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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. STRONG).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 6, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DALE W. STRONG 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.

MEDICAID IS A LIFELINE

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, our kids, our seniors, and constituents deserve to live healthy, prosperous, and independent lives. That is why I spoke with hundreds of my constituents at a Medicaid townhall this past weekend, since most of them depend on Medicaid to live fulfilling lives with dignity.

The impacts of the \$880 billion in cuts being proposed to Medicaid are not statistics. They are children, par-

ents, educators, and grandparents. They are our neighbors and our friends.

I heard from a father whose son was almost institutionally disabled. He was getting ready to quit his job to take care of his son full time. Instead, his son got access to care through Medicaid, which allowed the father to continue running his nonprofit, which was helping adults with intellectual disabilities.

I listened to a grandparent of two intellectually disabled kids who has been their legal guardian for 15 years now. With the help of Medicaid, both children are living independently. Yet, with these cuts, they may face medication bills of \$7,000 per month and be forced to move back in with their grandparents.

I heard from a nurse who shared that 40 percent of the births in her hospital are covered by Medicaid, including prenatal, maternal, and postpartum care. That is what supporting families and family values looks like.

A speech language pathologist at a title I school told me that most of her students are on Medicaid. They rely on it for free and reduced school lunches, and students with disabilities rely on it for their education.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at the facts. Medicaid supports 1.8 million Virginians, and hundreds of thousands of them would lose their Medicaid access because a 1 percent cut in the Federal Government's contribution to Virginia's Medicaid program will mean everyone from Medicaid expansion loses their Medicaid.

There are 3 in 10 children who are on Medicaid, 2 in 7 working-age adults with disabilities are on Medicaid, and 5 in 8 nursing home residents are on Medicaid.

Medicaid is also the fourth largest Federal funding source of our public schools. It provides mental health services. It ensures kids with disabilities get what they need. In 43 States, including Virginia, it also provides ac-

cess to free and reduced-priced school meals.

There are over 37 million children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, in the United States. These are the most vulnerable people in the country who stand to lose the most from these deep funding cuts.

If my colleagues want to talk about fiscal responsibility, cuts to Medicaid will mean less preventative care, more costly emergency room visits, and much higher costs for treating preventable diseases and illnesses. That will increase premiums and costs for every single American, even those with private insurance, those who are not on Medicaid. Everyone will be affected by these cuts.

Yet, we hear that these cuts won't touch Medicaid, but that is not true. Just look at the math. It is the only way to make these cuts.

Medicaid is a lifeline. It is not a line item that can be blindly chopped to pay for a partisan wish list of bad ideas and tax cuts for the biggest corporations. In the richest country in the world, we should be working to cure diseases, explore new medical technologies, and expand Medicaid, not cutting off basic care.

Mr. Speaker, our kids, our seniors, and our communities deserve better.

MYTHS OF MEDICAID REFORM

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I will respond that, once again, we hear myth after myth when we talk about reforms to Medicaid, which its greatest threat is \$37 trillion in debt.

Yet, when we talk about reforms to a Medicaid program, it is to preserve Medicaid, and children, the disabled, and nursing homes would not be impacted.

□ 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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HONORING CHIEF KEITH KIMBALL ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Chief Keith Kimball, who served the people of Bettendorf and the State of Iowa with distinction for 35 years.

Chief Kimball started on third-shift patrol and worked his way through the ranks with grit, integrity, and a heart for service. From becoming Bettendorf's first-ever school resource officer to leading the Investigative Services Bureau and, finally, being named chief in 2018, he never lost sight of his mission: to serve and protect with honor.

He has been a mentor to many, a leader in his department, and a trusted figure in the community. Chief Kimball represents the very best of law enforcement: steadfast, compassionate, and committed to making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Kimball for his dedication to the people of Bettendorf and for setting an example that will inspire future officers for years to come.

I congratulate Chief Kimball on his retirement. He has earned it.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, this National Small Business Week, I rise to celebrate the small businesses that power Iowa and make our country strong.

As a former small business owner myself, I know the early mornings, the long nights, the lack of vacations, and the risks it takes to keep a business running. These men and women are the heart of Main Street America, and they deserve leaders who will fight for them.

In Iowa, small businesses represent 99 percent of all businesses in the State. In President Trump's first term, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, giving small businesses the relief that they needed to grow and hire.

I will also say that there are no Fortune 500 businesses without first starting as a small business, or a mom and pop.

If we don't act now, those tax cuts will expire, and Iowa's small businesses will be hit with a crushing 20 percent tax hike. We cannot let that happen.

Let's extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, protect small business owners and farmers, and keep the American Dream alive in Iowa and across the country.

IN MEMORY OF JAY BYERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of President Jay Byers, a proud Iowan and dedicated public servant who has led Simpson College at Indianola until his untimely passing on April 17.

Jay spent his life working to make Iowa a better place, from his years as CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, where he championed economic growth across the metro, to his time as president of Simpson College, where he put his students first every single day. He brought energy, vision, and a heart to everything he did.

Jay is survived by his loving wife, Katie, and their daughters, and my

prayers are with them, the entire greater Des Moines area, and Indianola during this difficult time. Iowa has lost a leader, Simpson College has lost a champion, and many of us have lost a dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, may Jay rest in peace. Our prayers are with him.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE IS NOT JUST A CONVENIENCE

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Postal Service isn't just a convenience. It is a constitutional promise.

For more than two centuries, the USPS has connected every corner of this country, delivering prescriptions to seniors, paychecks to workers, and ballots to voters. They do all of this without taxpayer funding because it was never built for profit but for the public good.

Today, that promise is under threat. This administration's effort to privatize the Postal Service would mean higher costs, slower service, and the elimination of rural delivery because corporations won't serve what isn't profitable. It will also mean the loss of strong, middle-class jobs for over 640,000 postal workers across the country, including nearly 74,000 U.S. veterans. In Delaware alone, nearly 1,000 of my neighbors would be at risk.

This isn't about efficiency. This is about dismantling public services so that Republicans can prove that government doesn't work and then hand those services to the highest bidder.

We should be strengthening the Postal Service, not selling it off, because some things should serve people, not profit.

ADDRESSING SHORTAGE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, this week's travel delays and cancellations are frustrating millions, but behind the headlines is a deeper issue: a national shortage of air traffic controllers, pushing a vital workforce to the brink.

I recently toured the Philadelphia International Airport and met directly with controllers managing the skies above Delaware. They are working 10-hour days, 6 days a week, making split-second decisions to monitor thousands of lives at once. The pressure is relentless, and the margin for mistakes is zero.

On top of all of this stress, this administration and Republicans in Congress are trying to gut their retirement security. Air traffic controllers are mandated to retire at 56. Yet, this administration and House Republicans are advancing a proposal to shrink the retirement benefits for Federal employees who are retiring before 62, all to help pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. We cannot expect to solve for shortages by breaking our promises to air traffic controllers after a lifetime of work.

The problems we are hearing about at Newark could be a nationwide problem if the majority in Congress continues to disrespect and deplete this vital workforce.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS OF CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate an extraordinary achievement by students from the Charter School of Wilmington, who were just named national winners of Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow STEM competition.

These brilliant students, who I met with last week, tackled Delaware's physician shortage with an innovative solution: an AI-powered smart bandage that monitors wound healing in real time.

Their project, called AKQUA-Gel, rose to the top from thousands of entries nationwide, earning their school a \$100,000 prize package and a national title.

This isn't just a win for Delaware. It is a powerful reminder of what young people can achieve when we invest in education, in STEM, and in their belief that they can solve big problems in their communities.

While I am a proud graduate of Cab Calloway, I couldn't help but come to the well of the House to congratulate the Charter School of Wilmington. They have made Delaware proud and inspired us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRUCE AND PAM FRIEDLANDER

(Mr. BACON of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my great friends and two wonderful civic leaders of Omaha, Bruce and Pam Friedlander, during Jewish Heritage Month for their lifelong commitment to service, generosity, and helping others in our community.

Bruce and Pam grew up in Omaha, attending Omaha Central High School, but they didn't meet until they both attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln. They were married in July 1971, and each proudly say that the other is the best decision they have ever made.

Bruce tells people he started working at his grandfather's store, Louis' Market, at the age of 2 and jokes that he failed retirement five times.

In addition to running a successful business, Bruce's grandfather Louis, who is from Russia, was an avid baseball fan and would frequently take Bruce and the other grandchildren to baseball games.

Bruce said his grandfather would tear up during the national anthem at every game because he was free. Bruce says he is not trying to be his grandfather but credits him as being the best mentor he ever had.

After learning a strong work ethic from his grandfather and his father,