

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

game into overtime. Down in overtime, the Patriots didn't fold. They fought and took the game into double overtime.

That is when they finished the job, because no matter how long the odds, do not ever count out Binghamton.

I congratulate Coach Paddick and his coaching staff, Binghamton teachers, staff, and administrators, and, of course, the students and players.

I thank them for bringing some joy to our community at a time when we really need it.

I will always be a proud Union-Endicott Tiger, but today we are all Binghamton Patriots because there is nothing more unifying than bringing home a State championship.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to read the Patriot's roster into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as follows:

Kamal Abdul-Aziz, Derek Abu Jr., Jah-lon Cook, Cashawn Fleming Jr., Zubayr Griffin, Elijah Johnson, Isaiah Joseph Selby, Vaughn Labor, Zahir Marshall, Michael Constantine, Ilyas Morgan, Elliot Nelson, Corien Noble, Benjamin Ondrusek, Connor Ondrusek, Duncan Paddick, Yusri Razzqa, Jayden Remplet, Shawn Remplet, Vince Saraceno, Devonté Santiago, Milo Wilson.

#### JOHNSON & JOHNSON GROUNDBREAKING

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina's First Congressional District is one of the most economically distressed in the Nation. However, I have good news to share.

Recently, I was honored to join industry, State, and community leaders for the groundbreaking of a new, over \$2 billion, state-of-the-art Johnson & Johnson biologics manufacturing facility in Wilson, North Carolina.

It will bring more than 500 specialized jobs paying about \$109,000 a year into eastern North Carolina.

The first 10 years of operation are estimated to have an economic impact of \$3 billion statewide.

Johnson & Johnson is also committed to investing in local education, STEM, workforce, and research.

The new facility will support Johnson & Johnson's plans to advance transformational medicines for cancer, immune-mediated, and neurological diseases.

The investment will have a huge and life-changing impact for our region.

#### AND STILL I RISE: CENSURED BUT NOT SILENCED

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, proudly I stand here today proudly to say: And still I rise.

And still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and

still unafraid. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, not only as a proud, liberated Democrat, but also, Mr. Speaker, censured, not silenced, censured but not silenced. I still carry my cane, which has been called many things, but for me it provides comfort.

It provides comfort because I am a believer in the 23rd Psalm, that part about "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil . . . Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

This is my comfort.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who don't believe that I should have the free speech that the Constitution affords me, and I am not always in the company of people who can protect me. So my cane has become my staff and my rod that comforts me, Mr. Speaker.

I wish it were different, but it is not. We seem to live in a society now where if you are willing to speak truth to power there are consequences beyond simply having those who differ with you give their retorts. There are some who want to do more than give retorts. So we have to find ways to comfort ourselves when we no longer have those who are assigned the responsibility of providing us comfort. Protection is another way of saying comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I want to expose what has been called to our attention in many different ways over the last many hours.

Mr. Speaker, we are at this moment in our country engaging in a big lie coverup. It is a part of a chat-gate, a big lie coverup.

Chat-gate, Mr. Speaker, is a security breach not defined as such because the person who would define it as such, if he should do so, would inculcate himself. So the Secretary of Defense, who has the responsibility of defining whether certain information is classified or not, chooses not to define that which is intuitively obvious as classified, he chooses not to define it as classified. He does not want to inculcate himself. So he has the ability to exculpate himself by simply saying something that clearly is classified saying that it is not.

Mr. Speaker, while he can say so, I think the American public will have the final word and will be the final judge.

I am honored to tell you who the players are in this coverup. One person is, quite frankly, a person who merits a lot of accolades. He is a person who ought to be acknowledged for the courage that he has demonstrated. He is a person who brought this to the attention of the public. He is a person who had no desire to be a part of this coverup, but he is only there in that he was the person who, in a sense, acts as a whistleblower. I am talking about Mr. Goldberg with The Atlantic magazine.

Mr. Goldberg is the person who had messages sent to him that he did not seek and that he did not ask for. According to the reports that I have read and you have probably seen and heard

televised, he was there minding his own business when he received messages, messages that were intended for a select group of people, many of whom I will name in just a moment.

In receiving these messages, he was made privy to information that should not have been exposed to the public. In the opinion of many experts, they should not have been exposed to the public.

I will read some of the information that was captured by Mr. Goldberg.

Mr. Goldberg captured this, and this comes from The Atlantic magazine. They published this information. It has been made public. My belief is that the persons who engaged in this coverup had no desire to have this published, but once it was, there was a decision made by the person who had the power to do so to say: Well, it is simply not classified information, so no big deal.

Here is the big deal. Mr. Goldberg indicates that at 11:44 a.m. eastern time—he gives the name of the person, it is the Secretary of Defense, posted in the chat in all caps: "TEAM UPDATE:" Then, Mr. Goldberg indicates that the text beneath this began: "TIME NOW (1144et): Weather is FAVORABLE. Just CONFIRMED"—with, it says w—"w/CENTCOM we are a GO for mission launch." We are a go for mission launch.

Let's go on. These are excerpts. I shall not read it all.

The next comment reads: "1215et: F-18s LAUNCH (1st strike package)".

Thereafter: "1410: More F-18s LAUNCH (2nd strike package)".

Thereafter: "1536: F-18 2nd Strike Starts—also, first sea-based Tomahawks launched."

Now, all of this was intended for a select group of people. It was not intended that this be published, but since it has been published, the Secretary of Defense has indicated that this was not classified information. Now, if the Secretary of Defense who was a participant in this chat, what I call the "chat-gate," if the Secretary of Defense sincerely believes that this is not classified information—and there is more of it, I have only read you some excerpts—if he sincerely believes this, then he is not the person who should be charged with the responsibility of making a decision as to whether this type of information is classified.

That is because there is no way a person who has intelligence at heart and an understanding of it within the mind to conclude that this is not classified information.

Too many experts differ with him. We had persons who are on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the House to indicate that this was clearly classified information. In fact, they indicated that things that are less serious in nature have been classified. But the Secretary of Defense has the ability to exculpate himself, so his exculpatory statement is that this is not classified information.