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## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 20, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL ISSA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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.

### BOLSTERING HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Rural Health Day. Every third Thursday in November, we observe National Rural Health Day.

Nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas, and too often, they encounter limited access to primary care, specialists, and mental health services.

These gaps are worsened by transportation barriers and hospital closures. These challenges don't just affect individuals. They impact entire families and communities.

Before I was elected to serve in the House of Representatives, I spent nearly 30 years in the nonprofit healthcare field, assisting those with life-changing diseases and disabilities.

It can be challenging to obtain reasonably priced healthcare, and this is especially true in rural America, like much of the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. As the Member of Congress representing nearly one-third of the landmass of Pennsylvania, one of the most rural districts east of the Mississippi, I am keenly aware of the problems my constituents face when accessing medical services.

We are facing a healthcare crisis in our Nation's rural areas. These often disadvantaged populations are still struggling to access affordable, quality care.

While these challenges are great, there have been a few positive developments in recent years that stand to greatly benefit these communities. For one, I commend the work being done at the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health. This office has stepped up on a number of occasions to assist distressed healthcare facilities throughout the Commonwealth and continues to work on policies that will bolster rural healthcare for years to come.

Additionally, I cannot overstate the impact and importance of expanded telehealth services. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth added tremendous reach and value to communities across the country, especially in rural America. Many of my constituents were able to access regular care without having to drive nearly an hour, in some instances, ensuring they could get diagnosed and treated in an efficient manner.

To ensure this success continues, I reintroduced the HEALTH Act, which

will allow community health centers and rural health clinics to continue providing telehealth services and receive fair reimbursement for doing so.

I also continue to support efforts to bolster our healthcare workforce in rural areas. One of the driving forces behind many shuttered hospitals, healthcare facilities, and other services in these communities is a lack of staff, whether it be physicians, surgeons, OB/GYNs, technicians, nurses, or any other folks critical to providing care.

As providers struggle to attract and retain a talented workforce in our rural communities, we must think outside the box to resolve these issues. For example, I support efforts to encourage medical programs to place residents in rural communities as part of their education, training, and rotations. We know that people are far more likely to remain in communities where they train and serve, and we must continue to build this pipeline and solidify our rural health workforce.

These policies promote access to care for all Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure equitable care in our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, in rural communities, healthcare costs have gone up and premiums have skyrocketed, but choices have decreased. That is not right. It is not fair and not feasible. There must be a better way.

I know that together we will work to find a stable transition to a 21st century healthcare system that works for everyone in America, especially rural America.

### HONORING THE LEGACY OF MINNIE FORBES

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the life and career

□ 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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of one of my incredible constituents, Minnie Forbes, the last living owner of a Negro League baseball team, the Detroit Stars.

Minnie Forbes was born in 1932 in Mississippi and eventually found her home in Grand Rapids with her uncle, Ted Rasberry, a player in the Negro Leagues. Her uncle taught her to play softball. As a young teen, she played on the Grand Rapids' Cook's Brown Dolls softball team.

Minnie found her true love for the game working behind the scenes in team management. By 18, Minnie was a secretary for her uncle and his multiple baseball teams—the Grand Rapids Black Sox, the Detroit Stars, and the Kansas City Monarchs.

Then, at just 24, she became the owner of the Detroit Stars. Minnie was shocked but felt prepared to take over the team, and thus became one of the few women ever to own a Negro League baseball team.

As an owner of the Detroit Stars, Minnie endured racism and prejudice toward herself and her players, especially while traveling for games. Players were often forced to sleep and eat on the bus, as the restaurants and hotels refused to accommodate and even feed Black Americans. Sometimes they were even chased out of town.

The players and Minnie persevered through strife and their love of the game. The ripple effects of that persistence echoed through the civil rights movement.

Minnie and her contemporaries made strides in changing American culture through sport. We are forever indebted for their sacrifices in pursuing a more equal and equitable future for all.

I am proud to step up to the plate to commend Minnie for her extraordinary legacy, a legacy that continues to live on in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the Ted Rasberry Youth League, where I have had the honor of serving as a volunteer coach.

#### JUST SAY NO TO SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, free market capitalism is the most democratic possible way to organize an economy.

In a free market, consumers vote every day with every dollar they spend on what they want the economy to produce, who will produce it, and what they are willing to pay for it. The prices decided every day in this never-ending plebiscite also convey vast information regarding every product, including the scarcity or abundance of the resources in it, the labor conditions that produced it, and the systems that distributed it.

It is a perfect system that requires only that government protect the freedom for a willing seller and a willing buyer to make an exchange according

to their own best judgment. No force is required because both act in their own self-interest.

The price signals of that simple exchange, multiplied infinitely throughout the day, guide the labor and resources of an economy to their highest and best use according to every person's own individual interests, needs, and judgment.

Yet, politicians love to interfere with this perfect mechanism through a variety of tools designed to direct the economy—that is, to replace the judgment of individual consumers and producers in the market with the judgment of politicians.

One of the most insidious and self-destructive ways they do this is by subsidizing the things that they think consumers should buy in order to make those things more attractive. This literally stuffs the economy's ballot box, diverting resources from their highest and best economic use for consumers to the highest and best political use for politicians. Worse, it corrupts the accurate price signals that are essential for consumers to make rational decisions over allocating their own resources and thus directing overall economic output.

Insurance, electric cars, mass transit, sugar, milk, solar panels, airline tickets, housing, tuition, healthcare, film production, green energy—it is hard to find a sector of the economy that isn't rife with subsidies. We also shouldn't forget the infinite subsidies that saturate our tax code.

True, these subsidies make the cost of favored products cheaper—and who can begrudge cheaper healthcare, tuition, or housing?—but that is an illusion. The reality is that sellers will always accept subsidies by raising their prices accordingly. Those receiving the subsidies are somewhat better off, but everyone else is much worse off.

As subsidies artificially inflate prices, more subsidies are required to ameliorate their effect in a continuing spiral. It is no coincidence that the prices in the most heavily subsidized sectors—like healthcare, housing, and tuition—are rising much faster than underlying inflation.

Provide first-time home buyers with a \$25,000 subsidy, and sellers accept that windfall by raising their prices on the entire housing stock. Subsidies not only cost hundreds of billions of dollars and inflate the prices of the things being subsidized, but they also misallocate resources and misdirect consumer decisions.

Insurance, for example, is how markets assign a dollar value to risk. It is risky to build a house in a flood zone, and high insurance premiums reflect that reality. Subsidized insurance rates invite people to take risks that high premiums would otherwise warn them against.

Accurate price signals are absolutely essential if consumers are to make rational decisions as they vote every day on what the economy should produce,

and they are just as essential if producers are to know what consumer demands they most need to fulfill.

Now, subsidies are so deeply ingrained in the economy that getting rid of all of them seems like a fool's errand. Every subsidy has a constituency, and the bigger the subsidy, the more powerful the constituency. Budget writers grappling with the largest Federal debt in history, and with an economy operating well below its potential, should be looking for every way to reduce, eliminate, or reform subsidies or substitute for them other mechanisms that can serve the same societal aims without doing so much damage.

Here is a modest proposal to Messrs. Musk and Ramaswamy: If you want to balance the budget and improve the economy, just say no to subsidies. Not only will such a hunt save hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars, but it will also reduce the overall cost of the things being subsidized and reinvigorate the economy by restoring the flow of capital to its most productive use.

#### ANTI-ARAB HATE CRIMES

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the recent surge in anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic hate crimes in our country.

The constant dehumanization of Palestinians has very real and deadly consequences. The hateful rhetoric, including from many elected officials in this Chamber and in the media, is leading to violence in our communities and putting countless lives at risk.

Hisham, Kinnan, and Tahseen are childhood friends, all college students. They were spending Thanksgiving break with Hisham's family in Burlington, Vermont, when they were shot by a man sitting on his porch. They were targeted while wearing kaffiyehs and speaking Arabic. Hisham is now paralyzed from the chest down.

These hate crimes are not isolated incidents, Mr. Speaker. In October of last year, a man from Farmington Hills, Michigan, posted on social media, asking if anyone in the metro Detroit area wanted to come to my district to go hunt Palestinians.

This threat to commit mass murder horrified our community in Dearborn, many not wanting to open their doors, as they were already grieving the loss of so many loved ones and friends from the horrific genocide taking place.

□ 1015

Last month in Detroit, 7-year-old Saida—I wish people would take the time to actually listen to her interview as a Yemeni-American child of Muslim faith—was playing at her local park and was brutally attacked. A man approached her out of nowhere and slit her throat with a knife. Saida ran home to her parents covered in blood.