

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 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 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 frivolous

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. STEFANK, 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