

will soon serve as a hub for education, healthcare, and commerce.

With a \$60 million investment, including \$20 million in American Rescue Plan funds, the new Nylon Capital Center will expand access to education and workforce training with a new DelTech facility. It will make healthcare more accessible with a new TidalHealth medical site. Small businesses will have new space to grow, and a coworking center, the Mill, will foster entrepreneurship. Critically, it will remain home to the beloved Sal's Italian Restaurant.

This is a model of public and private partnership coming together to create shared prosperity. With local, State, Federal, and private investments, the future of Seaford is exactly what we should hope for in our small cities and towns across America. The leaders of Seaford, along with partners from across the State, are demonstrating what is possible when communities come together. I am proud to stand with them in this effort, and I look forward to seeing Seaford become a symbol of progress and opportunities for generations to come.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING EAST LANSING TROJANS

(Mr. BARRETT of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East Lansing Trojans on an incredible achievement, winning the State championship with a hard-fought 66-46 victory just a couple of weeks ago.

While the Michigan State Spartans are making a deep run in the tournament in the men's college basketball tournament this month, they need to look no further than across town at the East Lansing boys' basketball team to see another championship team in East Lansing.

This championship is the result of countless hours of practice and years of hard work, and it serves as a capstone to all of the time spent perfecting their craft, playing as a team, and working under the leadership of head coach Ray Mitchell.

A sincere congratulations to each and every one of them. This is a wonderful achievement, and our city is very proud of them.

CONGRATULATING FOWLER EAGLES GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fowler Eagles girls' basketball team, who captured the State championship this past week-end with a commanding 53-29 victory.

I was at the Breslin Center to watch the game with two of my daughters: Eleanor, who just finished her first season of basketball, and Gwen, who is excited to start playing next year. These young ladies on the basketball court really served as a great example

for my own daughters and so many others across our State.

What we saw was more than just great basketball. We saw poise, teamwork, and excellence, especially for young girls like my daughters who could watch that in action.

I thank the Fowler Eagles for inspiring the next generation and making our community proud. Gwen, my 7-year-old, wants autographs from each team member, so I hope we can catch up with them sometime for that.

Congratulations to the team on an incredible season. Our city is so proud of them.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT A GIVEAWAY

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to President Trump and Elon Musk's attacks on the safety nets that countless western New Yorkers and people across the country have earned and need. Hardworking Americans rely on the promise of a secure and dignified retirement. That promise is called Social Security, and it is a solemn promise we must keep.

Yet, from Elon Musk accessing private beneficiary data to Trump's hand-picked Acting Commissioner declaring living recipients to be deceased in order to claw back their benefits, Social Security is under fire.

Starting next week, a new rule will create further barriers, requiring in-person identity verification for those who are unable to register online. This will hurt the most vulnerable people in our community: people with disabilities, limited income, inadequate access to technology or transportation, and our seniors who rely on phone-based support. At the same time, the administration is planning to close offices around the country, making it even harder for people to access these services.

These reckless actions are robbing the hardworking men and women that I represent in western New York. It is a slap in the face to every American citizen who has spent decades paying into the system, and every widow, person with a disability, and child who lost a parent too soon who deserves and needs the benefits that allows them to survive.

Social Security is not a giveaway. The program is fully funded by the people who rely on it, by the sweat and hard-earned wages of American workers. Without Social Security, nearly 22 million Americans—many of them seniors on a fixed income or people with disabilities—will be plunged into poverty overnight.

In my district alone, over 167,000 people rely on Social Security benefits to pay their bills, put food on the table, and afford their prescriptions. It has allowed seniors to stay in their homes,

help widows keep the lights on, and ensure that people who have worked their whole lives don't spend their final days scraping by.

Despite the incredible progress we have made as a Nation to keep people out of poverty, President Trump and Elon Musk are rolling back the clock in order to give tax cuts to billionaires and the ultrarich. Elon Musk even called Social Security the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time. Perhaps he has this confused with his own plan to cut taxes for the richest among us, including himself, at the expense of everyone else.

Congress must reject the administration's attempt to weaken Social Security. We need to fight tooth and nail against those who want to raise the retirement age, reduce benefits, or privatize this program for the benefit of corporations and the ultrarich. Instead, we should be strengthening Social Security to protect this vital safety net and fighting for an America where working people get to retire with dignity.

President Trump needs to keep his hands off Social Security.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO EDGAR CARL WILKE

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American, World War II veteran Edgar Carl Wilke, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

A resident of West Seneca, New York, Mr. Wilke served our Nation with courage in World War II, where he was wounded in battle defending the freedoms we hold dear. After enlisting from his hometown of Buffalo, he achieved the rank of private first class while serving in the 24th Infantry Division of the 21st Regiment.

For his bravery and heroic conduct in the Pacific theater, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. For wounds taken during the Battle of the Philippines, he received a Purple Heart. Along with these two high honors, he has received numerous other awards, including the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two bronze service stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar.

Mr. Wilke's sacrifice is a reminder that the liberties we enjoy today were secured by the bravery of patriots like him. We owe our veterans more than gratitude. We owe them our unwavering commitment to ensuring that they receive the care, benefits, respect, and recognition that they deserve.

On behalf of the people of western New York and a grateful Nation, I wish Mr. Wilke a very happy 100th birthday. I thank him for his service, and may his century of life continue to be an inspiration to us all.

VOTERS SENT US TO CONGRESS TO LOWER COSTS

(Mr. OLSZEWSKI of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, in November, the American people sent us all here to Congress with one clear mandate: to lower costs, to make life easier for working families, and to ensure that no one in this country has to choose between putting food on the table and keeping the lights on.

I came to this floor 49 days ago with a similar poster. Now, here we are again, 81 days into this session of Congress, and I return with the exact same message. Nearly 3 months in, and what do we have to show for our work? Not one vote, not one serious effort from the Republican leadership of this House to tackle rising costs for struggling families, nothing to lower grocery prices, bring down the cost of gas or prescription drugs, help parents afford childcare, or support seniors who are worried about their retirement.

President Trump promised to lower costs on day one. He has now failed to deliver on his day-one promise for 64 consecutive days. Making matters worse, costs are anything but lower. Instead, the reality is grocery prices are rising, inflation is up, and the stock market is unstable. In fact, rather than lowering costs, the Trump administration is actively promoting policies that are poised to drive up costs even higher.

The Trump tariffs alone will increase costs for the average family by as much as \$2,000 per year, simply to buy essentials like gas and groceries. God forbid your family needs a new car or a home renovation in the near future.

Making matters even worse, as prices go up, safety nets for our most vulnerable families are poised to be slashed under this reckless Republican budget. I voted “no” because it cuts hundreds of billions of dollars in funding for SNAP and Medicaid, which means children will go hungry, seniors will lose care, and people with disabilities will be left behind, period.

You don’t have to take my word for it. The Congressional Budget Office issued a letter on March 5 where they reinforced that the math is conclusive: Major cuts are the only way to meet the requirements of the Republican House budget resolution.

The American people are tired of the political theater. They are simply asking for solutions. However, this administration and extreme Republicans have offered no real plans, no real solutions, just more empty promises with painful cuts and a whopping Federal deficit increase looming on the horizon.

That is why I have been tracking congressional inaction day after day after day on my social media, because families in Maryland and across the country cannot afford to waste any more time.

Here we are, on the House floor once again, calling on House leadership to bring real legislation to this floor that will start delivering results for our constituents.

The good news is, there is no shortage of legislative proposals that will

help accomplish this. For example, I am proud to have cosponsored bills that will provide immediate relief by strengthening and modernizing the child and earned income tax credits, expanding paid leave, providing penalty-free retirement withdrawals, and giving Americans more financial flexibility in these tough times.

These aren’t partisan bills. These are commonsense solutions. Yet, House leadership refuses to bring a single one forward for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I will not stop calling for action. Families in Maryland and across the country demand it, and they deserve it. I will not stop until we do what we were sent here to do: lower costs and build a better future for every American.

ROLL BACK ENERGY MANDATES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the previous administration, the Biden administration, spent most of its years forcing extreme energy mandates onto everyday appliances: our gas stoves, our water heaters, dishwashers, air conditioners, you name it.

These rules really aren’t about efficiency, as the manufacturers have worked for decades to make them more efficient and meet already existing standards. No, it is more of a control situation. These drive up costs, limit the choice for consumers, and force everything onto an already overloaded power grid. Gas stoves, I know, are the preference for many people in their homes. Gas water heaters work well. It is a deal where the government wants to take away the choices.

Natural gas is, indeed, one of the most affordable, reliable energy sources we have. The previous administration was the enemy of that. They did everything they could to push it out of homes and businesses and the production of it on our open lands that have so much potential, especially in the Western States.

We have seen attempts to regulate gas stoves out of existence, and earlier this month we in the House voted to overturn one of those rules. Americans should be able to choose appliances that work best for them, not be forced into expensive, unreliable electric alternatives that they may not be able to afford that the government simply mandates.

The push to electrify everything is reckless. In my home State of California, for example, they want to take away lawnmowers, leaf blowers, even—get this—generators. Now, when the power goes off, that means the power is off, the electricity is off. What are you supposed to run a generator on, if you need to, especially for a couple days, to keep your freezer going, things like that? It doesn’t make any sense.

The electric grid is already struggling to keep up. These mandates pile

even more demand onto it while shutting down traditional energy sources that actually work.

Where is the electricity going to come from? In my home district in northern California, they have torn out four hydroelectric dams, and they have their sights on many others. In Mendocino County, they are looking at what is called the Scott Dam, Lake Pillsbury that generates some electricity and is also important for agriculture. It is a constant push to remove water storage.

In California, we lost one nuclear power plant due to an incredible amount of regulations to keep it going. That power plant was in San Diego, San Onofre. We are barely holding on to the one in San Luis Obispo, which represents 9 percent of the power grid. San Diego also represented 9 percent of the grid at that time. It has to be made up for with solar panels or windmills, which the solar one that they have in Ivanpah they are going to decommission pretty soon because it is not working very well. When we are forced into this electricity grid need, we will find that we are going to be running out because at the same time they mandate this, they mandate taking away the generation.

We have rolling blackouts in California, skyrocketing energy prices, and warnings—get this—not to charge electric cars that have been mandated by the State because the grid can’t handle it at certain hours. Our Governor came out saying, well, we need to do this thing, and at the same time they are warning people, better not plug your electric car in.

As we know, wind and solar energy aren’t enough to power the country. They are a tiny percentage of the overall pie. Wind power seems to work for a few years, and then they have to dispose of it, hauling the blades to some landfill in Utah because they don’t have a way to recycle it.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, we need a reliable, balanced energy approach. That includes natural gas, which is so abundant in this country with the miracle of hydraulic fracturing. We have much that we can develop here and also be a good exporter to Europe so they don’t have to rely on the Russian bear to import through their pipeline. Isn’t that something?

Natural gas is affordable and efficient. It keeps costs down for families, businesses, and our economy. Instead of eliminating it, we should use it to strengthen our grid and keep energy reliable and cost-effective.

The regulations previously were nothing more than government overreaches disguised as environmental policy. They don’t make life better for working Americans, for the economy, or for U.S. strength and readiness. They make it more expensive, less reliable, and less efficient.

It is time to roll these regulations back and put the power literally back