

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.

□ 1745

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).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the leadership of Congresswoman RAMIREZ, who has led with her own lived experiences and her compassion. She leads with compassion, which I think is sometimes missing here in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are advancing, as we all know, a budget that includes \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for billionaires. These are folks who do not fully understand what it means to live paycheck to paycheck. Mr. Speaker, 60 percent of our residents in our country live paycheck to paycheck.

Just so we are clear, the \$880 billion cut to Medicaid is the largest Medicaid cut in American history. There are 72 million people who rely on Medicaid for healthcare in our Nation, including 40 percent of people in Speaker JOHNSON's own district.

Mr. Speaker, for families, seniors, and people with disabilities who rely on Medicaid, it is the difference between life and death. Yet, right now, the future of Medicaid is under threat.

I have heard many of my Republican colleagues in this Chamber try to gaslight the American people and claim that the budget does not make cuts to Medicaid. Senator HAWLEY, as we know, just offered an amendment to the same legislation right now that came through this Chamber to strip the \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts out of that bill.

It was voted down by Members of his own party. The amendment literally said: To strike the section related to reconciliation instructions to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives to cut \$880 billion from Medicaid.

The Senator's Republican colleagues in the Senate voted it down, so let's be honest with the American people. If Republicans are going to cut their healthcare, be honest about it. Don't gaslight and try to pretend.

Those who rely on Medicaid aren't just a number. They are our neighbors. They are our friends. They are our families. They depend on Medicaid for health services, treatment, and medication that they simply cannot afford due to our broken healthcare system.

Make no mistake. Republicans want to give away trillions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, let's be honest, to the richest people in our Nation, like Elon Musk and all of President Trump's friends, and let children and seniors die from the lack of healthcare coverage.

As the chair of the Congressional Mamas' Caucus, I need to bring this to light because this is important when we talk about Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, Black Maternal Health Week begins on April 11, and Michigan has one of the highest Black maternal mortality rates in our Nation. Medicaid plays a critical role in supporting maternal health, covering a significant portion of births in our country and providing access to healthcare for pregnant women and postpartum individ-

uals, including prenatal care and postpartum services.

Black women, we know, are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women. This is absolutely unacceptable. We must address it at the Federal level. Yet, here we are, Mr. Speaker, because we have systems right in place and institutions have failed our folks, but here we are saying: We are also going to take away your healthcare coverage.

Cutting Medicaid, again, is going to be a life-or-death situation for our families, including birthing women. It is a result, of course, we know, of different broken systems.

Yet, at this moment, when we know we have a crisis in the mortality rate, we have a crisis of Black maternal health, and we have a crisis in our healthcare system, it is a broken system. It is sick care, not healthcare. Here we are watching, again, folks choose billionaires over the people who elected them.

We must raise our voices, and I am glad and so incredibly happy to be serving with my sister in service, Representative RAMIREZ. We must raise our voices again because we have to defeat this dangerous Republican budget. Again, our residents deserve better.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of Congresswoman TLAIB. The gentlewoman is absolutely right. Our constituents do, in fact, deserve better.

As I go back to the district and I look at the emails and the phone calls that are coming through, our constituents are asking: What are you doing to defend me? What are you doing to protect the programs that we depend on to stay alive? You need to do more.

□ 1800

One of the things that we have said in our townhalls, on the calls, on the emails as constituents come to D.C. demanding that we protect these critical programs is that we have to use every single opportunity—be in committee, be in the conversations we are having with colleagues, and every moment we can get to the House floor and talk about what is at stake in this precise moment.

We have to make sure that everyone hears we are doing everything we can to protect these critical programs because many of our constituents in this moment are feeling that they are being gaslighted by the very same people that they sent to Congress.

It is important to hear from the champions that are taking a stand. With us today is one of our newer Members of Congress. She is someone that yields from the great State of Texas where there are champions for justice who are fighting to protect Social Security, who are fighting to protect Medicaid, who are fighting to protect the very same programs that are critical and have made this country great.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON).

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and hosting this important Special Order hour on a topic that impacts many of my constituents in north Texas.

Since day one, the Trump administration has targeted essential social services that make government unreliable for all Americans: veterans, people with disabilities, seniors, and our children. All of these people and more rely on government to survive and all President Trump wants to do is cut, cut, and cut.

Let's call it what it is: It is a full on assault of the most essential lifelines millions of Americans count on, especially Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. They are right in the crosshairs of this administration.

The Trump administration and Republicans in this House are pushing cuts to the programs that Texans rely on every day. These aren't just numbers in a budget; they are difference between stability and catastrophe for hundreds of thousands of my constituents.

In Texas alone, more than 4 million people rely on Medicaid for healthcare, including half of the children in our State. Let me remind you, this is a State of 32 million people. Half of the children in our State rely on Medicaid, one out of every two kids in Texas.

When Trump proposes gutting it, he is not just slashing spending, he is taking away critical healthcare from children, from seniors in nursing homes, and people with disabilities who depend on it to survive.

Today, in the Capitol, one of my dear friends is here visiting who runs a hospice company. They provide dignity of care to people at the end of their life. They provide necessary comfort for families as they are trying to deal with these situations. End of life care is the most expensive part of our healthcare system. Companies like hospice companies provide a necessary but much more affordable access to the end of life with dignity for families, and they rely on Medicaid. They rely on Medicare to stay in business to help families and so many people in need.

We still have to talk about Social Security. Over 4 million Texans, retirees, veterans, widows, and people with disabilities rely on Social Security to keep the lights on, keep food on the table, and pay their bills. It is not a luxury; it is a promise this country made to working people. If you pay in, you can retire with dignity, but Trump's budget says otherwise.

He is talking about entitlement reform. That is Washington speak for cuts. Cuts that would hit rural communities, communities of color, and low-income seniors the hardest.

Let me be crystal clear: Texas already ranks 43rd in the Nation in access to healthcare. It is a statistic I am not proud of from my State. We lead

the Nation in uninsured adults. We also lead the Nation in maternal mortality and infant mortality, two statistics the Republicans in our State should be embarrassed of.

Now, Trump and Republicans want to make it worse. It is cruel, it is reckless, and it is dead wrong.

This isn't about balancing a budget; it is about priorities. Donald Trump's priorities are tax breaks for his buddies while working families are told to tighten their belts. We should be expanding care, not slashing it. We should be protecting retirement security, not playing games with the futures of people who worked their entire lives.

Texas families are watching and we will not let this administration destroy the programs that protect our health, our security, and our basic dignity. I urge my colleagues, especially my Republican colleagues, you represent the same people I do, hardworking folks trying to make ends meet, trying to provide a life for their kids.

If you went to your townhalls, you would see people standing up, speaking out. They don't want this. The people in this country don't want this. My message to you is that Democrats are standing up. We are doing everything we can to protect you, your family, and your kids in the right for safety, justice, and your right to pursue the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, Texans and all Americans deserve better.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her remarks. She is absolutely right. Our constituents deserve better.

I will talk a little bit about what is at stake. You have heard already my colleagues talk about Medicaid. You have heard them talk about Social Security. You have heard them talk about how their constituents are living in constant fear.

I will talk to you about community health centers, which also are incorporated in the Medicaid funding that my colleagues, the Republicans, want to slash. I will start by saying to you unapologetically and very loudly that I believe to my core that healthcare is a human right.

No one should have to choose between getting the care they need, accessing their medication, or paying their mortgage, but I can tell you from personal experience growing up in a family where the insurance company they pay into constantly makes it difficult for them to be able to get healthcare. Knowing that my mom and dad have had to choose often, do they get the medication, or do they pay for the mortgage?

You see, my parents worked their lives in this country and my father today has Medicare and my mother up until a year ago had Medicaid because, unfortunately, the wages that she worked were not large enough, were not equitable enough. They weren't living wages, but the Medicaid system

that we have that we know isn't working for everyone, that we should be expanding, not cutting, made it difficult for my mom to continue to get Medicaid.

I think about the challenges and the struggles that so many American people are living here. I will tell you that in the short tenure, we have seen that this administration has not talked about making Medicaid better. What they are talking about is cutting Medicaid. What they are talking about is announcing executive orders that target immigrants and the social service providers that work in strong immigrant communities. Immigrants that, by the way, pay into Medicaid that they never get.

What they are doing is undermining local governments and local agencies who know best what their communities need. You see, community health centers exist to serve an entire community, regardless of their income, regardless of insurance status, and regardless of immigration status. Many of the services they provide, like emergency care, like vaccinations, and public health outreach serve the public good. Providing these services broadly in our communities keep us all healthy.

Community health centers also make a profound economic impact on our communities, creating jobs, not taking jobs like this administration is doing, over 340,000 jobs and generating \$118.4 billion in local economic activity.

Republicans have chosen to defund healthcare so that they can provide their billionaire bosses with more tax breaks. They want you to go without healthcare so the top 1 percent of Americans can get a \$314,000 tax cut.

Let me say that again. They don't think that you deserve healthcare. They want to take your healthcare away, frankly, let you die, so that their billionaire bosses can get \$314,000 in tax cuts. That is what they want to do. They claim to care for working people and our economy, but their actions show us just how terrible and in your face their hypocrisy really is.

There are no other words for those who knowingly would put tax benefits for the wealthiest Americans over the working families who depend on Medicaid for their basic healthcare.

In Illinois, 772,233 adults are enrolled in the ACA Medicaid Expansion. If Republicans cut Medicaid, these constituents would lose their healthcare. We have the obligation to remain defiant in our position that everyone independent of citizenship status, ZIP Code, or age has a right to a dignified, healthy life.

Now is the moment to remain united in our commitment to healthcare for all, courageous in our resistance, and undeterred in our fight against this administration's authoritarian agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I will talk to you about immigrants because apparently my colleagues here do everything they possibly can to vilify them every single

day. It is almost as if they forgot that their grandparents also crossed borders and shores to get here, but let me say to you, you may have forgotten your roots, you may have forgotten that your parents or your grandparents or your great-grandparents were immigrants, but I haven't.

I am the proud daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, the wife of Boris, who until recently, was a DACA recipient, and I am the niece of a man who has contributed to this country and paid taxes for more than 30 years and put four boys through college.

This body considers, once again, a budget that leaves working people behind. I will for a moment talk about immigration and our economy because what these colleagues of mine, the Republicans, will tell you is that immigrants are taking from the American people. Immigrants are taking your jobs. Immigrants are taking your housing. They are taking, taking, taking, so let me clarify facts here.

The reality is that Republicans are pushing for a billionaire budget that gives \$4.5 billion in tax breaks to the ultrawealthy like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, while cutting trillions of dollars in programs like Medicaid and SNAP. That is not immigrants doing that. That is Republicans doing that.

Republicans have the audacity to tell us that they are doing all these cuts because we are broke. Well, Mr. Speaker, like I said to Chairman GREEN in the Homeland Security Committee, we wouldn't be broke if the ultrawealthy would pay their fair share.

Fair taxing could fund a budget that centers working families. It could fix our tax system. It could create opportunity for policies that work for working people. Let me also say to you, immigration reform could unleash the full economic power of our immigrant communities to fully participate in a fair tax system.

Undocumented immigrants paid \$96.7 billion in State, local, and Federal taxes in 2022. Mr. Speaker, \$96.7 billion is what they paid.

On top of that, undocumented immigrants pay an average rate of 5.27 percent in Federal taxes. That is a rate higher than most of the United States' wealthiest billionaires or megacorporations. Yet, while Republicans give another billion-dollar company another tax break, they are telling us that it is immigrants who are taking from the community and from the people. Well, that is a lie.

It is a lie because we understand that 23.6 percent of all entrepreneurs are immigrants. Some undocumented, some are legal permanent residents, and some are naturalized citizens. Mr. Speaker, \$1.7 trillion in spending power is what immigrants bring to this economy.

Every time they tell you that immigrants are taking from us, let me be very clear: Immigrants contribute every single day.

As I am wrapping up, I will say that there are many reasons to be concerned, but it is also important to remember that there are reasons to celebrate. I will take a moment to recognize a reason to celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 111th anniversary of the Village of Elmwood Park and to celebrate the 25,500 Illinois' Third Congressional District constituents who call this village home.

Elmwood Park is a wonderful place to live, to shop, and to do business. They have built unique intergovernmental and cross-sector partnerships, and I am proud that our commitment and collaboration with President Saviano, Village Manager Volpe, and Senators Durbin and Duckworth have secured \$13.1 million for a transformative project that included grade crossing improvements to enhance resident safety in Elmwood Park.

I thank all the hardworking employees of the village whose public service enables residents to access critical services and programs. I remain committed to continuing to deliver the resources our communities need to improve public safety, create well-paying jobs, and expand economic opportunity for Elmwood Park and across Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Elmwood Park for these 111 years of community. I look forward to many more years of partnership and to continue to fight in the Halls of Congress for every constituent in my district.

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

□ 1815

DISPENSING WITH MORNING-HOUR DEBATE ON TOMORROW

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 3, 2025, regarding morning-hour debate not apply tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

CUTS TO FOREST SERVICE ENDANGER MILLIONS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. SCHRIER of Washington was recognized for 30 minutes.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my frustration and outrage with the Trump administration's reckless cuts to our Forest Service.

The workforce that takes care of our forests, harvests timber, and makes them resilient to wildfires is treasured in my State of Washington and, I would say, in the entire Western United States. Cuts to this workforce endanger my constituents, endanger millions of Americans, and put our forests at high risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. WHITESIDES).

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, my name is GEORGE WHITESIDES, and I represent California's 27th Congressional District.

Just 3 days after I was sworn in to Congress to serve my first term this year, wildfires broke out across southern California, forcing 200,000 people to evacuate, burning over 57,000 acres of land, damaging or destroying 18,000 homes, and taking the lives of 30 individuals.

Two weeks later, the Hughes fire erupted in my own district near Castaic, right near where this picture behind me was taken. It forced over 30,000 people to evacuate.

Compared to most, we were relatively lucky. Given wind conditions and the brave work of our firefighters, many of whom were employed by the U.S. Forest Service, the fire was quickly contained.

As southern California began to emerge from the devastation and focus on rebuilding, firefighters and other fire service workers with the U.S. Forest Service were abruptly terminated by the Trump administration. Days or weeks after saving our lives, they were left out to dry with no explanation.

One of these employees in my own district was Jasmin Dominguez, a GIS technician, who literally mapped out the fires as they spread. I brought Jasmin as my guest to the State of the Union where we talked about how difficult it would be for local fire chiefs to control the fires without the maps that she provided.

Now, we are preparing to go into another bad fire season. People are scared. If you look at the conditions on the ground in the American West, they are very concerning. Fire scientists are concerned. Firefighters are concerned. Between the January fires and the extreme dryness that we have experienced this winter, we are poised to experience earlier and more intense wildfires than before.

The worst thing that we could do for our communities that have already suffered so much is to reduce our capacity to fight and contain these fires when, not if, they occur.

The unconscionable and, frankly, offensive decision to terminate our Forest Service workers will make us less safe and more vulnerable to the natural disasters that we are guaranteed to experience.

The administration may claim that firefighters were exempt from their cuts, but we know this is not true. I am in constant communication with Fed-

eral wildfire community members, and here is what they tell me. Their grants have been frozen; existing agreements with the Federal Government, frozen; purchasing cards that they use to buy lifesaving equipment, frozen.

Hiring for fire season is often cyclical, meaning the Trump administration's earlier decision to freeze Federal hiring left even our local fire stations understaffed and unprepared for the fire season that has already started.

For the safety of the families and the individuals across all of our districts, and for the brave work that so many of these Forest Service employees do every day, we must speak out against these unfair terminations.

To every Forest Service worker who is laid off and for everyone preparing to undergo even more of these so-called reductions in workforce, know that we hear you, are with you, and are fighting for you.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo some of those comments because I am also in the West, in Washington State, and we are seeing the risk of catastrophic wildfires increasing every year.

Because all of this is being done under the guise of DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency, let me be clear that we all want our tax dollars to be spent wisely.

Let me also be clear that the people in the Eighth District of Washington State think it is a super wise investment to invest in our Forest Service that will thin the forest, prevent catastrophic wildfires, and then fight catastrophic wildfires when they occur.

I would say, and my constituents would also say because we all choke on smoke every summer, that this is not a time to cut the Forest Service. In fact, it is a time to hire up at the Forest Service because we need them more than ever right now.

We need them for fighting fires as I discussed, for maintaining our forests, but also for supporting recreation, maintaining roads and trails, and producing timber that we all need for affordable housing, and for water restoration, watershed restoration, and more.

We have heard from the administration that firefighters were exempt from the cuts, but here is the thing: About 75 percent of the people who were cut had firefighting training. In fact, they may have had different titles, but they had something called red cards, which meant they were ready, firefighting trained, and they leapt into action whenever wildland firefighters needed their help to work side by side with them. They are really indispensable employees.

I also want to say that the people who we are losing, many of them have had years of experience. They choose to work for the Forest Service, for the Federal Government, because of their passion for taking care of our public lands. They are talented. They are critical. They are experienced. They