

about renaming bodies of water, we would actually be doing things to help the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the winners of this year's Congressional Art Competition.

Art is a cornerstone of educational success for our students, giving them a healthy, creative outlet to process their emotions and share their stories with the world.

We had over 80 talented young artists submit their work to my Congressional Art Competition as the California 31st Congressional District's Representative.

I am proud to announce Marelly Gutierrez, an Azusa High School senior, as our first-place winner. Her charcoal and graphic artwork, Heartfelt Gaze, will be hung in the Cannon tunnel for the next year for everyone to see.

I had the pleasure of meeting Marelly and the other talented young artists at a ceremony we hosted last month. Our ceremony was held in the beautiful Vincenzo's Terrazza in San Dimas, where we celebrated with students, parents, teachers, and everyone who participated in this year's competition.

It was such a joy to meet many of California 31st District's bright young artists and hear about the impact art has on their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Marelly again and all the students who submitted their artwork. I am so proud of each and every one of them.

#### HELP SMALL BUSINESSES THRIVE AGAIN

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, the Big First District of Kansas is home to more than 20,000 small businesses who employ over 80 percent of working adults in my district. These small businesses are the backbone of our economy. Their stories, defined by sacrifice, hard work, and determination, serve as a reminder of what the American Dream is all about: that anyone, from anywhere, can come to the U.S. the right way, work hard, make an honest living, and succeed. That is what it is all about.

Many of the small businesses I represent are family owned and operated. As the fifth generation to grow up on my family farm and feedyard in western Kansas, I understand the immense sense of pride and gratitude that comes with growing up around a family business. It is much more than a 9 to 5; it is a personal investment of endless hours to see a dream come to life. When that dream gets off the ground, families give it their all to keep it afloat. They take pride in serving their neighbors and leaving their communities better than they found them. Our Federal policies ought to help them do just that.

Since I came to Congress, I have worked nonstop to make this a reality.

Every year, I have introduced legislation to preserve stepped-up basis and to stop far-left Democrats' farm killer tax. For decades, stepped-up basis has protected families from being forced to pay capital gains taxes on inherited assets.

President Biden tried his best to remove this provision, which would have resulted in the destruction of family farms across my district and around the country. I have always and will continue to oppose any effort to impose new taxes on small, family-owned businesses, period.

I have fought to protect similar exemptions for students from family farms and small businesses. Last year, new FAFSA provisions altered the Federal formula for student aid, counting assets in small businesses and family farms as part of the family's net worth. My Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act seeks to correct this flaw and to level the playing field for students who come from these families.

When these students are applying for higher education financial aid, assets tied up in a small business should not count against them. As their families work tirelessly to make an honest living and serve their neighbors, we should make it easier for them to succeed and pass on these businesses to the next generation.

My bill evens the playing field and protects the American Dream for every student. I was proud to see it included in the bill that the House Education and Workforce Committee marked up last week.

Congress should also roll back burdensome regulations that further handcuff our small businesses in an already challenging environment. For the last 4 years, our small business owners navigated regulation after regulation imposed by the Biden administration. President Biden attempted to regulate every aspect of small business owners' livelihoods if they didn't fall in line with his Green New Deal agenda.

Small business owners, already struggling with sky-high inflation, begged Washington, D.C., for less regulation and more freedom to just make a living. The Republican majority has spent the last 4 months rolling back these regulations. That is what our small business owners want and that is what they deserve.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, over the last few months, this body will work to further support small business owners by extending the 2017 tax cuts. These historic tax cuts by President Trump during his first term ushered in an economic boom that benefited America's small businesses and the communities they serve. We have a duty to bring back the growing economy and to ensure that family businesses that are the backbone of our country can thrive again.

If we fail to extend the Trump tax cuts, small businesses will see their tax rates nearly double, harming local economies and Main Street. This finan-

cial burden would limit small businesses' ability to grow and force some to reduce the size of their staffs or even close their doors entirely. America can't afford to leave these men and women out to dry.

During this National Small Business Week, we thank the hardworking men and women who make up the more than 33 million small businesses across our great Nation, employing nearly 62 million Americans, and equipping them to feed their families, put a roof over their heads, and clothes on their backs. I look forward to working with my colleagues in this body to see America's small business community thrive once again.

Mr. Speaker, if our small businesses fail, America fails, and the world cannot afford that. I recognize that over these next few weeks we will have very difficult conversations on the best way to extend these cuts and enact President Trump's agenda, but they are conversations worth having.

Mr. Speaker, America is counting on us.

#### THREATS NONESSENTIAL HELICOPTERS POSE TO PUBLIC SAFETY

(Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last month, an air tourism helicopter crashed into the Hudson River near Jersey City killing six people, including three young children.

This tragedy is yet another example of the threat that nonessential helicopters pose to public safety, especially in the congested airspace over New Jersey and New York.

Since 1983, there have been at least 30 helicopter crashes in our region, resulting in at least 31 fatalities. We also continue to hear from countless New Jersey residents whose lives are upended by the constant, incessant noise of helicopters traveling at low altitudes over our neighborhoods.

Since taking office, we have consistently worked to address these challenges, from the noise and nuisance they cause to the safety risks that have been well documented.

In the 118th Congress, we introduced two pieces of legislation and directly engaged with the FAA to address these issues, hosting a workshop in Jersey City with stakeholders and local leaders, but this crash is a clarion call to every level of government that further urgent action is needed.

That is why, along with my colleagues from New Jersey and New York, I introduced the Improving Helicopter Safety Act, which bans all nonessential helicopter traffic within a 20-mile radius of the Statue of Liberty.

It is clear that the helicopter industry is not a good actor or one willing to proactively take measures to protect our communities. In the wake of this most recent tragedy, one air tourism

company offered discounts to their customers for flights in our region. They are clearly more interested in profit than public safety, making it abundantly clear that they should no longer be allowed to operate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this bill so that we can protect lives in our communities and ensure that tragedies like this one never happen again.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF BUDDY BASEBALL IN BAYONNE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Buddy Baseball in Bayonne.

Every year, more than 100 children and young adults with special needs gather for a season of Buddy Baseball, giving everyone the opportunity to succeed, play, and enjoy this incredible game.

This year, I was proud to march in the parade to celebrate their opening day and commemorate the opening of their brand-new field. Hundreds of spectators lined the streets to cheer on this year's players, and it was heartwarming to see our community come together for such a great cause.

The city of Bayonne is leading the way in bringing communities together in an inclusive way, lifting up those around us, and showing what we can achieve when we work together.

Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone who made this dream a reality and for reminding us what we can do when we come together as one in a community.

#### RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY AND 77TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Israel's Independence Day and 77th birthday.

The United States and Israel have a binding, ironclad partnership that continues to grow stronger as the months and years go on.

As President Reagan once said: "For the people of Israel and America are historic partners in the global quest for human dignity and freedom. We will always remain at each other's side."

Our values are one and the same, and our joint commitment to advancing freedom and human dignity will never cease.

To the State of Israel and the Jewish people, I say this: We will always stand firmly alongside you. You can count on us today, tomorrow, and always.

#### NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(Mr. MEUSER of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, this week we recognize National Small Business Week and, with it, the incred-

ible contributions of our many small business owners, workers, and entrepreneurs across Pennsylvania and the United States.

These individuals, Mr. Speaker, deserve more than recognition; they deserve our support and applause. Small businesses aren't just a line in an economic report; they are the lifeblood. They are the employers, the mentors, and the community leaders, and they are the ones giving to local charities and sponsoring youth sports, putting their names on the back of Little League jerseys in communities across our Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We also recognize the critical role of our local chambers of commerce in assisting small businesses. Throughout Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, we are blessed with some of the best chambers in Pennsylvania, if not the country.

Throughout my district and Pennsylvania, from Schuylkill County to Wyoming County, to the Susquehanna Valley to Lebanon, from Luzerne to Lycoming, these chambers are working every day to support job creators and bring small businesses together. They serve as a bridge between the private sector and government, and they help ensure that entrepreneurs have a voice. Their efforts deserve our thanks.

As someone who worked in small business, I understand the challenges entrepreneurs face, and while I was fortunate to help grow a small business into a larger business, I never lost that small business mindset. That mentality, grounded in what we call the WIT principle, Whatever It Takes, is built on hard work, results, teamwork, and customer service. It continues to guide my work here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, that work, on behalf of small businesses, starts with regulatory relief. Small businesses don't have compliance departments or teams of lawyers. Every hour spent on paperwork is an hour not spent on growing their business.

That is why House Republicans and the Trump administration have taken important steps to roll back burdensome regulations that never should have applied to small employers in the first place. We fought to eliminate the Biden administration's imposed Beneficial Ownership Rule, which would have forced small businesses to submit sensitive ownership information to FinCEN, adding compliance burdens and creating legal risk with little benefit.

We pushed back against the CFPB's 1071 rule, which mandated that lenders collect and report demographic and financial data on small business loan applications, raising costs and potentially limiting access to capital.

To ensure we are hearing directly from those affected, the Small Business Administration has also now launched recently a red tape hotline, giving small business owners and manufacturers a direct channel to report excessive or unworkable Federal regu-

lation so we can act on them. As a matter of fact, their hotline phone number at the SBA is 1-800-827-5722.

Beyond regulatory relief, we are advancing smart legislation to support growth and innovation. I introduced the Investing in All of America Act, which expands access to capital for small manufacturers and startups in economically underserved and rural areas by raising the leverage cap on small business investment companies.

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My 7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act improves transparency and accountability in the SBA's most widely used lending program by requiring annual reports on loan agent activity. This bill ensures Congress has the data needed to provide proper oversight, protect taxpayer dollars, and keep the program strong for small businesses that rely on it.

The Regulatory Review Improvement Act, which I also introduced, ensures that Federal agencies take into account the real-world impact of their rules on small businesses. It requires agencies to regularly review existing regulations already on the books and evaluate whether they should remain in place based upon their effect on small businesses. That and ensuring access to capital are some of our major focuses here in Congress.

Finally, through reconciliation—also known as the one big, beautiful bill—we are committed to extending the provisions of President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which helped countless small businesses invest, expand, and hire.

Provisions like section 199A, bonus depreciation, and the R&D tax credit have had a direct, positive impact on small businesses. These provisions, and the broader income tax reductions, must be extended to maintain growth and protect jobs.

By voting for this plan, we are simply continuing the tax plan that stimulated the strongest economy in the past 50 to 100 years. A "no" vote on this plan is a "no" vote for small business. Anyone who says this reconciliation package doesn't help small businesses either doesn't understand it or is choosing to ignore what is in it. This legislation is pro-growth, pro-investment and pro-small business.

Separate from the small business provisions, if the individual tax cuts are allowed to expire, the average Pennsylvania family, Mr. Speaker, will face a tax hike of over \$2,500. If my Democratic colleagues oppose this bill, they are voting in favor of the largest tax increase on working families in American history, plain and simple.

Frankly, we need Pennsylvania's executive office and State agencies to get on board with this pro-growth initiative, as well. Mr. Speaker, let's thank every entrepreneur, employer, team member, and small business for all they do to deliver for America.