

be an economic driver through promoting and advancing the town's vibrant historic downtown that is welcoming for all folks.

Mike will be remembered as an incredibly hard worker, an intense advocate for his Auburn community, and an unapologetic family man. He always put his heart and soul into his work, and our community will miss him and his mentorship sorely.

DIGGING DEEP FOR COURAGE

(Ms. BYNUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I am a woman of faith. I know I am joined in this Chamber by fellow believers of all kinds. Today, I am reminded of Ezekiel 34:3, a story about the selfishness and greed of shepherds who used their sheep for their own gain, while neglecting their primary duty which was to care for the flock.

All of us were sent here to lead, to care for, and to protect our people. I ask my colleagues: How do they justify making an agreement with farmers and not paying them money? How do they justify snatching the benefits from veterans who put their lives on the line for our country? How do they justify the erasure of the underpaid and unpaid laborers who helped build this country? How do they take from our seniors on Social Security? They don't and they can't.

Believers know that, especially in times that require courage, God always has their back. Don't just sit back and watch. Dig deep for some courage and stand up for those who are in need the most.

□ 1130

PROTECTING EDUCATION FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President Donald Trump, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, and Congress are working together to return education to the proper original jurisdiction of the States.

I support President Donald Trump's plan to eliminate the Department of Education, ensuring that education decisions are made by local elected school boards, putting students and teachers first. Additionally, South Carolina has the visionary leadership of the State Superintendent Ellen Weaver in the tradition of Dr. Barbara Nielsen.

Additionally, House Republicans are protecting institutions of higher education by voting for the DETERRENT Act introduced by Congressman MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER. Foreign adver-

saries are targeting students by stealing research, limiting free speech, and pushing propaganda. As a cosponsor, I am grateful the act will reduce the foreign gift reporting threshold, close reporting loopholes, require disclosure of foreign gifts and contracts at research institutions, and hold private institutions accountable for their financial partnerships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. President Trump is reinstating existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

GUTTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, when I recently asked someone who supports gutting the Department of Education how that decision would make American education better or what the Department even does, they couldn't give me an answer.

Let me tell you how gutting this Department will hurt every parent, teacher, and, most of all, students in our country.

In Virginia alone, 5,000 teachers would be at risk of removal; our education system would face a \$2.4 billion shortfall; and we would lose \$2,000 in spending for each student. Our most vulnerable students with special needs would be unable to access the resources they need to succeed, and low-income students would go hungry.

Education has always been a great equalizer and an engine for socioeconomic mobility. Without the Department of Education, we will be left with a system that leaves Americans—rural, urban, and suburban—underserved, uneducated, and unprepared.

If we want to lead in the world of innovation and discovery, if we want opportunity for everyone, we need to invest in the next generation, our kids.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELSE RIKE

(Mrs. FEDORCHAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary North Dakota woman, Else Rike. She celebrated her 101st birthday today. Instead of taking the day off, she was no doubt right where she has been for more than 70 years, at her desk in Grand Forks, North Dakota, preparing tax returns by hand with a calculator and typewriter.

Else's work ethic is unmatched and recently landed her a page 1 feature story in *The Wall Street Journal*. While tax preparers today rely on soft-

ware, Else relies on decades of experience and a deep knowledge of the tax code.

This beautiful woman, shown right here, is proof that hard work and sharp thinking never go out of style.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Else for living our values and for showing us what true dedication looks like.

Most importantly, happy 101st birthday, Else.

RECOGNIZING WEST SALEM HIGH'S INCLUSIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Salem High School for its commitment to inclusivity in sports.

The Titans recently earned two national awards for their inclusive basketball program. In addition to being named a Unified Champion School by the Special Olympics, West was also added to ESPN's Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to only one school in every State per year.

Their unique program includes combined gym classes where students with disabilities are paired with other students who can help guide them through activities, as well as special equipment and necessary modifications, like shorter hoops for athletes using wheelchairs.

I am so proud of the students and faculty at West for their dedication to ensuring that every one of their peers can participate and make friends through sports, regardless of their abilities.

Again, congratulations on these incredible and well-deserved achievements. Keep up the good work, and go Titans.

ADDRESSING CONSTITUENTS' MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, more than 700,000 New Jerseyans sent me here to be their voice in Congress and to address the challenges they face each and every day.

Many of those constituents have sent me messages advocating for what is most important to them. Thousands have written asking me to protect Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Hundreds more wrote about the rising costs of childcare and housing. Many have asked me to stop the scourge of gun violence in our communities.

Not a single person, not one, wrote about loosening regulations on their commercial walk-in coolers and refrigerators.

Why, then, are those the bills that Republicans brought to the floor this

week? Maybe it is because Republicans don't have solutions to the challenges that most Americans are facing. Maybe it is because the Republican budget slashes billions of dollars from Medicaid and food assistance to the most vulnerable amongst us. Maybe that is why they prefer to talk about refrigerators.

House Democrats, on the other hand, continue to present an alternative to the American people and fight for the progress that they deserve. Democrats are ready to lower the costs of childcare by expanding the number of childcare facilities across the country. We are pushing for record new investments in affordable housing and incentives for first-time home buyers.

That is what the American people are asking for, and that is what House Democrats are fighting for.

CUTS TO MEDICAID

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because healthcare through Medicaid, covering more than 10 percent of residents and more than 30 percent of all kids in New Hampshire, is on the line.

Their access to lifesaving preventative care, long-term care, and mental health and addiction treatment will be put at risk by the cruel and fiscally reckless budget being proposed by Republicans in the House.

In addition, New Hampshire's Medicaid expansion, established on a bipartisan basis, would end with any decrease in Federal funds, leaving 68,000 Granite Staters uninsured and devastating our hospitals and community health centers.

I have heard from literally thousands of Granite Staters on this issue, including a woman who contacted my office and shared her fears that cuts to Medicaid would leave her family homeless. She is a caretaker to two family members and worries they won't be able to survive on one income if they lose their health coverage.

I will continue to do everything I can to stop a budget that places the burden of cuts on New Hampshire families like hers to finance massive tax breaks to the superrich. I urge my colleagues to stand up against this betrayal of working families and instead focus on how we can work together to make life safer, healthier, and more affordable for all Americans.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 25. Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule sub-

mitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

SUPPORTING FCC UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FCC's Universal Service Fund, a successful program that brings high-speed internet and phone service to millions of underserved Americans.

This is personal to me. This program is essential for connecting rural and low-income communities, schools, and libraries, effectively bridging the digital divide and expanding access to education, healthcare, and job opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

For the bulk of my career, I worked at a children's nonprofit and then at the Department of Commerce's NTIA, advocating to provide affordable high-speed internet to all Americans, particularly children who need it for the homework gap. USF helps to ensure that these communities are not left behind. It empowers students, strengthens local communities, and improves access to essential services for families.

In 2023, carriers in Maryland received over \$6 million to connect households in our rural and farm communities. Also, in the last 2 years, 1,600 schools and 198 libraries received over \$73 million for connectivity, benefiting over 1 million students. Nearly 37 healthcare providers in our State received funding to strengthen connectivity to help patients and also facilitate the reach of telemedicine.

Today, I urge the Supreme Court and my colleagues in Congress to safeguard this incredibly essential program for those who need it most in terms of connectivity and opportunity.

ABANDON BIDEN ADMINISTRATION RULE

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I call upon the Trump administration to abandon the drastic Biden-Harris 14(c) rule. The 14(c) rule is with regard to allowing certain people with handicaps to work for under minimum wage.

I have toured many work centers or shelter workshops in my district in which people who have different abilities are allowed to work—maybe they have spina bifida, maybe Down's Syndrome. I know a guy who is an outright quadriplegic. They are allowed to work for under minimum wage.

They usually get some other sort of Federal subsidy, SSI or something, but

by being allowed to work in these places, they are able to supplement their income. They have the dignity of work. They have the socialization of somebody outside of their families.

I strongly encourage the Trump administration to abandon the drastic Biden-Harris 14(c) rule, and I encourage all of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to tour some of their own shelter workshops, where you can see how valuable they are in the life of people who are given a little bit less than some of us in some ways to live their lives.

SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, Elon Musk's so-called department of government elimination is closing the Social Security hearing office in White Plains in May, just like that.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins offered the Federal Government county space that would be more cost-effective. The offer was turned down because this isn't about saving the government money. This is about thoughtlessly cutting critical services in the name of ideology.

This weekend, Commerce Secretary Lutnick said his 94-year-old mother-in-law wouldn't miss her Social Security check if it didn't show up. Mr. Lutnick is a billionaire who can easily provide for her, while most seniors rely on their monthly payments.

This weekend, more than 250 people in my district voiced their concerns at a rally to save Social Security. I will take their words over a billionaire's mother-in-law.

More than 10,000 of my fellow boomers become eligible every day for Social Security. This is not the time to be closing offices, cutting staff, and ending phone service.

There are ways to make Social Security more efficient. This ain't one of them. Scaring seniors and threatening to end their economic lifelines isn't about efficiency. It is a mockery of efficiency.

Remember, we told you so.

□ 1145

CONGRATULATING THE BINGHAMTON PATRIOTS BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. RILEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Binghamton Patriots boys' basketball team are New York State champions.

Just like the city they represent, this team was all about grit and determination. Down in the fourth quarter of the championship game, the Patriots didn't fold. They fought and took the