

Ms. McBRIDE. Madam Speaker, on the evening of February 27, the Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware, CLASI, was informed that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was immediately terminating their fair housing enforcement grant at the direction of DOGE.

This funding, which amounts to nearly half a million dollars, represents roughly 4 percent of CLASI's entire annual budget. It is a devastating blow to a well-respected, beloved, and vital organization that has been the sole enforcer of Federal fair housing laws in Delaware for decades.

Since 2004, CLASI has been a critical player in protecting Delawareans from discrimination in housing transactions, whether they are buying, selling, renting, or simply trying to secure a safe place to live.

For many of our most vulnerable residents, including individuals with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, and low-income families, CLASI has been a beacon of hope and a lifeline in pursuit of safe, quality, and affordable housing.

Before CLASI began receiving HUD funding, much of this mistreatment went undetected, with only a small number of complaints filed and investigated each year. Yet, in just the first 2 years of receiving HUD support, the number of discrimination investigations in Delaware doubled. That number only continued to rise as CLASI expanded their work.

Let me share some recent examples of the vital work of CLASI. This is work that has now been jeopardized by President Trump's cuts.

A Delaware woman was injured in a horrible act of domestic violence. As she missed work for medical appointments and struggled financially, her landlord threatened eviction. CLASI stepped in, preventing the eviction, securing funds for the landlord, and ensuring this survivor of domestic violence was able to remain safely in her home.

Another Delaware woman was facing life-threatening harassment from an abuser. She was in urgent need of a safe place to live but was trapped by a landlord refusing to let her end her lease. CLASI was able to negotiate an early termination of her lease and helped her preserve her section 8 voucher, enabling her to escape her abuser and find a safe home for herself and her children.

There is an elderly woman who, after becoming wheelchair bound, was confined to her apartment on the third floor of a building that lacked an elevator. For nearly a year, she struggled to get the building to address her need for a safer, accessible unit. It wasn't until CLASI intervened that she was able to secure a transfer to a ground-floor unit, finally allowing her to live with dignity and safety.

These are just a few of the examples of the impacts that CLASI has had on individuals and families in Delaware.

Across the country, other fair housing organizations are facing the same fate, the same heartbreaking cuts by this administration.

As of the current grant year, CLASI has handled 163 fair housing cases. That is 163 families, individuals, and neighbors who are able to access support and the protections guaranteed by Federal law. That is 163 instances where CLASI's expertise and commitment have kept someone in their home or ensured that they could have housing that met their needs.

Since the actions of President Trump took effect, all of that is at risk. At a time when the American Dream remains unaffordable and inaccessible for many and when housing, even basic shelter, remains out of reach for working people, this administration's actions make that problem worse. The termination of this funding is not just a fiscal hit. It is an attack on the principle of fairness.

Housing isn't a luxury. It is a basic need. I will continue to fight to restore these funds. I will fight for the future of CLASI and other fair housing programs, and I will fight to ensure that every person in Delaware and across the country can rent or buy a safe, quality, and affordable home.

The Delawareans' lives touched by CLASI's work should know that I stand with them. I will fight for them. Together, we will continue the work of guaranteeing fair housing for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUTTRELL). Members are reminded to refrain from trafficking the well while other Members are under recognition.

CONGRATULATING HECTOR MORENO, JR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Border Patrol Agent Hector Moreno, Jr., for his 27 years of service.

Born and raised in McAllen, Texas, Mr. Hector Moreno, Jr., pursued a career of selfless service to our community. He joined the Border Patrol in 1997 and, for nearly three decades, has set a high standard for his fellow agents by upholding their core values of service to our country, integrity, and vigilance.

During his tenure, he successfully led specialized operations in the Rio Grande Valley to combat transnational crime and tackle illicit drug trafficking at our southern border.

I had the opportunity to join Mr. Moreno in south Texas to participate in a ride-along and hear from Border Patrol agents and experience their daily work of protecting our communities.

Last summer, Mr. Moreno retired as a division chief for the Rio Grande Valley Sector. We are grateful for his honorable service and exemplary leadership to fellow agents and our commu-

nity. In his retirement, he continues to serve others as a criminal justice teacher at Nikki Rowe High School in McAllen, Texas, and leads the Student Criminal Justice Club.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Moreno for his selfless service. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM B. TRAVIS

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we celebrated Texas Independence Day and the brave efforts of Texas revolutionaries and Tejanos who fought to secure their independence from Mexico.

I rise today to recognize the heroes of the Texas Revolution and share the brave words of Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis to rally the Texans' army at the Alamo nearly 200 years ago:

"Bejar, February 24, 1836.

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world.

"Fellow citizens and compatriots:

"I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man.

"The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat.

"Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3,000 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days.

"If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country.

"Victory or death.

"William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

"P.S., the Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight, we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of bees.

"Travis."

Though we know Texans lost this battle, Lieutenant Travis' words were heard for miles.

"Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry, and revolutionaries joined the Texan forces to win the war and secure freedom for Texas.

I rise today to proudly honor our great State and the brave men and women who built Texas on values of family, faith, and freedom.

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MOURNING THE LOSS OF MICHAEL "MICKEY" HARMON AND JORDAN CELOTTO

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to join Buffalo's LGBTQ+ and arts communities in mourning the tragic and senseless deaths of Michael "Mickey" Harmon and Jordan Celotto.

We remember these two extraordinary artists, activists, and partners for the impact they made on the lives of countless people. Mickey Harmon's art captured the heart and soul of Buffalo: its beauty, its grit, its history, and its potential.

Mickey's vision and skill, in partnership with his fellow artist and activist Ari Moore, told the story of Buffalo's LGBTQ+ heroes on a mural in the heart of Buffalo's gay nightlife neighborhood. Mickey showcased his art at The Good Stuff, his store on beloved Allen Street, selling everything from prints of Buffalo's architectural beauty to his famous Metallica-inspired Cheektowaga T-shirt.

His talent can be seen in murals across Buffalo, including most recently the beautiful work he completed at the Friends of Night People.

Mickey thrived as a leader in Buffalo's LGBTQ+ and arts communities. For 7 years, he organized Allentown's First Fridays, leading to the galleries and shops on Allen Street to stay open late on the first Friday of every month to promote small businesses.

He organized innumerable festivals, celebrations, and other programming such as Exist and Intersect that celebrated and showcased the work of queer artists.

Just the weekend after his tragic and untimely death, he was scheduled to debut his newest event featuring performance art, music, and dancing. That event instead became a celebration of life for Mickey and Jordan, a heart-breaking yet fitting tribute to their legacies.

Jordan, too, was a fixture on the arts scene, working with Mickey to pull off event after event, selflessly giving back to the community. He found his professional home at Remedy House, a unique cafe on Buffalo's west side, where he was known for his warm smile, his can-do attitude, and his commitment to his colleagues.

Jordan came to Buffalo from Canada about 5 years ago, after meeting Mickey. The two of them truly completed each other, building a home filled with love, complete with their beloved cats, Beef and Chicken.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with some of Mickey's own words to the city he loved which he released in a series of postcards at the height of the pandemic: "Let us be reminded of our community's past and present so we can all look forward to a more positive future." "It is your Buffalo. It is my Buffalo. We are all neighbors."

Mr. Speaker, may the families and friends of Mickey Harmon and Jordan Celotto be comforted by the joyful memories they each leave behind, and may we all do more to build a world they would be proud of. May they rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEODORE W. "TED" LINA

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Theodore W. "Ted" Lina on receiving the 2025 St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Man of the Year award.

Ted is an educator, mentor, and institution in the St. Joe's community, striving for excellence and inspiring generations of students, including myself.

Mr. Lina has dedicated his career to instilling a deep respect for history, a nuanced understanding of government, and a reverence for civic engagement in his students.

Since 1983, Mr. Lina has brought his passion and expertise to his AP government class, however, his impact extends far beyond the classroom.

In 1984, Mr. Lina hosted the very first St. Joe's political debate. The event stemmed from Mr. Lina's passion for local politics and American Government.

For more than 40 years, the SJCI Political Debate has grown into one of the seminal, annual public forums for political discourse in the entire region.

Through his leadership in the SJCI Political Debate, Mr. Lina has helped cultivate a generation of informed, engaged citizens.

During the debates, students serve as panelists, fact checkers, and time-keepers, but learn lessons that are applied later in life as many go on to serve in public life, law, business, and beyond.

Mr. Lina embodies the Lasallian spirit of faith, service, and community. His commitment to St. Joe's and its mission is evident in the countless students he has inspired over so many years.

At a time when our political discourse has deteriorated such that finding common ground seems impossible, this work is more important than ever.

On behalf of western New York and a proud Marauder, and student of his myself, I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Lina. This honor is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his unwavering dedication to our alma mater and for shaping the future leaders of our community. Enjoy the celebration, and as always, let's go St. Joe's.

RECOGNIZING BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. LUTTRELL of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize March 10 through March 16 as Brain Awareness Week.

During Brain Awareness Week, neuroscientists around the world educate young students and the public on the wonders of the human brain. These activities will contribute to a public understanding of brain function, scientific research, and bring awareness to the brain disorders and diseases that

directly affect the lives of nearly 100 million Americans.

Groups such as the Society for Neuroscience meet with legislators across Capitol Hill to educate us on the biggest issues facing scientists today, including the importance of robust funding for research agencies and programs such as the NIH and the BRAIN Initiative.

Researchers across the country rely on this funding to be able to conduct their groundbreaking work into a variety of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, traumatic brain injuries, and mental health disorders.

It is our responsibility to ensure funding continues because the potential to find a cure isn't a matter of if, but absolutely when.

One of the leading programs in advancing our understanding of the brain has been the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies, the BRAIN Initiative.

The BRAIN Initiative has been instrumental in developing tools and technologies revolutionizing the field of neuroscience. For more than a decade, research supported by the BRAIN Initiative has led to major breakthroughs. For example, researchers have gained new knowledge on how the brain encodes, stores, and retrieves information. Basic research such as this is critically important to find cures and treatments for disease and brain disorders.

The BRAIN Initiative has resulted in numerous key accomplishments that have fundamentally changed our understanding of the brain's neural circuits. The BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network revealed the genetic, cellular, and structural makeup of the human brain and nonhuman primate brain, paving the way for a new generation of precision treatments for people with brain disorders.

Researchers have been able to develop the first complete cell atlas of a whole mouse brain through the BRAIN Initiative which characterizes more than 32 million cells across the mouse's brain and provides critical information that extends to the study of neural circuits and how they underpin behavior in health and disease.

The impact of BRAIN Initiative is far-reaching. Through separate research projects, BRAIN-funding cells census tools are being used to actively investigate disorders of the brain such as Alzheimer's disease and opioid use disorder.

The BRAIN Initiative has also transformed the way we do science, fostering collaborations among large teams of researchers. This collaborative approach has enabled researchers to tackle large problems and deliver knowledge and resources on a scale not previously possible in neurosciences. These accomplishments are expanding our fundamental knowledge of brain function and paving the way