

I applaud Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES for putting together a plan and for presenting something to the American people that stands in stark contrast to nothing being put forward.

It doesn't bother me so much that Republicans aren't putting any proposals forward, but they would deny a hearing on Social Security and a vote on a measure that Congress hasn't addressed in more than 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, there are more than 70-plus million Social Security recipients. Ten million baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security and wonder why Congress hasn't acted.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 5 million of our fellow Americans who have paid into this system all their lives, they get below-poverty-level checks from their government because Congress hasn't acted.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 35 million people, this is the only pension they will receive, and Congress hasn't responded.

Again, I applaud Mr. JEFFRIES for saying, yes, what we need is an across-the-board increase for everyone on Social Security. As Mr. JEFFRIES has laid out, we need to repeal the provision to have people who continue to work after they retire and not have their Social Security taxed.

That is part of the Democratic plan, along with making sure that no one can retire into poverty and lifting the more than 5 million people who get below-poverty-level checks out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I know you know this. In Illinois' 12th Congressional District, there are more than 179,000 Social Security recipients, and more than 131,000 of them are retirees. Mr. Speaker, 21,000-plus are disabled. There are 11,000-plus widows; 4,000-plus spouses; and 10,000-plus children who haven't seen an increase in more than 50 years. It is long overdue for Congress to take action.

I plead with you, Mr. Speaker, to join us and to encourage Republican leadership minimally to have a hearing on this. If you have a better plan, Mr. Speaker, by all means, put it forward. At least let the plan that HAKEEM JEFFRIES has put forward have a vote. If my colleagues disagree with it, that is fine. It is America. It is a democracy. Vote against it.

Why shouldn't Congress vote on making sure that Illinois' 12th Congressional District sees an increase they haven't seen in more than 50 years, as well as the First Congressional District in the State of Connecticut and all 535 congressional districts where individuals have not seen an increase, especially during these inflationary times.

For a party that used to pride itself on entrepreneurialism and capitalism, imagine this is the safety net for capitalism and entrepreneurialism. Where is the money spent in Illinois' 12th Congressional District? It is put right back in the local economy to the stores, the pharmacies, et cetera.

## RENAMING THE GULF OF MEXICO TO THE GULF OF AMERICA

(Mr. COSTA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, at a time when Americans are struggling to afford groceries, housing, and gas, Congress should be focused on lowering the cost of living that Americans care most about and not renaming bodies of water.

As Sergeant Friday used to say on the show "Dragnet": Just the facts, ma'am.

The facts during the first 100 days of Mr. Trump's administration are the following: The economy has shrunk; The stock market has taken a hit; 401(k)'s that are critical for a majority of Americans' retirement have declined; there has been a launch of a trade war that could cost the average family in America over \$4,900 a year this year alone with no trade agreements in sight, threatening a recession.

Rather than offering solutions, my Republican friends are at this time wasting this valuable effort on the floor by renaming the Gulf of Mexico. I think the Gulf of America Act is an absurd bill. It is political theater. The Gulf of Mexico has held that name for over 500 years. Spanish explorers from Spain chartered these waters hundreds of years before the United States ever existed. Let's call this bill for what it is. It is a vanity project.

My constituents in California's San Joaquin Valley aren't asking me about the Gulf of Mexico. They are asking me about their healthcare, reducing inflation, and investing in our communities. That is what they care most about.

Congress must focus on what really matters: passing a budget, getting a farm bill done, and delivering on the priorities the American people sent us here to do.

If this is the best my Republican friends and the majority can do, it is no wonder that the American people are fed up with Congress and our numbers are so low.

Mr. Speaker, enough with political stunts. The American people deserve better. We must work together in a bipartisan effort.

## CELEBRATING ALL MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, we will celebrate Mother's Day. Throughout our country, families and friends will gather together to recognize and pay tribute to this important day. I think for all of us the reality is every day should be Mother's Day.

On Sunday, let us say thank you in the most meaningful way we know how, and that is with love and affection. We should do what is appropriate, and that is to thank those moms who throughout our lives have made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, every day, therefore, should be Mother's Day. Let us cele-

brate this day on Sunday and never forget those who brought us here today.

## PROTECTING SENSITIVE DATA FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that sensitive data for millions of Americans is at risk. Many of us have heard of the scams, data breaches, and hacks that have plagued businesses and individuals for years.

Unfortunately, the newest threat to our personal data comes from within the Federal Government. Over the past 3 months, Elon Musk's DOGE employees embedded themselves in dozens of Federal departments and agencies without any guardrails or protections put in place by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

We know this data is extremely valuable to bad actors and foreign adversaries. In fact, after DOGE infiltrated the National Labor Relations Board, suspicious attempts were made to access the data from an IP address in Russia.

Congress should be working to fulfill our obligations to the American people and safeguard their data. Instead, my colleagues across the aisle have seemingly left the door open for DOGE and anyone else to potentially access and misuse their constituents' personal information.

It is not just the recklessness that should concern everyone across the country. It is the fact that the data being held by the government is being weaponized by the Trump administration.

The IRS recently entered into an agreement with ICE to share information about immigrants. The same is true of data on affording housing recipients. If we allow them to use this data now, then what will stop them from using information from other agencies in the future against other groups of Americans?

Mr. Speaker, at a recent Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, we heard from experts in this field who were invited there by my Republican colleagues that as we seek to harness the growth of AI, we must put guardrails in place to protect all Americans' sensitive information, which we know is a target-rich environment for foreign adversaries.

My colleagues don't have to take my word for it. Just listen to the testimony of the people whom Republicans invited here to testify. Malicious actors do not care what someone's political party is or where they live before they steal our data. Our response to this threat should be bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to stand alongside House Democrats in calling upon the Trump administration, the Office of Management and Budget, and DOGE to clarify

what actions they are taking to safeguard the most sensitive taxpayer data that exists on our Federal systems. If they don't act, then we should here in Congress.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy Lord, we want little else than to lead a life worthy of the calling to which You have called us. For these legislators, it is to remain committed not just to the needs of their constituents, not just to the welfare of these United States, but to be faithful to the expectations You place on each one of them.

Therefore, with all humility and gentleness, may we approach the issues at hand. With patience, may we bear with one another in love, even with those across the aisle to whom we are adamantly opposed. Instead, may we make every effort to maintain the unity of Your spirit, which has brought us here in this place to work together for the common good.

Remind us again that You are the same God and Father of us all. You have bestowed on each of us the same grace, according to the measure of forgiveness and mercy You offer all who believe in You.

Let us then strive to speak truth in love, that our words would be lifted up in glory to You. For in You this whole body is called to be joined and knit together, to build itself up in love, as each of us participates in the work You have given us to do.

In Your compassionate name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### BACKBONE OF AMERICAN WORKFORCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, small businesses create jobs as the backbone of the American workforce and account for nearly half of the American private-sector jobs.

Small businesses come in many forms. America recognizes this as National Small Business Week and the contributions this sector adds to the strength of America.

There are nearly 35 million small businesses in America, employing 59 million people. The National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, along with local chambers of commerce, AmChams, and industry associations such as the Asian American Hotel Owners of America and home-builders make a difference.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies as patriots of Georgia in Tbilisi demonstrate, expressing appreciation of Congress supporting fair elections, with the courageous President Salome Zourabichvili.

#### HUNGER IS ALL-CONSUMING PAIN

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, hunger is an all-consuming pain. Many of us are lucky never to have known that pain. Yet, in my district alone, nearly 25,000 households rely on food assistance to stave off hunger. SNAP feeds seniors who live alone, children without nutrients to grow, and families who work hard every day, but it is still not enough.

Now, Republicans sadly want to cut SNAP in order to subsidize another tax break for the rich, a move that could increase a household of four's grocery bill by \$175 a month, or nearly \$2,000 a year.

Our common humanity should be enough to block this cut, but sadly, it seems it is not for too many of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I raise another argument: SNAP dollars flow directly into our economy, local businesses, and farms. We have a chance to ease the pain of our most vulnerable.

I will not stand by as Republicans steal from the American people and give even more to the rich.

The Gospel of Matthew reminds us of the power of caring for the least among us, saying: "For I was naked and you clothed me"; "for I was hungry and you gave me food."

#### RECOGNIZING RICK GRIZZELL

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a good and selfless neighbor in Virginia's Fifth Congressional District, my friend, Rick Grizzell, from Goochland County, Virginia.

After Hurricane Helene swept through the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia last year, Virginians across the Commonwealth answered the call.

Rick formed a team of Virginians, in conjunction with the Goochland County Tea Party, to collect donations and take them to folks in need. They collected and delivered tents, propane tanks, sleeping bags, winter clothes, heaters, food and water, and much more.

As recently as last week, Rick received a call on Monday and delivered supplies on Tuesday. Rick and his team save lives with his work, and I am extremely privileged to recognize a hero like Rick Grizzell.

#### FIVE SANTA ANA STUDENTS TAKEN TOO SOON

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to recognize five young students who were taken too soon from the Santa Ana community.

A few weeks ago, five students from the Santa Ana Unified School District were victims of a devastating car crash: Aurelia Robles, Natalia Vidal Zarate, Jacqueline Torres Zarate, Cynthia Torres Zarate, and Emanuel Gonzalez Martinez.

This tragic loss has broken the hearts of our community.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers are with the families of these students. May the souls of Arely, Jacqueline, Natalia, Cynthia, and Manny rest in peace. Our community will never forget them. We miss them dearly. We thank them for the time they spent with us.