

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Greenwood, a beloved member of our Hudson Valley community, who passed away recently at his home in Millbrook, New York.

A lifelong lover of the arts, David graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo with an art history degree before pursuing his master's back at home at SUNY New Paltz where he was ultimately named an outstanding alumnus.

He and his wife, Nan, married in his ancestral home in Yorkshire in 1974 while David was working as an art history teacher. He was later named supervisor of the entire K-12 arts program, a position which he held until his retirement in 2004.

Coming back home to our community in the Hudson Valley, he contributed so much to so many. One of David's proudest accomplishments was an annual calendar project in Millbrook, celebrating the town's people, places, and events throughout history, which in 2022 earned him the Edmund J. Winslow Local Government Historian Award of Excellence.

Our community is a better place because of the years of service and spirit that David Greenwood brought to the Hudson Valley. We thank David, and our thoughts are with his family.

CONGRATULATING MAUREEN HALAHAN

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a true public servant, Maureen Halahan, on her retirement from leadership of the Orange County Partnership.

As CEO of the partnership for 24 years, Maureen has been a leader in helping to grow and diversify our entire Hudson Valley economy. For over two decades, Maureen has helped small and medium businessowners in Orange County finance, grow, and staff their businesses to the immense benefit of our entire Hudson Valley community.

From major infrastructure projects, transformative economic development projects creating hundreds and thousands of jobs, investing in our workforce, and mentoring the rising next generation of business leaders, Maureen's impact has been tremendous.

To me, Maureen has been such a counselor and adviser on important economic development and community issues. While we will miss Maureen greatly, we wish her all the best as she moves into this next chapter. We look forward to continuing to foster our relationship with the partnership's new CEO, Mr. Conor Eckert.

Maureen's service to our community made a tremendous impact. We thank her and are forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING JAMES GAGLIANO

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James Gagliano, a friend, a fellow West Point graduate, a veteran, and a true public servant to the Hudson Valley and to our Nation.

Most recently as mayor of the village of Cornwall-on-Hudson, James put his decades of experience in the military

and law enforcement community to use in protecting his own community. In particular, he proudly served 25 years in the FBI and protected our State and our Nation.

As a Representative for the Hudson Valley, I can personally attest to the fact that having good, smart, dedicated, patriotic, locally elected officials, regardless of political party, truly makes all the difference when it comes to getting stuff done and delivering for our community.

That was always the case with Mayor Gagliano, a tireless partner in making our community more affordable, safe, and free. We partnered closely on bringing funding, and ultimately executing critical water and infrastructure projects, public safety projects, and first responder and EMS investment.

He was always the first with a smile and a joke. Even though we don't agree about baseball teams, I think we agree on pretty much everything else, and I appreciate his leadership. Everyone in his community and in the Hudson Valley knows that Cornwall is a better place following his leadership as mayor of the village.

While we wish him the best in his new chapter, I will truly miss working with him and marching in the Fourth of July parade with him. I am sure I will see him at Army football games soon.

RECOGNIZING THE USS IOWA

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commissioning of the USS *Iowa*, the Navy's newest Virginia-class, nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine.

I had the honor this weekend to attend the ceremony at Naval Submarine Base New London, alongside Governor Kim Reynolds, veterans, and the families of over 140 crew members.

It was a powerful moment marking the beginning of a new era. The USS *Iowa* is the third naval vessel to bear that name following a battleship that served with distinction in World War II, both in the Atlantic and the Pacific, in the Korean war and in the Gulf. That proud legacy now continues beneath the sea. The legacy of the *Gray Ghost* and the new USS *Iowa* nuclear-class submarine begins its mission.

A new legend for the USS *Iowa* began on Saturday. It is indefatigable. It is undeterred. It is undetected, and it is unstoppable.

To the crew, I thank them for their service and remember to be Iowa nice to one another. To all those who may cross her path and our adversaries, fear the Ghost.

ADDRESSING UNWORKABLE FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET

(Ms. MORRISON of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a letter. This is a letter from Republican State legislators from my home State of Minnesota, addressed to President Trump and Republicans in Congress. Please listen carefully.

Dear Mr. President, Congressman Emmer, Congressman Finstad, Congresswoman Fischbach, Congressman Stauber, and Ms. Carlton, Minnesota has been a leader in providing access to care and containing costs and now stands vulnerable to unworkable funding reductions with some of what is being proposed in the Federal budget.

A move to a per capita cap or block grant program will be workable if the reduction is modest, manageable, and accompanied by extreme flexibility. Too deep of a cut is unmanageable in any instance.

Innovation is occurring in Minnesota within the current financing and waiver structure. We are moving people with disabilities into greater independence. Massive Medicaid reductions could punish Minnesota for being such a strong leader in greater efficiencies and better outcomes. It would devastate the already lean areas of service we have been working to make more efficient for many years.

As Republican leaders in Minnesota, we have been partners for designing a State Health and Human Services system that meets the needs of our great State.

Just to emphasize what you already know, Medicaid includes services and care for the seniors and those with disabilities, not just healthcare for the poor. Additionally, nearly 50 percent of all Medicaid enrollees are children.

Given some of the large numbers coming out of Washington, we are concerned that there is no practical way to accommodate some of the proposed massive reductions and still provide the kind of care these vulnerable people require.

Drastic reductions to Medicaid funding have the potential to impact the 1.4 million people we serve and place incredible pressure on our overall State budget.

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There are no other sources to make up the lost Federal share beyond severely impacting the seniors and those with disabilities who we serve.

This is contrary to how we Republicans respect the aged and the vulnerable.

Deep reductions beyond what we can absorb will also put a major strain on the State's ability to support our county-based infrastructure. In our county-based service model, via the property tax, counties already pay very significant shares of human services costs, including child protection, waiver management, chemical dependency, mental health, and State facility stays, and have little capacity to absorb any significant additional cost.

The only choices available are being forced to raise local property taxes drastically or close services.

Finally, healthcare is a major employer in rural Minnesota. Reductions in already-too-low reimbursement rates would not only limit access but would also reduce pay and services, hugely impacting rural economies and the rapidly growing aging population in greater Minnesota.

Please remind our good leaders in Washington that simply cutting the budget is not going to take away our responsibilities to the aged, those with disabilities and mental health needs, children, and the poor.

You can make a difference in this debate. Please, please do.
Respectfully.

The letter was signed by more than one dozen Republican State legislators.

Mr. Speaker, this is from Republican legislators to the Republican President and the Republican majority in Congress. Their plea is clear. The threat is real. The facts are undeniable. Republicans in State legislatures do not want to gut Medicaid. Minnesotans do not want to gut Medicaid. Americans do not want to gut Medicaid.

So why in the world are congressional Republicans teeing up these massive cuts to Medicaid in their budgets?

It is because they are singularly focused on giving massive tax breaks to their wealthy donors, to billionaires like Elon Musk, and to huge corporations. They are willing to do that by selling out healthcare coverage for 80 million Americans.

That is it. It is really that simple.

I say to my Republican colleagues that you cannot hide from your own party raising the alarm not to do this. You cannot hide from the fact that you are choosing to rip healthcare away from millions of Americans. You cannot hide from the fact that you are choosing to decimate State budgets in order to serve your donors and your billionaire elites. You cannot hide from the fact that your State counterparts and surely your constituents do not want you to do this.

As we consider the budget this week, we need House Republicans in the House of Representatives to finally stand with Democrats against this disastrous budget.

SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of crucial, bipartisan legislation that will support our Nation's most vulnerable. The IDEA Full Funding Act is a bipartisan, commonsense commitment to our Nation's children who are living with disabilities.

This is not just about dollars and cents. It is about fulfilling a promise made 50 years ago to ensure that every child, regardless of ability, has access to a quality education that prepares them for a full and productive life.

When Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1975, it was a landmark step toward educational equity. The Federal Government pledged to cover 40 percent of the excess costs of special education services.

Yet, for decades we have fallen short of promised funding levels, which have

hovered around 13 to 15 percent, leaving States and local school districts struggling to make up the difference.

This shortfall forces schools to stretch their already limited resources, meaning fewer special education teachers, outdated instructional materials, and less support for students who need it most.

The burden does not just fall on the schools. It affects families, educators, and, ultimately, the success of our communities. At the Education and Workforce Committee last week, we just heard about the exciting new opportunities artificial intelligence presents to advance education for students with special needs. However, many of those opportunities will not be realized if Congress does not live up to its commitment.

The IDEA Full Funding Act ensures that we meet that commitment, gradually increasing Federal support until we reach the promised 40 percent. It is not just good policy to invest in our Nation's future and ensure students with disabilities have access to a high-quality education. It is the right thing to do.

Full funding will provide critical resources to schools, enabling students with disabilities to receive services and support that they need. It will reduce financial strain on States and local districts, preventing them from having to cut other essential programs. This legislation supports teachers and staff, ensuring that they have the tools and the training to deliver high-quality special education.

Lastly, and most importantly, it gives families peace of mind, knowing their children will receive the education they deserve without unnecessary hurdles.

Investing in special education is an investment in future taxpayers, workers, and independent citizens who contribute to society. By fully funding IDEA, we alleviate the pressure on States and local governments thereby strengthening our education system.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to every student in this country. When we fail to meet our commitment under IDEA, we fail millions of children who deserve a fair shot at success. Passing the IDEA Full Funding Act is a step toward fairness, responsibility, and a brighter future for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this essential legislation.

CONGRATULATING UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STARS

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a stunning, dominant victory by the UConn women's basketball team yesterday over a very good University of South Carolina team by a margin of 23 points, which actually is lower than really where it was for most of the second half.

It is an amazing group of women student athletes who, again, rose to the occasion to take the UConn women's basketball program into further heights with its 12th national title. All records are made to be broken, but it is hard to even imagine any other school's team that could come close to 12 national titles.

They were led by Paige Bueckers who is going to be one of the greats in the history of college basketball. She scored 17 points and had numerous rebounds, steals, and blocks. She has had every award imaginable for a college basketball player: ESPY Award, John R. Wooden Award, and Naismith Awards, but winning that trophy which so far had eluded her is just a storybook way for her career at the University of Connecticut to finish.

She was joined by Azzi Fudd, who is a junior, 24 points, 6 rebounds, and 3 assists. She was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, which is really saying something when we have a teammate like Paige Bueckers.

Lastly, a freshman, Sarah Strong, had 24 points and 15 rebounds. Over the course of the season watching her grow as a player playing with poise and maturity that defied someone of her young age was something quite striking and amazing.

Their starting line-up was rounded out by Jana El Alfy and Kaitlyn Chen, a portal transfer from Princeton University, with a really deep bench. KK Arnold came out and provided lots of energy during the game.

It was just an amazing team led by an amazing coach, Geno Auriemma. In 2006, which is a long time ago, he already was named to the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, which usually is reserved for coaches after they have retired. However, Geno just kind of keeps going on. Their last win was in 2009, and there were a lot of naysayers out there that while the UConn program has hit its peak, in 2023 in USA Today there was a headline: "UConn's dynasty is officially dead. That is good news for women's college basketball."

That is probably the ultimate bulletin board material for someone like Geno Auriemma, if you know him.

What is so striking about Geno is just the loyalty of his players. He had all these former stars of the UConn program who have gone on to be at the WNBA who were all there yesterday in Tampa, Florida, rooting them on. The same for the bench. He is an amazing leader and a really talented coach.

John Wooden, the legendary coach, never got 12 national titles during his time. I congratulate Coach Auriemma and the team.

We have here the college basketball capital of the world. If we add on the six national titles that the men's program has actually accumulated since 1999, its total is 18. I was there for the first one. It was like a religious experience as a UConn fan and a UConn Law