Their courage and selflessness keep our community safe. It is deeply honorable and much appreciated. I thank them for their service.

Congratulations on a well-deserved promotion.

CONGRATULATING ORANGE GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arizona's Sixth Congressional District's own Orange Grove Middle School's eighth grade class for their big victory in the classroom, sweeping the Arizona Council on Economic Education's Economics Challenge.

This competition allows students to compete and test their knowledge on economics, monetary policy, international trade, and even the stock market.

What an incredibly bright group of young students. I know I definitely wasn't studying monetary policy in eighth grade like they are right now.

Since January, 32 students have been hard at work, voluntarily spending their Sundays preparing for this competition.

To all the students, teachers, and parents who had a role in this amazing achievement, I thank them for their dedication. They have proven themselves and made their school and community incredibly proud. They should enjoy this victory. They earned it.

REMEMBERING DOMINICK RUGGERIO

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rhode Island's late, great, senate president, Dominick Ruggerio.

Mr. Speaker, ''Donny,'' as he was referred to by those who knew him best, was a ''force'' to be reckoned with, a ''forza,'' as his Italian loved ones would say.

For over 40 years as a State legislator for North Providence, a jewel of the First Congressional District, President Ruggerio served as champion for all Rhode Islanders.

From infrastructure to the environment, labor protections and more, he fought for the places and people who make the Ocean State great, hardworking people, like my mom who worked for years as an SEIU nurse in Rhode Island nursing homes.

Every time our paths crossed, he would remind me how, with enough hard work, grit, and determination, that anything is possible, even my own story. He loved our State, and he loved our Rhode Island State House.

Throughout his tenure, he mentored so many legislators, countless legislators, regardless of the aisle they sat on.

His passing last week, after a lengthy battle with cancer, is both a profound loss for our community and for our State.

Earlier this week, we came together at St. Anthony Church in North Providence to remember this beloved icon in Rhode Island history.

Today, I join President Ruggerio's friends, family, staff, and colleagues who will carry the torch that he lit and ensure that his legacy shines a light for generations to come.

SUPPORTING EDESIA NUTRITION

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, today, I also rise in support of the lifesaving producer of humanitarian aid, Rhode Island's own nonprofit, Edesia Nutrition.

Since coming to Congress, I have been proud to advocate for Edesia in hearing after hearing as vice ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I have joined over 200 of my Democratic colleagues in an amicus brief to push back on Trump's and Elon Musk's unlawful destruction of USAID, and I have led bipartisan appropriations letters to support funding for Edesia's work. Why? Because it reflects the best of America's values. Edesia supports domestic peanut farmers, creates jobs, and helps distribute the only proven treatment for acute malnutrition and famine.

To date, Edesia's products have saved over 26 million lives around the globe, including in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Speaker, as the son of West African immigrants, it means the world that America shows up in this way, in this important way, for the vulnerable.

Now, more than ever, we should be investing in Edesia's work, not stripping them of funding. That is why I will be relentless in sounding the alarm and pushing Trump to release the remaining funds that Edesia is owed.

I will continue to fight so that Edesia's programs receive the funding they desperately need in fiscal year 2026. The stakes are literally life and death for millions of children, mothers, and vulnerable populations across the world.

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

(Mr. MOORE of West Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to address a grave and urgent crisis, the rampant persecution of Christians in Africa and the Middle East.

Across these regions, our brothers and sisters in faith experience violence, displacement, and death for their belief in our Lord Jesus Christ.

No person or community should ever face such brutal conditions for acknowledging the name of Jesus.

In Nigeria, the situation is dire. More Christians face persecution there than any other nation combined. Since the outbreak of Boko Haram's insurgency in 2009, more than 18,000 churches and 2,200 Christian schools have been destroyed in northern Nigeria alone. More than 50,000 Christians have been killed, and more than 5 million have been displaced since 2009, making it the most dangerous country in the world for Christians.

Earlier this month, 54 Christians were slaughtered after celebrating Palm Sunday. On Ash Wednesday this year, a priest in north central Nigeria was kidnapped and brutally murdered.

This targeting of religious leaders is not a one-off occurrence. Thirteen priests and seminarians were kidnapped in 2024, and nearly 200 priests and seminarians were kidnapped or killed in Nigeria in the last decade.

In Syria, the Christian population has plummeted from 1.5 million in 2011 to just 300,000 in 2022, driven by the horrors of the Syrian civil war and the rise of the Islamic State. Ancient churches have been razed and Christian artifacts destroyed, erasing a Christian heritage that dates back to the Apostle Paul.

With the fall of the Assad regime, Christians are rightly afraid of continued violence against Christians as clashes continue in western Syria.

In March, Islamic forces attacked churches, desecrated cemeteries, forced Christian women to adhere to Islamic dress codes, and confiscated the homes of Christians.

Unfortunately, U.S. foreign policy blunders have exacerbated the crisis for Christians in the region, especially in Iraq. The 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, intended to bring stability, unleashed chaos that empowered extremist groups like al-Qaida, and, later, ISIS. The number of Christians living in Iraq has plummeted from 1.2 million in 2011 to around 100,000 now.

In 2014, ISIS overran Qaraqosh, forcing 100,000 Christians to flee as their homes were marked with the Arabic letter ''N'' for ''Nazarene.'' Churches were burned and families were torn apart, and the Christian mayor of Qaraqosh, a devoted leader working to rebuild his community, was recently removed from his post. This decision was driven by an Iranian-backed militia leader as a deliberate attempt to erase Christian influence in the region.

The failure to stabilize Iraq post-invasion left Christians vulnerable to ethnoreligious cleansing, a tragedy that the international community has yet to fully address.

Mr. Speaker, the United States cannot stand idly by. I urge my colleagues to join me in raising our voices for the persecuted, to honor their faith and bravery with action, and to ensure the United States is a beacon of hope for those suffering for their beliefs in Jesus Christ.

I will introduce a resolution condemning the persecution of Christians, and I urge this body to take up that resolution and pass it overwhelmingly.

BLOCKING RESOLUTIONS OF INQUIRY

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the decision of my colleagues to block the House from

considering resolutions of inquiry, a procedure that is designed to get Members of Congress factual information from the executive branch.

Education Committee Ranking Member SCOTT and I introduced a resolution of inquiry that was scheduled to be considered yesterday during the Committee on Education and Workforce's reconciliation markup.

Unfortunately, while the markup was in recess, the Republicans adopted a rule that blocks resolutions of inquiry from being considered. It was especially frustrating because we could have debated the resolution yesterday morning, but apparently the majority delayed consideration so they could pass this language in fine print that blocks us from conducting important oversight of policies and programs that are in the committee's jurisdiction.

Our resolution is simple. It asks the President and the Department of Health and Human Services to tell Congress why they plan to eliminate the Administration for Community Living, an agency that administers programs designed to support older adults and people with disabilities and helps them stay in their homes. The public deserves to know what will happen if these programs are eliminated.

The Administration for Community Living, known as ACL, was founded around the fundamental principle that older adults and people of all ages with disabilities should, whenever possible, be able to live where they choose, with the people they choose, and with the ability to participate fully in their communities. Bringing programs that serve those two populations together and sharing expertise actually made the programs work better and more efficiently.

Unfortunately, at the end of March, the Trump administration announced a dramatic restructuring of the Department of Human Services that includes the elimination of the Administration for Community Living. Now is not the time to dismantle an agency that supports older adults and people with disabilities.

More than 11,000 people turn 65 every day. In 2022, the people who are age 65 and older represented at least 17 percent of the U.S. population, and more than one in four adults experience a disability, including most adults over 75.

The Administration for Community Living's programs improved the lives of millions of older adults and people with disabilities and also benefits their families and their caregivers. It is the only government entity that advocates across the Federal Government for these populations.

Because my colleagues blocked consideration of this resolution, I want to take this opportunity to tell you more about what is at risk.

Through the Older Americans Act, the Administration for Community Living runs senior centers and distributes more than 200 million meals every year to older adults and people with disabilities through the Meals on Wheels program.

Seniors need access to nutritious food so they can lead healthy lives. It is not just the food. The person delivering the meal is often the only social contact the client will have that day, which is especially important in addressing social isolation.

It is disheartening to see this administration advocating for policies that will put essential food assistance for older Americans at risk.

The ACL does more than food assistance. They support paid and unpaid caregivers, including family caregivers and Native American caregivers. They study better ways to support older adults living with HIV. They protect seniors from abuse through the Adult Protective Services Program. They provide programming to reduce social isolation and loneliness. They support protection and advocacy programs for people with disabilities. They conduct research into fall prevention, chronic disease management, and Alzheimer's disease. They safeguard vulnerable adults through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and they address elder justice issues like abuse, neglect, and exploitation. They provide legal assistance for disabled people and more.

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These are just some of the reasons that we introduced the resolution of inquiry: to ask what will happen to these important programs with the administration's plan to eliminate ACL. We are a coequal branch of government, and we need this information to make prudent decisions on behalf of our constituents. Yet, as of yesterday, the majority blocked our ability to get those questions answered.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority is also using the same shady tactic to take away the authority of Congress to legislate tariff policy, likely because Republicans know their positions are wildly unpopular and proper oversight would highlight these failings.

This is yet another example of the erosion of separation of powers that we are seeing in this administration and this Congress.

I have heard many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the importance of transparency and accountability. I hope my Republican colleagues live up to that and prove that by stopping the block on resolutions of inquiry.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE LUPER'S TENURE AS DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF KANSAS

(Mr. ESTES of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and fellow fiscal hawk on her last day of work, my district director, Debbie Luper.

How can I possibly frame up the service and political activities of Debbie Luper in one short floor speech? Her presence in Kansas politics is deep, and a great number of elected officials at the State, local, and Federal levels have consulted with Debbie or sought her advice at some point in her career.

Many Kansans know Debbie and have appreciated her dedication to serving the people of the Fourth District of Kansas. She is a pillar in Kansas politics and has been repeatedly recognized for her service, most recently receiving the Spirit of Unity Award from the Sedgwick County Black Republican Council. She has also twice received the Kansas Republican Party's Huck Boyd Volunteer of the Year Award.

She has been an integral member of winning campaigns locally and statewide. She served as the chief of staff for the Kansas Senate Ways and Means Committee before joining my staff to lead my district office.

Debbie is a battle-tested, stalwart conservative who is trusted by many throughout Kansas, and her conservatism isn't a fad or a political front, but it is who she really is. In fact, I have been known as a fiscal hawk throughout my time in public service, but she is pretty comparable, giving me a run for my money on that banner.

Debbie has also been a bridge builder and mentor. Even when factions arise, Kansans continue to trust her leadership and count on her to help bring people together. It is one of the reasons why she has made such a phenomenal district director.

The staff in my office in Wichita has learned from her guidance and decades of experience, and she has fostered a family and not just a group of employees.

Debbie was my very first hire following my special election in 2017. As district director, Debbie was always focused on what was best for Kansans, particularly in the Fourth Congressional District.

She ensured that constituents were helped, whether they had a problem with a government agency, they had an opinion on an issue, or they just wanted to express a complaint or sometimes a compliment. Business groups, schools, healthcare providers, and farmers and ranchers can all count on Debbie to help them.

Today is her last day as a full-time employee, but retirement for Debbie doesn't mean an end to a busy and engaged life. She is transitioning to more time in her favorite roles as wife, mother, grandmother, and daughter. She will be spending far more time with family while still having some time for her favorite hobby: helping with campaigns. I am confident that Kansans will still seek her advice and consultation, or at least they will if they know what is best for them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Debbie for 8 years of serving as my district director. More than that, I thank her for her decades of friendship. She has watched