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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 29, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK ALFORD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH: AMISHA PATEL

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate longtime Chicago leader, organizer, and my dear friend, Amisha Patel, for her nearly three decades of civic engagement and community organizing.

From leading environmental justice efforts at just 19 years of age to organizing Chicago care workers with SEIU Local 73, Amisha has consistently united diverse communities to build power. Her work developing thousands

of leaders laid the groundwork for winning affordable housing, quality education, and more in Chicago and across the State of Illinois.

I am proud to have worked alongside Amisha during her 15 years as the executive director of Grassroots Collaborative, where we opposed school closures, championed affordable housing, and fought for critical investments to our social safety net.

Amisha is a fighter for peace, justice, and community. As a three-time cancer survivor currently in treatment, I want her to know that we are with her as she continues this fight.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my sincere honor to commend Amisha Patel for her lifetime of service organizing our communities to fight for the future that we deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Amisha.

NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH: CARLOS RAMIREZ-ROSA

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Fair Housing Month to honor Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, my constituent, my friend, and the former 35th Ward alderman, for his legacy of leadership to realize safe, affordable housing for all. Moreover, I want to congratulate him on his recent appointment as CEO and superintendent of the Chicago Park District.

In his decade as alderman of the 35th Ward, which includes Logan Square, Hermosa, Irving Park, and Avondale, Carlos championed policies to expand affordable housing and resist gentrification and displacement. He has also led unapologetic efforts to expand protections for immigrants, LGBTQ+ people, and workers in Chicago.

Carlos shifted the dynamics of local politics by making sure that neighbors and constituents had power over land use, development, and zoning. In doing so, Carlos modeled what a collaborative co-governance approach to community development could look like and work.

It is how we resulted in tangible wins and how he was able to bring those wins to communities, including the development of 100 units of affordable housing in the heart of Logan Square in the Lucy Gonzalez Parsons Apartments.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my privilege and my honor to commend Carlos Ramirez-Rosa for his commitment to a fair, safe, and dignified life for all of his neighbors.

“Se que continuara transformando nuestras comunidades. Y estoy agradecida contigo, Carlos”; “I know you will continue transforming our communities. I am thankful for Carlos.”

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Carlos Ramirez-Rosa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). The gentlewoman will provide a translation of her remarks.

NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH: DEBORAH SUGGS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of National Fair Housing Month, I rise to recognize my constituent, affordable housing resident, and community advocate, Deborah Suggs.

For over 50 years, Deborah has called home the Marian Park Apartments, a Wheaton affordable housing community serving seniors and families.

While raising her children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren, Deborah has brought together her community to organize for the resources they need to thrive, whether it is secure transportation for school, childcare for working families, or road and pedestrian safety.

As a leader with DuPage United, Deborah has been successful in imagining what safe, livable communities look like and building power and coalition to realize those dreams for people in Wheaton.

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

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



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I had the pleasure of meeting Deborah at one of my townhalls, where I saw firsthand her passion to fight for herself, her family, her community, and our district.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Deborah for her lifetime of leadership in Wheaton and for her advocacy for a fair, safe, and affordable community. I thank Deborah.

RECOGNIZING DAVID SPARKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Sparks for his outstanding contributions and visionary leadership in the pharmaceutical industry.

As the previous CEO and current chairman of the board at the Professional Compounding Centers of America, PCCA, Mr. Sparks has been instrumental in advancing the pharmaceutical industry. Since joining PCCA in 1992, he has fought to protect pharmacists' rights to compound, playing a key role in FDA reform legislation. Before PCCA, he owned pharmacies in Tulsa for over two decades, pioneering the introduction of compounding pharmacies in hospice care.

Committed to education, Mr. Sparks is a proud contributor to the SWOSU general scholarship fund, ensuring that future pharmacists have the essential resources to succeed. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy and an active member of its Mading Society of benefactors. He remains a dedicated advocate for the advancement of pharmacy, continuously supporting the profession through leadership and philanthropy.

Mr. Sparks' impact on the pharmaceutical industry is profound and lasting, and his leadership will continue to shape its future.

RECOGNIZING JIM SMITH FOR LEADERSHIP IN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOUNDING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Smith, a distinguished leader whose dedication and vision have profoundly impacted both the Professional Compounding Centers of America, PCCA, and the healthcare industry.

His educational background, including a bachelor of science in chemistry and biology from West Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Portland, has shaped his strategic leadership.

Since joining PCCA in 2000, Mr. Smith has played a crucial role in the organization's growth, serving as president, chief operating officer, vice president of sales and marketing, and a key member of the strategic management team. His leadership has strengthened PCCA's core capabilities, driving innovation and excellence in pharmaceutical compounding.

Prior to his tenure, Mr. Smith leveraged his expertise in home health, specialty medicine, respiratory pharmacy, long-term care pharmacy, and compounding support, demonstrating his commitment to advancing patient care.

Today, as executive adviser to the PCCA board of directors, Mr. Smith continues to shape the industry, ensuring that innovation and patient care remain at the forefront.

Mr. Smith's dedication exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and service.

CONGRATULATING GUS BASSANI, A VISIONARY IN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOUNDING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gus Bassani, a longtime leader and visionary in the pharmacy compounding industry who has recently assumed the role of chief executive officer of the Professional Compounding Centers of America, PCCA.

Mr. Bassani earned his doctor of pharmacy degree from Drake University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Since then, he has been invaluable in various settings within the pharmaceutical industry.

Mr. Bassani embraces opportunities to give back, teaching extemporaneous compounding principles to pharmacy students at Drake University.

Mr. Bassani has been with PCCA since September 2002, actively participating in legislative, regulatory, and public affairs initiatives. At PCCA, he has been a visionary, contributing extensively to the organization's scientific, technical, and strategic pursuits.

In addition to his outstanding work with PCCA, Mr. Bassani has previously served on the United States Pharmacopeia Compounding Expert Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Bassani on this exciting achievement, and I wish him the best in his new role.

EDESIA NUTRITION SAVES MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

(Mr. MAGAZINER of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a matter of life or death for millions of children around the world. Malnutrition is the leading cause of death for children under 5 globally.

When children starve, their bodies break down their own muscles, bones, and organs to survive. Their immune systems collapse, leaving them defenseless to disease.

Mr. Speaker, if you go into a clinic where children are suffering from malnutrition, you won't hear them crying because they don't have the strength. The silence is all you will hear.

When it comes to nutrition, the first 1,000 days of a child's life are critical for development for the rest of their lives, but there is a miracle treatment

that can save the lives of malnourished children, even in the most remote corners of the world. Ready-to-use therapeutic food, or RUTF, is a nutrient-packed peanut butter paste.

RUTF, also known as Plumpy'Nut, delivers the fat, sugar, and protein that children with malnutrition need to survive and grow. It requires no refrigeration, and kids show improvement and are saved within weeks.

Edesia Nutrition, based in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, is one of the two organizations in the United States that manufactures Plumpy'Nut. From their factory in North Kingstown, they produced over 88 million pounds of Plumpy'Nut each year.

This work saved more than 25 million lives across 65 countries, including 5 million lives last year.

Edesia and another organization, MANA, based in Georgia, have been doing lifesaving work, but this work has been largely halted because the Trump administration has frozen new orders for RUTF, grinding production nearly to a halt. This is despite Secretary Rubio and Elon Musk promising publicly that emergency food aid would be continued. That has not been the case so far, and relief for starving children is now uncertain.

USAID's Office of Food for Peace has funded the manufacture and distribution of this food relief to the developing world for decades, but with the closure of USAID, and despite the assurances of Secretary Rubio and other administration officials, no new orders have been submitted for the next fiscal year.

As a result, Edesia, the factory in my district, has had to lay off staff, leaving production of Plumpy'Nut slowed nearly to a halt. Shipments meant for starving children have been stranded in warehouses. There are boxes of this stuff sitting in warehouses right now with no place to go. Every hour of missed production means 415 starving children will not get the food they need to survive.

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If we allow Edesia and MANA's mission to fail, it will be a moral failure on our part.

I urge the administration and my colleagues to do the right thing. Restore the funding for emergency food aid. Keep America's promise to the world's most vulnerable children. We do not have another day to waste. This is a moment of urgency.

That is why starting today, I will take to the floor of the House every single day to call to anybody in this city who will listen, asking to please restore Federal funding for emergency food aid.

We do not have the ability to filibuster in the House like they do in the Senate, but I do have the right and the ability to stand in this Chamber every day for at least a couple of minutes to call attention to this urgent issue, and that is exactly what I intend to do until this funding is restored.