

Medicaid expansion coverage. This means pregnant women, babies, kids with disabilities, and our most vulnerable neighbors will lose coverage.

These cuts will make us less healthy and they will make us less prosperous and less safe. Even if you are not on Medicaid, emergency rooms will be overwhelmed with uninsured patients and your premiums and healthcare costs will go up, as well.

Mr. Speaker, every American should speak out against these cuts to Medicaid.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE ABDELNASSER RASHID

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of Arab American Heritage Month, I rise to honor my colleague and friend, State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid.

As the first Muslim elected in the Illinois General Assembly and the only Palestinian American to serve, he is not just making history; he is crafting it. He didn't step forward for titles or recognition. He stepped forward because families and communities like his have waited long enough for homegrown leaders who carry their hopes because they know their hardships.

His presence is a testament to perseverance, principle, and the strength to stay true to community. Abdelnasser carries the hopes of generations on his shoulders. He knows his work is bigger than any one person, and he does so with quiet courage, not seeking applause, but grounded in the belief that dignity and opportunity are rights, not privileges.

Representative Rashid isn't just honoring his heritage; he is building a future.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are proud to stand with him.

UNITED STATES HAS \$36 TRILLION IN FEDERAL DEBT

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

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the United States has \$36 trillion in Federal debt. Our debt-to-GDP ratio is greater than Greece and Italy when they had their debt crisis, and we are incurring a deficit of \$2 trillion a year.

The most rapidly growing part of the Federal budget is Medicaid. You will have people come to the floor and they will talk about Medicaid cuts, but Mr. Speaker, only in Washington is a slight decrease in the increase in a program called a cut or slashing because that is not the way anybody's budget works at home, but that is the way it works in Washington.

The Medicaid budget has increased 40 percent over the last 5 years and is out

of control. We have to control the growth in it to preserve it for the future. A little known fact is that in many States, providers are paid more to take care of a Medicaid patient than a Medicare patient. That ought to scare every senior in this country when Medicare is going to be crowded out by an out-of-control Medicaid budget.

ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF CHAOS, DYSFUNCTION, AND ATTACKS

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 100th day of this administration. One hundred days of chaos, dysfunction, and attacks. Attacks on our democracy, our communities, and our environment, rollback protections for climate and clean energy, for our air, land, water, and wildlife.

Here just 1 week after the 55th anniversary of Earth Day, my colleagues across the aisle are putting forth a set of resolutions to gut protections for clean air and public lands across the West, while they prepare a reconciliation package next week that would open our public lands to oil and gas drilling, selling them to the lowest bidder, and repealing historic investments in climate and clean energy.

To think that just 55 years ago, a historic bipartisan people's movement led the United States in leading the world to protect our air, land, and water. We are here today to say we are not going back and we will continue to fight for our planet and our communities.

ATTACKS AND THREATS ON DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, after Donald Trump and his co-president Elon Musk took office on January 20, Democrats in Congress realized that we were engaged in a multifaceted struggle to protect and defend everyday Americans from the harm being inflicted by this reckless and cruel administration.

It was an all-hands-on-deck moment with roles for Congress, the courts, and for we the people.

On February 10, House Democratic Party Minority Leader HAKEEM

JEFFRIES formally established the Rapid Response Task Force and Litigation Working Group, chaired by assistant leader JOE NEGUSE and co-chaired by Representatives ROSA DELAUNO, GERRY CONNOLLY, and JAMIE RASKIN.

The task force itself is also a multifaceted defense of our democracy with its 45 Members participating in various working groups. I participate in the Litigation Working Group that brainstorms ideas for amicus briefs where Congress' perspective would be especially important and useful to the courts such as when the Trump administration tramples upon Congress' constitutional powers by ignoring the will of Congress as expressed by legislation that directs that a certain thing be done.

When Congress passes legislation and that legislation is signed into law, then whoever is President is charged with the responsibility of taking care that that law is faithfully executed. The President does not have the power to nullify a law passed by Congress, but this President is willfully acting like a dictator and the Litigation Working Group is working to stop this President from acting unlawfully and unconstitutionally.

We are seeing great success in the courts, which is why this President is now attacking the judiciary and attacking judges, and we will talk about that later during this Special Order hour, which I have been asked to lead.

I also participate in a hearings working group that sets up hearings across the Nation to highlight how this administration's unlawful and unconstitutional actions are affecting everyday people. Importantly for tonight, I participate in the Special Order hour working group, where my fellow Representatives and I organize time to speak on topics of urgent importance so that the American public can be informed about the harm this administration is causing, our thoughts about it, and what we can do about it, both here in the Halls of Congress and in the courts as well as in the streets.

Tonight, the topic I feel most urgency around is illuminating the ways that the Trump administration is destroying democracy through its attack on the rule of law.

As a young man, I decided to become a lawyer. Actually, as a child, I was 4 years old when my hero, my mentor, my cousin—we called him Tokey, but his name was Archibald Hill—I was 4 years old when he graduated from law school and became a lawyer. When that happened, I decided at that tender age of 4 years old that I wanted to be just like him. I wanted to be an attorney also.

Archibald went out to Oklahoma and set up his homebase there in Oklahoma City, and he hung out his shingle as a solo practitioner and began to practice criminal defense law, and me, being his acolyte, his fan, wanted to be just like him. I decided I was going to open up my law firm and practice criminal defense law just like him.

I believed in due process. I believed that if government accused you of a crime, you had a right to a trial by a jury of your peers and the prosecutor had the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt before the jury was authorized to convict. The government could not just accuse you of something without evidence, lock you up, and throw away the key without due process.

I believe in the rule of law and I believe in the Constitution, which undergirds the rule of law. I believe in equal protection under the law. As a lawyer, I fought for my clients in court, ensuring they received due process and equal protection under the law that they were entitled to.

I administered our system of justice as a magistrate court judge, upholding the law without fear or favor. That is the America that I love, one where everyone in this country feels secure enough in our rights to speak their mind and to live freely.

I am deeply disturbed about the devotion that I am seeing taking place right now in terms of the rule of law and justice in this country.

Unfortunately, this is what we are seeing under this Trump reign of terror. In only 100 days, there has been an onslaught of attacks on the judiciary and the rule of law. Trump is using the Department of Justice to carry out a campaign of terror, retribution, and vengeance.

Trump is perverting his Justice Department away from administering justice into an outfit that is only there to prosecute his personal vendettas, punish his enemies, and award his friends.

He has installed to do his bidding banana republic cronies like Attorney General Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel, who are more than willing to carry out Trump's abuse of the justice system. Under their reign, dozens of prosecutors were targeted, identified, and fired simply because they had worked on the January 6 insurrection cases.

The FBI turned over a list of 4,000 current and former FBI personnel who worked on the January 6 cases so that they too could be targeted for firing. When the pardon attorney refused to recommend restoring the gun rights of one of President Trump's supporters, who was also a convicted domestic violence perpetrator, guess what? She was fired too. When she was called to testify as a whistleblower about her termination, she was called by Democrats to Congress. Then the Friday night before the Monday she was to show up in Congress, armed law enforcement agents were directed to show up at her house on a Friday night, late, knocking on her door, and they tried to intimidate her out of testifying.

It didn't work, I am happy to report. The DOJ is also opening investigations to intimidate other whistleblowers from speaking up and to punish those who already have. The Department of Justice has opened investigations into

a lawyer who previously prosecuted Trump's friends. They are investigating a Governor who opposed Trump. They are investigating the New York attorney general, the New Jersey attorney general, and also United States Representatives and Senators who have spoken out against the Trump administration.

□ 1815

Trump has directed the Department of Justice to investigate Chris Krebs because Chris Krebs told the truth that the 2020 election was safe and secure.

Just within the last week, the Attorney General issued legal guidelines that allowed the Justice Department to subpoena reporters' personal communications without notice and to criminally prosecute any government employees who are seen as undermining the administration's views.

The message is clear: If you say anything negative about the king, then you are not safe. This reign of terror is what we are talking about tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), who I am glad has joined me this evening.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for convening this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, this week marks this administration's first 100 days in office. It has been 100 days of chaos, corruption, confusion, and absolute destruction of our Constitution and the norms that this great Nation was built on; 100 days of tearing apart our democracy, our families, our communities, the vital Federal programs that serve the people who make up our communities; thousands fired, agencies dismantled, and people's personal and private data stolen; self-dealing billions of dollars in Federal contracts, judges jailed, a Congress that refuses to act and to do its job, and the countless Americans who are living in fear.

Mr. Speaker, I have just wrapped up a townhall tour across my district. While my colleagues across the aisle are afraid to even face their constituents, we are showing up every day across our communities: 15 townhalls touching 15,000 New Mexicans across every county that we represent in 12 towns and communities and Tribal communities across our State.

Let me say this: Our people are afraid. Everywhere we go, across the aisle, we saw people who are afraid they are going to lose their Social Security, people who are afraid they are going to lose the healthcare that keeps them and their family members alive, people who are afraid that they are not going to be able to afford to put a roof over their head or food on the table, people who are afraid watching as their family members and friends are facing the threats of deportation, students who are afraid to show up to school because they don't know what will happen to themselves or their families.

This is the sign of an unhealthy democracy. This is the sign of an execu-

tive who has lost touch with the American people. This is the sign of an authoritarian and autocratic way of operating. This is the sign of a democracy that has lost its way. This is a sign that the American people need to continue to stand up, to speak out, to show up, to attend those townhalls, to call their Representatives, to continue marching, to continue making sure that we hold our elected officials to account.

All across my district, there is not a single family who has not been touched over the last 100 days: People who have lost their jobs, teachers and firefighters, people who work for the VA and the Forest Service, who work for our national security programs, scientists and engineers, people who just started their jobs and people who have been there for countless decades. These are real stories, real people, real lives that have been impacted every single day for the last 100 days.

What have my colleagues across the aisle done? Nothing. They have done nothing. They have failed to do their most basic constitutional duty of speaking up on behalf of the people that they represent, of holding the administration accountable, of saying something when they see something that is wrong.

Not only do they refuse to do their most basic job, but they are here in this building working on a tax package behind closed doors all around us that will further take away the rights of the American people, that will decimate basic programs that help people put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

All around us, our colleagues are refusing to say out loud the things they will say to us in private: that they, too, are frightened about what is happening; that they, too, have constituents and veterans and elderly people on Social Security and disability who are frightened for their lives right now.

What is happening in this country is not normal. We refuse to normalize it. We refuse to allow our democracy to be hijacked. We refuse to allow the silence that is deafening this country right now to continue. We must continue to speak up.

I say, Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now because if we do not, we will lose everything. We must restore accountability. We must restore our institutions. We must restore our norms. We must stand up. We must speak out. We need our colleagues across the aisle to join us before we lose our democracy.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for those very thoughtful comments. The terror that inflicts my colleagues on the other side of the aisle so that they find it impossible to muster the courage to speak out when they see something wrong and hear something wrong and, you know, everything going against their morals—they know it is wrong, but yet they can't speak out—they are

victims of this reign of terror, although I don't absolve them of responsibility for having no courage.

They should have courage, just like the law firms that have been targeted by the Trump administration. Some of those law firms have protested, but others have yielded to the terror. He is threatening these very powerful and wealthy, corporate-representing law firms with investigations, with revocation of security clearances, with termination of government contracts or funding, with bans from accessing government buildings, and hiring bans.

Some of these law firms are standing up and suing the Trump administration for this unlawful behavior, law firms like Perkins Coie, Jenner & Block, Susman Godfrey, and WilmerHale; but a raft of other law firms, like Paul, Weiss, Skadden, and Latham, bent the knee and laid down because they were too afraid of this administration destroying their businesses.

I mean, here are a number of big, bad, powerful, wealthy law firms that can't even use the law to protect themselves, afraid to use the law to protect themselves. What makes their clients think that those law firms that bent a knee to Trump will represent their interests? I don't know. Only time will tell what happens to those firms that capitulated.

In the first Trump administration, law firms were part of the huge effort by the legal community to challenge unconstitutional policies of the Trump administration, like the Muslim ban, but this time around the Trump administration is going to make sure that that doesn't happen. That is why they are threatening these law firms and making them heel and forcing them to come to the table and capitulate and roll over and let him rub their soft bellies. They won't be involved in protecting the people against Trump's excesses this time around.

Not only that, but as part of their deal with Trump, these law firms promised nearly a billion dollars in pro bono work, but only for the causes that Trump cares about. Now, pro bono means "for the public good," but apparently Trump and the law firms that he has punked out think it just means free legal work for Trump. Trump has punked these big, powerful, and wealthy law firms into providing free labor to help him negotiate trade deals, to help him revive the coal industry, and to help his friend Elon Musk, the billionaire, as he wields a chainsaw through his position as head of the Department of Government Efficiency.

White House officials have said the pro bono work could be used toward representing Trump himself or his allies. Just last night, one of Trump's executive orders directed the Attorney General to use this private sector pro bono work that he has extracted to represent him so that they would defend law enforcement officers who are charged with offenses in the performance of their official duties.

Let me translate that. That means—okay, you remember George Floyd, who was murdered by an officer who wouldn't take his knee off of George Floyd's neck until he suffocated. You all remember that. You all remember Breonna Taylor, who was shot and killed in her bed after a botched, no-knock drug raid; or Tyre Nichols, who was beaten to death after a traffic stop.

Under the new Trump regime, the DOJ would conscript private law firms to, for free, represent those police officers against the families of the victims of police brutality. That is not the way the Department of Justice should work, and that is not the way that big, powerful law firms should work. They should choose the clients that they want to represent, not Donald Trump choosing their clients and causes for them.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN), my good friend, a former prosecutor. He has some things that he wants to tell you.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. JOHNSON, for organizing this incredibly important Special Order hour to highlight the absolutely unprecedented and devastating attacks on our democracy and on the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that our democratic values and the rule of law are under attack. We all must open our eyes before we find ourselves in Vladimir Putin's Russia. In just 100 days, President Trump has engaged in a coordinated, premeditated, deliberate attempt to dismantle our government.

Let's be very clear: Donald Trump does not seek to lead us. He seeks to rule us, and we all must open our eyes. Since he first came into office, President Trump has persistently attacked the media to undermine the credibility of the messenger of news that he didn't like.

Then, during Special Counsel Mueller's investigation on Russia's interference in the 2016 election to benefit Donald Trump's campaign, President Trump attacked the FBI relentlessly, trying to undermine its credibility.

Rather than debate the facts or the evidence, which he knows he would lose, isn't it just a lot easier to simply shoot the messenger and claim that everything bad about you is just fake news?

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, while many, rightly, have been focusing on the arbitrary and devastating cuts to essential Federal programs or the disastrous and reckless tariffs that have increased prices and inflation and have tanked the economy, President Trump's first 100 days have also escalated this relentless assault on the checks and balances that have been the foundation of our great Nation.

On day one, he pardoned more than 1,500 criminals who stormed this very

building on January 6. Hundreds of them were convicted of violently assaulting law enforcement officers. It was a blatant and disgusting disregard for the rule of law and for our fine men and women in uniform.

Next, during his first week, he fired nearly 20 inspectors general, the independent watchdogs in the executive branch agencies. It is their responsibility to ensure that those agencies follow the law.

Then he went after the Department of Justice and the FBI. He fired prosecutors and special agents who investigated his criminal conduct. They simply did their job. He then turned to the Public Integrity Section, the renowned and venerable institution that was created after Watergate to be an independent investigative body of public officials.

He and his administration have also been firing and forcing out anyone who might not share his political views, even though these jobs are career, non-partisan, and apolitical jobs.

Next, he went after lawyers and law firms who tried to hold him accountable to the law. He continues to do so. He has signed several executive orders, trying to limit the ability of law firms to represent their clients, one of the fundamental hallmarks of our system of law.

He has gone after universities. These institutions form the bedrock foundation of the growth and innovation of our great country and underpin and form the foundation for the best global economy in the world. He is now threatening to withhold billions of dollars in Federal funding unless universities change their curriculum, change their admissions process, change their hiring process, and change other core parts of their mission that they, as educational institutions, decide in this democracy.

He is also waging a war against non-profit organizations, yanking grants away that have already been made and allocated. He is threatening to remove the tax-exempt status of any organization that may disagree with his opinions or support lawsuits that might actually enforce existing laws.

Mr. Speaker, you see where this is going. The media, the FBI, inspectors general, the Department of Justice, law firms, universities, and nonprofit organizations are all institutions that enforce our laws and that hold those in power accountable. This is his methodical way of undermining all forms of accountability in this government.

More recently, his attack on our Constitution has escalated. Before he even came into office in January, President Trump had completely submitted the Republican Conference of this body. They have abdicated their constitutional duty to be a check and balance on the executive branch.

The judiciary, the third branch of government, still remains in his way. How does he deal with the judiciary? He is openly and brazenly criticizing

and attacking judicial rulings that he doesn't like—including a number issued by Republican-appointed judges, including his own—and is openly defying court orders including Supreme Court orders.

The President and some of my Republican colleagues are threatening judges. They are trying to bully them into ruling in their favor and not ruling based on their interpretation of the law.

With the career folks removed from our executive branch agencies, he has put political lackeys in charge of our criminal justice system and our national security apparatus. He is ordering criminal investigations into individuals simply because they disagree with him.

That is the type of corruption that our country travels the world to root out. At its core, it is as antidemocratic as it gets. It is the stuff of dictators and strongmen and not of democracies.

Even worse, he is attacking our basic and fundamental right of due process. That is the right to have any allegation presented before a neutral arbiter who makes a final decision.

Like a king, Donald Trump thinks it is okay for him to get to decide what the law is. That is not how our system works. The Supreme Court and our judiciary decide what the law is. When a unanimous Supreme Court rules that he is not a king and that he must abide by our basic principles of due process, he then refuses.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia was deported to El Salvador, even though he had an order on him that would prohibit him from going to El Salvador. Donald Trump admits the mistake and refuses to bring him back to face due process.

Due process is the cornerstone of our country. It distinguishes us from an authoritarian dictatorship, and Donald Trump wants to destroy it. It is not optional, and court rulings are not simply suggestions. They are the backbone of American democracy. They are our final safeguard against the unchecked power of the executive.

When a President ignores the courts, he is not challenging policy. He is declaring war on the Constitution itself. Despite this laundry list of attacks on trying to undermine our democracy and our rule of law, my Republican colleagues remain absolutely silent and, in some cases, even supportive.

These alarm bells are deafening, but too many in this Chamber would rather enable Donald Trump's descent into dictatorship than to confront him. They have laid down the power of the purse, and now they are actively trying to forfeit their oversight authority.

They are silent as President Trump wages an all-out assault on our constitutional democracy. They are silent as he goes after the media, launches investigations into his political adversaries, and attacks our basic fundamental rights.

This is what dictators like Vladimir Putin do. They use repression, retaliation,

and the threat of violence to consolidate their own power, while doling out billions of dollars to other oligarchs who will support them.

Many countries have faced moments like this before, moments where the freedom and the openness of the democracy that they represent stand at a crossroads. I urge my Republican colleagues to please stand up for our Constitution. Stand up for our democracy. None of us want authoritarianism. We don't want a dictator.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time where the rubber meets the road, and my friends across the aisle will make their record for history.

Do they want a dictator or do they want a democracy?

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very prescient comments. He spoke of a reign of terror that has been inflicted upon our institutions and the people of this country.

As a lawyer, I never thought that I would ever live to see the Department of Justice being perverted to the point of turning its attention on prosecuting a State court judge for interfering with a deportation in her courtroom and in her courthouse. Even judges and courthouses in this Nation are not safe from the reign of terror of this President.

In Milwaukee, Judge Dugan, a State court judge, was arrested by the FBI for obstructing justice by allegedly directing a migrant out of her courtroom through a side door, as Federal agents waited to arrest him in the hallway. He was there for a hearing on charges unrelated to his immigration status.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, did not even have a judicial warrant to arrest him. A judicial warrant is based on probable cause, is signed by a judge, and has the force of law. What the ICE agent had was only an administrative warrant. This type of warrant is just simply a piece of paper that somebody types up, saying that this person should be arrested. There is no probable cause, no nothing. It is just an administrative warrant.

The judge told the ICE agents that if they wanted to arrest someone in her courtroom, they needed a judicial warrant signed by a judge. They needed to speak with the chief judge of Milwaukee County. The chief judge told the agents that they could not make arrests inside courtrooms or other private locations in the courthouse.

That makes a lot of sense. If people know they will be picked up by ICE if they report to the courthouse, they will never show up for their State court proceedings. Mr. Speaker, it is impugning the ability of the courts of the States to administer justice according to State law.

Judge Dugan allegedly ushered the migrant out a side door. A week later, FBI agents show up at her courthouse. When she pulls up to the parking lot, they take her out of the car and put her in handcuffs. They perp walked her in a public manner that was meant to

send a message to any other judge who stood up for the rule of law.

This was clearly designed to make not just State court judges but all judges, including Federal judges, afraid of taking a position out of step with the Trump administration. It is meant to stop judges from doing their jobs and standing up for the communities they are empowered by and against the illegal abuses of the Trump administration.

This is even before the talk Trump has stirred up about impeaching Federal judges who have the temerity to rule against his administration when it violates the laws and the Constitution. Once again, Trump and his cronies are trying to bully and remove people who have the backbone to do their jobs and stand up for our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I am now joined by my colleague from the great State of Georgia, Representative LUCY MCBATH.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

□ 1845

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my delegation colleague, Representative JOHNSON, for being the managing Member and for yielding to me this evening. I thank him for these moments tonight as we are in a very critical time, as my friend has been expressing before I came.

I thank Mr. JOHNSON's staff, as well, for taking the time and effort to put this together tonight and the Litigation Task Force for convening on the floor tonight.

I am proud to join my Democratic colleagues here to raise the alarm that this administration's actions are rapidly undermining our democracy and our justice system. However, Democrats continue to stand as the party of truth, the party of democracy, and the party of the American people.

While the Trump administration is emboldened to tear down foundational programs that keep Americans safe and gut the Department of Justice and our law enforcement, Democrats in Congress are holding this administration accountable and fighting so that our government works for every family, not just the richest in the world or the close friends and colleagues of the President.

I am here today not just as a public servant but as a mother who knows what it feels like to lose everything to gun violence, and I know this: Every family in America deserves the right to be safe at school, at the grocery store, and at home.

The Trump administration is making this much harder. This White House has worked to unwind the very protections that are designed to keep us safe. They have cut critical funding for gun

violence prevention programs at the Department of Justice and have weakened the ATF, making it easier for guns to fall into the wrong hands and for gun crimes to go unsolved. They even disbanded key initiatives that tracked domestic terrorism and hate crimes tied to gun violence.

These decisions are not just reckless. They are deadly, making it easier for violence to spread, for lives to be shattered, and for communities to keep on living in fear.

As a mother who lost her son to gun violence, let me be perfectly clear: The American people are crying out for the basic right to live safe from unnecessary gun violence. Americans want to send their children to school or to the mall without wondering if they will ever come home.

These egregious Trump administration cuts are a slap in the face to every family and every survivor of gun violence. In many cases, these rollbacks also make it more difficult for law enforcement to keep our communities safe.

Unfortunately, of all the disputes local officers are called to address, domestic violence incidents involving a gun are some of the most dangerous. The emotion and volatility during these incidents mean they can quickly turn deadly if a lethal weapon is present.

Instead of strengthening background checks and red flag laws to provide tools to our law enforcement, the Trump administration has weakened those crisis response tools that law enforcement depends on and drastically cut funding to police departments, putting our officers at risk.

I came to Congress to make our laws safer after I witnessed firsthand how fragile our justice system can be, and now I am determined, as we all should be, to protect our justice system so that perpetrators of crime and violence are actually held accountable.

There have been recent attacks on judges, as has been expressed by my colleague, Mr. JOHNSON. These attacks on our judges and the courts by the Trump administration should alarm every American. It will now become harder for families to seek accountability for crimes that are committed against them and for survivors to get the justice that they deserve.

Every American, no matter their background or the State that they live in, deserves to trust that when they walk into a courtroom, the law is fighting on their side. When our elected leaders belittle public-serving judges and bend the Department of Justice to serve their own interests, then they shatter that trust.

Families looking for answers, for protection, and for justice cannot afford to wait. Trust me, Mr. Speaker, I know. I have been one of those families. I know the stakes of receiving justice for a loved one, and they are just far too high.

I thank my colleagues for standing up. I thank Representative JOHNSON for

standing up for the integrity of our democracy on behalf of those who rely upon it every single day.

Mr. Speaker, for those who are watching at home, I say this to them: You are simply not alone. House Democrats are fighting for you, and we will not let this administration undermine the very ideals of America and the fabric of our democracy.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her passion, for her courage, and for her tenacity in representing the interests of those who have been adversely impacted by crime and who need the justice system to hold accountable those who would violate our laws. She stands for justice for all. I appreciate her comments.

It is not just big law firms and judges who are being targeted but also Department of Justice officials, FBI officials, government employees, and whistleblowers. The Department of Justice is now going after none other than ActBlue. What is ActBlue?

Trump has asked the Department of Justice to cut off funding to anyone who opposes him, and recently, he directed the Department of Justice, the DOJ, to target ActBlue.

What is ActBlue? It is a Democratic fundraising site that collects small-dollar donations from people across the country who fuel the Democratic Party's fundraising. ActBlue is a vehicle for everyday Americans to make small-dollar donations to the campaigns of people who are standing up to Donald Trump and fighting back against this administration. As a result of that, Donald Trump and his department of so-called justice are trying to shut them down.

There is zero evidence of any wrongdoing by ActBlue, unlike this President's own shady crypto businesses and his taking of unconstitutional emoluments during his first term, but because ActBlue provides a way or mechanism for small donors to fund those who oppose Trump, Trump is using his power over the Department of Justice to shut down ActBlue like the authoritarian dictator that he is trying to be.

Under rulings by the Supreme Court, it is big dark money donors who now dominate elections, and they donate heavily in favor of Republicans. Instead of putting some restrictions on those dark money donors, he wants to make them the only ones who are in place to be able to fund elections of Representatives.

In other words, he is persecuting and prosecuting, trying to prosecute a small-dollar donor network for the Democrats so that only the big dark money donors who participate in electing him and his MAGA cronies are the ones who are playing the game.

We cannot allow that to stand. Trump is actually going full MAGA out here with this, and his purpose is to Make America Great Again again. He wants to turn the country back to a time when the only people who had the

right to vote were the White male property owners.

In line with that, he is trying to destroy the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. Under Trump, Pam Bondi and the Department of Justice are degrading the ability of civil rights lawyers to do their jobs on behalf of the American people. The Department of Justice has a storied Civil Rights Division, which was established by the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which focused on fighting racial discrimination. The division has since been tasked with upholding the rights of all persons in the United States, particularly the most vulnerable.

When Trump took office, there were almost 400 attorneys in the division. Based on unofficial estimates, approximately 70 percent of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division is expected to accept the second resignation offer, leaving fewer than 150 attorneys, as Trump has twisted the division into something unrecognizable, a unit that is bent on dismantling diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, reversing policies on transgender rights, rooting out so-called woke ideology, and other such nefarious goals.

Vanita Gupta, a former associate attorney general under President Biden, has said that the division has been turned on its head and that now it is being used as a weapon against the very communities it was established to protect.

Cases have been halted, and top managers from the voting rights section have been reassigned.

As devastating as this is now, it also means that that knowledge is being lost. If we have an election in 2028, which is not guaranteed with this President who is already selling merchandise proclaiming Trump 2028, but if we do have an election in 2028 and get a new President, we cannot snap our fingers instantly and rebuild an entire division that was demolished by this administration.

Major damage is being done to our institutions, and all my brothers and sisters can do on the other side of the aisle is cower in favor of what they know is wrong and unjust.

This is abuse of authority, and we cannot let it go unchecked. As much as Trump and his Department of Justice try to silence us, we must all speak up and speak out. Democracy is a fragile and precious thing. It lasts as long as we fight for it. That is because each time we let ourselves be cowed and each time we yield to fear, our rights narrow.

I have before me the Preamble of the Constitution. It says, "We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice"—it is right up there at the top. This is why we wanted to "form a more perfect Union." It was to "establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare."

It was to establish justice. That premised everything else. Justice and the system of justice in this country are worth protecting, and we shall do so. We shall continue to do so.

I promise that I will be in the trenches fighting with you, We the People.

As John Lewis used to say, let's go make some good trouble.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1900

CELEBRATING FAITH MONTH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. 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 on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in recognition of Faith Month, a time that we set aside each year in this body to share the importance of our faith and how it inspires us in public service.

We just celebrated the greatest event in human history: the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When Christ ascended into Heaven from the Mount of Olives, he promised that the Holy Spirit would comfort and guide us. He also left us with Scripture that provides answers to every problem we face.

Our Founding Fathers acknowledged the importance of God's Word and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

In his "Notes on the State of Virginia," Thomas Jefferson wrote: "God, who gave us life, gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a Nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

Our first freedom, religious liberty, even finds its roots in Scripture in that God gives every man and woman the freedom to accept or reject His free gift of salvation.

Patrick Henry acknowledged that: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have

been afforded asylum, prosperity, and the freedom of worship here."

When the Constitutional Convention was about to fail, Benjamin Franklin called the delegates to prayer and declared: "I have lived, sir, a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.'"

"I firmly believe this; and I also believe, that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."

You can't design a building without a firm foundation, and that is why our Founders made sure our Republic was founded on Judeo-Christian principles.

The Bible contains the answer to every major political issue we face, whether it be life, marriage, family, or the difference between a man and a woman.

The Bible gives warnings to nations, governments, and rulers on how to properly lead its citizens. The Bible teaches us how to treat each other with dignity and respect and provides the ultimate source of purpose and contentment: a life committed to Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank my very good friend (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois), a very strong lady of faith, for this Special Order. We really appreciate this.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize and to celebrate what we call Faith Month, a time when we proudly and openly give voice to the faith that strengthens and sustains so many of us who serve up here and all across this great Nation of ours, both here in Congress and, as I said, the United States of America that was built, as my good friend Mrs. MILLER said, based on the Judeo-Christian Bible and faith that we were handed by our forefathers.

America was built on this foundation, as she said, of religious liberty: the very first freedom enshrined in our Bill of Rights. Our Founders understood that faith was not just a private matter but a powerful force for good in public life.

I get so weary of hearing people say: Oh, we don't want to hear about politics in church or we don't want to hear about church in Congress. Well, politics in church has become something—if it has to do with morals and good and evil, then it is not politics, folks. That is church.

We will talk about this very thing. It says right there before us: "In God We Trust." We know where our Forefathers stood on this issue. Without a doubt, we are going to continue this great thing called the United States of America and what we were built on.

We will honor this tradition. We recognize that faith is not something to be hidden away but is something to be lived out boldly and with joy. The Scripture reminds us that we are called to be a light on a hill, not to hide this light under a basket but to let it shine for all to see.

Each of us comes from very different backgrounds here and with very different traditions, but the thread of faith that is woven through the fabric of our national story, we must always remember to honor that. Our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and our Declaration of Independence are built on those principles, those Biblical principles.

From prayers whispered on battlefields long ago to hymns sung in chapels, from the simple faith of farmers to the heartfelt petitions of families, faith has carried America through many, many trials, through triumphs and every moment in between, win or lose. Sometimes we profit when we lose, because we learn and we make ourselves better people that way.

During this Faith Month, I am very proud to stand alongside my colleagues right here and speak of my Christian faith right on this very floor.

I encourage every other Member to please join us to lift up the faith that guides us, to celebrate the freedom that protects us, and to remember that enduring truth that has been proclaimed from generation to generation: "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord."

May we never take our religious freedom for granted, may we steward it wisely, and may we always seek to lead, to serve, and to govern with humility, with conviction, and that unwavering faith.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers, including George Washington, did not shy away from expressing their religious beliefs.

In 1854, Congress made the statement: "The great, vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and the divine truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ." That is Congress, 1854.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on faith tonight.

You know, the Bible so beautifully defines faith. In Hebrews 11:1, it says: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."

This Nation is in the midst of spiritual warfare—make no bones about it—for the soul of not only America but for the world. There is an assault on Christianity, and we have to be diligent in sharing our faith if we profess to be Christians.

As my colleague, Mr. BABIN, just quoted, Psalm 33:12 declares: "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord." America is a Nation that is blessed, in