

CONTRACT FOR AMERICA

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, I have held a number of townhalls, and one thing keeps coming up consistently: Democrats need a cohesive, concise message that clearly lays out what we are for, not just what we are opposed to.

In 1994, Newt Gingrich drew up a Contract with America. It was a simple set of priorities that Republicans promised to enact if they got the House majority. Well, it worked; the Republicans took the House in the 1994 mid-term elections.

I propose a Contract for America, one that reflects who we are as Democrats: Good wages, fair taxes, quality education, protecting Social Security and Medicare, expanding veterans' benefits, providing universal healthcare, environmental conservation, and national security.

We need a message that spells out exactly what we will do to benefit our constituents and how we will do it. That needs to start right now.

DEVASTATING MATERNAL
HEALTHCARE INEQUITIES

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

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, across our country, women of color continue to experience devastating maternal healthcare inequities. As a proud mother of four children, I know firsthand how critical access to quality healthcare is for expectant mothers. However, far too many women in this country still do not have access to the vital maternal resources they need to survive and lead to good outcomes for them and for their babies.

Today, Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than other women. They are also twice as likely to lose an infant to premature death. These disparities have not improved for more than 30 years, and that is unacceptable.

That is why I am proud to join the Black Maternal Health Caucus to work toward reducing maternal mortality and building healthier communities for Black women and their infants.

CONGRATULATING ALL-BLADE
BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF THE
YEAR

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with March Madness coming to a close last night, it is with joy that I rise to celebrate two exceptional young, local basketball stars from northwest Ohio: Makhi Leach from Whitmer High

School and Elise Bender from Anthony Wayne High School, who were named the 2025 All-Blade Basketball Players of the Year.

Makhi Leach is a force to be reckoned with on the court. He dazzled all of the audience with his skill, determination, and unshakable leadership. A playmaker in every sense of the word, Makhi not only put up impressive numbers but also lifted his teammates, making everyone around him better.

Elise Bender has proven that hard work and passion are unstoppable forces. A true competitor, Elise has set the standard for what it means to be an elite student athlete, not just through her impressive performance, but through her sportsmanship, commitment to her team, and relentless drive to push beyond her limits.

Both of these young athletes have represented their schools, families, and communities with honor, and this is only the beginning. Makhi will play next year for Bowling Green State University, while Elise will suit up for Villanova. Their talent, determination, and leadership will take them far. Northwest Ohio will be cheering them on every single step of the way. They are the future.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
SOMALIA—MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-38)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2025.

The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 8, 2025.

REFLECTING ON AMERICA'S
HISTORY

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is a profound and humbling honor, as always, to address the Congress, the House of Representatives here in our Nation's Capitol. Of course, I am doing so on behalf of my incredible constituents in southeast Michigan, but also for all the residents of Michigan and this great Nation for, you see, the exercise of our democracy is enconced and inscribed here in our House Chamber and on our House floor. We use both our voice and our vote to move our Nation forward.

As you so declared, Mr. Speaker, I am, indeed, in the minority party, and so to gather time on the House floor is sometimes a struggle. To gather time in a committee is sometimes a struggle. You push for your 1 minute, your 5 minutes, your maybe 15 minutes if you get it. Well, today I asked for an hour.

I asked for an hour because last week we had an hour booked and, of course, the House adjourned early. We all paid witness to the incredible history that a Senator from New Jersey gave to this country by breaking the largest filibuster on record. Senator CORY BOOKER spoke for over 25 hours in the Senate Chamber on behalf of the voices of this Nation who have questions.

Of course, we know there are 435 Members in the House Chamber, with each of us representing about 800,000 people. My colleagues from Rhode Island represent just shy of half a million people. In Michigan, I represent just about 800,000 people. We are the tenth largest State in the Union, with 13 House Members and 2 Senators here to move the will of our Nation and to pass the Nation's laws.

It is an interesting thing to do so when the size of the institution is remaining as it has been described somewhat by laws. They said in 1913, we would have 435 Members, and we haven't added new Members to the body since.

I am not addressing you, Mr. Speaker, to propose controversy, but I am here to speak on behalf of the people of Michigan, who deserve fair and equal representation for the taxpayer dollars that they provide to the Nation's Treasury.

When you look at the largest freshwater basins of our Great Lakes, when you look at the arsenal of democracy, when you see our incredible trade unions from Saginaw up to Iron Mountain working and making and delivering—the only polysilicon manufacturing in the Nation exists in Michigan, in a place called Hemlock by a company called Hemlock—you want to make sure that Michigan has its fair and equal representation.

However, Mr. Speaker, it has been a point of frustration for my State of Michigan that in my 41, nearly 42 years

of existence on this Earth, that my State is always losing representation every time we dare to reapportion the size of the Chamber.

Now, we are a close-knit group, the Michigan delegation. The dean of the Democrats is a woman named Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL. Take a minute and understand who that is. DEBORAH INSLEY DINGELL is the dean of the House Democrats of Michigan, the wife of John Dingell, the daughter-in-law of John Dingell, Sr., people who stood in this Chamber and passed things of historical importance.

John Dingell was the last World War II veteran to serve in this very Chamber, Mr. Speaker. He was a respected individual and is still referenced often by colleagues from both sides of the aisle. In fact, I will never forget coming to Congress in 2019 in the 116th session of Congress. It was my first term. I got sworn in on January 3, as we do.

Mr. Speaker, I said to my good colleague, Congresswoman DINGELL: I would very much like to sit down with your husband because I knew there was a tradition where he would sit down with all new Members. Of course, I wasn't just asking personally. I was asking because we had four new Members of Congress from Michigan: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SLOTKIN, and myself. I thought it would be nice for all of us to maybe meet with the Dingells.

It was winter, and we knew Mr. Dingell's health was failing or shaky. It started to fail, and we were supporting Mrs. DINGELL as a delegation. Dan Kildee of Flint was our dean then, and we rallied to show our love and our support. Tragically, we lost Mr. Dingell on an early February day.

Mr. Speaker, it was really quite surreal to be in this very Chamber in my first couple of weeks, in this Congress and in the House of Representatives, paying tribute not only to a Michigan legend but an American legend.

□ 1700

We recognized Mr. Dingell in so many ways. We recognized Mr. Dingell in speeches on the House floor from the Democratic leadership under Ms. PELOSI and Mr. HOYER. If we remember him, even Mr. McCarthy gave some nice words for Mr. Dingell. I was so surprised that a Member of the opposing party would have such kind and inspirational things to say about the former dean of the House of Representatives, 59 long years.

Of course, Mr. Kildee booked one of these hours with his colleagues from Michigan to recognize Mr. Dingell. We each got some time to do so as Members. I used that time to share my reflections about Mr. Dingell, and it was so very humbling. It was never anything I expected to do in my second month in this Chamber, but I did it.

The very next day, a sacred and incredible man, Mr. John Lewis, came up to me on the House floor. It is very

crowded on the House floor, Mr. Speaker. You notice this when we are voting. It is 435 people packed here on the House floor. There is staff. It is sometimes hard to move around. You have to get your vote in, Mr. Speaker. You can't get too entranced in the conversation, or you miss a vote.

Mr. Lewis came up to me, and he tapped me on the shoulder. He said to me that he heard my words about his friend, John Dingell, and that he appreciated them.

I have shared that story on a few occasions but not necessarily publicly. I have shared it back in my district and with friends and in memory of both Johns, both legends, both titans of the 20th century. I have shared it with our Democratic Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES in recognition of the moments of passing the torch that we find ourselves in, in American Government and as we push for American change.

It was really something else that Mr. Lewis and I had that exchange. It caught me by surprise. Sharing it right now is incredibly humbling, and I appreciate and am grateful for the time to be able to do so, Mr. Speaker, on this House floor.

We know that we are a Nation of great passion, of great debate, and of people who come from all over to pay witness to our lawmaking. People come from all over to get their ideas and their thoughts across. They look up at a Capitol that inspires them, that moves them, and that brings together our democracy.

Next year, we will celebrate 250 years of America's very existence as a Nation. It is really quite something. In some ways it seems like a long time, and it also seems like a short time. We know we are still writing America's story. We know that we don't engage in politics on the House floor such as campaigning.

I would like to make an ethical reflection about our politics which is that at some point an election is had. An election is had. An election happens, and we have to govern. We are governing. We have to govern. We are always thinking about the last election and then the next election. We also have to think about governing. We have to look at it responsibly and reasonably.

Of course, we recognize that it can feel right now in this moment frustrating for people, for Members, for the passions that so many have if you are not in the governing seat of authority.

Of course, I remember that quite well in the 117th session of Congress. If it is okay, Mr. Speaker, to recognize what the makeup of that session was, we had a Democratic House, a Democratic Senate, and a Democratic President.

Of course, we had a country in the early days of 2021 that was still reeling from the effects and the implications of a pandemic that wasn't yet over. In fact, people, if we recall correctly, Mr. Speaker, were just beginning to take that vaccine. We were just beginning to

push for people to get vaccinated, not forced. I don't think people want to be forced to do anything, but we wanted to put an end to the pandemic.

A colleague, of course, through the great tradition of our Michigan delegation, a gentleman by the name of Congressman WALBERG, a longtime serving Member of this institution and now the chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee that I sit on, he and I had been working on a resolution together. We had actually introduced it in the 116th Congress at the very end of the session.

With the introduction of this resolution, we said to ourselves and to the Nation that we wanted the American people to get vaccinated. We also really wanted to make sure that our teachers could get vaccinated because people, Mr. Speaker, wanted to get their kids back in the classroom. They wanted to get them back in the classroom safely and soundly.

I know we don't like to dwell on this pandemic period, but I share that because we reintroduced that resolution early into the 117th Congress. I know we don't—well, maybe we do. Maybe we don't want to dwell on some of the actions that occurred in the early days of the 117th Congress. There was an attempt to certify the election that is usually pretty standard. We saw that happen this term. It was, again, pretty standard.

On that day, January 6—I know people hear that day a lot—it was not so standard. It was kind of frenzied to say the least. It was very divisive for this Nation. It was very divisive for this Chamber. I think it is fair to say that people are still not over it, and we need to be honest about that. Of course, we have taken thousands of votes since then.

I thought it was responsible to continue to encourage and support our educators, the great educators, the great Michigan Education Association, the AFT, the American Federation of Teachers. These are incredible unions that protect their members and want to make sure they are getting, at the very least, fair pay, raises, pensions, and the like because, gosh knows, it is not easy to be a teacher. It is certainly easier to be a teacher when you are safe from a deadly and lethal virus that killed a million Americans.

Mr. Speaker, to reflect on our present time and the moment we find ourselves in, it is right and fair for us, and for me as a Member of Congress, who is the co-chair of the House Manufacturing Caucus and is a ranking member on the Research and Technology Subcommittee for the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, to make some notes and snapshots of what is taking place right now.

It is not to accept that we have a lot of actions going on right now that are somewhat challenging to our Constitution. Article I is important to read and remember and to recognize about how

the Nation's laws get passed, how the dollars get appropriated, and how the governing of our Nation is authorized. It is authorized through the Congress, through the House and the Senate.

Of course, it has been somewhat jaw-dropping to see the frontward leading of this Nation by executive order. This is not to break the rules of House and pass insult. It is just a reflection because, of course, all of these reciprocal tariffs were announced.

Mr. Speaker, I am just pulling up my note on these reciprocal tariffs because it was an executive office announcement to do reciprocal tariffs.

On April 2, a 25 percent tariff on all auto imports went into effect. Of course, I hail from Michigan. I am well-versed, alongside Mrs. DINGELL, in the functionality and the drivers of our American auto industry. That largely comes from the fact that I was born in Metro Detroit, and I grew up around the car industry.

My grandfather came to Michigan by way of Buffalo to work in a Ford plant. He was a UAW member and raised three children and had a big family. He made a good life and got a good wage and moved to a bigger house in Warren.

Mr. Speaker, why I had booked the Special Order Hour last week was because my father was visiting. My father, Jim Stevens, James R. Stevens, of Shelby Township, he now resides in Shelby Township. He has always been a hybrid Macomb, Wayne, and Oakland Counties man.

My father, Jim Stevens, was visiting. It was the first time he had visited Washington since I was sworn in, in 2019. We had talked about this trip for a long time. I wanted my dad to come and be a part of Congress. He got here on Tuesday; and then, boom, the votes were closed for the week. They ended votes.

Dad didn't get to come to the committee hearings or watch the floor. I thought it would be neat to have him see me give an address for this length of time by watching in the gallery. Of course, he can always watch on C-SPAN; but I thought it would be nice to have him watch in the gallery.

I thought it would be nice to share a little bit about his life and his journey. I mentioned his father who worked for the Fords. That is how they call it back home. The Fords is a family business. My father was born January 3, 1945.

It would be interesting to look at what session of Congress was getting sworn in then during such a different time in this Nation's history. Yet it is history, and it is air that my father was breathing even as an infant. It was America at the beginning of 1945, when a war was still being waged around this world. The real threat of tyranny and some, rightfully—and I join in this—say evil was taking place.

America helped end a world war in Asia and in Europe. That war gave us the word "Holocaust," the murder of over 6 million Jews whose names we

can't in days even share because it is that many names.

My father grew up in this post-World War II industrial world order that was being led by the United States of America. So many remarkable things came about within our own country and around the world from American leadership.

Mr. Speaker, think about what we were able to do with the auto industry, that arsenal of democracy, that engine of our military might, the Rosies who filled in because the men were away, fighting and serving in battle. These are unbelievable and historic tales of bravery that we should continue to share for a very, very long time to come.

□ 1715

Of course, this period of time was also met with some social change, progress, and pushing. Not all the Rosies went back to the home. My mother's aunt, my great-aunt Ada, was in Cleveland. I guess you could say she was a Rosie, Mr. Speaker. She was in a factory. She was tough. She never married. She worked so hard, and they kept her on in that factory after the war ended.

I really believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is a history that was shared and has been shared, not my family's history, but, of course, for our Nation, it has been shared in so many brilliant and beautiful ways. Some people know about this movie "Forest Gump." It kind of captures in a lot of beautiful ways this plight of the 20th century America.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am a millennial. I was born in 1983, not 40 years after the conclusion of World War II but almost. Of course, the millennials, as we were closing out the 1990s, really felt as though America was at the top of the world. We were unstoppable. We invented the internet. Our auto industry was booming. The sport utility vehicle, Oakland County, Michigan, being really one of the most wealthy, if not the wealthiest county in America, and that is to say that our auto industry really had continued into the late 1990s to propel the economic engine of this Nation.

It is a thing of beauty because it wasn't the haves and have-nots. People were making money, not just the executives. Of course, we have a very strong, vibrant, and incredible UAW, United Auto Workers union. At the end of the 1990s it was very large in number, very powerful, and very right to stand up for hardworking men and women like my grandfather.

So as we think about the 20th century and we look at where we are now, the quarter 21st century, I say this so much it might drive some people crazy, but it is important to realize where we are standing and what moment we are in because it is the mid-2020s.

It is a really exciting and inspiring time. I remember getting into Congress in the year 2019, and, of course, I was

on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. We were recognizing in a committee hearing the 50-year anniversary of the Moon landing. Some of my colleagues were alive and remembered when we landed on the Moon. Of course, they remembered when they landed on the Moon. My father remembers it, and my mother does too, somewhat, that we sent people to the Moon.

My contribution to that committee hearing, Mr. Speaker, was reflecting on that history is so deeply important, but articulating the moonshot of the next 50 years remains our imperative. Of course, being the good Representative I am of the State of Michigan, I believed that the moonshot of the next 50 years, and I still do, is hailing from the place that I call home, the advancements in mobility, where are our auto industry is innovating, growing, and moving towards.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress by way of an advanced manufacturing research lab, and I was working with a lot of incredible small manufacturers, mid-size manufacturers, and even large-scale manufacturers in this space that the acronym IIoT captures, Industrial Internet of Things. In short and simply, it is the digitization of our manufacturing process.

Now a lot of people are calling it artificial intelligence, how we design, produce, manufacture, and ship capital-intensive, large-scale equipment made of steel. Now, I happen to know enough about the auto industry and how complex and interconnected it is that in Michigan we have this rich, unbelievable concentration of suppliers. We call them suppliers. These are really unbelievable enterprises that put so much into making door panels, making interiors, and making sure that we have got the full sweep of mobility opportunities from, of course, the engines, and we have got companies like Allison Transmission that is working on electric engines. They are still, of course, doing the internal combustion engine, Mr. Speaker.

We have original equipment manufacturers who have been aggressive in ushering in their vision of a mobility future. It is no surprise for me to share in this House Chamber what we have heard from the chief executive officer of General Motors, Mary Barra, that 6 years ago she wanted to see a fully zero emission General Motors. I was surprised to hear the vision in some respects but also I wanted to recognize that she had a vision.

She came to the bipartisan delegation of Michigan and said such a thing, and they are working on implementing new mobility.

I haven't had a chance to ask her. Of course, I am not a board member of General Motors. I have not had a chance to ask her at the one-half decade mark where we are to become fully zero emission in the 2030s, 2030, but I know that they are selling more and more of these electric vehicles, as well as internal combustion vehicles.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I find this exciting and thrilling as a steward of Michigan and Michigan's economy, as a younger individual who had worked in a political atmosphere on the Presidential campaigns of 2008, and got to go work in the administration of Barack Obama in the Treasury Department. I was in the Treasury Department.

Mr. Speaker, I know we don't hail from the same party. Of course, you are sitting in the Speaker's chair. What was so remarkable about the start of the Obama Administration and the Treasury Department right there on East Executive Avenue is that it is basically a part of the White House campus. The Obama administration officials came in and were met by Bush administration officials. We tangoed. We worked together. We danced together on behalf of a nation in an economic recession. We called it a GR, capital G capital R, Great Recession this Nation was in.

A lot of unbelievable and painful things were happening, of course, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the housing industry was going kaput to say it lightly. There was a massive foreclosure crisis. There was a run on banks like in equity firms like Lehman Brothers. They had this whole Wall Street endeavor that the Bush administration alongside the House of Representatives had to engage in.

There was this hanging issue around our auto industry and the fact that the capital markets and the lack of sound healthcare policy in this Nation, our companies were shouldering every burden, not burden, but responsibility of healthcare. People need healthcare, Mr. Speaker, we know that.

Aging is real. I talk to my dad about it. I said: Dad, let's do the doctor checklist. He has got hearing, he has got throat, and he has got mobility, his physical mobility, and on and on and on. His mental faculties are incredible, yea for that, but there is a need for medical attention as people get older, and the UAW rightfully protects their retirees. We are proud of what they are able to do for the retirees.

However, the country pre-ACA, Affordable Care Act, ran into some severe challenges. Ford had gotten its loan before the recession hit, and General Motors and Chrysler hadn't done that. They were tragically and frighteningly staring bankruptcy in the face. So, Mr. Speaker, what I was able to do was, being the passionate 20-something-year-old I was for my State grappling with this Presidential election that I was a part of and saw go to victory, I thought: Should I go back to Michigan or should I maybe work in a car dealership or something?

It was not my degree, but I thought maybe I could help. Then I heard they were going to do an auto initiative, an auto rescue. So I put up my hand to work on that auto rescue. By fate and chance I met a man named Steve Rattner in the halls of President Barack Obama's transition office. I am

nearly convinced, Mr. Speaker, that as he heard my thick Midwestern accent, he decided to bring me on as his Chief of Staff needing someone from Michigan who didn't have ethical conflicts with a managed industrial bankruptcy of General Motors and Chrysler. We didn't hire anyone in the auto industry. We didn't want to have conflicts. We brought together this amazing team. It didn't matter who voted for what, we just got the best talent in and put forward an initiative, an industrial initiative, the likes that this Nation had never seen.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it was money, the taxpayer money out of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. GM, General Motors, left the stock market.

I reflected on the 15-year anniversary of this auto rescue last year in this Chamber during another one of these addresses.

Mr. Speaker, it was really quite remarkable because GM left the stock market. They did a new initial public offering, an IPO. It got back on the stock market. They repaid the government. The government actually made some money off of the investment that they made in the companies.

We had an old company. We had a brownfield initiative for some of the stuff that was going by the wayside. Of course, my friends at the UAW reminded me that too many plants have shuttered this century. In the year 2025, when you look at the last 25 years, Mr. Speaker, too many plants have shuttered. It is really quite outrageous, Mr. Speaker, to hold up this article from The Detroit News that was written on April 4 of this year, that a stunning number of battery factories are being canceled.

Why are factories being canceled in the year 2025, Mr. Speaker?

Are we supposed to call the Chinese Communist Party and ask them to go and get these batteries and start making these batteries?

Are we just not going to have batteries made in the United States of America?

Why would it be acceptable to have battery plants shutter in the United States of America?

This isn't an exercise of ego or id or personhood. This is about persons' lives. This is about how we manufacture and produce in the United States of America.

I don't like reading that factories are being closed, Mr. Speaker. I don't like reading another headline written by Patricia Cohen on April 3 that says that the trade war that we are in risks forfeiting America's economic primacy.

Now, this is just one article. There is another one by Oren Cass. He is the chief economist at American Compass. I guess that is a conservative think tank. That is what the printout says.

He writes a newsletter on Understanding America.

Mr. Cass says: Stop freaking out. Tariffs can still work.

I guess that is the debate that we are in.

What I don't like, though, Mr. Speaker, was the tariff proposal that was so aggressive and coming down at us so fast and hard. I value so much my relationship and the leadership of Shawn Fain at the UAW, the United Auto Workers union. I was looking at this and saying: Maybe we can finally start to get our fair share. Maybe we can have a little reciprocity. Maybe the industrial world order that we brought together in 1945 and beyond is a time that we, of course, need to honor, recognize, and appreciate, but for 2025, we do need to look at who is buying American cars and how we are setting the rules of the road.

□ 1730

I had the privilege as a Member of Congress last term to go to a NATO meeting. I was invited to a NATO meeting over in Portugal. It was very exciting to be with a bipartisan delegation of Members of Congress for a few days. It was during a recess period. I thought it was worthwhile to do it.

I was actually shocked that there were not American cars in Portugal. I thought, my goodness gracious, where are your Fords? Where are your General Motors? Where are your Chevys? Anything?

My goodness gracious, we boast and love making vehicles in Michigan and selling to the world. I do this program called Manufacturing Monday. There are hundreds of parts, components, that get made in any car. I visited hundreds of manufacturers, Mr. Speaker, and I mean, really, I go onto their factory floors. It is not a showboat thing. It is a geek-out.

It is really exciting to geek out with these makers and innovators. It really is an amazing thing to go to see this stuff in action. They are selling all over the world, and they are employing people in Michigan and all over our country. It is a really a delightful thing.

It is important to our economy. We want to keep doing that, and we want to sell our nameplates.

Jeep is a fantastic brand. I am not pushing, and I am not trying to sell cars on the House floor. I am just mentioning that we are not seeing a lot of them overseas, Mr. Speaker.

When we have this approach, what was called liberation day, and we will see what unfolds from it, where we have been grappling and frustrated and watching as Michiganders is this tariff policy on Canada. I have this other article here that someone sent me: "Using Tariffs to Make Canada a State? It's Been Tried Before," by Joseph Thorndike.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 21 minutes remaining.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read Thorndike's words. Again, I am not using a name. We are musing.

We are hearing in the zeitgeist musings about plans to annex Canada. I am not musing that. I am a Member of Congress. I don't think we need to annex Canada. Personally, I love the relationship that the United States has with Canada.

I am in a border State. We have a lot of Canadians who immigrate to the United States. They marry Michiganders. They live in our neighborhoods.

Some of their workers come in to work in our hospitals. We have these great nurses.

Of course, we have a phenomenal manufacturing partnership with Canada. We have a lot of shared memberships with the union. Remember, it is an international union, so the UAW has members in Canada. The trades have members in Canada, including the Steelworkers, who are very important to all of this as well and who know very much what good tariff policy could mean for them.

I support them in that, but we don't need to be bullying Canada to become an annexed State. We need to make sure that we have strengthened security and good trade.

When we hear, Mr. Speaker, oh, my goodness gracious, about blanket tariffs on our neighbors from the north, all aluminum imports face a 25 percent tariff, well, that is coming from Canada.

I am the co-chair of the Aluminum Caucus, Mr. Speaker. It is a bipartisan caucus. I have these relationships in the aluminum sector, and they are telling me that they have these smelters that American companies have in Canada that are making the aluminum.

I don't know if you have ever seen aluminum get made, but it is really like baking a cake, and steel and all of that. The steel, oh, my gosh, when I was working for the President in 2009 and '10, we spent time with the Steelworkers and the steelmaking process.

These smelters are \$6 billion. It confuses me how we are going to get a \$6 billion smelter in the United States of America. Maybe we should do that. It would be nice to do, but where are you going to get the \$6 billion? You know, these Wall Street people are all upset about the market right now.

We had a really great industrial policy in '22, a bill I helped author, the CHIPS and Science Act, Mr. Speaker. It was a very bipartisan initiative, and it was money that we put out into the marketplace to say we will have chip manufacturing in the United States of America. It was a sizable amount of taxpayer dollars to say that we would have chip manufacturing, but what was even more incredible, Mr. Speaker, is that, yes, it was sizable dollars, but it was quadruple matched by the private sector, a public-private partnership.

The initiative actually paid for itself four times over by the conclusion of the previous President's term.

I think we need a very comprehensive industrial policy that matches the mo-

ment of time that we are in, Mr. Speaker. Of course, strategic tariffs that the previous President and the President before did have helped, but we are feeling the squeeze in Michigan, and it is news unfolding before our eyes.

Again, I reference the article here: "A stunning number of electric vehicle, battery factories are being canceled." We just read about another Intel factory in Ohio.

I met with these remarkable people at the Laborers' International Union this morning, or just as it was heading into afternoon time, rather. I met with the Laborers' International Union, and the members from Michigan who hail from all over the State were sharing with me some of their concerns.

They were saying to me, Mr. Speaker, that there are projects that are going to shutter. There is a bridge in Bay City that has been demolished and has had concrete set. We have a good Congresswoman from Bay City who is aware of that project, of course. They are saying if the dollars get canceled, we are not going to have a bridge. They are not going to be able to complete it. It is an insult to their work. It is an insult to their labor.

Then, of course, Mr. Speaker, we have another concern of our laborers, which is an enterprise that I had mentioned, the largest polysilicon manufacturer in the country, actually the only one, and one of three in the world. It is this very remarkable enterprise called Hemlock. They received some tax credits from industrial policy legislation that we passed in the 117th session of the Congress.

This is so very essential to our country and our world's manufacturing prowess. I really, Mr. Speaker, do not want to go overseas for that polysilicon. I want to see the work of polysilicon manufacturing in the United States of America expand and grow. I would like to see it expand and grow.

What my friends at the Laborers' Union shared with me, Mr. Speaker, is that if we cancel the credits, if we squeeze out the money, the work will stop.

Why would we hand that gift to our competitor? I say this from this Chamber as one vote and one voice to just continue to push for sound and reasoned industrial policy. Not everything needs to be a reaction to who is in charge.

Mr. Speaker, today, I have put forward an announcement from my office about bills to lower costs, reintroducing four bills that I wrote last term in the Congress: the Healthy Affordable Housing Act that I have reintroduced with my colleague Congressman RITCHIE TORRES; the Fix Moldy Housing Act; the First Time Homeowner Savings Plan Act; and the Home Accessibility Tax Credit Act. These are all bills I just introduced today. Some of them had Republicans on them last term.

The Home Accessibility Tax Credit Act is a great bill, and I am proud to

have Senator ANGUS KING as my companion on this bill. It is a refundable tax credit to help seniors and Americans with disabilities, including our veterans, retrofit their homes to meet their accessibility needs.

In the United States of America, Mr. Speaker, we want everyone to succeed. We want everyone who can work to have access to a good job.

In 2023, Detroit reached its highest level of jobs in over 50 years, Mr. Speaker. People were moving into the city of Detroit. It was really something else to see that happen.

That is not to ignore the frustration and the pain of high costs. I am not here and not standing here, in part because the rules don't allow it, but it is appropriate to not play the blame game. It is important to play the solution game for the United States of America.

As somebody who served in a bipartisan way—yes, I was an appointee of the administration of the two-term President Barack Obama. I served in his first term on the U.S. auto rescue, the initiative responsible for saving General Motors and Chrysler and hundreds of thousands of Michigan jobs and very clearly saved millions of jobs across this great Nation.

It was really something else. I mean, they were saying don't let them liquidate. We didn't let them liquidate. We went forward, and we did the right thing.

I came into Congress and started the Democratic Manufacturing Working Group, became the co-chair of the Manufacturing Caucus, started the Women in STEM Caucus, became a co-chair of the Robotics Caucus and passed things like the American Manufacturing Leadership Act, making sure we had an Export-Import Bank that was reauthorized. We did that in the 116th session of the Congress so that we can export, so that we can sell American-made goods.

The question really is, Mr. Speaker, as we look out to the mid-century mark, waving maybe frantically goodbye as much as we want to cling to the great half-century of America in the 20th century, we know that competition is ripe, that we cannot rest. When you talk to autoworkers and auto executives, they know how ferocious that competition is with the Chinese Communist Party.

It is a competition, but they are a different system of government and business. Our preference is to say that we certainly would like to do business how we do business, but they are a different society. They somehow got into the WTO and didn't really adopt some of the ways that we do business.

We want to make sure that the economic might of the United States of America continues to lead the free world.

While this Chamber may be largely empty because we remain very busy in the Nation's Capital, and I do not expect my colleagues to listen to me deliver such an address, Mr. Speaker, I do

dare say, Mr. Speaker, that this is something that we can all agree on, that we can all work on, and that approaches, sentiments, and certainly emotions that run high in politics, of course, might differ.

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The idea that America should and must win and must continue to propel and to inspire as a vibrant, growing economy and democracy is what should win the day.

Mr. Speaker, in speaking from my humble perch as a Representative of the great State of Michigan, that is my contribution to the Halls of this Chamber this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

DEFENDING SOCIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized for 30 minutes.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I take to the floor today to raise the alarm for the people of Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Today, I am standing here for the 197,569 people, including 94,806 children and 22,000 seniors, whose Medicaid is at risk of being taken from them.

I stand here for the 69,000 people in Illinois-03 who count on SNAP benefits and could be losing them.

I stand here for the 28,000 people who receive coverage under the Affordable Care Act and may see their average premium go up by \$820 a year, a 40 percent increase.

Mr. Speaker, the working people of my district rely on Federal programs and services, and they also rely on the essential organizations in Illinois-03 that provide federally funded social programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, I stand for the 11 federally funded health centers with a presence in Illinois-03 that leverage \$78,954,648 in Federal investments for 624,770 patients.

I also stand here in the people's House for CEDA, which provides LIHEAP assistance to 179,082 working people in Cook County to weather extreme temperatures.

I stand here for the Puerto Rican Cultural Center under the leadership of Jose, the AIDS Foundation, La Casa Norte, and so many in Illinois-03 serving organizations that meet the needs of our diverse constituents who are facing uncertainty about Federal funding in this precise moment.

My colleagues and I are standing here because my Republican colleagues have bowed down to the whims of an unelected billionaire and a wannabe dictator. The majority is stealing from the American people so that Republicans can enrich billionaire bosses and expand their wealth at the expense of our working families.

Consider that for a moment. The richest man in the world is demanding cuts in the services that working families rely on. The richest man in the world, who could be making contributions to end hunger globally, decides that we should be cutting program services for working families, many of which my colleagues will talk about today.

Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today in the people's House, I want to be very clear about something. I will not betray working families by supporting a budget that harms working families to make the rich richer. We have to stand up in this precise moment in the people's House.

Republicans must also stand up to their billionaire bosses and do what is right, what they were elected to do: represent their constituents. We must protect and defend the federally funded social programs and services that the American people rely on.

Mr. Speaker, I will yield to my colleagues who will share about the programs and services that their constituents rely on and that they were sent to Congress to defend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I recognize Representative RAMIREZ for her leadership on this important issue.

I rise today not just as a Member of Congress, but as a healthcare practitioner. Like so many of my fellow healthcare workers, I became an occupational therapist to help people. Before entering public office, I spent over a decade working with seniors and children to help them achieve independent, full lives.

Last week, the Trump administration made it harder for our healthcare providers to deliver the services that Americans rely on by terminating 10,000 hardworking members of the Department of Health and Human Services workforce. Under this administration, a total of 20,000 HHS employees have been illegally fired, putting Americans at risk every day.

These cuts do nothing for the people in western New York or anywhere else across the country. They are a means of giving tax cuts to the ultrarich and powerful, those who never have to worry about access to reliable healthcare.

These cuts are more than numbers on a balance sheet. These are lives that hang in the balance. For western New York, this will make it harder for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center or the University of Buffalo to advance their lifesaving work.

These cuts mean delayed treatments, denied cures, stolen hopes from patients battling cancer, Parkinson's, ALS, Alzheimer's, and so many other devastating diseases. I felt the pain and hope of patients, grandparents, mothers, fathers, and children who are counting on the next clinical breakthrough to survive. These cuts say to them: Your health doesn't matter. Your life doesn't matter.

President Trump, unelected billionaire Elon Musk, and Secretary Robert Kennedy are more concerned with cutting services and pushing an antisience agenda than they are with supporting and improving our healthcare system. By walking away from practitioners and patients, the Trump administration is abdicating its duty to our most vulnerable and signaling to the world that the United States is no longer the global leader in scientific research.

As someone who spent years treating patients, I know that abandoning our scientists, our research institutions, our doctors and nurses, and, worst of all, our patients puts our entire community and country at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body, Democrats and Republicans, to stand up for our healthcare heroes, invest in breakthroughs that millions of lives are depending on, and restore the funding and workforce our Nation's healthcare system depends upon.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I have the opportunity and honor to serve with the gentleman on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Every day, I see the work that he does to uphold the work that is necessary to protect the benefits of our veterans. I am so grateful for the ways that the gentleman continues to show up for his constituents in New York and for the entire Nation. It is truly an honor to serve with the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, the Speaker saw constituents from every single State in the country come out to protest and rally. The Speaker saw children and saw people who are probably closer to 100 years of age walking through streets, going to the parks, and asking other Members of Congress: Have you forgotten about the people who sent you to Congress?

Mr. Speaker, I say as we are standing here in the House of Representatives that New York, Michigan, Texas, and Chicago have Members of Congress who are unwilling to accept the idea that we would slash the very same programs that we promised to protect for the American people.

Today, I am grateful that I get to be here with Members of Congress not just from New York, but also with a colleague of mine who continues to ring the alarm for the safety net programs that our constituents here and in Michigan need and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).