

the drugs captured by the BIOSECURE Act, veterans and service members could be alienated from treatments and cures that are available to other Americans. This bifurcation is not only unfair, it renders the disincentive to biotech ineffective.

In its form, this bill is not fit to function and makes no attempt to support a domestic CDMO or CRO industry. It simply limits care and cures for service members and veterans.

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CELEBRATING THE ACTIVISM OF  
CARIN MROTZ

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**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Carin Mrotz over the past two decades, for the betterment of our community. For several years, she played integral roles at Jewish Community Action, a nonprofit that organizes the Jewish community in Minnesota, who work in equal partnership with other marginalized communities for racial justice, economic justice, housing reform, and gender equity.

Since 2004, Carin has been a relentless advocate for social justice. During her time at JCA, she acted as a community organizer, operations and communications director, and eventually became the Executive Director in 2017, only accelerating the momentum of the work to which she has long been committed. In 2023, she joined Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison's staff as a Senior Policy Advisor, where she remains dedicated to improving the lives of everyone throughout the state.

In addition, Ms. Mrotz has also served as a trainer, college instructor, a Minneapolis Complete Census Count Committee member, and too many other roles to list. She does all of this while also caring for her husband and two children, still finding time to perform Punk Rock Karaoke at the legendary watering hole Palmers, which sadly closed this year.

We are all fortunate to have Carin as part of our community and I am grateful to have known her as long as I have. If it hadn't been a dare that brought Carin to Minnesota in 1997, we would not have benefited from her years of community service. Let us take this moment to recognize and celebrate Carin's work.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2025*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 310; NAY on Roll Call No. 311; and NAY on Roll Call No. 312.

RECOGNIZING COOSA CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE  
AHSAA CLASS 2A STATE CHAM-  
PIONSHIP IN FOOTBALL

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coosa Christian School football team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) 2A State Championship.

At Protective Stadium in Birmingham, Alabama, on December 5, 2025, the Coosa Christian School football team, with a record of 13–2, secured the school's first state championship over Lanett High School with a score of 29–22. Two touchdowns were scored in the final few minutes of the game with a 20-yard touchdown run by Mac Long with 22 seconds left on the clock.

The championship team from Gadsden, Alabama, is led by Coach Rush Propst and is the school's first football state title.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Coosa Christian football team, Coach Propst and his coaching staff, the faculty and fans on this exciting win for the school. I congratulate them and Go Conquerors.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF WADE HAMPTON  
CREEKMORE, JR.

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**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2025*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of fellow Mississippian Wade Hampton Creekmore, Jr. Mr. Creekmore was a telecommunications pioneer and co-founder of Cellular South, Inc., which now operates under the brand name C Spire.

Mr. Creekmore's leadership and career is considered one of the most admired and impactful in Mississippi. Starting with his father's purchase of a small independent telephone company in Calhoun County in the late 1940s, Mr. Creekmore expanded the family's telecommunications career into one that, this year alone, was awarded America's Most Admired Workplaces.

Mr. Creekmore was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and graduated from Central High School in 1952. After high school, Mr. Creekmore earned a business degree from the University of Mississippi in 1956. Mr. Creekmore then enlisted in the United States Navy, where he became an officer, serving on the Underwater Demolition Team, which is known today as the Navy SEALs. As a frogman, he was among the earliest combat divers in U.S. military history.

In 1960, Mr. Creekmore resigned his commission to work for the Franklin Telephone Company. He was a manager and an officer, serving in these roles until his passing. Wanting to further his education and prepare for the future, Mr. Creekmore enrolled in law school at the University of Mississippi and graduated in 1967. Upon his graduation, Mr. Creekmore, his wife Betsy, and their daughters moved to

Meadville, where he started a law practice before moving permanently to Jackson.

After years of building out their telephone business across Mississippi, the Creekmores and other members of the family invested in wireless communications. After acquiring a wireless license in 1986, Cellular South was born in 1988. The Creekmores started with nine employees and three towers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The first call was made by none other than the legendary Archie Manning. Growing to the largest privately-owned wireless provider in the Nation with a headquarters in Ridgeland, Mississippi, the Creekmores were among the first to work with wireless communications in the United States. In 2011, that same innovative company was rebranded as C-Spire, reflecting the full-service telecommunications and technology provider the company has become.

While Mr. Creekmore's telephone company was a priority, he also had a deep commitment to his community. He founded the Southwest Mississippi Chess Foundation and the Franklin Chess Center, based in Meadville, Mississippi.

He also had a passion for sports, swimming across the Mississippi River, competing in road races, participating in the Senior Olympics, and taking part in triathlons.

In his later years, on family property in Warren County with nothing but a shovel and commitment, he single-handedly planted several thousand oak trees to make the world better and more beautiful for future generations.

He was a deeply loved and respected husband and a gentle, caring rock of a father who had a watchful, unwavering, abiding love for his daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was also a good friend to man's best friend.

While clearly a man among men throughout his life, Mr. Creekmore's selfless countenance displayed a steadfast expression of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to all who knew him well. Though humbly unaware, he produced a bounty of such fruit not for his name, but to exalt the precious name of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Mr. Creekmore and his family have been dedicated members of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church for many years.

Mr. Creekmore will be greatly missed not just by his family but by his entire community. His impact will be felt for generations, and it is my honor to remember his life and commitment here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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RECOGNIZING THE NAPOLEON  
HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE  
JUNIOR VARSITY STATE GIRLS  
WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

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**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2025*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school water polo team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young women of the Napoleon High School junior varsity girls water polo team

have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the JV State Girls Water Polo Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams, the Lady Wildcats overcame the challenges posed by intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Lady Wildcats defeated Upper Arlington to win the state championship. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both in and out of the pool, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Napoleon High School junior varsity girls water polo team. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS OF  
FERNANDO V. COTA FROM FORT  
SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEME-  
TERY, TEXAS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2025*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (NDAA).

The National Defense Authorization Act is an important piece of annual legislation that governs the policies of the Department of Defense and authorizes our common defense. It is deeply unfortunate that Congress considers this year's NDAA amongst a steady stream of alarming misuses of the U.S. Armed Forces by President Trump. While in office, the President has issued unlawful orders, directed unlawful deployments, and has unlawfully misused Congressionally appropriated funds. President Trump has chronically abused his executive authority as Commander in Chief, and I do not believe that Members of Congress can divorce our consideration of this NDAA from the context of his actions in the Oval Office. Let me provide just a few examples.

First, President Trump has ordered the U.S. military to strike maritime vessels in the Western Hemisphere that the Trump administration claims are carrying narcotics. These military activities in the Caribbean have not been authorized by Congress, and the administration has deliberately withheld information from Congress on the nature of these strikes. I believe these to be extrajudicial killings and they should end immediately. These strikes are occurring amongst a large-scale military buildup in the Caribbean, the goals of which have also not been adequately explained to Congress.

Second, the President has circumvented the authority of several state governors and federalized the National Guard for the purposes of deploying them in support of domestic law enforcement activities. Domestic policing is not among the National Guard's core missions, and the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 prohibits the President from deploying the U.S. military for domestic law enforcement missions unless the Insurrection Act of 1807 has been invoked, which President Trump has not done. These unlawful deployments are a serious misuse of

the National Guard for political purposes by President Trump and they should end.

Finally, President Trump's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) repeatedly violated Article 1 of the Constitution and appropriations law. OMB has frequently directed the Department of Defense to withhold funding to authorized programs against Congressional intention and direction. During the longest federal government shutdown in history, OMB directed the Department to unlawfully use money appropriated for national security research and development projects to pay military personnel. I support paying our troops in the event of a shutdown, but the way OMB and the Department moved this funding was not legal.

These are just three examples in a very long list, but the fact is that President Trump has a record of chronic unlawful misuse of our military and national security assets. This is dangerous to our national security, the future of our democracy, and this behavior is directly relevant to whether Congress should endorse an NDAA that, in my opinion, does not do nearly enough to reign in an Administration that is increasingly out of control. Let me lay out several of my concerns with this legislation.

First, this NDAA authorizes \$890 billion in funding for the Department of Defense, National Nuclear Security Agency, and other national security agencies. This is approximately \$8 billion above what the President requested in his Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for national security agencies. Additionally, the Trump administration received \$156 billion in new mandatory defense funding through the Republican reconciliation bill. I voted against providing the Administration with that funding, and I believe it will give them too much flexibility in supporting a broad range of the Administration's national security priorities. However, Congress has yet to receive a final spend plan from the Department that accounts for the full amount of that funding. Given the broad increase in defense funding provided through reconciliation, and my previously stated concerns about OMB's unlawful approach to appropriations law, I do not believe that Congress should authorize additional defense funding in the NDAA above the budget request.

Second, I am concerned that this NDAA will enable the Trump administration's continued misuse of the National Guard and active-duty military for domestic law enforcement purposes. The bill codifies portions of several of President Trump's executive orders regarding U.S. military activity on the Southern Border, including the administration's establishment of new National Defense Areas. It does not provide clear statutory limits on the use of lethal military force on U.S. soil, including narrow definitions of pressing circumstances, judicial oversight where practical, immediate Congressional notification, and independent after-action review. This NDAA needed to provide clear limits on the President's border operations including sunset provisions and reauthorization requirements. It fails to do so. The NDAA also provides no restriction on the increasingly routine federal use of the National Guard and active-duty forces. At the very least, it should limit any domestic support in policing to requests by the governors or narrowly tailored, time-limited federal authorizations with mandatory training and Congressional reporting requirements.

Third, while this NDAA repeals the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMF) related to U.S. military actions in Iraq, the bill does not repeal the 2001 AUMF that was passed following the terrorist attacks September 11, 2001. I have long supported a repeal of the 2001 AUMF because it was intended to authorize military action against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, a mission that has long since ended. The legal authorities provided in the 2001 AUMF are now being twisted by the Trump administration to justify military strikes in the Western Hemisphere on drug traffickers, who are international criminals, but that the Administration has defined as "terrorists." As I stated previously, I believe this to be unlawful. These actions are dangerous mission creep that I fear may lead to another catastrophic war of regime change in Venezuela. If the Trump administration needs new legal authorities to conduct strikes on terrorist groups in the Middle East, then they should seek new authorization from Congress. If they feel that military action in the Western Hemisphere is a national security priority, then they should seek authorization from Congress as well and let the representatives of the people decide as our Constitution states.

Fourth, this bill continues to embrace the Trump administration's culture war attacks on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility programs that undermine recruitment, retention and unit cohesion. Americans have watched President Trump turn the Defense Department into an ideological battleground for imposing a right-wing ideology that politicizes personnel policy and damages the readiness of all our service members. While this conferenced version of the NDAA does not include all the culture war related provisions from House version, it does retain some. That includes a provision prohibiting transgender Americans from participating in sports at the U.S. service academies, which is an unnecessary attack on transgender Americans who are already prevented from serving in the military by President Trump. Republicans must stop injecting partisan politics into the NDAA because these provisions promote only division and will continue to discourage Americans from serving our Nation.

Fifth, this NDAA authorizes expanded military cooperation between the United States and Israel that, considering the Israeli military campaign in Gaza that has killed approximately 70,000 Palestinians, I do not support. To be clear, I have always supported and continue to support cooperative missile defense programs like Iron Dome because I believe that no child—Israeli or Palestinian—deserves to have missiles fall on their heads. However, this NDAA goes beyond support for missile defense and includes provisions that strengthen the defense production relationship and technology sharing, including unmanned systems, between the United States and Israel. As a strong critic of Prime Minister Netanyahu, I am appalled at the way he has prosecuted the Israeli military campaign against Hamas terrorists that has led to catastrophic death and destruct in Gaza. With a fragile ceasefire in place, we should be focused on ensuring the continuation of a peace process that ends the war for good, not expanding our military cooperation with Prime Minister Netanyahu's government.

Finally, this NDAA contains a provision that allows the Department of Defense and the