

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, Elon Musk said recently in a Joe Rogan podcast: “The fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy.” He further said that empathy has been “weaponized.”

This is consistent with his statement that Social Security is a Ponzi scheme, not the program that has saved the lives and the livelihood of countless Americans. This is the philosophy of the world’s richest man, Elon Musk.

Let me contrast that philosophy with that which was expressed in Matthew 25:

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you ministered to me, I was in prison, and you visited me.

“Then the righteous will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick or in prison?’ And he will answer, ‘When you did this for the least of my brothers, you did it for me.’”

Empathy: Not the weakness of Western civilization; the bedrock of Western civilization.

PERVERSE INCENTIVES OF OUR WELFARE STATE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will point out one more time the perverse incentives of our welfare state.

I will just mention one type right now: Section 42, low-income housing. Section 42 low-income housing is very generous to property developers, who wind up only having to pay for 30 percent of the cost of their housing.

Worse, because it is new housing, I had a staffer looking for a new apartment building with her new husband, and they found out the best apartments in town were the low-income housing.

In order to be eligible for low-income housing, you almost certainly can’t be married. In order to be eligible, you can’t be working very hard.

I think this body ought to get out of the business of encouraging people not to work hard, and they especially ought to get out of the business of discriminating against people who are married with children. I sure hope that this body, when we finally deal with the reconciliation bill, gets rid of these perverse antimarriage incentives.

MAUI DISLOCATED WORKERS PROGRAM

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the workers and families of Maui, still recovering from the

devastating wildfires of 2023. Displaced workers continue to drive Maui’s recovery, rebuilding homes, clearing debris, restoring infrastructure, and supporting their communities.

The National Dislocated Worker Grant has been vital in funding such disaster recovery work and providing job training, temporary employment, and career services to wildfire survivors.

I am grateful to the Department of Labor for awarding Hawaii \$2.5 million in dislocated worker grant funding. While this is a step in the right direction, the livelihoods of displaced workers, the health of our local economy, and the long-term trajectory of Maui’s recovery remain in the balance.

We must continue working to secure all remaining dislocated worker funds available—\$8 million—to ensure the program continues through September 2025. We can and must give our local workers this certainty during an uncertain time. Without these funds, we risk losing momentum in the recovery and leaving workers without crucial support.

Maui’s recovery is not just a priority. It is a promise to those who have lost so much. I will keep fighting to ensure that promise is kept.

TRUMP’S ATTACKS ON BLACK HISTORY

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in vigorous opposition to occupant Trump’s hostile attacks, hostile and insecure attacks on Black history. Black history is American history.

Dictators try to shutter museums, censor history, and whitewash the truth, but we know the truth. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that centuries of bondage and enslavement brutalized Black bodies and tore apart Black families, that Black women have been the mothers of movements, that Black folks have endured redlining and pay disparities, and yet, still, we rise.

Black brilliance exists in every corner of this Nation, from the stage to the court to the classroom to the Halls of Congress. I want every single person, certainly every single child who calls this Nation home, to walk into our Smithsonian museums including our beautiful Blacksonian and see our collective history, accurate history on full display.

I want them to see themselves in our struggles and our triumphs. I want them to be inspired by the lyrics of Etta and the speeches of Malcolm, and the leadership of Fannie Lou.

It is by studying our history we learn how to overcome the systems of oppression, the reckless whims of petulant men thirsty for power, and the will of dictators. My Blackness is beautiful, and Black history is American history.

TARIFFS ARE TAXES

(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, the United States has not had a trade surplus in over half a century. Trade deficits translate into lost jobs and lost wealth for the American people. Balancing U.S. trade accounts is an imperative and a worthy objective, but Trump administration tariffs on the American people’s purchases are taxes that cost them more money on everything, a lot more: a lot more for food, for gas, for building materials, for cars, for trucks, for everything.

Today, after the market bled off nearly \$10 trillion in lost U.S. wealth last week, the President adjusted some tariffs, but nothing he did is reshoring American reinvestment here in our country. Our Nation imports three-quarters of our fruits and vegetables. We need agricultural reinvestment here in the good old USA.

NAFTA caused the cataclysmic outsourcing of U.S. manufacturing in autos and trucks. The President should focus on incentives to reshore U.S. production, not build more barriers.

Focus on free trade among free people. Help us with our best trade ally, Canada, especially those of us who live in the north. We believe in our fair trade partners around the world. Build on success. The American people need economic growth, not any more tourniquets around their necks because of tariffs.

□ 2045

URGING ACTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to take action to protect Social Security from defunding by the administration.

For me, for my colleagues, and for many Americans, we see Social Security as not just a program but as a lifeline for millions of hardworking Americans, including the more than 136,000 Social Security recipients in my 6th District of Maryland alone.

It is a promise made to every worker who contributes a portion of their hard-earned paycheck to the system throughout their career. It is not an entitlement. It is an earned benefit. For many, Social Security is the primary source of income and retirement, lifting millions out of poverty and assuring they have a dignified life after a lifetime of hard work.

Under this administration, the Social Security Administration is crumbling. Reports released last week showed that deep staffing cuts, indiscriminate cost-cutting measures, and a focus on eliminating supposed fraud have crippled

the agency's ability to deliver these earned benefits. The value of Social Security cannot be overstated. It is an essential program.

In sum, I will fight to ensure Social Security remains funded, properly staffed, and accessible to all who earned it.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANCES GARBER PEPPER

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Frances Garber Pepper, a fearless and focused giant in the fight for democracy, women's rights, and a better world, who passed away on March 28.

Francie meant so much to so many, whether it was through her vigorous advocacy for women or her unwavering love, energy, and compassion as a wife, mother, grandmother, friend, neighbor, and activist.

People ask me all the time what women have been an inspiration to me. Personally, first and foremost, is my mother; officially, our former colleague, Lindy Boggs, Ambassador Boggs; and, politically, Francie Pepper.

As a trailblazer of her own path, Francie was truly the epitome of women helping women, and I am so pleased that her legacy will carry on through a namesake fund that will help survivors and families of domestic violence.

May it be a comfort to all of Francie's family: Her beloved husband, John; children, John, David, Doug, and Susan; her entire family, and all her loved ones, so many people are mourning this loss and praying for them at this sad time.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a tribute written by Francie's son, David Pepper.

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

There was no objection.

IN MEMORIAM: FRANCIE GARBER PEPPER  
A LIFETIME AND LEGACY OF FIERCE ADVOCACY  
(By David Pepper, Mar 30, 2025)

The fight for democracy, women's rights and a better world lost a giant early Friday morning—my mother, Francie Pepper.

Mom left this world as she lived in it—fearlessly, fiercely, focused. Her final days and weeks were spent sharing memories with her closest friends and fellow activists. And after saying goodbye to her grandkids, she spent her final hours surrounded by her four kids, my dad's hand firmly in hers.

While we are heartbroken, we are grateful that she passed in peace, was able to enjoy precious time with those she loved, and are so deeply proud of her life-long legacy of advocacy and activism.

And no, there was no better mom out there.

Thank you to so many who made her life so rich and happy, and for offering your prayers and love in recent days. They are all appreciated.

For those who did not know her, I share below the obituary the family has put together that captures the full breadth of her life and many pursuits and contributions. The Cincinnati Enquirer and Cincinnati Business Courier/Local 12 both provided compelling and touching accounts of all she achieved and all those she touched and inspired.

Local news stations also honored her by covering her life's work:

Frances "Francie" Garber Pepper, November 9, 1940–March 28, 2025

Born into a long, continuous line of feminists going back to the suffragists gathered at Seneca Falls, Frances "Francie" Garber Pepper passionately took up that mantle and dedicated her life to the cause of supporting women, women's rights, and those in need.

A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, philanthropist, advocate, linguist, cottager and volunteer, Francie, 84, passed away on March 28, 2025, surrounded by her adoring family and after weeks of sharing memories with and saying goodbye to her closest friends and fellow activists.

Born and raised in Cincinnati's Mount Auburn in the 1950s, Francie was shaped early on by the example of her mother and generations of strong women in her family, and by her father's work caring for patients as an OBGYN at Christ Hospital. These early role models instilled in Francie a lifelong passion for social justice, women's empowerment, and community service.

Francie enjoyed bare-footed childhood summers in the rustic and remote woods and islands of Georgian Bay in Ontario—her lifelong second home and the source of friendships, adventures and endless stories and good times.

She graduated from Cincinnati's Hillsdale School in 1958, then attended Smith College. Her gift with languages—she would ultimately become fluent in Spanish, Italian and French—led her to major in Spanish, and to spend extensive time in Franco's Spain during and after college. Francie wrote about those years in her 2024 book, *Letters from Spain*. (Completing this book was one of her top priorities as she battled her illness).

On her return to Cincinnati, Francie worked as a legal secretary and interpreter to leading businesses in the city. Amid the many stops in her active social life in those years was a visit to the 1964 Kentucky Derby, where she met a shy and bespectacled (the horn-rimmed type) Pennsylvania transplant, John Pepper, who miraculously managed to edge out her many suitors.

The two married in 1967, enjoyed a wonderful 57 years of companionship and love, and raised a family of four kids—John, David, Doug and Susan—followed by ten grandchildren.

John's career at Procter & Gamble took the family around the globe, including stints in Rome and Brussels (twice), and extensive travel to dozens of countries.

Francie embraced each new home with gusto, learning the language, bringing together communities of both expats and local friends and neighbors, all while navigating her growing family through the challenges and opportunities of living abroad. Francie kept up with those she befriended overseas for the rest of her life.

Upon returning to Cincinnati, Francie played leadership roles in numerous local organizations, such as the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Junior League, and Cincinnati Country Day School. As her kids grew, her activism fired into overdrive, and widened in scope. Some of her projects and causes were high profile; while other people and causes she supported were anonymous, or, to this day, only known between her and those she helped. And like one large family, Francie

and John's home in Wyoming became a gathering place for so many of the organizations, people and causes she supported.

Francie emerged as a national voice for domestic violence awareness and prevention. She served on the board of the Cincinnati YWCA from 1996 and chaired the board from 2000 to 2004. Of all her philanthropic contributions, Francie was most proud of leading the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati's effort to renovate a historic mansion into a shelter for battered women and their children. The funds also restored the YWCA's historic Walnut Street headquarters and added a childcare center to the facility. Francie was a major supporter of the Sophia Smith Collection at her beloved Smith College, an internationally recognized archive dedicated to women's history and home to the YWCA's historical files.

More recently, Francie and others' generous support seeded a fund—conceived and administered by Women Helping Women—that provides for the immediate safety needs of survivors of domestic violence, and their families. We are honored that weeks ago, Women Helping Women named this innovative fund after her:

In recognition of her years of service and support, Francie was honored with the inaugural Women of Distinction Award by the national YWCA USA, which celebrates professional women who demonstrate excellence, leadership, and integrity in advancing women's economic empowerment and racial justice. Other honors she received along her life journey: Great Living Cincinnati; the United Way's National Tocqueville Award; the Urban Appalachian Council Kinship Award; the Richard & Sarah Allen Humanitarian Award Presented by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Third Episcopal District; the Cookie Nowland Award, presented by the Junior League of Cincinnati; the "Glorifying The Lion" award of the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati; and the Citizen of the Year by the City of Wyoming, where she and John lived for more than 40 years.

Her advocacy also brought Francie into the world of politics, where she and an ever growing and diverse group of fellow activists fought tirelessly through campaign after campaign. Through barrier-breaking successes and heartbreaking failures, they persisted—creating bonds of support and friendship that never faded, including weekly coffees (virtual-style during COVID) and meet-ups that kept going long after the campaigns ended.

Her last meet-up with this wonderful group of women took place around her bedside, last week:

Along the way, Francie became a friend and steadfast supporter of a wide range of public servants—from national leaders such as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Speaker Nancy Pelosi; to U.S. Senators, governors and House members; to statehouse and city council members, school board members, and judges. She asked nothing of those she supported but good and honest public service.

Francie Pepper is survived by her husband, John Pepper; her four children, John Pepper (Maggie), David Pepper (Alana), Doug Pepper (Kim), and Susan Pepper (Jonathan); ten grandchildren: Tibby, Izzy, and Bo (children of John and Maggie Pepper); Jack and Charlie (children of David and Alana Pepper); Andrew, Katherine, and Molly (children of Doug and Kim Pepper); and Hubbard and Rhoda (children of Susan and Jonathan); and her brother David Garber and sister Helen Garber. She is preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Stanley T. Garber and Frances Davis Garber, and her brother, S. Thomas Garber.