

for novel approaches to diagnose, treat, and ultimately prevent neurological disorders.

BRAIN is lifting all boats, ranging from basic science to disease-focused research in a complex neuroscience research ecosystem involving government, industry, philanthropy, and healthcare systems.

Building on a remarkable decade of innovation and discovery, the BRAIN Initiative is now setting its sights high with large-scale projects aiming to break current barriers in knowledge and technology related to human brain science, and it is critical we continue to support and invest in this initiative moving forward.

In addition to all the amazing work being done in brain disease and disorders, we should also, as a forward-thinking, innovative country, become citizen scientists curious about how to sustain brain health, even in the absence of disease or disorder.

Viewing the brain from more than a medical perspective to include thinking proactively about optimizing its daily performance is what Brain Awareness Week can inspire.

Imagine a world where information and tools that can benefit the brain of every American, regardless of age or stage, were accessible to all. The impact on education, industry, and military would be profound. It is vital that we inspire the next generation of scientists to continue brain research. The discoveries made by these future scientists will shape the next frontier of medicine, unlocking new treatments, therapies, and ultimately cures for conditions that affect millions of families across our Nation.

Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the contributions that thousands of dedicated scientists are making to unlock these mysteries behind the human brain.

BUDGET AND DEBT

(Mr. KHANNA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, last week, President Trump came in this Chamber and said he was going to balance the budget immediately. I will just go over some facts, not politically speaking, just facts.

We have got a \$36 trillion debt. That is where we stand.

Currently, we are running a \$1.8 trillion deficit. If you were to balance the budget, that would be zero and we should stay at a \$36 trillion debt.

What does President Trump do with the Republicans? What is their budget? Their budget actually is going to add \$28 trillion of debt over the next 10 years.

Here is the kicker. It is not just that they aren't balancing it to keep it at \$36 trillion; it is that they are adding

more debt by adding to the deficits more than the current deficits.

The current deficit projection would add \$23.9 trillion of debt, but the Republicans want to add \$28.5 trillion of debt, \$4.6 trillion more of debt spending than the current deficit spending.

I just ask for some math. You want to deficit spend to have tax breaks for the wealthy because you think that will help the economy, fine, but every American should look at this chart because the Republican budget is making the deficit and the debt worse. It is not balancing the budget.

Now I will speak about my second chart.

Madam Speaker, many of us want to cut waste, fraud, and abuse from government, so where should we look first? Well, how about the Pentagon, which has 13 percent of the Federal budget.

Mr. Musk, who I have known for 15 years, is firing all these veterans. Is he saving money? Let's look at this chart. All of the DOGE firings, 0.004 percent of the budget, is where Mr. Musk's cuts have come. That is 455 times less than the Republican tax breaks, which are 1.82 percent of the budget.

I don't understand it.

Elon, you are an engineer. You are cutting 0.004 percent, while the Republicans are providing 455 times that in a tax break and you are not touching the main budget of 13 percent of the Pentagon.

I have a proposal for you. You can either come to Congress to explain this chart while you are going after 0.004 percent or USAID, which is 0.7 percent, as opposed to going to the 13 percent of the Pentagon budget while you are allowing tax breaks of 455 times more than the savings you are finding at DOGE—YOU can either come to Congress or you can go to Jon Stewart.

Jon Stewart called you out and said: Why not, if you want to cut waste, cut the Pentagon defense contract budget? Why not cut the fossil fuel subsidies? Why not cut the drug manufacturers who are ripping off the government?

Let's talk math about how you get actual cuts because right now you are cutting 0.004 percent while not going after any of the real "holy cows" in our government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1030

REMEMBERING JOHN BILLINGSLEY

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a west Texas giant, a proud Texas Tech Red Raider, a loving husband and father, and my dear friend, John Billingsley.

From humble beginnings in O'Donnell, Texas, John's entrepreneurial spirit and west Texas work ethic propelled him to a series of successful ventures, becoming one of the most accomplished business leaders in the entire country.

A common man with uncommon character, endless vision, and a love for God and people as big as the west Texas horizon, John was the epitome of the American Dream. His life was proof that greatness is often found in the most obscure places and within the most unassuming people.

John was a true gentleman whose uncanny business acumen was matched only by his humility, integrity, and authenticity.

John's story reminds us that with big dreams, hard work, and determination, the opportunities in this great country of ours are endless.

We grieve this great loss with his loving wife, Harriett, and the entire Billingsley family. We pray God's comfort for them, but we celebrate alongside them, as well. We celebrate John's amazing life and legacy and all the tremendous contributions he made to his friends, family, community, and our beloved country.

God bless the Billingsley family, and go west Texas.

HONORING JONATHAN NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Jonathan Nicholas Williams, beloved husband, father, true west Texan, and dear friend of mine.

When I first met Jon at a Farm Bureau meeting in Terry County, he was brutally honest, direct, and plainspoken, like a lot of ag producers. While the meeting was tension filled, we became fast friends.

Jon was the epitome of a west Texas farmer, no doubt: hardworking, God-fearing, and humble, a man who was totally dedicated to his family, community, and friends.

Anyone who knew Jon would tell you that his greatest source of joy was his family, his beautiful children, Paisley, Lexi, Owen, and Willow, whom he raised with the love and support of his wife, Melissa. A proud and committed father, he instilled in his children the values of personal responsibility, perseverance, and, of course, a love of the land.

I know I speak for the entire community of west Texas when I say that the Williams family is in our prayers, and our entire community stands ready to care for them in the same way that Jon cared for us, his community, and his friends.

May God comfort the Williams family, and may He give all of us the courage and character that Jon had to live up to his legacy of truth-telling, servant leadership, and fighting for all we believe is good and right in this world.

May God bless my friend, Jon, and may he rest in peace. Blessings on his family. Go west Texas.

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

(Mr. AMO of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because something is rotten in the state of our government.

Over the past 50 days, Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and DOGE have willfully spread chaos and confusion inside Federal agencies. They have gleefully fired thousands of employees. By taking out their chain saw and cutting down to the bone, this Republican administration is maliciously hurting the American people. We also know they have their sights on Social Security and Medicare, per Elon Musk's statement that it is the "big one" to cut.

This isn't fear-mongering. It gives me no pleasure to report these facts, but we need to be honest. The speed, scope, and scale with which these bad-faith actors are disrupting lives is unprecedented.

While attention has been on the impact of firings in Washington, this is not a Washington story—far from it. In fact, fewer than one in five Federal workers live in D.C., Maryland, or Virginia. That is right, the ongoing efforts to cut back the Federal Government are falling on the over 80 percent of workers who live outside the beltway. They are falling on everyday Americans who rely on our government in countless ways, big and small.

Today, I would like to share some stories from Rhode Island of those being hurt by Donald Trump's callous disregard for public service.

I will start with a constituent of mine from Barrington, Rhode Island, who works in international development. Since December, she has been employed by a nonprofit organization that helps children with disabilities outside of the United States. The way she explains it: "Eliminating USAID in its entirety has hollowed out what used to be the largest bilateral aid agency in the world. When these programs stop, kids suffer. They lose access to shelter, medical care, clean water, food, and education."

Cuts to U.S. foreign aid have forced the nonprofit to start laying off people. They have lost thousands in the field and terminated hundreds more on the international programs team. This hurts our humanitarian and national security goals.

Every day, my constituent goes to work worried that their job will be next on the chopping block. Worse still, because of potential cuts to Medicaid that Republicans are pursuing in their budget resolution, she is worried whether her family, including her two young sons, will have health insurance if she loses her job.

My question is: Is the cruelty worth it, Madam Speaker?

It is not just those who project American influence abroad. It is also those who carry their service forward after serving in uniform. The Federal Government is the largest employer of

our brave veterans. Thirty percent of the Federal workforce are veterans, including one of my constituents from Bristol, Rhode Island. As a disabled veteran with 23 years of service, my constituent was unceremoniously fired from his position at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on February 27.

In his letter, he had asked the Department of Commerce if he could receive a letter of displacement to acquire another Federal position versus having to apply as a member of the public. He received no answer, but then again no longer had the access to find out. Thankfully, we learned yesterday that he was reinstated and will report to work tomorrow.

The question is, though, how many veterans have not been so lucky? How many are now scrambling for a job, wondering if their "thank you for your service" is an unceremonious pink slip?

It is shameful. It is un-American. It is wrong.

I want to end on a hopeful note. Recently, I heard from Stephanie, a constituent from North Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Stephanie isn't a Federal employee. She is a researcher who went into the field after personally experiencing and seeing her loved ones experience diseases with few treatment options available.

Stephanie earned her Ph.D. in experimental and molecular science. Today, she is a post-doctoral research fellow working to find treatments for neurofibromatosis type 1. Currently, her job is safe. Cuts to research through the National Institutes of Health have been halted by a Federal judge. I proudly led more than 150 of my colleagues in a letter to support this bipartisan—yes, bipartisan—funding priority.

The overall point remains, though: Cuts to Federal funding and Federal workers affect millions of Americans across the country.

Our community is lucky to have researchers, veterans, international aid workers, agricultural experts, and meteorologists. They work to find cures, promote American interests, predict the weather, and keep us healthy, fed, and safe. Their jobs aren't just a line item on a budget. They are about people. They are about Americans who care about our country and the direction of where we are going. Each one of them has done the most American thing possible. They have dedicated their lives to making our Nation a better place.

FIGHTING MEDICAID FRAUD

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the rampant fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicaid that is draining American taxpayers and hurting our most vulnerable seniors, dis-

abled, and other Americans who rely on this program.

Yesterday, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russell Vought, told us something shocking, that one out of four Medicaid payments are improper payments—one out of every four.

This echoes a 2024 report from the Biden administration's Office of Management and Budget that designated Medicaid and Medicare as a high priority for susceptibility to fraud, waste, abuse, improper payments, and overpayments.

In 2024, the Government Accountability Office released a report estimating over \$100 billion in improper payments were made in the Medicare and Medicaid programs for the fiscal year 2023.

Now, I could read some of these headlines that highlight it in the media. There was a CNBC report that detailed how Medicare and Medicaid programs are being brazenly targeted by sophisticated criminals to the tune of \$100 billion a year.

"Lack of State oversight spurs Medicaid fraud," says Spectrum New York.

"Scammers ripped off NY's controversial Medicaid home care program to the tune of \$68 million," from the New York Post.

The New York Times says: "Staggering Rise in Catheter Bills Suggests Medicare Scam."

"Florida Man Indicted for [Medicare and] Wire Fraud . . . in \$97 Million Scheme."

"Medicaid program suspended from two south Jersey nursing homes," after being "accused of taking \$83 million from nursing homes funded by New York Medicare and Medicaid."

"Fiscal year 2023 proved to be a high-value one for healthcare frauds and settlements, with the DOJ totaling \$2 billion in illicit activity."

In California: "Attorney General Bonta Announces Indictment of Southern California Healthcare Provider for Medi-Cal Fraud of Nearly \$60 Million."

CEO of "Digital Health Company Arrested for \$100M Adderall Distribution and Healthcare Fraud Scheme."

In New York: "Doctor Convicted of \$24M Medicaid Fraud Scheme."

"Attorney General James Announces Convictions and Sentences of Five Taxi Company Owners in Orange and Rensselaer Counties for Stealing Millions from Medicaid."

"Florida Telemarketer Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison for \$67 Million in Medicare Fraud Scheme."

In San Antonio: "Hill County doctor sentenced 10 years in prison, \$26 million in restitution for Medicaid fraud scheme."

I can go on and on, reading headline after headline about the rampant fraud and abuse in this program that is actually taking away—that is what is hurting our vulnerable Americans who rely on this program, the fraudsters who are stealing the money.

My Governor, Kathy Hochul, lied to New Yorkers about what Republicans