

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 RE-STRAIN 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 RE-STRAIN 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 Mamacita Tiene 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 CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

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 Eramdjan of Celina, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Staff Sergeant Eramdjan 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 Eramdjan 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 rescue teams in saltwater operations.

I am deeply honored to recognize Staff Sergeant Jack Eramdjan 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