

FEDERAL TAKEOVER OF SPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, House Republicans have a big vote planned for today. Now, I wish I was talking about a bill that will lower costs for hardworking families or help more Americans buy a home, the issues that so many people told us mattered most to them in the 2024 election.

However, instead, in just their second week of power, House Republicans have chosen to vote on a Federal takeover of sports at all levels. To justify this power grab, my colleagues across the aisle are preying on the legitimate concerns that some people have about transgender athletes in women's sports.

For the vast majority of those folks, many of them parents, their concerns don't come from a place of hate. They come from a place of worry about the safety of their daughters and the fairness of their sport.

Now, as the only woman in Congress who played Division I sports in college, I know how critical it is that we ensure that sports are safe and fair above all else. That is all any athlete wants, to know that if they put in the hard work and the training necessary, they are going to have a fair shot on game day.

As the mom of two young daughters, who I cheer on from the bleachers every weekend, I know that parents want their kids to be able to enjoy the game they love. After all, we know how important sports can be to children's development. They give the chance to build confidence, learn teamwork, and develop lifelong friendships.

That is why, like parents and athletes across our country, I have long placed my trust in the governing bodies of sports, the experts who have dedicated their lives to these games, to create fair and responsible rules for participation.

Despite what the authors of this legislation have said, many of those organizations have already updated their rules to ensure fairness and safety in their sports. That includes the international authorities overseeing track and field, boxing, cycling, swimming, and rugby, just to name a few. These organizations, many led by former athletes, worked with scientists, athletic federations, and human rights organizations to craft thoughtful, evidence-based rules, including those governing participation in the Paris Olympics last summer.

Don't get me wrong, Madam Speaker. I recognize that there is more work to be done, but why in the world would we let insincere, attention-seeking politicians here in Washington, many of whom know little to nothing about competitive sports, take over? It doesn't make any sense.

However, that is exactly what my Republican colleagues are going to do today, inject themselves into decisions

they have no business making. In fact, if you listen to them, they would have you think that a transgender woman in college, who may have transitioned after puberty and may present physical advantages over her opponent, is the same as a 10-year-old girl who just wants to play soccer on the weekends with her friends.

However, those two situations aren't the same at all, and the consequences of that approach will be devastating: girls as young as 4 years old being subjected to invasive lines of questioning about their bodies and even physical inspections by an adult, a stranger, a predator all because some creep accuses them of not being a girl. What parent would want to put their daughter through that? I know I wouldn't.

Madam Speaker, we won't be able to find common ground on this issue today, but this debate has made one thing abundantly clear: Members of Congress are the last people who should decide who gets to play sports in America. That responsibility belongs where it always has, to the organizations whose mission it is to protect the fairness, the safety, and the integrity of their sports.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the GOP's child predator empowerment act.

BLIZZARDS DON'T CLOSE THE BIG FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, last week in the Nation's Capital, 6.8 inches of snow closed Federal office buildings. Nearly 1,300 miles away in Kansas, blizzards brought more than 18 inches of snowfall to parts of the Big First District. Farmers, ranchers, and ag producers in the Big First didn't have the luxury of closing down for the week. When you answer the call to feed, fuel, and clothe the world, you are required to show up, even when the temperatures are far below freezing.

My congressional district is one of the top agricultural producing districts in the country. It is home to more than 60,000 farms along with farmers, ranchers, feedlot managers, dairies, nutritionists, veterinarians, ethanol producers, ag lenders, and agribusiness owners who bring the agricultural ecosystem to life.

When the snow piles and the temperatures refuse to rise past freezing, these men and women don't get a break. They throw on their warm layers, and they get the job done. Those of us in agriculture understand full well that Mother Nature is not a reliable business partner.

At the end of October, much of my district was still navigating dry to severe drought conditions. On top of navigating an already challenging farm year, these droughts severely squeezed margins for farmers and ranchers.

Approximately 2 months later, Mother Nature changed course once again

with more than a foot of snow. In true Kansas fashion, families and neighbors came together to help one another in time of need. Kansans helped move snow to ensure livestock could still be watered and fed. Kansans helped move calves to make sure that they were warm after they were born, so they could get to a place to be properly fed and nourished in negative temperatures.

Kansans stayed up through the night to make sure livestock had a chance of surviving or to guarantee that their equipment was ready to go by sunrise the next morning.

Why on Earth would anyone do this, Madam Speaker?

It is a special calling that many families in my district have answered. In a world where Instacart and Amazon Fresh can deliver groceries to your door in nearly an hour if you are in an urban area, it can be easy to forget that our food doesn't just come from the grocery store shelf. It comes from the men and women who work tirelessly day in and day out to answer the call to feed, clothe, and fuel the world.

On days with lots of extreme weather like we saw last week, these men and women bust their backs to ensure that we can still have food on our plates when the storms are long gone. It can often be a thankless job.

On behalf of Kansas and the Nation, I thank these brave men and women for keeping us fueled, clothed, and fed. Their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. We are deeply grateful for their efforts to feed a hungry world.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING SARAH HENRY

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, agriculture is the heart of the First District of Kansas. It is our lifeblood.

When I built my team in the District, it was important for me to find someone who knew agriculture and would fight for the farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers of Kansas. Sarah Henry was the perfect choice.

As a graduate with a degree in agricultural education from Iowa State University, Sarah moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked in several congressional offices and for the National Corn Growers Association.

It was during her time in the Nation's Capital that she met her now-husband, Dalton, and the two moved back to Dalton's old stomping grounds in Randolph, Kansas. The move back to the Plains allowed Sarah to serve as my district ag director and later as my district director.

This month, Sarah will begin a more part-time role with the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers so she can focus on her two precious sons, Samuel and Abraham.

I thank Sarah for leading our district team well, for being an incredible advocate and friend, and for caring about Kansas.

Audrey and I are excited for her in this next chapter of life as she adjusts

to being a family of four. I thank her again for being such an integral part of our team.

HONORING ILLINOIS POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor a powerful force in the fight for justice, equality, and true democracy, the Illinois Poor People's Campaign.

In one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the Poor People's Campaign dares to believe that poverty can be eradicated. Their work continues the legacy and vision of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., building a multiracial movement to end poverty, centering the voices of those with lived experiences of poverty, and breaking down barriers to full democratic participation.

The Illinois Poor People's Campaign understands that democracy is too precious and too significant to leave in the hands of those who would prioritize the interests of the ultrawealthy corporations.

I especially recognize the Illinois Poor People's Campaign members and constituents of Illinois' Third District, Sheilah Garland-Olaniran, Joyce Brody, and Lenny Brody. Additionally, I recognize Illinois PPC Tri-Chairs Carlos Rodriguez, Jessica Motsinger, and Reverend Susan Phillips. Their unwavering commitment to all of us all over the country is inspiring and should encourage us to also live a life of this kind of dedication.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend the Illinois Poor People's Campaign for their relentless fight for justice and equality and their efforts to ensure every person has a say in our democracy. I thank all of its members.

HONORING PASTOR EMMA LOZANO

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastora Emma Lozano of the United Lincoln Methodist Church in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.

Born in Texas and later making Chicago her home, Pastor Lozano's lifelong commitment to advocacy has left an undeniable mark on our communities and our Nation.

Her journey as an advocate started at Centro de Accion Social Autonomo, where she and her brother, Rudy Lozano, championed immigrant worker rights. After her brother's tragic assassination in 1983, Pastor Lozano carried his legacy forward, channeling her grief into action and dedicating herself to the causes they both held dear.

In 1987, she founded Centro Sin Fronteras, a grassroots organization that has empowered undocumented families, addressing critical issues such as overcrowded schools, housing insecurity, police brutality, and bilingual education.

In 2006, Pastor Lozano and her late husband, Reverend Walter "Slim" Coleman, sparked a nationwide movement for our shared humanity when they offered their church in my district, Adalberto United Methodist Church, as a sanctuary for a woman who was undocumented and in need of sanctuary, Elvira Arellano, and her son, Saul.

Emma's courage, faith, and tireless work remind us of the power of community and the enduring fight for dignity and equality. On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I thank her for her compassion. I thank her for her dedication to creating a more just, more compassionate world.

May this Congress learn from her—from her dedication, from her courage—and may it truly be what it says it is, the people's House, reminded of our roots and reminded of our shared humanity.

I congratulate Pastor Emma Lozano.

CONGRATULATING BROADWAY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding group of young athletes in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District, the Broadway High School boys cross country team, which won the VHSL Class 3 State championship in November.

Despite online predictions that showed the Gobblers losing by over 50 points, each runner clocked in at their fastest time that day to clinch first place with a 10-point margin over the runners-up.

Along the way, the team also became district and regional champs for the first time in the school's history. The following team members made this victory possible: Peyton Allen, Gavin Diehl, Grayson Jacquez, Jaiden Nguyen, Asher Ryan, Gavin Ryman, Cameron Shifflett, Lee Souder, and Tristan Yoder.

Head Coach Darrell Zook and Assistant Coach Michael Sheets provided their leadership and encouragement. Their success does not just reflect their individual talent but also their commitment to the team.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate each runner and their coaches, families, and supporters. Their hard work and dedication have inspired us all.

CONGRATULATING KATHRYN HA

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional student athlete from Salem High School and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School, Kathryn Ha.

Kathryn is a two-time Virginia High School League 4A coed State golf champion, winning in 2022 and 2024, finishing the latter with an impressive score of 68, 2 under par, even in challenging conditions.

She also captured the 2024 VHSL girls open State championship and has

been named the Virginia State Golf Association's Junior Girls Player of the Year for both '23 and '24.

Under the guidance of Head Coach Blaine Hancock, Kathryn has competed at the highest levels, including representing the United States at the Junior Solheim Cup in Spain.

Introduced to golf by her father, Tim Ha, she credits him with shaping her mental game, proving that family support is invaluable.

Academically, Kathryn shines as well, maintaining a stellar 4.377 GPA. She plans to continue pursuing her academic and athletic journey at Vanderbilt University.

Kathryn's remarkable achievements exemplify perseverance, skill, and sportsmanship. She serves as a role model not just in her community but for young athletes across our Nation. I congratulate Kathryn.

CONGRATULATING CLARKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clarke County High School boys cross country team for their remarkable achievement in winning the Class 2 State championship. The Eagles placed four runners in the top 15 and scored 49 points to capture the program's first State title since 2009.

Seniors James Casey, Jackson Ellis, and Aidan Kreeb each earned all-State honors for placing in the top 10.

Sophomore Landon Horton earned a State medal for placing in the top 15, and sophomore Matthew Lisk rounded out the scoring. Carter Starley and Jonathan Hornbaker also ran for the Clarke County boys team, and Warren Maiberger, Brody Ellis, and Luke LaMaster were members of the post-season championship team.

The team is led by Coach Jeff Webster, who was named the Winchester Star Cross Country Coach of the Year for both girls and boys. According to Webster, the guys simply outperformed what we thought they would do. To place 4 runners in the top 15 was just an exceptional effort and one that other teams could not match.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the 2024 Clarke County boys cross country team. Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of their accomplishment, and I wish them continued success in the seasons ahead.

ALLOWING WOMEN TO THRIVE IN SPORTS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025.

Since 1972, Title IX has allowed women to thrive and excel in sports nationwide. This landmark legislation has empowered countless women to compete at the highest levels, achievements we should honor and protect.

Yet, the left has embarked on a relentless campaign to rewrite Title IX, aiming to erase the critical distinctions between men and women, boys and girls. This misguided agenda poses