

Republicans loved to talk about Article I of the Constitution and insisted on clear checks and balances.

What do I hear now? Silence.

Now that Republicans are in control of Congress, they decide to bend the knee to Donald Trump. Republicans are giving Donald Trump and Elon Musk the power to decide who gets money and who doesn't. Based on these last 8 weeks, we know who Trump prioritizes: his billionaire friends and big corporations. He does not care for veterans, workers with disabilities, children, senior citizens, farmers, or families just trying to make ends meet.

Republicans will try to call this a clean continuing resolution. Believe me, that is a bunch of fill-in-the-blanks because this is far from clean. The Republican funding bill has dirt all over it.

With this bill, the Trump administration will decide construction funding by the Army Corps of Engineers. Trump will cut funds for lead pipe replacements for schools, better water mains to prevent flooding, and better streets for our communities.

Elon Musk and DOGE have proven how little they care for our veterans. They made sweeping staffing cuts to veterans' centers across the country, including in Danville, Illinois. My office has gotten calls from workers and some vets who were fired for no justifiable reason, impacting their own families and the veterans they care for.

The Republican funding bill goes even further, cutting \$23 billion in veterans' benefits. It gives Trump permission to eliminate programs for veterans, including homelessness prevention programs, which could lead to more than 32,000 veterans losing their homes. These are people who defended our country.

Trump would also have the power to reallocate funding dedicated to maternal and child health programs, including Healthy Start, rural maternal health initiatives, and maternity care training.

For over a decade, I have rolled up my sleeves to save mothers who are dying from preventative pregnancy-related causes. In the middle of a maternal mortality crisis, Trump would sign away all the programs that help mothers and babies.

Trump likes to talk a big game about border control and our country's fentanyl crisis. He plays as the world's biggest bully and hits our closest allies with tariffs. Meanwhile, Republicans give Trump the power to steer funding dedicated to stopping the flow of fentanyl and instead spend that money on mass deportation initiatives.

Last September, Kankakee County in my district received funding to help law enforcement crack down on illicit drug trafficking and address the overdose epidemic. That funding would stop under the Republican bill.

You heard at the joint address to Congress last week that RFK, Jr., is free to run with his conspiracy theories

and anti-vaccination lies. This bill would give him broad discretion to spend money as he wishes at the CDC, ignoring critical lifesaving programs like ending the HIV epidemic initiative, Alzheimer's disease programs, and cancer prevention.

If you are not part of the 1 percent, House Republicans and Donald Trump simply do not care about you. It does not matter if you are Democrat, Republican, or Independent. This partisan funding bill proves it. Republicans are giving Donald Trump the green light to do as he wishes, and we all know that he does not have the American people in mind.

I, alongside House Democrats, have also been at the negotiation table, but we will never negotiate away veterans' benefits, healthcare, or people's Social Security. I refuse to betray my constituents. Please stand up, speak out, and make your voices heard.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards the President.

CELEBRATING ACCESS INDEPENDENCE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. CLINE of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of Access Independence, a dedicated organization serving people with disabilities in Virginia's Northern Shenandoah Valley.

For four decades, Access Independence has been a beacon of hope and empowerment, promoting independent living through essential services and resources.

Founded in 1985 as one of 17 centers for independent living in Virginia, Access Independence has continuously expanded its impact, offering independent living skills training, peer mentoring, information and referral, and advocacy services to the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, Warren, and the city of Winchester.

Led by Middletown Mayor Charles Harbaugh and guided by core values of empowerment, integrity, respect, and equal rights, Access Independence's dedicated team has touched thousands of lives. Last year alone, it served 678 clients and generously provided over 200 pieces of medical equipment to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Access Independence on this significant milestone and wishing them continued success in the years ahead.

REPUBLICANS' EMPTY PROMISES

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks, Americans have actively watched the

dismantling of Social Security and direct attacks on our seniors, our families, and also our veterans.

I have heard directly from my constituents, and they are scared. They are worried about their next meal. They are worried if they will be able to see their doctors. They are worried if they will be able to retire with dignity. They are worried about the skyrocketing cost of living and the price of groceries. It is because they have heard so much about the cuts to Medicaid, the cuts to SNAP, and the cuts to the VA, all being proposed by the House Republicans.

Let's take a closer look at what the House Republicans are proposing. House Republicans are proposing Medicaid cuts of \$880 billion, SNAP cuts of \$230 billion, Social Security cuts of \$1.5 trillion, Medicare premiums raised by 22 percent, and 83,000 veteran employees being fired.

Let's take a closer look at what they actually promised the American people.

House Republicans have promised the American people to actually put forward bills that will make their life better.

Let's take it to the board. Nothing, nada, nothing has been proposed to help them with their financial situation. To make a visual of it, nothing has been proposed for the American people.

I dare my House Republicans to join House Democrats to put forth bills that will actually help the American people. The American people do not want \$880 billion cut from their healthcare. The American people do not want \$230 billion cut from SNAP and other assistance programs. They want to actually live the American Dream, and they want opportunities.

Right now, House Republicans have offered nothing but a blank piece of paper.

Why, you may ask? Elon Musk says the only way to save America is by jeopardizing our most vulnerable. It is by eliminating entitlement programs. In fact, Mr. Musk said that the biggest issue that he has and what he must do is eliminate these programs.

What types of programs are we talking about?

It is Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' benefits.

For the American people, this is ridiculous. These are our most vulnerable populations. We had promised our warriors and our heroes that we would be there for them and that we would provide their benefits for them.

What are we doing? I dare House Republicans to join the Democrats and stand up for the American people and to stand with us as we fight for the American people.

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I dare House Republicans to stand up for Social Security, to stand up for Medicaid, to stand up for our heroes.

The time is now. Let's stop the madness and make sure that all Americans

have a real opportunity to live with dignity and pursue the American Dream.

CONGRATULATING PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy men's basketball team for winning their first championship in the history of the program.

The 11th ranked Lions beat the 5th ranked Palo Verde Titans with a score of 69-46, an incredible performance by all players.

From being four games under 0.500 just 6 weeks ago to clinching their goal as champions, this victory is an incredible underdog story.

This championship caps off a monumental achievement for second-year coach Steve Solita, who has transformed the Lions into a winning program during his short tenure.

To the players, coaches, family members, and anyone who played a part in this special season, I congratulate them on this historic achievement. They have made their school and our community extremely proud. Mr. Speaker, may they know that we all look forward to rooting for them next season again.

RECOGNIZING WOLFGANG WEBER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible contributions Wolfgang Weber has given to the soccer community in southern Arizona.

Born in Germany in 1944, Wolfgang distinguished himself as a talented soccer player before immigrating to the United States in 1973.

In 1977, he was the cofounder and head coach of Tucson United Soccer Club and the Tucson Soccer Academy. During this time, his team made it to eight finals and won three state championships.

In 1982, he became head coach of Salpointe Catholic High School men's soccer program and has amassed an outstanding record of 888 games, 793 wins, went to the State finals 12 times, becoming State champions 10 times. He is the longest tenured head coach in Tucson's history, coaching 43 seasons.

In fact, Coach Weber just led the Salpointe men's soccer team to a championship this year, their fifth title in a row.

For his passion, devotion to all student athletes that he has coached, and his genuine love for the game of soccer, Wolfgang was rightfully inducted into the Pima County Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. Wolfgang Weber is known as the father of soccer in southern Arizona, and rightfully so.

Wolfgang's legacy reminds us of the incredible impact one person can have

in a community. Through his passion for soccer, he has enriched southern Arizona in ways that will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING MARK SCHMITT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Schmitt on his retirement as the director of the Small Business Development Center at Cochise College and thank him for his outstanding leadership and support for small businesses, the backbone of our local economy.

As a former businessowner himself, Mark leveraged his deep knowledge of the trials and triumphs of running a small business to help others. Through his 17 years as the SBDC, he was more than willing to help out those chasing their own American Dream.

The center not only helps prospective owners launch their businesses, it also provides a variety of cost-free classes and services, such as forming a business plan, designing a website, and much, much more.

Throughout his time as director, Mark was instrumental in hosting workshops, pursuing grants, and advocating for the small business economy to thrive.

Mark's unwavering commitment to this purpose has truly made a long-lasting impact. I know we are all thankful for Mark's leadership and service to southern Arizona. His legacy and the invaluable contributions he has made will continue to positively influence his community and the lives of countless people. Once again, I thank him for his service.

HONORING WALTER B. GONSOLIN, JR.

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jefferson County Schools superintendent Dr. Walter Gonsoulin, who was just named the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year.

Superintendent Gonsoulin was celebrated at the AASA's National Conference on Education for his leadership within Alabama's Jefferson County School system.

He helped to create over 20 signature academies in the school district that exposed students to potential careers, all while increasing the district's college readiness rates and dual enrollment participation.

He is the first Alabama educator to win this national title.

As the daughter of two educators, I am forever grateful for Superintendent Gonsoulin's efforts and all of the teachers, administrators, and parents who share his mission to provide the best education possible to our next generation of leaders.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Superintendent Walter Gonsoulin. We are all so proud of him, and we are grateful for

the work that he does each and every day to create opportunities for our students to thrive.

MONTGOMERY GREYHOUND BUS STATION

(Mr. FIGURES of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a deep sense of responsibility to highlight an issue that is disappointing that we have to highlight.

We just spent the weekend, myself and colleagues on both sides of the aisle from both the Senate and the House and people from around the country and around the world, down in Selma, Alabama, and Montgomery, Alabama, commemorating the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, which recognizes the importance of voting rights. We reflected on the lives of the people who marched across that bridge 60 years ago for me to be able to stand here today and for people who look like me to be able to have a fair opportunity to participate in our electoral process.

They were led on that day by a former colleague of many Members here, Congressman John Lewis. Before Mr. Lewis was nearly killed in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, he was nearly killed a few years earlier in Montgomery, Alabama. He was a Freedom Rider, and he was on the bus of Freedom Riders himself with other young college students at the time, both Black and White, as they came from Birmingham into Montgomery, Alabama.

They were abandoned by the State highway patrol escort that they had on that day. When they got to the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station, there were hundreds of Klansmen and Klan supporters awaiting them who unleashed a brutal and savage attack on them nearly killing them, including a U.S. Department of Justice official who had been sent to monitor the freedom rides.

The reason I stand here today is because several years ago we had the wisdom to designate that Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station as a national historic landmark, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places here in the United States, and the National Freedom Rides Museum is now housed in that building.

Last week, just before we went down to Alabama, DOGE, in its infinite wisdom, decided to list that building for sale. That strikes a chord with people in the State of Alabama, both Democrats and Republicans. That strikes a chord with me as someone who sits here today who is the product of the Voting Rights Act.

We think we will win on this one. We hope that they will see the logic in preserving American history. After all, just a few years ago we saw people literally lose their minds over efforts to remove the monuments that have been