargaining, offered an opportunity to improve MPD's accountability system which benefits the public and officers alike. The reinstatement of "bad cops" has also been shown to demoralize officers who observe their colleagues return to the force despite their failure to abide by policies or laws.

WITHOUT DUE PROCESS MANDATORY PRETRIAL DETENTION JEOPARDIZES LIBERTY

H.R. 5214 would reinstitute cash bail and create mandatory detention for a person charged with certain offenses before even going to trial. Requiring a person merely charged with an offense to be detained pretrial with no opportunity for a hearing to challenge the detention raises serious due process concerns, as there is no opportunity for the court to determine if this serious deprivation of liberty is justified. This legislation would significantly change the system D.C. has had in place since 1992, that has produced higher appearance rates than the national average without wealth-based pretrial detention. Between 1990 and 2009 the number of people charged with an offense who received cash bail jumped from 37 percent to 61 percent. Cash bail has, historically, disproportionately impacted low-income Black communities while disparities in the Black-white wealth gap persists amidst racially discriminatory policies that have not been

fully addressed. Overall Black and Brown defendants are 10-25 percent more likely than white defendants to be held pretrial, and that number skyrockets to 50 percent for young Black men compared with white defendants. Not only would Black men be placed in pretrial detention at a disproportionate rate, but in 2022, The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that Black men received bail amounts 35 percent higher than white men and 16 percent higher than Latino men. The presence of cash bail destabilizes people's lives, with pretrial detention increasing the probability of both being convicted and being imprisoned, and contributes to the cycle of limiting upward mobility for Black people in D.C. by potentially hindering employment while jailed.

Further, the rationale behind reinstituting cash bail is to protect public safety by ensuring that law enforcement is not forced to repeatedly arrest the same "dangerous individuals." However, in D.C., of the 88 percent of individuals who are released before trial, 89 percent remain arrest-free, with only 1 percent arrested for a violent crime. Nationwide, this trend is consistent, with no statistically significant link between bail reform and increases in crime. In fact, data shows that placing someone in pre-trial detention for any length of time actually increases the likelihood that they will be re-arrested and sentenced to prison in the future. As a result, H.R. 5214 will not live up to its purpose, and will instead, create further barriers for the low-income Black community in D.C.

We all want our communities to feel safe for all who reside and visit, and the District of Columbia is no different. The changes proposed by these bills have proven to be ineffective in deterring crime and will only further the loss of key community resources. Additionally, data shows that members of the D.C. community know best when addressing criminal justice policies within their community. They deserve the right to determine their own policies and laws. We strongly urge all members to vote "NO" on H.R. 5107, and H.R. 5214. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina Roth, Senior Policy Associate.

Sincerely,

KRISTINA M. ROTH,
Senior Policy Associate, NAACP Legal
Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.,
Washington, DC.

HONORING JERRY KING WITH A
CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Jerry King of Heath, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Master Sergeant King honorably served in the United States Air Force from 1971 to 1995, demonstrating exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment to our Nation.

Jerry was inspired to join the United States Air Force by a beloved friend, David Jackson, during a time when the draft was in full effect. Answering that call to serve, he went on to build a distinguished 24-year career. Throughout his service, Jerry excelled in every role he held—from Aircraft Mechanic to Weapon System and Senior Controller to Master Sergeant—earning the respect of his peers and

superiors alike. His service took him to Lackland Air Force Base, Chanute Air Force Base, Altus Air Force Base, Carswell Air Force Base, Grand Forks Air Force Base, Mildenhall Royal Air Force Base, and Sheppard Air Force Base. Jerry proudly served during the Vietnam War and later contributed to Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War.

For his exceptional performance and leadership, Jerry received numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters, and many others recognizing his professionalism and devotion to duty. In 1987, he was selected as First Sergeant of the Year for his superb leadership of the largest squadron on base, overseeing more than 560 personnel.

After retiring from the Air Force, Jerry continued his lifelong commitment to service. From volunteering at his grandson's school to founding a local veterans' breakfast group, Jerry has continued to give back to his community. He completed correctional officer training and helped open the James V. Allred Correctional Unit in Iowa Park, Texas, where he earned a promotion to Sergeant. He later served his community for seventeen years with the U.S. Postal Service. Today, he remains deeply involved in honor of his fellow veterans as the Hunt County Veterans Honor Guard Coordinator, organizing and participating in funerals and events that pay tribute to their service and sacrifice.

I am deeply honored to recognize Master Sergeant Jerry King for his extraordinary courage, patriotism, and lifelong devotion to serving others. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

OPPOSITION TO EXPLOSIVE
NUCLEAR TESTING

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my opposition to President Trump's announcement that the United States will resume explosive nuclear weapons testing. As a former political science professor, scholar of history of nuclear weaponry, and now a Member of Congress representing Southern Nevada, I have learned a thing or two about our nuclear legacy.

Nevada was the focal point of nuclear development during the Cold War. Over four decades, the Nevada Test Site, which is located just 100 miles north of Las Vegas, hosted over 900 nuclear tests—more than any other location in the United States. Throughout the 1950s, visible mushroom clouds often loomed in the distance as people enjoyed all that Las Vegas had to offer. These tests were conducted to better understand the power and effects of nuclear weapons, and the site played a major role in shaping national and international policies regarding nuclear testing and non-proliferation.

The radiation given off by the more than 100 atmospheric tests, however, had dev-

astating impacts on those downwind. The fallout caused cancer and premature deaths for thousands across the West. That's why I introduced the PRESUME Act which would ensure radiation-exposed veterans receive their rightful benefits from the VA. The 800 underground tests sometimes vented out radioactive contaminants entering the air and the groundwater supply, a problem that we are still dealing with today.

Earlier this year, the Nevada state legislature passed a resolution urging the federal government to maintain the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing that went into effect in 1992, citing risks of environmental damage and health hazards from previous tests at the Nevada National Security Site.

You may remember, in 2020 the first Trump Administration called for a resumption of nuclear testing in breach of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Back then, I led the charge in the FY21 NDAA process to ensure that explosive nuclear testing could not be resurrected in the United States.

But the more things change, the more they stay the same. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

On October 29, Trump announced that he is directing the Department of Defense to resume nuclear testing in a disastrous policy reversal, but not surprising as this is featured in Project 2025—the policy blueprint for the Trump Administration. On page 399, Project 2025 calls for the rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. This would not just allow nuclear testing here at home but will also give the green light to other nuclear powers around the world to do the same. The result would put us on a collision course of catastrophic proportions with Russia and China, allow the proliferation of these weapons to non-nuclear states that seek its development, and put the health of Nevadans once again in jeopardy.

By foolishly announcing his intention to resume nuclear explosive testing, Trump will trigger a dangerous nuclear arms race that would blow apart the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In fact, Vladimir Putin has already directed his forces to prepare a resumption of nuclear testing and, just this week, the Washington Post reported that China is rapidly expanding and modernizing infrastructure at its nuclear testing site in the Xinjiang Province.

There is no technical, national security, or political reason for the U.S. to resume nuclear explosive testing. If a nuclear power resumes testing because the U.S. is abandoning the testing moratorium, those countries will develop new types of warheads and close the scientific and technical advantage we have always enjoyed in warhead design. It would be a net detriment to U.S. national security. Furthermore, at the Nevada National Security Site, scientists do groundbreaking experiments and simulations on our existing stockpile to make sure our nuclear arsenal is safe, secure, and reliable. These sub-critical tests are done without an explosion of any kind.

With the President's announcement, we have abandoned our leadership position in arms control and non-proliferation. Note: For the first time ever, the U.S. was the only country to vote no on a recent UN resolution supporting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the global nuclear testing moratorium. Not even North Korea opposed it. What kind of signal does this send? Amidst all this nuclear saber-rattling, the New START treaty, which is

the last remaining arms control agreement between the United States and Russia, expires in exactly 77 days.

For these reasons, I introduced the RESTRAIN Act to prohibit the resumption of explosive nuclear testing and prevent any funds from going toward Trump's misguided policy.

Nevadans are overwhelmingly opposed to the resumption of explosive testing. In a 2024 study done by Searchlight Research, 73 percent of Nevadans said they are opposed to explosive nuclear testing on any kind.

President Trump may think that testing will make the country safer, but in reality, it puts the whole world in jeopardy and makes Nevadans sicker in the process. I urge all of my colleagues to join me and cosponsor my RESTRAIN Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. MARY THERESA "TERRY" VASQUEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life of Mrs. Mary Theresa "Terry" Vasquez who passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2025. A kind soul who selflessly dedicated her life to serving others, Terry's impact on the community is profound. Her legacy of service will surely inspire others in the future to care for those in need. A native of San Antonio, Terry was raised in a large family with eight siblings and her two parents, Reyes G. Schultz and Maria Del Refugio "Mary Ruth" Montez. She attended and graduated from Fox Technical High School, where she met her husband, Juan.

Terry committed her life to serving others. She had a remarkable nursing career of over 50 years. As a nurse, Terry cared for countless individuals, providing them with the care they needed, both in and out of the home.

When her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, she returned to San Antonio to care for her. This powerful experience inspired Terry to document her journey as her mother's caregiver in the book *Mi Mamá Tíene Alzheimer's*. Her book is a testament that reminds us of the shared experiences that define our lives.

Terry was a tireless advocate for healthcare. She was a member of the American Nurses Association, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, the national and San Antonio chapters of the Alzheimer's Association, the National Caregivers Association, the Virginia Nurses Association, and the Alexandria Long Term Care Coordinating Committee. She was also the Virginia State Representative for the National Family Caregivers Association. Additionally, she was a member of the civic organizations Las Comadres Para Las Americas and MANA, a National Latina Organization.

She is survived by her husband, the Honorable Juan Vasquez; her son Juan, Jr. and daughter-in-law Tania, and her son Jaime and daughter-in-law Veronica; and her eight grandchildren, Claire, Maryn, Juan, III, Lauren, Daniella, Viviana, Jonathan and Juan Pablo.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the life of Mrs. Mary Theresa "Terry" Vasquez. She was a bright light in the community who

made an impact on countless lives. She will be greatly missed.

HONORING JOHN "JACK" ERAMDJIAN WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Jack Eramdjian of Celina, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Staff Sergeant Eramdjian honorably served in the United States Army from 1964 to 1966 and in the United States Army Reserve from 1966 to 1970, demonstrating steadfast dedication and service to our Nation.

Staff Sergeant Eramdjian began his military career as a first-year drill sergeant at Fort Ord, California, where he trained new recruits and helped shape the next generation of soldiers with discipline, strength, and integrity. His service later took him to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served proudly with the 4th Infantry Division. Throughout his time in uniform, Jack excelled in multiple roles—as an infantryman, field generator specialist, and brigade commander's driver—demonstrating adaptability, professionalism, and dedication to mission success. His commitment to excellence and leadership earned him the Army Good Conduct Medal, recognizing his honorable service and steadfast devotion to duty.

Following his military career, Jack continued to live a life of service during his 27 years with the American Red Cross in California, where he deployed across the country to assist communities recovering from disasters. A tireless advocate for veterans, Jack dedicates his time to advising others on their benefits and claims, promoting participation in Honor Flight, and proudly serving as a member of the American Legion for the past 14 years. In addition, as a certified scuba dive master and master diver, Jack has shared his expertise by training sheriff's rescue teams in saltwater operations.

I am deeply honored to recognize Staff Sergeant Jack Eramdjian for his outstanding courage, patriotism, and lifelong devotion to serving others. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

STORIES FROM HOME: THE HUMAN COST OF EXPIRING HEALTHCARE TAX CREDITS

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for organizing this Special Order.

As we get ready for Thanksgiving, families across our Nation are coming together. It's a time to celebrate and express gratitude for family. It's a time of reflection too.

But as Americans gather, they are also worried about the family budget too. That Thanksgiving meal is going to be more expensive this year. For millions of families, individuals, small business owners covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), so is their health care. Which is why I am today with my colleagues. So we can lift up these voices as we work to help bring them relief and pass legislation to extend those ACA premium tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in the gap for my constituent Wesley and his family from Milwaukee. Like millions of Americans, Wesley and his family depend on the subsidies provided through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Wesley wrote to me explaining that the extension of ACA subsidies has allowed him to afford healthcare for his entire family. Without them, he would likely be forced to make the difficult decision to insure only his daughter.

He's one of over 300,000 Wisconsinites covered by the ACA.

Another is Jeffrey from Milwaukee:

I am self-employed and completely count on these credits in order to afford my own health insurance, without them I may be uninsured. The anxiety that I, and I'm sure others are feeling the same.

Or Robert from Milwaukee:

I was on Medicaid until I made just \$200 too much, at which time I was kicked off.

However, I was able to find a plan on the Marketplace that met my needs. After looking at all the options, I found out I could afford a silver plan because the monthly \$900 premium was reimbursed by the government. Without the stipend, I cannot pay this premium and I would have to look at the bottom bronze plans. Very little is covered. My premiums would be lower but my deductibles would be astronomically high.

I am an in-home senior caregiver working part-time so I can take care of my aging parents.

Or Dennis from Milwaukee:

For thousands of Americans like me, the ACA is not a political talking point, it is the wall between a bearable, if difficult, life and complete financial and medical ruin. I relied on the ACA's Marketplace for my health coverage, the only way I could secure a policy that didn't deny me for my age, that capped my out-of-pocket costs, and that allowed me to maintain my own health. Now, with funding cuts and legislative actions targeting the core of the ACA, that coverage is dissolving. The fear is a cold, suffocating blanket. My wife's cancer care is a complex, costly, and continuous reality. With the protections and financial assistance of the ACA gone, her medical bills—for chemotherapy, hospice, hospital stays, and medication—could easily become astronomical, costs that studies show quickly bankrupt families even with good insurance.

This blatant assault on Americans' healthcare must stop. President Trump and Republicans have had over a decade to develop an alternative healthcare plan—ever since they began proclaiming their intent to dismantle the ACA. Well, guess what, America: They still have absolutely nothing. President Trump famously said he has "concepts of a plan." Mr. President, and to my Republican colleagues, the American people cannot rely on a concept that exists only in your imagination.

House Democrats stood firm for more than 40 days to support a budget that addressed the rising cost of healthcare. Now we stand on the precipice of a crisis caused by President

Trump and Republicans who seem determined to make the livelihoods of the American people worse, not better. Again, they have no plan to help them.

Across the country, stripping healthcare access from millions of Americans and driving up costs for everyone else. This is especially prevalent in minority and rural communities. So I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Why do you want people to suffer?

The ACA tax credits ensure that families, seniors, young adults, and workers have access to quality healthcare. These tax credits provide critical financial relief for millions who rely on health insurance coverage.

Affordability remains a top concern for Americans, and it baffles me that Republicans would cause such unnecessary harm to low- and middle-income households.

I will continue fighting to protect your pocketbooks as we defend your right to affordable healthcare. We cannot claim to be the greatest country on earth when one side is willing to watch millions suffer or be kicked off plans they have relied on for years. Our Nation is already facing challenging times, and stripping away healthcare for political gimmicks only causes further harm. Therefore, we must continue working to extend the ACA tax credits to ensure Americans have access to affordable, reliable healthcare.

OPPOSITION LETTER LED BY FREE DC ON THE COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5107) AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5214)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives debated the Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act of 2025 (H.R. 5107) and the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025 (H.R. 5214). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing these bills led by Free DC.

FREE DC,

November 17, 2025.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: There are currently six bills queued up for floor votes in the House attacking the District of Columbia. These bills would severely erode DC's already limited control over its criminal justice system and leave individuals and organizations in DC at the mercy of this administration as they continue implementing an authoritarian agenda. These bills would roll back evidence-based criminal justice reforms passed by the duly elected DC Council, introduce new punitive measures that would harm DC residents, and grant the president even more direct control over DC government. We, the undersigned national organizations, urge you and all House members to be strong allies to DC and oppose all these bills.

We have seen what the Trump administration's interference in local law enforcement has done so far. Communities have been terrorized by federal agents' race-based targeting of residents and National Guard soldiers carrying weapons of war in DC streets.

Trump's appointee for U.S. Attorney for DC, Jeanine Pirro, has repeatedly had frivo-

lous charges rejected by grand and petit juries. Now Trump and his allies in Congress will attempt to remove DC's locally elected Attorney General and appoint a lackey in his place. This would give Trump power over not only DC's juvenile justice system, but also civil prosecution against perceived enemies. These bills would enable the Trump administration to attack any and all entities in DC, from individuals to advocacy organizations to labor unions and more. We therefore call on the House to reject all six bills:

OPPOSE H.R. 5214, the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act, introduced by Rep. STEFANIK, that would increase pre-trial detention and require cash bail for a range of alleged offenses. Calendar No 269.

OPPOSE H.R. 5179, the District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act, introduced by Rep. FALLON, that would remove DC's elected Attorney General and grant the President sole authority to nominate a replacement. Calendar No. 270.

OPPOSE H.R. 5107/S. 2687, the CLEAN DC Act, introduced by Rep. CLYDE and Sen. CRUZ, that would repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022. Calendar No. 271.

OPPOSE H.R. 5172, the Strong Sentences for Safer D.C. Streets Act, introduced by Rep. BIGGS, that would increase or establish mandatory minimum sentences for a number of offenses, and remove the exception for minors. Calendar No. 279.

OPPOSE H.R. 5242/S. 2815, to repeal D.C.'s Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016 and the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2022, introduced by Rep. KUSTOFF and Sen. CORNYN. An amendment was added to this bill in committee that would prohibit automated traffic enforcement in DC and undo the no-right-on-red traffic safety law. Calendar No. 293.

OPPOSE H.R. 5163, the Clean and Managed Public Spaces Act, that would prohibit camping on public property in DC and effectively criminalize homelessness, introduced by Rep. TIMMONS. Calendar No. 294.

These six bills are only the most imminent threats facing DC in the House. Many more bills and appropriations riders are in the pipeline. In solidarity with the people of the District of Columbia and our national democracy, we, the undersigned, call on you to side with DC and oppose every bill and rider that seeks to prohibit, restrict, or undo DC's laws, and co-sponsor and support all bills that seek to expand DC's local power.

DC needs more local power—not more attacks. The 700,000 people who live in DC deserve the same rights and dignity as the people in your home district. No democracy will be able to function in the United States if the capital city is under military control, cannot pass or enact its own basic laws, and is subject to anti-democratic interference against the will of the people.

Thank you for your attention and swift action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Free DC and, American Federation of Teachers, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Black Voters Matter Fund, DC Vote, Friends of the Earth U.S., Greenpeace USA, Indivisible, Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, More Than Our Crimes, Movement for Black Lives, Movement for Freedom.

National Association of Social Workers, National Education Association, National Women's Law Center, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, People For the American Way, People Power United, Public Citizen, Seed the Vote Action, SEIU, Stand Up America, The Workers Circle, Voices for Progress, 50501 Movement.

To learn more about Free DC, the renewed campaign for DC autonomy, visit freedcproject.org. For follow up questions or

additional information to inform your votes, contact Free DC's Congress Working Group Co-chairs, Michelle Chappell and Jacqueline Johnson.

HONORING EDDIE “ED” DRAIN WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel and Police Chief, Eddie “Ed” Drain of Plano, Texas, and to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Chief Drain honorably served in the United States Army and Army Active Reserve.

At the age of 22, Ed Drain was commissioned into the United States Army, where he served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer. Through exceptional dedication and courage, he earned the Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge and Parachutist Badge, completing advanced training at the Naval School for Explosive Ordnance Disposal and studying the Greek language. His service took him to Greece, South Korea, and later to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he commanded explosive ordnance units with III Corps.

After eleven years of active duty, he transitioned to the U.S. Army Active Reserve, continuing to serve until his retirement in 2007 as a Lieutenant Colonel. His commendations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, among many others.

Following his military career, Chief Drain turned his focus to public safety, joining the Plano Police Department in 1994. Rising through the ranks from patrol officer to assistant chief, he served on the SWAT team, commanded the Bomb Squad, and led all sworn operations of the department. He went on to serve as Police Chief for the Cities of Amarillo and Murphy before returning home as Chief of Police in Plano in 2020. Beyond his distinguished career in law enforcement, Chief Drain remains deeply committed to his community through his service on the Board of Trustees for Medical City Plano, the Board of Directors for Trusted World, the Office of the Texas Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors Task Force, and as a Commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

I am deeply honored to recognize Lieutenant Colonel and Police Chief, Eddie “Ed” Drain for his extraordinary courage, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to service. He represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT SOLA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Vincent Sola, as he is awarded

the title of Farmer of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Tulare.

Mr. Sola was born in Porterville, California and developed his love of farming at two years old from his father, John Sola. As a high school student, he rented his first twenty acres of land as part of a Future Farmers of America (FFA) project, and Dave Linder from Linder Equipment financed his first tractor and disc. He later served as FFA president during his senior year and earned his FFA State Farmer Degree. Mr. Sola graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1978 and from the College of the Sequoias with a degree in agriculture in 1981.

Mr. Sola is a fourth-generation farmer who has devoted his life to nurturing the land his family has tended since it was homesteaded in 1903. Mr. Sola has extensive experience growing products including cotton, corn, wheat, tomatoes, sugar beets, broccoli, cauliflower, and watermelons, all of which are important crops to Central Valley. He also uses these skills to help his neighbors, members of the community, and landowners in the area with their commercial farming.

Mr. Sola is committed to fostering the Central Valley's next generation of farmers. He spends his time teaching his son, Vin, about the family business, emphasizing the hard work and dedication needed to run a successful farm. It is because of farmers like Mr. Sola that the Central Valley thrives, and I want to thank him for his commitment to our agricultural community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mr. Vincent Sola, as he is awarded the Farmer of the Year Award by the Kiwanis Club of Tulare. His contributions to the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 12th Anniversary of Women's Entrepreneurship Day, celebrated globally on November 19.

In the United States alone, over 14 million of our Nation's 36.2 million small businesses are owned by women, employing around 10.7 million workers and contributing an astounding \$2.1 trillion in revenue. These women-led businesses are a cornerstone of our economy, and I extend my deepest commendation to the women behind them.

Today, I celebrate the Women's Entrepreneurship Day movement, founded by Wendy Diamond. Twelve years ago, Wendy launched the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization (WEDO) with an unyielding commitment to elevate and empower women in entrepreneurship at a time when their vital role in the global economy was still underappreciated.

Since its inception, WEDO has led transformation initiatives, including providing microloans to over 10,000 women in need and launching the WEDO Entrepreneurial Arts Education Program for disadvantaged female students. WEDO also launched a

groundbreaking AI education program with world-renowned experts, aimed at empowering 1 million disadvantaged women entrepreneurs with cutting-edge skills.

WEDO has also partnered with Defy Ventures to drive the Entrepreneurs in Training (EIT) program, achieving an outstanding 84 percent success rate among formerly incarcerated women by providing them with a path to opportunity and reintegration.

This year, WEDO welcomed iHeartMedia as a national partner iHeart's influential broadcast and digital network will promote Women's Entrepreneurship Day, highlight local women entrepreneurs across the country, and amplify this movement's impact in communities nationwide.

In recognition of this extraordinary milestone, the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization Pioneer Awards honor exceptional leaders who have pioneered new frontiers across various fields.

I include in the RECORD this year's honorees:

Angelina Jolie, Humanitarian, Artist, and Entrepreneur; Rachel Drori, Founder of Daily Harvest; Howard Morgan, Cofounder of Renaissance Technologies, Chairman of B Capital, and Cofounder of First Round Capital; Chloe Ting, Global Fitness and Wellness Entrepreneur; Gloria Allred, Civil Rights Attorney and Founding Partner of Allred, Maroko & Goldberg; Jesse Draper, Founder of Halogen Ventures; Sheila Lino Marcelo, Cofounder and CEO of Ohai.ai, and Founder of Proof of Learn and Care.com.

As we celebrate this profound milestone, let us be resolute in our commitment to providing the essential tools and programs that enable young women not only to survive but to truly flourish in the dynamic world of entrepreneurship.

OPPOSITION LETTER LED BY THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION ON THE COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5107) AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5214)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives debated the Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act of 2025 (H.R. 5107) and the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025 (H.R. 5214). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing these bills led by the American Civil Liberties Union.

November 18, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADER JEFFRIES: On behalf of the ACLU, ACLU DC, National Urban League, and The Bail Project we write to express our opposition to the D.C. Cash Bail Reform Act (H.R. 5214) and the Common Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability in D.C. Now Act (H.R. 5107).

We urge all Members to "Vote NO" on H.R. 5214 and H.R. 5107. The ACLU will score these votes.

THE D.C. CASH BAIL REFORM ACT

H.R. 5214, the DC Cash Bail Reform Act, requires mandatory detention on a wide range of cases and is almost certainly unconstitutional under the requirements set out by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Salerno*. This bill would reverse more than 30 years of successful, data-driven pretrial policy reforms in D.C. and replace it with a wealth based system that fuels mass incarceration, racial disparities, and benefits the 2 billion dollar bail industry.

D.C.'s pre-trial system is grounded in individual assessment, not based on wealth. The federal Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia evaluates each person's likelihood of appearing in court and assesses individualized conditions of release to support community safety. The results of D.C.'s current risk and safety based pretrial system outperform most cash-bail jurisdictions in the country. Ninety-two percent of people released pretrial in D.C. remain arrest-free before trial, 87% appear for their court dates, and 86% complete the pretrial period without any compliance violation.

H.R. 5214 would replace D.C.'s current risk and safety based system with a cash bail system that requires mandatory detention for a wide range of conduct. Cash bail would disproportionately harm Black D.C. residents. Nearly 90% of the D.C. jail population and 80% of the people released through the Pretrial Services Agency are Black, due to systemic overpolicing. Abolishing D.C.'s pretrial system which balances risk and safety and on an individualized basis, and replacing it with a cash bail system which favors release for wealthy defendants and imprisons those who cannot afford bail, would deepen existing racial disparities and disproportionately separate Black families from their communities, jobs, and housing.

The District of Columbia has operated a successful risk and safety based system for more than three decades. These policies were informed by input from local stakeholders including courts, prosecutors, police, and community members. Congress should not override the local policy making process of D.C. stakeholders and the will of D.C. residents and democratically elected leaders.

A pre-trial system that relies on regular check-ins, targeted social-service referrals, and text message reminders consistently outperforms cash bail systems at securing appearance and protecting public safety. Maintaining housing, employment, childcare, and medical care substantially reduces recidivism and promotes community safety. D.C.'s current pre-trial system is a calibrated approach to public safety that appropriately weighs public safety risks while also considering the need of individuals to maintain critical supports such as housing and employment on a case by case basis. In contrast, H.R. 5214 would implement a cash bail system that would financially ruin many of D.C.'s lower income families, force many parents, disproportionately women and Black women, out of the workforce, and expose children to the well-documented harms of parental detention, all of which increase long-term risks to public safety and community wellbeing. The D.C. Cash Bail Reform Act will harm D.C. residents and will not make D.C. safer because it ignores the evidence and data on pretrial detention and thirty years of local input and governance.

THE COMMON SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN D.C. NOW ACT

H.R. 5107, the Common Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability in D.C. Now Act, would repeal D.C.'s Comprehensive Policing

and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 (CPJRAA), which enacted several recommendations to improve public safety, accountability, and trust. These recommendations came from the D.C. Police Reform Commission, a body of retired law enforcement, community leaders, experts, and directly impacted residents. Among the critical provisions that H.R. 5107 would repeal are reforms to officer discipline processes. These reforms were recommended after several officers in D.C. were reinstated despite major misconduct including sexual assault and domestic violence. D.C. residents, D.C. police chiefs, and the D.C. Auditor all opposed the laws that H.R. 5107 would reimpose, which allowed police to keep their jobs even when they committed a crime or broke the law. As the D.C. Auditor reported, “MPD management expressed frustration over the reinstatement of ‘bad cops’ and concern that MPD officers are demoralized when their colleagues are reinstated despite breaking the rules. They suggested that officers may be more likely to engage in misconduct when they believe they have a good chance of overturning any resulting discipline.”

H.R. 5107 would also repeal many other common-sense reforms of D.C.’s laws that have been adopted across the country, including:

Timely and thorough investigation of incidents that involve deadly use of force by an officer or a death in custody.

Release of body camera footage in cases of serious bodily injury or death in custody.

Background checks so only highly qualified officers are hired, and those who engage in misconduct cannot simply leave one jurisdiction to be hired in another.

With appropriate safeguards and limits, preservation and dissemination of officer disciplinary records that are subject to open records requests.

Strengthening use of force review boards.

Increased training, as well as clearer guidance on use of force.

Limiting the possession or use of certain military-grade equipment by law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 5107 would repeal a locally approved law that provides transparency and accountability for police misconduct and promotes community safety.

For these reasons, the ACLU, ACLU DC, National Urban League, and The Bail Project strongly urge Members to vote NO on H.R. 5214, the DC Cash Bail Reform Act, and vote NO on H.R. 5107, the Common Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability in D.C. If you have any questions, please contact Nina Patel, Senior Policy Counsel ACLU Justice Division.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union, American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia, The Bail Project, National Urban League.

HONORING DONALD “DON” BABBS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Technical Sergeant Donald Babbs of Celina, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Technical Sergeant Babbs honorably served in the United States Air Force from 1957 to 1961 and in the United States Air Force Reserve from 1978 to 1989.

Technical Sergeant Babbs began his career as an Airman Second Class, serving as a munition’s specialist at Lowry Air Force Base and Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base. He continued his service in the Air Force Reserve as a Technical Sergeant and NCOIC Explosive Safety Munitions Specialist, stationed at RAF Bentwaters, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Carswell Air Force Base, and Luke Air Force Base. During his career, Technical Sergeant Babbs ensured the safe handling, storage, and deployment of munitions, setting a standard of excellence and reliability that earned the respect of all who served with him.

For his exemplary service, Technical Sergeant Babbs received numerous awards and decorations, including the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Training Ribbon, and the Small Arms Expert Rifle Ribbon.

Following his military service, Technical Sergeant Babbs continued to serve his country and community. He worked for Boeing supporting the Minuteman Project across several northern states, and later served in law enforcement with the Springs Police Department, the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas Marshals Office, and the Dallas Sheriff’s Department. He has also served as Chapter President of the McKinney Sons of the American Revolution, representing a family with over thirty-two direct ancestors who fought for our Nation’s freedom.

I am deeply honored to recognize Technical Sergeant Donald Babbs for his courage, dedication, and lifelong commitment to serving his country and community. He exemplifies the very best of Texas’ 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

HONORING SANDY KRUSE

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn respect and heartfelt sympathy that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sandy Kruse, whose courage, kindness, and unwavering spirit touched the lives of so many in her community and beyond.

Sandy was just 51 years old when she passed away on June 24, 2025, following a brave and determined battle against a primary neuroendocrine tumor of the pancreas, diagnosed in 2021. Despite the challenges of her illness, Sandy faced each day with grace, resilience, and a smile that inspired all who knew her.

Throughout her life, Sandy devoted herself to caring for others. She was known as a calm and steady presence—a true mediator and friend who brought peace wherever she went. Deeply involved in the Neuroendocrine Tumor (NET) community, she led Colorado’s NET Facebook support group for three years, offering hope, information, and understanding to countless families navigating similar challenges.

In addition to her advocacy work, Sandy’s friends shared that her life was defined by love, service, and dedication. She was an integral part of her Southshore neighborhood, playing bunco with friends and sharing laughter with the close-knit “Southshore Besties.” She also co-led the Kruse Nussbaum Team at Kentwood Real Estate, mentoring others in her profession and helping families find their homes.

Sandy’s family felt her support for them to be boundless. She ensured her two sons were engaged in a wide range of activities—from piano and drums to swim team, football, baseball, and taekwondo—always encouraging them to learn, grow, and strive for excellence. At Christmas, she organized toy drives to bring joy to children in need, embodying the spirit of giving that defined her life. Her passing has left a profound void in the lives of her family, friends, colleagues, and community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Sandy’s husband Steven and her two children, Lucas and Colton. May we all strive to honor Sandy’s legacy by living with the same grace, selflessness, and love that she so freely gave.

RECOGNIZING THE 124TH PLAYING OF THE BRAWL OF THE WILD AS DELIVERED TO WAKE UP MONTANA ON NONSTOP LOCAL

HON. TROY DOWNING

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend marks one of the oldest and greatest rivalries in all of college football, the “Brawl of the Wild.”

Saturday, November 22, 2025, will be the 124th meeting between the University of Montana Grizzlies and the Montana State Bobcats in Missoula.

To Montanans, the Brawl of the Wild is more than a football game. It’s a celebration of the state’s competitive spirit, community pride, and deep-rooted traditions.

Many households in Montana are divided, heck, even my office is divided.

But the magic of the game is its power to unite our state through sport, bringing together students, alumni, families, and fans who proudly don their maroon and silver or blue and gold.

The Brawl of the Wild is truly a tradition unlike any other. It represents the very best of college athletics and the Montana way of life.

I look forward to a phenomenal game on Saturday and to celebrating another chapter in this historic Montana rivalry.

OPPOSITION LETTER LED BY TZEDEK DC ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5214) NOVEMBER 19, 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives debated the District

of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025 (H.R. 5214). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing this bill led by Tzedek DC.

November 18, 2025.

Hon. JOHN THUNE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
House Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER THUNE, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SPEAKER JOHNSON, AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: We, the undersigned, nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations and individual Americans, urge Congress to reject H.R. 5214, the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025, which was recently voted out of Committee by the House Oversight Committee. The bill would force DC to adopt a cash bail system and introduce new categories of offenses requiring mandatory pretrial detention. These changes would require many people arrested in DC to provide cash or other forms of property as collateral for release before their trial. They would also remove judicial discretion to determine whether a person can be safely released, and if so, under what conditions. If H.R. 5214 (or its substance) is enacted, DC residents who are legally innocent and who present no danger to the community would be held in jail solely because they cannot afford to pay. Meanwhile, wealthier defendants could simply buy their freedom. This approach would displace and worsen DC's current system, which, as detailed below, has been effective and focused on public safety. Congress should, on a bipartisan basis, soundly reject the approach of this bill.

All of us who have signed this letter care deeply about the safety of our neighborhoods and the well-being of the District of Columbia. We grieve when there is a crime that harms a member of our community or someone visiting our Nation's Capital. It is because of that care and commitment that we all come together to reject the proposed legislation, as those changes to DC's local court's risk-based assessments will ultimately make our Nation's Capital less safe.

In 1992, the DC Council, DC's elected legislative branch under the Home Rule system established by Congress, found after extensive hearings that cash bail was harming, not helping, public safety. The Council adopted a system that, mirroring federal bail laws, removes wealth from the decision to release or detain someone pretrial. Under DC law, pretrial release considers whether the individual may pose a danger to the community or fail to return to court. This assessment is based on risk factors such as criminal background, threats to victims, and past failures to appear in court or otherwise abide by pretrial release conditions. People on pretrial release are supervised by the Pretrial Services Agency (PSA). PSA officers meet regularly with those on pretrial release and, when appropriate, provide connections to services, such as mental health and drug treatment, and can remand people to jail custody if people are not meeting their supervision conditions. These factors prioritize safety. For three decades, DC's approach has kept appearance rates high and new offenses low.

Like Americans around the country, DC residents do not want violent crime in their community. But risk-based detention systems (sometimes confusingly referred to as "cashless bail") do not cause or increase

crime. The data on this is clear. A study conducted by the DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council found that in a recent six-month period, not a single person released after being charged with a violent or dangerous crime was rearrested for a violent or dangerous crime during their pretrial release. Similarly, data from the Pretrial Services Agency for DC (a federal agency) from the most recent nine months available shows that of the defendants released before their trial, only 1.20% have been rearrested for a violent crime, a 98.8% success rate on this metric.

National data reinforces the point that cash bail does not help make us safer. A 2024 Brennan Center for Justice study found "no statistically significant difference in crime rates between cities that reformed their bail policies and those that did not." Similarly, after Harris County, Texas ended cash bail for most misdemeanors, the result was "no corresponding increase in violent crime. After New Jersey implemented bipartisan bail reforms, violent crime declined while the jail population shrank significantly. A 2023 John Jay College of Criminal Justice report found that eliminating cash bail for misdemeanors in New York cut recidivism by nearly 50 percent. In contrast, people jailed in cash bail systems suffer worse outcomes—like lower employment rates, lack of housing, and loss of family connections—for years into the future. This places them at a higher risk of recidivism. A study commissioned by Arnold Ventures looking at the impact of pretrial detention on 1.4 million people booked through a jail system over a decade found just one day in jail increases a person's likelihood of being arrested in the future.

Beyond the financial and familial losses suffered by pretrial detainees, there is a very real threat to physical well-being. Nationally, pretrial detention is the riskiest phase for in-custody deaths, and DC Jail is already unsafe. Even before the recent wave of arrests by the current federal executive branch, a report by the DC Auditor in collaboration with the Council for Court Excellence (CCE) found that the death rate at DC Jail is 3.5 times the national average. This same report found that "[a]side from the disrepair and filth of the building, the architectural design of [the jail], combined with staffing shortages, is contributing to violence and deaths in custody." Recent changes imposed by the federal government have already increased strain on the facility. The newest data collected by the CCE supports this, showing a 10 percent increase in the jail population since the August law enforcement surge. Under the cash bail system proposed in H.R. 5214, anyone unable to pay their bond amount would remain in custody, likely at this facility. Cash bail threatens to increase the jail population and aggravate already-unsafe conditions—risking the lives of those who cannot afford to buy their freedom.

H.R. 5214 would also override the will of DC voters and increase costs to DC residents. DC's current risk-based pre-trial detention system has been effectively prioritizing safety since 1992; if the current system begins failing District residents, DC's democratically elected representatives are well-positioned to respond. H.R. 5214 would also bring increased costs to DC taxpayers. Incarcerating someone at the DC jail can cost \$241 a day; the price of maintaining the current jail

population of 1,977 costs DC residents approximately \$476,457 every day and over \$173 million every year. Introducing cash bail and expanding mandatory pretrial detention would run these estimates even higher. Every dollar spent on jailing low-risk people is a dollar not spent on schools, mental health care, roads or targeted law enforcement needs.

Congress can stand with the residents of the District and prioritize public safety by rejecting these proposals. Dispel myths that D.C. allows all individuals to be released regardless of their crime or history. Review the data and evidence. Listen to the voices of the people who are most impacted by the laws applied to the District of Columbia.

We urge Congress to reject H.R. 5214 and keep safety, not wealth, the basis of pretrial decisions.

Sincerely,

Tzedek DC; Council for Court Excellence; DC Justice Lab; ACLU-D.C.; Americans for Financial Reform; Applesseed Foundation; Bar Association of the District of Columbia; Catholic Charities Welcome Home Reentry Program; Center for Legal and Evidence-Based Practices; Center for Survivor Agency and Justice; Christian Legal Aid of DC; Civil Rights Corps; Coalition for Justice; Coalition on Human Needs.

DC Action; DC Applesseed Center for Law and Justice; DC Chapter National Organization for Women; DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence; DC Fiscal Policy Institute; DC for Democracy; Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services; Eunnae at Law PLLC; Everyone Home DC; Fair Budget Coalition; Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop; Interfaith Action for Human Rights; Kansas Appleseed.

Lawyers for Good Government; Legal Action Center; Legal Aid DC; Lillian's Southern Box Catering; Maine Peoples Alliance; Mi Casa, Inc.; Michigan League for Public Policy; Michigan Liberation; Montana Budget & Policy Center; More Than Our Crimes; Mother's Outreach Network; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; National Center for Law and Economic Justice; National Coalition for Drug Legalization.

National Legal Aid & Defender Association; Neighbors for Justice; Network for Developing; Conscious Communities; Open City Advocates; Open Horizon; Pathways to Housing DC; Project Love U; Public Justice Center; Sasha Bruce Youthwork Inc; School Justice Project; The Bail Project; The Festival Center; The National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens; The Second Look Project; The T.R.I.G.E.R. Project.

The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless; Thrive Under 25; Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Criminal Justice Reform; University of the District of Columbia Law School; Volare; VYTL Inc; Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; Westminster Presbyterian Church DC; Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

Aayushma Bastola; Abi Hollinger; Alessandro Coreas; Alex Tyson; Alexander Lyles; Alexandra Smith; Alicia N; Alyson Palmer; Ana Pyper; Ann Keep; April Fernandes; Ariel Levinson-Waldman; Ashlei Craig; Ashley Arnold; Ashley Martin; Ata Akiner; Aubrey Dillon.

Balazs Horvath; Barbara E. Swan; Bonnie Harris; Carmen Bolt; Cassandra Lyons; Cassaundra Coleman; Catherine Quinn; Christian Constantine; Crystal Jones Nieves; David J. Cynamon; Dr. Kirstin A. Morgan; Elisa Ortiz; Elizabeth Field; Emily Karandy; Erin Eife; Fabian Lucero, Esq.

Gabby Mulnick Majewski; Gabriel Goldberg; George Derek Musgrave; Gianna Karandy; Glenn Engelmann; Gwen Umbach;

Gwendolyn Green; Harvey Reiter; Henry F. Fradella, J.D., Ph.D.; Hugh T. Keleher; James J. Sandman; Jason A. Grant, Esq.; Jayme Epstein; Jen Jenkins; Jennifer Copp; Jennifer Nicole Alameda; Jennifer Ricketts; Jennifer Ubiera; Jonathan M. Smith; Jorge Tormes.

Joshua Horvath; Joy Welan; Judith Sandalow; June Kress; Katharine Mark; Kathryn Ferger; Katie Feioek; Katie McConvile; Kelli Coffman; Kezia Constantine; Lee Ann Anderson, Esq.; Leonard Bailey; Lisa Cohen; Lisa Foster, Ward 2; Lisa Greenman; Madeline Bateman; Maxon Orchard; Margaret J. Lyons; Margie Clark; Mark Randolph.

Marta Beresin; MaryAnna Foskett; MaryEva Candon, DC native, DC Voter since 1972; Meghan Briggs; Michael Williams; Michael Young; Misty Thomas Zaleski; Nancy Liebermann; Nashrah Ahmed; Nikisha Gordon; Nina F. Simon; Patricia Harlow; Paul Ashton; Professor Emily Cassomets; Rachel Gilliam; Rachel N.; Ralph P. Albrecht, Past President, Bar Association of DC.

Rebecca Lindhurst; Ren Newport; Risa Wallach; Robert Rozen; Ruth Enríquez; Ruth Friedman; Sade Cole; Sam H; Sam Pannell; Sapna Mirchandani; Sarah Baczewski; Sarah Foster; Shelley Broderick; Spurgeon Kennedy; Stacey Crooks; Stephen Benson, PhD; Susan M. Liss; Susie Cambria; Tamasha Johnson; Tim Curry, DC Ward 4; Vanessa Lopez; Violeta Zamora; Ward 7 Committee-woman; Willard K. Tom.

HONORING DANIEL MCCALL WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Dan McCall of Denton, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Captain McCall honorably served in the United States Army from 1997 to 2005, demonstrating exceptional leadership, courage, and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

Captain McCall began his military career as an Air Defense Artillery Officer, serving at Fort Bliss, Fort Campbell, Fort Bragg, and Fort Polk. He excelled in every officer position from Second Lieutenant to Captain, including Platoon Leader, Staff Officer, Company Commander, and Joint Readiness Training Center Observer/Controller. As a qualified Jumpmaster, he displayed exceptional skill and discipline in airborne operations. Captain McCall deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, leading with integrity and professionalism in demanding environments and earning the respect of those he commanded.

For his exemplary service, Captain McCall received numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal with second award, the Meritorious Service Medal with second award, the Army Commendation Medal with second award, the Army Achievement Medal with third award, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge. Each of these honors reflect his valor, skill, and unwavering dedication to our country.

Following his eight years of active duty, Captain McCall continued his service to others by becoming a recruiter, helping hundreds of veterans transition to successful civilian careers. His post-military life remains defined by his commitment to the veteran community. As an active life member of VFW Post No. 8273 in Frisco, Texas, he serves as Post Surgeon and Ruck Squad Chairman, focusing on veterans' health and wellness. Captain McCall also represents the VFW as a member of the Post Color Guard and as the liaison to the City of Frisco Veterans Advisory Committee, ensuring that the voices of veterans are heard and their needs are met.

I am deeply honored to recognize Captain Dan McCall for his outstanding courage, patriotism, and lifelong devotion to serving others. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the National Audubon Society, one of our Nation's oldest and most enduring conservation organizations. For over a century, Audubon has been driven by a simple but profound truth: what is good for birds is good for people and the planet.

Audubon was founded in 1905 in response to the destruction of birds for the feather trade. Since then, Audubon has helped secure landmark conservation protections, from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act to the ban on DDT. These achievements reflect a legacy of science-based advocacy and bipartisan action that has safeguarded countless species and habitats.

They also understand that it all begins with birds, because if birds are in trouble, it's a sign our environment is too. By centering conservation efforts on birds, Audubon has been a leader in smarter, more sustainable solutions that help both wildlife and people. These efforts in turn have helped species such as the Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, and Whooping Crane, all once on the brink of extinction, make remarkable recoveries.

Our Nation's 26th President, Teddy Roosevelt, was a passionate conservationist and from an early age, had a deep appreciation for birds. In writing to renowned ornithologist Frank Chapman, President Roosevelt remarked, "Spring would not be spring without bird songs, any more than it would be spring without buds and flowers, and . . . besides protecting the songsters, the birds of the grove, the orchard, the garden and the meadow, we could also protect the birds of the sea-shore and of the wilderness."

Both my constituents and I agree with President Roosevelt—we must make serious efforts to protect as many birds as possible. That is why I led the introduction of the Neotropical Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act during the 118th Congress. Signed into law in April 2024, this bill reauthor-

ized the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides financial assistance for projects to promote the conservation of neotropical migratory birds. By protecting birds, we can protect our environment and the natural beauty that surrounds us.

As Audubon marks 120 years, its mission remains as vital as ever to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. The legacy of the women and men who built this organization continues in the conservationists, volunteers, and community leaders who carry its work forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Audubon Society for 120 years of unwavering leadership, innovation, and impact. Audubon is not just part of conservation history; it is a leading champion for the future of our Nation and planet.

HONORING AKBAR T. SALAAM FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO NEWARK AND NEW JERSEY

HON. LaMONICA McIVER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Akbar T. Salaam, a distinguished entrepreneur, statesman, and community leader whose decades of service have made an extraordinary impact on the people of Newark and the broader New Jersey community.

For more than 58 years, Mr. Salaam has owned and operated the Unity Brand Halal Beef Sausage Company, a landmark institution in Newark that he has used not only as a business, but as a vehicle for social service and opportunity. He has partnered with Volunteers of America to support inmates returning to society, offering employment, skills training, and community service opportunities that help them rebuild their lives. He has also invested deeply in Newark's youth, providing high school students with job training and career mentoring to prepare them for the future. His tireless work has earned numerous honors, including induction into the Malcolm X Shabazz High School Alumni Hall of Fame (2014), multiple "Businessman of the Year" awards, and the Excellence in Business and Community Service Award from the New Jersey Senate, Assembly, and Newark Municipal Council (2018). Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Congress honors Akbar T. Salaam for his remarkable contributions to the community, his unwavering commitment to social justice, and his significant impact on the Halal industry.

I congratulate Mr. Salaam. He makes New Jersey proud.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF JANE L. CAMPBELL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jane L. Campbell on her retirement after an extraordinary career as the U.S. Capitol Historical Society CEO, former Mayor of Cleveland, and influential staffer in the Senate.

Campbell made history as the first and still only woman to serve as Mayor of Cleveland. Her impact went beyond City Hall. She held six terms in the Ohio House of Representatives and served as a Chief Staff and Staff Director at the U.S. Senate. During her time with the Senate, Campbell championed recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina, supported small businesses, and opened doors for women entrepreneurs across the country.

Throughout her career, Campbell brought people together across communities and causes to find real solutions that improved lives. She led the National Development Council's Washington office and guided national efforts to strengthen women's economic opportunities. Campbell has always served with three things in mind: her vision, compassion, and belief in public service.

As she begins this new chapter, I offer my gratitude and congratulations. Jane Campbell's legacy will continue to inspire leaders and communities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Jane Campbell for her immense contribution.

HONORING CLINTON "CLINT" DUANE BASS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Clinton "Clint" Bass of Trenton, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Bass honorably served in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1971 as a member of the Air Police and Base Security.

During his military service, Sergeant Bass was stationed at Forbes Field, Whiteman Air Force Base, Da Nang, Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, and Kunsan Air Base, Korea, during the USS Pueblo crisis. For his exemplary service, he earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his military career, Sergeant Bass has remained deeply committed to serving his community and fellow veterans. He participates in the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) and is a proud member of VFW Post No. 6205. He also previously served as Post Commander of the American Legion in Whitewright. Known for his generosity and servant leadership, Sergeant Bass manages the kitchen at his local MVPN, where he and his team prepare meals every Tuesday for more than seventy veterans, their families, and community members who support them. His kitchen—affectionately named—"Clint's Canteen"—has become a symbol of his tireless dedication. His work was recently recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution for his outstanding service to veterans.

I am deeply honored to recognize Sergeant Clint Bass for his courage, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to serving his country and his community. He truly exemplifies the best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and the United States of America.

OPPOSITION LETTER LED BY THE DC JUSTICE LAB ON THE COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5107)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives debated the Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act of 2025 (H.R. 5107). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing this bill led by the DC Justice Lab.

Letter of opposition

RE H.R. 5107 and any related attempts to repeal or weaken the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,

House Minority Leader, Washington, DC.

SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: We, the undersigned organizations and individuals committed to public safety and democratic self-governance, urge you to oppose all legislative efforts now before Congress that would repeal, defund, or weaken the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 (CPJRAA). This includes H.R. 5107/S. 2687 (the CLEAN DC Act), which is up for a vote this week, and H.R. 5166, § 827 (the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act rider blocking CPJRAA implementation).

Together, these bills would dismantle one of the District's most significant public safety and accountability reforms in decades. They would reinstate dangerous practices, reopen pathways for abusive officers to remain on the force, and override a democratically enacted law grounded in research, expert input, and community consensus.

The CPJRAA responds to longstanding gaps in police oversight, transparency, and discipline.

The law strengthened the Office of Police Complaints, expanded the Police Complaints Board, required the creation of a public misconduct database, and required timely release of body-worn camera footage following deaths or serious uses of force. It closed arbitration loopholes that previously reinstated officers fired for serious misconduct. In an 18-month period, the District paid \$5.6 million in back pay to just ten officers who were fired and then returned to duty through arbitration. The CPJRAA corrected this. These bills would take us backward.

The CPJRAA also protects residents from dangerous and deadly encounters.

It restricts deadly force; bans neck restraints; limits high-speed police pursuits in a dense city where bystanders are most likely to be hurt; and regulates the acquisition of military-grade weapons. These reforms were enacted because these dangerous tactics have repeatedly killed District residents, disproportionately Black residents, and endangered children, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other bystanders.

The CPJRAA reduces biased policing and strengthens evidence-based decision-making.

It improves consent search rules, mandates anti-bias and de-escalation training, requires review of an officer's poor misconduct before hiring, and directs independent assessment of possible ties between officers and hate

groups. It modernizes data systems across agencies and ensures transparency around school-based arrests, less-lethal weapons, and disciplinary actions.

Repealing or defunding this law would not make the District safer. It would restore outdated and harmful practices that undermine trust, community safety, and officer morale. It would weaken oversight structures that law enforcement leaders themselves have said were necessary to keep "very bad officers" off the force (see page 173 of the Report by the Police Reform Commission). And it would override the decisions of local officials who are accountable to the people who live in the District.

Congress should respect the District's authority to govern itself, especially on matters of public safety. Allowing these bills to move forward would set a troubling national precedent by permitting federal intervention into local policing policy, even when the local reforms are backed by research, crafted through community input, and aligned with modern public safety standards.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote against H.R. 5107, and any related attempts to repeal or obstruct the CPJRAA. D.C. residents deserve the right to determine the policies that keep their communities safe.

Sincerely,

CLINIQUE CHAPMAN,
CEO, DC Justice Lab.

Organizational signatories:

ACLU-D.C., Black Swan Academy, Community Shoulders, DC Action, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, DC Democratic State Committee, DC for Democracy, DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project, Fair Budget Coalition, Free DC, Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop, Georgetown Law Center for Innovations in Community Safety, Harriet's Wildest Dreams, Interfaith Action for Human Rights.

Leadership for Justice Innovation, LLC, League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, League of Women Voters of the United States, Legislation Clinic (University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law), Metro DC DSA, Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid, Miriam's Kitchen, More Than Our Crimes.

Movement for Freedom, Neighbors for Justice, Neighbors United for DC Statehood, Open Horizon, Pretrial Justice Institute, Raise One Teach One Dalaneo Martin Foundation, RebuildingTheCommunity, Reframe Health and Justice, School Justice Project, Scrofano Law PC.

Seeding Stories/Sembrando Historias, Tzedek DC, University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Criminal Justice Reform, Volare, Ward 3 Democratic Committee, Ward 3 Democrats Statehood Task Force, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Wren Action Group.

Individual signatories:

Adam D. Harris, Ailsa Hermann-Wu, AJ Cho, Alex Tyson, Allister Layne, Aloysius Wald, Andrew Kincare, Ann Wasgatt, Anne Cauman, Aphra, April Lasiter, Ashley, District Resident, At-Large Councilmember, Robert White, B. Yohe, Barbara Kraft, Bill Scher, Blaine Stum, Breanna Gilland, Brianna Buford.

Bruce R. Ross, Carl Jakobsson, Chantel Rollins, Char Esser, Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Cheryl Dzubak, Cheryl Eames, Cheryl Marlin, Chris Hammond (Ward 7), Christine Payden-Travers, Rev. Dr. Christopher Zacharias, (Pastor, John Wesley AME Zion Church), Christopher, Connie Ridgeway, Cybele Kotonias, Cynthia Lee, Dallas Windham, Darcy Skarada, David Holmes, David Wendt, Delia T. Cooke.

Denise Lindgren, Dennis and Susan R. Kepner, Donald R. Schwartz, Donna Tate, Dorothy Marion, Dr. Elizabeth Allen, Eileen

Gillson, Elaine M. Carlson, Eleanor Crowe, Elinor Hart, Elizabeth Paukstis, Emily Han, Erin Smith, F. Robert Wesley, Francis O'Malley, George Perla, Grayson Parissee, Gregory Denton, Gwen Umbach, Hannah Milem.

Harold Watson, Heather Goss, Hillary Ellen Kruh, Howard Garrett, Hugh T. Keleher, Irma Salley, Isa Mirza, Isabella LeBlanc, J. Yudell, Jackie Neece Gray, Jamelle "Mellie" Harris, James Flasch, James Mulcare, Jacqueline Castaneda, Jason Miller, Jason R. Crawford, Jayme Epstein, Jeanne Otersen, Jennifer McConnell, Jennifer Ubiera, Esq.

Jessica Wang, Jillian W., Jo Harvey, Joanne S. Metzler, Joe LeBlanc, Jon Drago, Joy Welan, Kahli Goodwyn, Kameron Davis, Karen Cassell, Kathleen A. Mireault, Kathy Colton, Kenedi McCormick, Kerry Krebill, Kerry Krebill, Kevin K. Walsh, Kristopher Burrell, LaShunda Hill, Laura Esparza, Laura Mitterman.

Laurent Ross, Lawerency J.C. Boone Sr., Layne Emery, Leah Tribbett, Leonard Edwards, Leslie, Linda B., Linda D. Lee, Linda Oeth, Linda Richardson, Lisa Morenoff, Lore Wintergreen, Lori Stefano, Lorraine Brabham, Lowell Palm, Lucinda Snow, Lynette Rynders, Lynn D. Carlson, Madeleine Straubel, Madeline Hall,

Maeve Gallagher, Maggie Kelfstad, Marcia Curry, Mark Schroeder, Marsha Davison, Marta Beresin, Maureen Ellis, Maureen McCarthy, Melanie E. Bates, Michael Smith, Michael Winston Pan, Minyara Willingham, Monique Jackson, Mykel Victor Reese, Mystelle Ruble, Naiké Savain (Former DC Police Reform Commissioner), Nashrah Ahmed, Nathan Brenner Sr., Nicola, Noam Stopak.

Norah Renken, Patricia Harlow, Phil Klein, Rachel Neurohr, Rafaella Zabot-Hall, Debbie Davis, Regina Coates, Renaud De'Aundre Brown, Robert Burks, Ron Mittan, Ronald Hampton (Washington Representative, Blacks in Law Enforcement), Ryan Lynch, Sade Cole, Samantha Luisa Crisanti, Sarah Bradach, Sarah Jane Shoenfeld, Shane O'Shea, Shannon Harper, Shannon Lynch, Shay Mussulman.

Sincere Allah, Sophia, Sophia Bos-Shadi, Stephan Donovan, Stephen E. Benson, Stephen Keener, Susan & David Courrejou, Susan Castelli-Hill, Susan Courtney, Susan Halversen, Susan Sasha Beth Silverstein, Thea Cabrera Montego, Theodore Voth, Tom Kirk, Virginia Avniel Spatz, Wade Hampton, Patricia Stamper (Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, 7C06), Will Yetvin.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I join in honoring the incredible legacy of Alabama's own Tuskegee Airmen, and paying my respects to Lieutenant Colonel George Hardy who was among the last of the original Tuskegee Airmen before he passed away in September. We owe him an enormous debt of gratitude that we will never fully repay.

The legacy of the Tuskegee Airman is one of extraordinary courage and sacrifice that must never be forgotten or erased. In 1941, the United States Army launched what it called "an experiment"—the segregated 99th Fighter Squadron. It was decided that the squadron would train at an airfield in

Tuskegee, Alabama, and thus, the Tuskegee Airmen were born. More than 16,000 brave men and women participated in the "Tuskegee Experience" between 1941 and 1949, including 992 pilots who flew with distinction during World War II.

Despite enduring the cruel injustice of segregation here at home, the aviators and support personnel persevered. They escorted bombers with unmatched skill, earned the respect of their peers, helped the Allied Forces defeat the Nazis, and paved the way for the desegregation of our military.

The Tuskegee Airmen embody the very definition of American patriotism. They bravely fought and died for our freedoms before this nation even granted them the full benefits of citizenship. That is the depth of love of country that the Tuskegee Airmen so honorably displayed.

Their story is not just Black history; it is American history. It is a story of excellence despite incredible odds, of patriotism in the face of discrimination, and of service without reservation. At this perilous time in our Nation's history, it has never been more important to keep their legacy alive. Earlier this year, on orders from President Trump, the Air Force removed references to the Tuskegee Airmen from its training curriculum. According to this administration, the heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen is nothing more than "DEI." Little did President Trump know, Alabamians don't back down from a fight. When the news broke of their removal, Congressman FIGURES and I joined a chorus of Alabamians from every corner of our state, demanding they be reinstated. And thanks to our collective calls, they were.

So today we honor the Tuskegee Airmen—and not only as heroes of war. We honor them as enduring symbols of our ongoing struggle for equality and justice.

Let us recommit ourselves to that legacy. Let us ensure that their story is always taught in our schools, training programs, and public institutions. Let us ensure that every recruit, every citizen, and every generation knows who they were and why they matter.

May their courage continue to inspire us, and may we always honor their service—not just in memory, but in education, in policy, and in our national conscience.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 297 on H. Res. 888, I am recorded as voting NO, but I intended to vote PRESENT.

RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize Native American Heritage Month.

Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to not only honor the rich cultures and history of Indigenous peoples across North America, but to recognize the continued leadership of Native Americans in each of our communities. From the public sector to the business community, to my colleagues on the House floor, Native American leaders are today helping shape the future.

I represent Riverside which stands on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Cahuilla Nation; Gabrielino-Tongva People, Payomkawichum/the Luiseno Indians; and Yuhaaviatam, clan of Maara'yam/the Serrano.

Riverside is also home to the Sherman Indian High School. I thank all of the educators and staff who work tirelessly to build an environment that provides a quality education to hundreds of students and helps preserve the rich culture of Native peoples from across North America. I thank them for their work of creating the next generation of Native American leaders.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on naval aviation mishaps.

SVC-217

DECEMBER 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

SR-253

DECEMBER 9

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders.

SH-216

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the future
of the U.S. organ procurement and
transplantation network.

SD-430