

The recissions in this bill will cut lifesaving food assistance for families, emergency services for families fleeing conflict, agriculture development programs, and core nutrition services for children under five—just to name a few. This bill even goes as far as to cut the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, a historically bipartisan and uncontroversial program that has saved an estimated 26 billion lives since its inception. Not only will this bill have devastating impacts on the lives of millions of children and families around the world; the cuts in this bill will actively make our country less safe. Our Nation's ability to prevent conflict, eradicate extremism, and promote democracy will be utterly destroyed—and our adversaries are eager to step in.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and many more, I strongly oppose this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THOMAS FRAZIER

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and contributions of U.S. Army Intelligence Officer and Vietnam veteran Thomas Frazier, a model of service.

Tom dedicated his life to law enforcement, public safety, and community service. His life was defined by his kindness, dedication, and quiet strength that touched all who knew him. His service to the San Jose Police Department, the Bay Area as a whole, and the United States will continue to inspire those he left behind.

As a decorated U.S. Army veteran, Tom's service was recognized with a Bronze Star, Air Medal, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. He attended San Jose State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree. Tom dedicated his life to public service, launched his career with the San Jose Police Department while in college, and rose through the ranks to become Deputy Chief of Police.

In 1994, Tom was appointed Police Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, overseeing more than 3,000 officers and 600 civilian personnel. He also served as President of the Board of the Police Executive Research Forum, advancing innovation in law enforcement nationally and globally. A few years later, Tom served as Director of the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he oversaw the hiring of 100,000 new police officers nationwide. He also served as Executive Director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association for ten years. He led a consulting company that served a diverse clientele, including the Department of Homeland Security, NASA, Johns Hopkins University, and various cities across the Nation.

Tom also dedicated time to education and community service. He spent years teaching hostage negotiation techniques throughout the United States and Canada. While doing so, he collected police patches given to him by those he taught. He also lectured at Johns Hopkins University, mentoring future leaders in public safety and organizational leadership. Tom

coached youth soccer teams in Los Gatos and Baltimore, in addition to coaching the San Jose Police soccer teams. He generously contributed to local projects through his involvement with Rotary in Petaluma and Novato.

Most importantly, Tom was a devoted father of three children and a grandfather to six. He will be remembered for his warm smile, easy laugh, unwavering integrity, and generous spirit. May his enduring commitment to education, public safety, and love of country serve as a guiding light for future generations.

RECOGNIZING SEAN MCKILLEN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to recognize Mr. Sean McKillen for his service at Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) and his remarkable role in the Light Up Navajo Project. In May, a courageous team of 16 WREC employees traveled over 1,800 miles to the remote, rugged terrains of Arizona and New Mexico, where they spent two weeks installing vital electrical infrastructure for Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Their efforts brought light, safety, and hope to communities long overlooked, allowing children to study after dark, families to preserve food, and elders to live with greater comfort. Despite daunting challenges and limited equipment, the WREC team completed a demanding project in just eight days—far ahead of expectations—demonstrating professionalism, humility, and unwavering commitment to this life-changing mission.

The impact of WREC's work goes far beyond electricity; it represents a bridge to connection, opportunity, and the return of future generations to their ancestral homes. The emotional moment when power was turned on for the impacted families—bringing tears of joy and renewed hope—is a testament to the profound difference this project made. WREC's participation in the "Light Up Navajo" initiative reflects not only their technical expertise but also their heart and respect for the people they serve. Their dedication has energized ten homesteads and countless lives, creating a legacy of service that embodies the true spirit of cooperative values. The WREC team's journey inspires us all, proving that with compassion and teamwork, even the most daunting challenges can be overcome to light up lives and communities. I commend the entire team for their efforts on this worthwhile endeavor and for their ongoing service to our local community.

HONORING JULIE RUIZ AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA DURING LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Julie Ruiz was born in Arizona and raised in Mexico. As a

young woman, she came to Florida looking out for herself. She lived with friends who supported each other in building their lives in Central Florida, with few resources and no family here.

She began working at Disney Springs as a cashier for a restaurant run by Delaware North, making just \$16 an hour and sleeping on her friends' couch. Because Julie is a fighter, she quickly began to fight for restaurant workers to be treated better—especially as a young bisexual woman who believed that she and all her coworkers should be equals. Even while sometimes working two jobs and rushing from shift to shift, she was paying rent to sleep in a living room and was classified as a part-time employee at Disney Springs with no benefits.

One day, Julie and her coworker reported their supervisor for sexual harassment, but the company left him in his position as their supervisor. She became a union leader with Unite Here Local 737, organizing her coworkers to win a better life, saying: "We should feel safe in our restaurant. I want to be treated as a human being. We ARE their restaurants—they don't run without us."

One week after passing out a union flyer with her story on it, Julie was fired for nothing more than wearing an earbud while walking into work. She continued to fight, telling her story of sexual harassment and worker organizing more and more publicly. She has inspired thousands of people to sign on to support her fight—not just for herself, but for her coworkers, for women and LGBTQ workers, and for workers in the tourism industry everywhere.

HONORING GRAYSON "ROCKY" COCHARO

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable life of Mr. Grayson "Rocky" Cocharo, a centenarian whose strength, humility, and quiet heroism have inspired generations.

Born in 1924 in Pueblo, Colorado, Mr. Cocharo's early life was marked by resilience, having lost both parents and been raised by his grandmother. At the age of 18, he answered the call to serve in World War II, becoming a navigator with the elite "Carpetbaggers" operation. Flying covert missions behind enemy lines, his bravery remained unspoken for decades, yet left a lasting legacy.

Following his service, Mr. Cocharo built a life of purpose and devotion—marrying his beloved Beatrice and working for over 40 years in aeronautical engineering. Known for his craftsmanship and intellect, he brought joy to others through hobbies like restoring antique toys and refinishing furniture.

He is celebrated not only for his remarkable longevity but for a lifetime defined by service, love, and community. His family and all who know him are deeply enriched by his legacy.

Happy 101st Birthday, Mr. Cocharo. I thank him for his service, and thank him for the life he has lived in quiet strength.

HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 331, the HALT Fentanyl Act.

This bill is not a solution to the proliferation of Fentanyl Related Substances (FRS) in America. We need legislation and investments in health interventions that will save lives while taking meaningful action to stop illicit drug sales.

S. 331 would permanently criminalize all FRS based solely on their molecular structure. This would seriously hamper the medical community from working on the development of treatments to fentanyl overdose or other medically beneficial FRSs. The HALT Fentanyl Act also imposes harmful mandatory minimum sentences. Decades of research shows that mandatory minimum laws that focus solely on supply reduction and incarceration are not effective in slowing the flow of illicit drugs into our country or the rates of overdoses in our communities. In fact, the current fentanyl epidemic has been found to have its roots in crackdowns on prescription opioids and heroin that were not paired with evidence-based overdose prevention and treatment services. We should be pursuing policy solutions that incorporate evidence-based strategies to addiction and overdose prevention that are rooted in health and science, not just increasing criminalization.

Congress should bring forward a comprehensive bill that reflects the input of medical professionals, addiction specialists, researchers, and law enforcement. Republicans are trying to present a “quick and easy” solution to a complex problem.

HONORING DANNY GARCIA AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA DURING LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Danny Garcia is a proud first-generation American, born to Costa Rican parents, and a lifelong Florida native who proudly calls Orlando home.

Danny's dedication to the LGBTQ+ community began early. As a youth, he volunteered with organizations focused on HIV awareness and support, including the Pediatric AIDS Foundation and Hope & Help.

Today, that same passion continues through his leadership as the board president of The LGBT+ Center Orlando, where he works to advance visibility, equality, and vital services for the community.

As a teenager, Danny was a member of the Delta Youth Alliance, which eventually became the Orlando Youth Alliance. It was there that he first found a sense of community, marching in his first Pride parade before he even had his learner's permit and volunteering at fundraisers and local events that supported LGBTQ+ youth.

In the late 1990's, Danny began freelancing for Watermark, Central Florida and Tampa Bay's LGBTQ+ newspaper—a publication he had followed since its founding in 1994. That role marked the start of his journey in LGBTQ+ media, leading to opportunities with other publications and platforms that elevated queer voices and stories.

In 2014, Danny joined Watermark full-time as an account manager. Through hard work and a deep understanding of the community he serves, he was promoted to become the publication's sales director.

Over the years, Danny has remained committed to uplifting LGBTQ+ voices and using media as a tool for connection, representation, and change. His story is one of advocacy, authenticity, and lifelong pride in the community he serves.

RECOGNIZING JAMEN MONBARREN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to recognize Mr. Jamen Monbarren for his service at Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) and his remarkable role in the Light Up Navajo Project. In May, a courageous team of 16 WREC employees traveled over 1,800 miles to the remote, rugged terrains of Arizona and New Mexico, where they spent two weeks installing vital electrical infrastructure for Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Their efforts brought light, safety, and hope to communities long overlooked, allowing children to study after dark, families to preserve food, and elders to live with greater comfort. Despite daunting challenges and limited equipment, the WREC team completed a demanding project in just eight days—far ahead of expectations—demonstrating professionalism, humility, and unwavering commitment to this life-changing mission.

The impact of WREC's work goes far beyond electricity; it represents a bridge to connection, opportunity and the return of future generations to their ancestral homes. The emotional moment when power was turned on for the impacted families—bringing tears of joy and renewed hope—is a testament to the profound difference this project made. WREC's participation in the “Light Up Navajo” initiative reflects not only their technical expertise but also their heart and respect for the people they serve. Their dedication has energized ten homesteads and countless lives, creating a legacy of service that embodies the true spirit of cooperative values. The WREC team's journey inspires us all, proving that with compassion and teamwork, even the most daunting challenges can be overcome to light up lives and communities. I commend the entire team for their efforts on this worthwhile endeavor and for their ongoing service to our local community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGY TRANSITIONS INITIATIVE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Energy Transitions Initiative Authorization Act to expand resilient and reliable energy for some of our nation's most vulnerable regions—isolated and Tribal communities.

Isolated and Tribal communities often share common energy obstacles, such as limited energy infrastructure, high costs of imported energy and vulnerability to natural disasters. For example, in my home state of Hawaii, which ranks as the state with the most expensive power in the Nation, residential electricity rates average 34 cents per kilowatt, far exceeding the national average by threefold. We are not alone in this problem. For example, in Maine the cost of electricity hovers at 22 cents per kilowatt, coming in at 13 percent higher than the national average, in part due to its many islands and isolated communities.

My colleagues and I representing these communities intimately understand the challenges that isolated and Tribal communities face and are working to address them. In Hawaii, our state leaders launched a clean energy initiative in 2008 to aim to use 100 percent renewable electricity to power our entire state by 2045. We focused on clean energy, which we can self-sustain, and recognizing that good portions of our energy come from overseas and potentially adversarial countries, green energy can also help us advance national security interests. As for my role in this effort, I have focused on supporting federal programs that help advance these goals.

These unique energy resilience challenges in remote and Tribal areas are the focus of the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Transitions Initiative Program. Since its inception, this program has partnered with over 25 Tribal, coastal, remote and island communities across the Nation to help them secure reliable and affordable energy.

The Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Program provides customized technical and financial assistance to community projects aimed at accessing reliable and affordable power and increasing energy resilience. Specific community projects include solar power interconnection, analyzing wind energy potential, conducting wildfire preparedness, advancing weatherization retrofits and implementing microgrids and battery storage projects.

The draw of this program is that it doesn't come in and dictate how communities reach their clean energy goals. It is a partnership program that values and appreciates the perspective of local and Tribal communities, actively listening and incorporating community feedback.

In Hawaii, the Energy Transitions Initiative has provided technical assistance to the City and County of Honolulu to conduct microgrid location analyses for regional hybrid microgrids and map designs. Because Hawaii is prone to severe weather conditions that have previously caused long-duration power outages, our islands have identified hybrid microgrids as one method to improve resilience. Microgrids are best suited to areas