



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

No. 58

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MALOY).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 1, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CELESTE MALOY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### FAREWELL TO TWO TALENTED STAFFERS

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I have been blessed to work with some of the most talented staffers ever to walk the Halls of Congress, but the greater the blessing, the harder the good-bye.

Recently, I bid farewell to my director of operations, Wendy Hamilton, and my senior adviser, Michael Reed, two pillars of the House Democratic Caucus.

Let me start with the one and only Wendy Hamilton. I am so pleased she is here with us today in the Chamber. Wendy joined my team back when I was vice chair. I knew I had hired a talented and passionate Hill staffer. She had already completed tours of duty with PRAMILA JAYAPAL, Brenda Lawrence, and KATHY CASTOR.

One by one, I also started realizing she had many off-book skills under her belt, whether it was flower arrangements, style advice, or frank and forthright guidance at Sephora.

Along the way, she was putting the service in Member Services, becoming something of a celebrity. Everyone she worked with was grateful for Wendy's expert knowledge, her helpful hints, and her deep insight into how to get things done for constituents.

More times than I can count, I met a district director halfway across the country, and when I introduced myself as a Congresswoman, they would say: Wait, you work with Wendy Hamilton? I was always proud to say: I sure do.

Then there is the Member whisperer himself, Michael Reed, an adviser who has been essential to my first 2 years as whip. A wise counselor for colleagues across the Caucus, Michael has that instinct for figuring people out, meeting them where they are, and getting them to where they need to be.

Here is what you need to know about Michael: You can ask the Speaker Emerita or a new intern, and they will both rave over him in equal measure. They will tell you about his fundamental kindness. They will tell you he is a selfless mentor to those trying to follow in his footsteps, and they will tell you he is just plain cool. He is the only guy in D.C. who can look cool zooming around on a Lime scooter, the only man who can pull off wearing joggers with a suit jacket, and the only person who could ever make Eagles fans seem chill.

I am sorry to say good-bye to these two dear friends. I am so grateful to ev-

erything they have given to Team Clark, to this institution, and to the American people.

To Michael and Keenan, to Wendy, Marvin, and Hendrix, thank you for everything, and the best of luck in all that lies ahead.

### HUGE WIN FOR TEXAS AGRICULTURE

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a huge win for Texas agriculture.

Recently, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins joined me in south Texas to announce the deployment of \$280 million in economic relief that I secured for our Texas farmers.

Farmers and ranchers in the Rio Grande Valley have been struggling for way too long. Mexico's refusal to comply with the 1944 Water Treaty, coupled with drought conditions, has devastated south Texas agriculture.

Last year, the last sugar mill in Texas closed, leaving just two regions with the ability to produce sugar. After hearing from south Texas farmers and ranchers, citrus could be next, and this economic relief is absolutely critical to sustaining their businesses.

Any impact on Texas agriculture, one of the largest agricultural States, will affect the entire country through severe supply chain disruptions and higher grocery prices for American families.

For 4 years, the Biden administration failed to hold the Mexican Government accountable and secure the water that Texas farmers desperately needed. With President Trump in office, I am now optimistic that we will win the war for water. Their decision to deploy the critical aid demonstrates the administration's commitment to safeguarding the backbone of our Nation's economy: agriculture.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1379

In addition to the emergency aid, the Trump administration has put its foot down. The State Department is holding the Mexican Government accountable by blocking Mexico's nontreaty request for water from the Colorado River. This is a major win in prioritizing our farmers and ranchers, and it is encouraging to have the support of President Trump in this fight.

This is just the beginning of the war for water. I will continue to work to ensure Mexico's compliance with the treaty and deliver the much-needed water to south Texas.

CHARLIE WILLMANN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Texas U.S. Navy veteran Mr. Charlie Willmann's 100th birthday.

Born on March 31, 1925, in Seguin, Texas, Mr. Willmann's roots have run deep in our great State of Texas, from growing up on a farm, graduating from Seguin High School, to attending Texas A&M to study agriculture education. His commitment to service took him into the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he not only selflessly served his country but also met the love of his life, Patricia.

Following his service, Mr. Willmann finished his degree and worked for Sears, Roebuck before returning to his roots. In Seguin, he managed the family farm he grew up on and raised his family: three children, five grandchildren, and now five great-grandchildren.

His dedication to work, whether raising cattle or cultivating award-winning pecans, embodies his unwavering commitment to doing things right.

Mr. Willmann's influence extends far beyond his family. He served his community on numerous boards, including Texas Farm Bureau and in his role as the county commissioner.

I thank Mr. Willmann for all of his work in our community in this great country we live in. Today, we celebrate a birthday party, an incredible century of life. Let us congratulate Charlie on this wonderful milestone.

Here is to Charlie, 100 years strong and still inspiring us all. We wish him a happy birthday and God bless him.

#### NIH CUTS PUT AMERICAN LIVES AT RISK

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against another outrageous move by Donald Trump: his attack on the National Institutes of Health.

The NIH is not just another governmental agency, it is the foundation of America's medical research. It funds lifesaving breakthroughs that doctors and scientists rely on to treat and cure diseases. It supports the work that helps us fight cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes, and rare genetic disorders. It fuels innovation that

leads to better treatment, more effective medications, and new medical technologies. Yet, Donald Trump and the Republicans in this building want to gut it.

Trump has proposed slashing billions of dollars from the NIH budget, which would cripple research, stall medical progress, and put American lives at risk. These cuts would mean fewer clinical trials, new treatments and advances in the fights against the diseases that impact millions of Americans. Every person in this country, every patient battling illness, every doctor searching for answers, and every family hoping for a cure would feel the consequences of these disastrous cuts.

Let's be clear about what is at stake. The NIH funds over 300,000 researchers across the country, supporting studies that have led to some of the most important medical breakthroughs in history. This funding helped develop treatments that have increased cancer survival rates, improved heart disease prevention, and even led to vaccines that protect us from deadly viruses. It is responsible for nearly every major medical advancement of the last century.

These cuts are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. They are a direct threat to American lives and health. If Trump and Republicans succeed in slashing NIH funding, it means that crucial research into diseases like Parkinson's, ALS, and multiple sclerosis will be delayed or abandoned altogether. It means that hospitals and research centers will struggle to continue their work. It means that the next big breakthrough, the next cure, the next lifesaving drug, the next medical innovation that can save each one of our families and your family could be lost forever.

For Texas, the consequences would be severe. In 2023 alone, the NIH invested over \$1.5 billion into Texas research institutions. This funding supports critical work at UT Southwestern in Dallas, where scientists are pioneering new cancer treatments; at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where researchers are leading the fight against Alzheimer's and heart disease; and at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M, where cutting-edge biomedical research is shaping the future of medicine. If Trump's cuts go through, these institutions will lose the funding they need to continue their vital work.

This attack on the NIH is part of a larger pattern. This is the same Donald Trump leading an administration that rejects science. He is threatening all of our health. He downplayed COVID-19, costing hundreds of thousands of American lives. He ignored public health experts and spread antisense conspiracy theories while hospitals were overrun with dying patients. Trump already tried to cut NIH funding before, only to be stopped by a Democratic Congress. This time he is taking direct aim at the very institution that helps doctors

and scientists find cures, save lives, and protect public health.

We cannot afford to let this happen. We must fight back. If we care about our families, health, and future, we must reject these reckless cuts and demand more funding for NIH, not less. The research being conducted today will determine the treatments available tomorrow, and the investment we make in science now will save lives for generations to come.

This is not a partisan issue. Well, rather, it should not be a partisan issue. Disease does not care whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. Cancer doesn't check your voter registration. Alzheimer's doesn't ask where you fall on the ideological spectrum. This is about protecting the health of every single American.

I urge my colleagues in Congress and every American listening to stand up for science, stand up for medical research, stand up for the NIH. The health of all of our families could depend on it.

□ 1015

#### RECOGNIZING PEYTON BOLLING, MISS AMERICA'S TEEN

(Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of Arkansas's own, Peyton Bolling. She was crowned recently as Miss America's Teen, and she made history in doing so, the first Miss Arkansas' Teen to win the coveted title of Miss America's Teen.

Madam Speaker, this comes just a year after another Arkansan, in this case, Madison Marsh of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was crowned Miss America 2024.

When Peyton Bolling came to my office last year, she shared with me her passion for civic engagement, an issue that demands the attention of our next generation of leaders. Her passion to serve began at a young age as a daughter of a U.S. Marine Corps colonel.

Peyton's dedication only grew in time as she witnessed government in action as a U.S. Senate page. Now, she is taking her passion nationwide, encouraging our young people to get involved and shape their communities for the better.

This Rogers, Arkansas, native and proud Bentonville High School Tiger has made Arkansas proud.

I congratulate Peyton. I look forward to seeing all that she accomplishes as Miss America's Teen and beyond.

#### GOP CREATING CHAOS IN ELECTORAL SYSTEM

(Mrs. TRAHAN of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, we are witnessing yet another shameful