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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 13, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ERIN HOUCHIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### CELEBRATING 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, home to some of our State's most iconic, historic, economic, and cultural treasures.

Formally established in 1723, South Kingstown's origins can be traced back to the Pettaquamscutt Purchase of

1658, where the founder of our State, Roger Williams, and Narragansett sachems signed a document establishing the settlement of Kingstown Village, which became one of the five original State capitals of Rhode Island.

With the coming of the industrial revolution, the villages of Peace Dale and Wakefield in South Kingstown became economic engines, employing thousands and defining life for many South Kingstown residents well into the 20th century.

Some of these old South Kingstown mills are still standing today, including Kenyon's Grist Mill, the oldest continuing manufacturing business in Rhode Island, dating back to 1696.

South Kingstown is also home to the University of Rhode Island, founded in 1892, our State's flagship public land-grant university, that today is leading research and innovation in the blue economy, with disciplines ranging from engineering to oceanography, entrepreneurship, healthcare, and so much more.

The town has grown and evolved but has never lost its rural character, beautiful seascapes, and hardworking roots. Whether it was the farmers who tilled the land, the millworkers who built the middle class, or the university researchers on the cutting edge of innovation, everyone in South Kingstown, from Wakefield to Matunuck, Peace Dale, and Usquepaug, has contributed to the town's success in one way or another.

The people of South Kingstown built a strong and vibrant community over the past 300 years, and may South Kingstown continue to thrive for generations to come.

### CONGRESS' CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, this week, Congress is going to take up one of the most consequential pieces of legislation that this body has considered in years.

Despite the lack of fanfare from the national media, the REINS Act is a very important piece of legislation and has the potential to overhaul the Federal bureaucracy, overhaul what many of us and many of my constituents back in Louisiana refer to as part of the deep state. It also has the potential to restore Congress' constitutional role as the chief rulemaking body in America.

However, to understand the necessity of this bill, it is important that we take a step back for just a moment and examine how Congress has ceded our lawmaking authority to nameless, faceless bureaucrats that aren't accountable to anyone: not to voters and really, largely, not even to those of us in Congress.

Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution itself declares that: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States. . . ." All. All legislative powers.

The Founders intended that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, of course—a radical idea that suggests that laws are unjust unless they come from the people. The way that is done in our system, in our unmatched constitutional Republic, is that it comes from the people through their duly elected Representatives in Congress. This idea, of course, was espoused originally by principles originated in the Nation's birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence.

The Founders, having signaled their intent to break free from the world's most powerful nation were fearful of the undue power and influence of an absolute monarch, but of course, tyranny in any of its forms is an evil.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g.,  1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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Therefore, they created this system, this system that we have, with separation of powers, checks and balances, one that provides elected Representatives with the authority to make the laws, an executive to implement them, and a judiciary to call the balls and strikes about disputes over that.

However, through the decades of congressional disinterest in lawmaking and an ever-growing Federal bureaucracy, the executive branch has usurped Congress' role as the rulemaking authority in America.

It is important to note that this development has been somewhat of a slow creep, and it is not a sinister plan to upend Congress' authority. You can mostly blame the Congress itself for this having happened.

Here is what has occurred: For decades, Congress has really willfully delegated its authority to Federal agencies, through passage of a patchwork of spending bills and the "vote now, read later" mindset. It also allows some of the duly elected Representatives of the people to evade their responsibilities because they don't have to take tough votes. If you can just make bureaucrats do it, it is a lot easier.

However, think of the results of this. Just consider this one statistic: In 2021 alone, Congress here passed 143 laws, that is bills that passed both Chambers and were signed into law by the President. In that same year, by comparison, Federal agencies enacted 3,257 rules. That is 23 times the number of laws actually duly passed by the Congress.

Unfortunately, these rules often serve the interests of liberal and progressive causes. That is the effect of it. They cater to the desires of environmental groups, unions, LGBTQ activists, and those who want to abolish the Second Amendment. We have example after example after example.

Progressives have realized that congressional inaction has opened a window to usher in this agenda outside of the legislative or electoral framework. Their ideas aren't popular at the ballot box, so they entrust Federal agencies to do all that bidding behind closed doors. It is not American.

Frankly, my concerns with the growth of the administrative state are viewpoint neutral. I don't somehow quietly hope for a similarly sized Federal Government that serves conservative political interests. No, we are intellectually consistent in this.

Reining in the administrative state is not about retribution. It is about restoration; restoration of our founding principles, the things that made our great Nation in the first place. That is why passing the REINS Act is a critical first step in achieving these goals.

This bill would reassert the Article I legislative authority of Congress and prevent excessive overreach by the executive branch in the Federal rule-making process. What it means is that every new major rule proposed by Fed-

eral agencies would be subject to congressional scrutiny before going into effect. We define "major rule" as any regulation with an annual effect on the economy of over \$100 million, any major increase in cost or prices for consumers, or any significant adverse impact on competition, employment, investment, or productivity of U.S.-based enterprises.

By quick way of example, if Congress would have passed this bill in the last session, President Biden's student loan bailout, his ban on oil and gas lease sales, his plan to allow retirement funds to consider ESG, and even the mandated climate risk disclosures would all have been subject to an up-or-down vote by the people's duly elected Representatives in this body.

Instead, in President Biden's first year, he finalized 69 regulations that carried over a \$100 million price tag or significantly impacted the economy. Those regulations add up to more than \$200 billion—billion with a b—in regulatory costs, and Congress wasn't even consulted to approve one dime of it.

The REINS Act represents a long overdue first step in restoring accountability and reducing government overreach. I am really grateful that House Republicans have prioritized this bill this week. We will pass it off this floor. We will send it to the Senate, and hopefully we can rein in the bloated government that is controlling all of our lives.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, for far too long for-profit charter schools have operated without accountability. Without the necessary oversight for charter schools, our children will continue to suffer while taxpayers bankroll charter school fraud, waste, and abuse.

I know our children deserve better, and this is why this week I am introducing the Charter Oversight, Accountability, and Transparency Act, which we call the COAT Act. I am doing this with Representative BOWMAN and Representative WILSON to help strengthen our country's public education system by promoting the same type of accountability from charter schools nationwide that the law requires of our public school systems.

Charter schools are publicly funded, Madam Speaker, but are managed by private charter management organizations. This bill would require these management organizations to file financial disclosures to the Department of Education in order to receive Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds.

Michigan's experiment with charters has led to a system of poor-run schools for for-profit companies, failing thousands of our students. The COAT Act is commonsense legislation that will in-

crease transparency and accountability to ensure that charter schools provide necessary information to local, State, and Federal agencies to detect and prevent fraud and abuse.

#### ENDING AUTO INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what our education level, marital status, or credit scores have to do with how much our auto insurance rates should be. The Prohibit Auto Insurance Discrimination Act, PAID Act, that I introduced with Congresswoman WATSON COLEMAN, who has led this effort, as well as Congressman TAKANO, would end insurance discrimination.

It would prohibit auto insurance companies from using our education levels, occupation, employment status, credit scores, previous insurer information, ZIP Code, census tracts, or homeownership status in insurance rating or underwriting decisions.

Auto insurance discrimination continues to keep our residents in the cycle of poverty, Mr. Speaker.

Your education level, ZIP Code, and marital status don't determine whether or not you are a good driver; neither does your credit score. Yet our neighbors, especially in Detroit, regularly face higher auto insurance rates than other folks.

Someone with a perfect driving record—no tickets, crashes, or claims—who has poor credit can pay hundreds of thousands of dollars more for auto insurance, sometimes twice as much. I read somewhere that somebody with a DUI, drinking under the influence, with a higher credit score was paying three times less than someone with a lower credit score but no DUI violation.

We must stop the predatory discrimination practices by auto insurance companies. This is why I urge my colleagues to support the PAID Act to help level the playing field and eliminate factors, proxies to discriminate, that contribute to our growing inequality.

#### HONORING RUTH ELLIS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, during Pride Month, I honor a trailblazer in our community, Mother Ruth Ellis, a former Detroit resident who was the oldest surviving open lesbian and an LGBTQ+ rights activist.

She was born in 1899, living until the age of 101. She came out as a lesbian around 1915. She took in unhoused LGBTQ+ youth, and her home became known as a refuge for LGBTQ+ young people. We now lovingly call it the Ruth Ellis Center.

Not only did she give shelter to our young people but provided books, food, even assistance with college education. Around 40 percent of our unhoused youth today are LGBTQ+.

My team and I were proud to secure \$1 million in Federal funding for the Ruth Ellis Center in our community to honor Mother Ruth Ellis and her life-saving work. Mr. Speaker, the center