

a direct threat to the very spirit of Title IX, opening the doors for biological males to compete in women's sports, thereby undermining the hard-won accomplishments of female athletes nationwide.

Let me be clear: House Republicans will not idly stand by while the radical left diminishes over five decades of progress for women.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025 is essential for ensuring that all young women who aspire to play sports have the opportunity to compete fairly, preserving fairness and protecting their achievements. We must safeguard the integrity of female athletics so that young women can succeed in sports for generations to come.

RISKING CHILD SAFETY TO VILIFY TRANS KIDS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call out harm and hypocrisy. This bill, H.R. 28, is couched as a bill that protects children when it does the exact opposite.

Madam Speaker, this bill not only erodes Federal protections for our kids, but it puts the physical and emotional safety of every child in our public schools at risk.

Imagine that you are 8 years old, trying out for the soccer team, and your coach demands that you show them your genitals. That is abuse. That is exploitation. That is egregious, but it is exactly what this Republican bill does. It allows adults—not medical professionals, just random adults—to demand to inspect our child's genitals without parental consent.

As a survivor of a near-decade of childhood sexual abuse and as a bonus mom to a school-age daughter, I am horrified.

To Members of Congress who support this legislation, you are putting the safety of children across this Nation at risk. Why? Because you want to vilify and harm trans kids, children who should have every right to show up in this world and live and thrive like anyone else. You are punching down at the most vulnerable and exacting harm on everyone.

I would ask my colleagues: Have you spoken to any of these children? How about their parents? They pose no threat to you, but you pose a threat to them, denying them their healthcare, isolating them from their friends, creating conditions for bullying and even suicidal ideation.

You are posing a threat to every child who wants to step onto a soccer field or pick up a softball bat in this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and to speak out in strong opposition to this disgusting, predatory bill that does nothing to keep a single child safe.

WE NEED CLEMENCY

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, for too long, our Nation's criminal legal system has been wrought with systemic injustices and biases and has prioritized cruelty at the expense of rehabilitation and justice. That is why we have a mass incarceration crisis.

Nearly one in two adults in America has had an incarcerated loved one. Today, in the name of all who have felt the injustices of the carceral state, we are standing united to call on President Biden to use his clemency powers to release people from prison and reunite them with their families.

There are mothers like Michelle West, who is incarcerated for the crimes of her abuser; brothers like Charles Ellis, Jr., from my district, the Massachusetts Seventh, who had ineffective assistance of counsel when he committed a crime at the age of 19; and sons like Ismael Lira, who was sentenced to life in prison for a nonviolent cannabis charge.

Madam Speaker, why is anyone still incarcerated for cannabis?

With nearly 1 million people behind bars, more people per capita than any other country, it is time for clemency to put the United States on a path toward ending mass incarceration.

Locked in cages are people who pose no threat to public safety: the elderly, disabled, and chronically ill; those who were wrongly convicted; and people serving time under outdated sentencing laws.

It is the height of hypocrisy to claim they are a risk to public safety when they are the very people at this moment that we are trusting to keep the public safe. Eight hundred incarcerated men are fighting wildfires in California for \$5 a day, only to return to a jail cell at night. During the pandemic, these same people were making hand sanitizer.

President Biden has the power to save their lives. That is what this moment demands, and we are grateful for his leadership. We need action. We need compassion. We need clemency.

CELEBRATING HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, this weekend in my district, the Massachusetts Seventh, community members came together to celebrate Haitian Independence Day. There was much soup *joumou*, freedom soup, that was consumed.

On January 1, 1804, Haiti became the first free Black republic, declaring independence for all people from colonial rule and enslavement.

This weekend also marks 15 years since a devastating earthquake killed thousands and destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes on the island. These anniversaries encapsulate the values of the Haitian people: resistance and resilience.

The Republic of Haiti continues to experience heightened violence and political instability, which is why, as co-chair of the House Haiti Caucus, I continue to advocate for humanitarian aid

to our ally, TPS for migrants, strategic trade partnerships for economic prosperity, and an end to deportations to Haiti.

Even with just a few days remaining in the Biden-Harris administration, we must prioritize stability for Haitians on the island and in the United States.

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DOGE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, proud to announce that I have joined the bipartisan Congressional DOGE Caucus. This important initiative is focused on bringing much needed efficiency to the Federal Government and reducing wasteful spending that burdens taxpayers.

As an Iowan, I know that every dollar counts. Many of my constituents are living paycheck to paycheck, while unelected bureaucrats in Washington continue to waste taxpayer dollars. That is why I am excited to work alongside leaders like Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk who bring a business-minded approach to reforming government operations.

The national debt has now surpassed \$36 trillion. Since 2003, \$2.7 trillion in improper payments have been made by Federal agencies. The DOGE Caucus will work tirelessly to address this issue, streamline operations, and ensure the government is working more effectively and efficiently for all Americans.

I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues and advancing President Trump's agenda to rein in wasteful spending while we work efficiently to provide services and protect taxpayer dollars.

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act which was introduced by Representative STEUBE.

In the last term, the House passed this bill as well, but it was not taken up by the Senate. This critical legislation ensures that only biological women and girls can participate in athletic programs designed for their sex at birth, preserving fairness and integrity in women's sports.

For decades, Title IX has worked to provide equal opportunities for women in education and athletics. This bill reaffirms that commitment by clarifying that sex is determined by an individual's chromosomal expression at birth.

As a physician and a scientist, the science indicates that males, especially after puberty, have greater and longer striated muscle mass which means they run faster, swim faster, and jump higher. They also have greater cardiac volume and greater lung volume which

also enables them to have greater endurance and strength. Those individuals who are competing with women don't offer a level playing field for female athletes.

This bill also requires a report from the Government Accountability Office to assess the negative psychological, developmental, and sociological aspects of male participation in female sports.

Madam Speaker, this is about fairness. It is about protecting women's rights and women's spaces and ensuring that girls have equal opportunities in athletics, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

WELCOMING IOWANS TO THE UNITED STATES
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I extend a warm welcome to the thousands of Iowans, including the hundreds from Iowa's First Congressional District, who are traveling to Washington, D.C., to attend President Trump's inauguration. I know that many of them are making the journey with their families, friends, and fellow community members. I am excited to see such a strong presence of Iowans in our Nation's Capital.

From local leaders to activists to business owners, students, and veterans, Iowans of all walks of life are coming together to witness this historic event. It is a testament to the pride and dedication we have in our State and our country.

My team and I are here to make sure their experience is as smooth and as enjoyable as possible. We look forward to assisting them in any way we can while they are here. We welcome Iowa to Washington, D.C.

HONORING DELTA SIGMA THETA
SORORITY, INCORPORATED

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the celebration yesterday of my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated.

Let me say that it was 112 years ago yesterday that 22 visionary, young, Black women at Howard University came together to create a sorority rooted in the ideas of change, justice, and empowerment.

I am a proud life member of this esteemed sisterhood. For me, it started at the Delta Kappa chapter as a freshman at Central State University and then as a member of the Dayton alumni chapter and now the Columbus, Ohio, alumni chapter.

I am honored to recognize the extraordinary legacy and contributions of this organization which have been a beacon of service, sisterhood, and social action since its beginning in 1913.

These trailblazers envisioned an organization that would prioritize service over socialization, and they had the foundation for what would become one of the world's largest African-American women's organizations.

Over the decades, this organization has tackled some of the most pressing challenges facing our community. The National Library Project provided books to underserved Black communities in the segregated South. Deltas became the first sorority to establish employment counseling and career development for Black women. They partnered with Habitat for Humanity, building homes for families in need at home and abroad.

Delta Sigma Theta has earned special NGO status with the United Nations, ensuring our voices are heard on the world's stage.

Delta Sigma Theta women are among the most powerful changemakers in history. Their history includes ceiling-shattering public servants like Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley, who I fondly called Aunt Edna, serving as the highest-ranking Black woman officer during World War II.

It includes the Honorable Shirley Chisolm, the first Black woman elected to Congress, the first Black woman to seek a major party's nomination for President of these United States and, yes, the only female of the 13 Members who founded the Congressional Black Caucus.

It also includes individuals like Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

Delta has defined leadership in a broad spectrum of influence, from civil rights icons like Ida B. Wells to cultural legends like Aretha Franklin to leaders in this very Chamber like chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, YVETTE CLARKE, and our brilliant sisters who serve here: Congresswoman VALERIE FOUSHEE, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT, Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH, Congresswoman JASMINE CROCKETT, Congresswoman SUMMER LEE, Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN, and Senator ANGELA ALSOBROOKS.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Founders' Day in Ohio, we recommit ourselves to the mission and the vision of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated: Fostering economic empowerment, advancing education, improving physical and mental health, promoting international awareness, and, lastly, engaging in political advocacy. These values have guided us for 112 years and will continue to light our way forward.

Let me add that I associate myself with every word that Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY said with respect to what we are rightly naming. When we think about this bill being proposed, it is really the child predator empowerment act. There is nothing fair or safe about a teacher, a counselor, a non-medical professional asking a young child to remove their garments so they can be inspected.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Madam Speaker, this past weekend, Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro boldly declared his intention to invade and liberate Puerto Rico.

As Puerto Rico's Representative before the United States Government, I want to let Mr. Maduro know an overwhelming majority of Puerto Ricans support a relationship of permanent union or permanent association with the United States, be that as a State or as a U.S. Commonwealth.

That same overwhelming majority also defends the right of a respectable patriotic minority to advocate and fight for the island's independence through peaceful and democratic means. That respect for differing views is a hallmark of our democratic values, something Mr. Maduro clearly does not understand.

The future of Puerto Rico will be decided by Puerto Ricans in a peaceful and democratic manner, the same way that the future of Venezuela should be decided by the Venezuelan people in a peaceful and democratic manner.

I will address my constituents in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Este pasado fin de semana el dictador venezolano Nicolás Maduro anunció su intención de invadir y liberar a Puerto Rico.

Una mayoría abrumadora de los puertorriqueños respalda la unión o asociación permanente con los Estados Unidos, a través del estatus del Estado Libre Asociado o de la aspiración de convertir a Puerto Rico en un estado de la unión.

Esa mayoría abrumadora respalda el derecho de una minoría respetable y patriótica de impulsar pacífica y democráticamente el derecho de Puerto Rico a su independencia.

Esa tolerancia por las diferencias es uno de los valores fundamentales de nuestra cultura democrática, algo que Nicolás Maduro es incapaz de comprender.

Maduro, el futuro de Puerto Rico lo decidiremos pacífica y democráticamente los puertorriqueños, así como el futuro de Venezuela lo deben decidir pacífica y democráticamente los venezolanos.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide a translation to the Chair.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE
"CHA CHA" JIMENEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fighter for human rights, Jose "Cha Cha" Jimenez who passed away on January 10 after a life dedicated to social justice.