

and issue payments to protect people in poverty, pregnant women, the disabled, and children.

Mr. Speaker, what the Republican plan is doing is saving Medicare for the people it was intended to be there for.

HONORING GEORGE TORRES AND URSULA CRUZ-GREENE

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor George Torres and Ursula Cruz-Greene from Bronx Community Board 12 which serves the north Bronx neighborhoods including Wakefield and Edenwald in the 16th Congressional District. My friend, RITCHIE TORRES, represents other neighborhoods in this area.

George Torres is the district manager of Community Board 12. Born and raised in the Bronx, his parents still live in the Parkchester home that he grew up in.

After serving in several roles in the Bronx for city and State officials, including Jose Serrano and Mayor Bloomberg, George joined Community Board 12 in 2015. His experience makes him a tremendous liaison for public officials and community leaders in the Bronx.

Ursula Cruz-Greene is the community coordinator and has been with Community Board 12 since 1995. She started as a temporary employee, and her hard work paid off. She became a permanent employee 6 months later. Ursula's dedication to the community is clear to anyone who knows her.

Mr. Speaker, our community is lucky to have such dedicated public servants like Ursula and George.

INCREASING MEDICAID FUNDING

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the original Medicaid program was designed to help the disabled, pregnant women, seniors, and children.

Then there was this expansion that came along, and it is filled with able-bodied adults of working age who could be working. That is the fastest growing program in the United States today. They pay out about \$100 billion a year in lost payments.

The Republicans want to deal with that. How we deal with it is an increase in funding over the next 10 years of 25 percent. We just heard somebody say we are going to gut it. Only in Washington, D.C., would someone say an increase in spending is a cut. That is the weirdness of this place, but this is the reality. These are the facts right here.

□ 1800

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tracy Havens, a second grade teacher at Hicks Canyon Elementary School in my district. Tracy has taught our kids in Irvine for the past 20 years and had the honor recently of being 1 of 6 educators out of 20,000 across Orange County to be selected as Orange County Teacher of the Year.

Tracy is known for her outstanding ability to build a positive classroom culture and to find creative ways to engage her students. Tracy goes above and beyond outside of the classroom, as well. She mentors teacher candidates and serves as a lead math model for her district while also helping her students leave their mark through community initiatives.

Teachers like Tracy inspire us all and are the foundation of the American Dream.

As a product of California public schools myself, the father of three young kids in California public schools, and a former educator, I know how important public education is for economic advancement.

Dedicated teachers like Tracy who go the extra mile for their students are the key to a good public education.

I congratulate Tracy on earning Teacher of the Year, and I thank the thousands of teachers across Orange County for their tireless work for lifting up future generations.

MEDICAID

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

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid was created to provide health insurance for the poor, blind, disabled, pregnant, and elderly. Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this Paragon chart, Medicaid is no longer for the poor and now serves more people living above the poverty line than below it.

Additionally, since 2012, the Medicaid population has grown 60 percent, while the U.S. population has only grown about 6 percent according to the Foundation for Government Accountability.

Following ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion, able-bodied adults now make up its largest subgroup according to FGA. Democrats claim these able-bodied adults are working, but these claims are derived from self-reported data relying on sample sizes as small as a few dozen.

In reality, FGA has records for 21 million beneficiaries among 23 States showing that 6 in 10 of these able-bodied beneficiaries do not work at all.

As more able-bodied individuals are added to Medicaid, truly needy and disabled Americans are being displaced from priority services. 700,000 disabled

Americans are stuck on Medicaid wait lists while able-bodied adults above the poverty line have access to taxpayer-funded healthcare.

The goal of social programs should never be to gain able-bodied enrollees, but to decrease government dependency and help them escape poverty as shown during this chart's depiction of the Contract With America and the first Trump administration time period.

RECOGNIZING TED POULIOT

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ted Pouliot for a lifetime of service supporting our Minneapolis community.

As a senior at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis in 1952, Ted first started volunteering at House of Charity's dining hall to help feed Minnesotans going hungry. This was just the start of his decades of service.

Later in life, Ted founded the Minneapolis affordable housing nonprofit, Project for Pride in Living, helping folks find stable housing.

Now, at 91, Ted paints to raise funds for nonprofits throughout Minneapolis. This past weekend, he raised \$12,000 at his art sale to benefit nonprofits working to end homelessness and address hunger for Agate Housing and Services, Groveland Emergency Food Shelf, and Sabathani Food Shelf.

Ted truly embodies what it means to live a life of service. It is truly an honor to recognize him here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDWARD "CHIP" CHIDESTER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we here in the Chamber discuss the truths behind Medicaid and how we are working to save it.

However, today, right now, Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of a local hero from my district, Assistant Fire Chief Chip Chidester of the Harford Volunteer Fire Company in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

Sadly, Chip passed away on April 27 from complications stemming from injuries he sustained in an early March fight against a fire in his community.

Chip grew up in the firehouse, volunteering from a young age, alongside his father who had served as assistant chief. His early calling turned into a lifetime of service; 40 years with the department, Mr. Speaker, including 29 years as assistant chief.

Chip was a mentor to younger members, served on several truck teams, and was a trusted, steady presence in the firehouse and in the community.

To those who knew him, Chip never met a person who didn't become a friend, and once a friend, you were always a friend. Community members just describe him as one great guy.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Chip's wife of nearly 20 years, Barbara; to his entire family; and to the Harford Volunteer Fire Company.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them all for their service.

May God bless his soul.

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL: THE LYONS FIRE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the members of Ohio's Lyons-Royalton Fire Department, a pillar of the Lyons community.

Firefighters recently saved the life of a local man while responding to a fire call. Homeowners Barb and Steve Bates reported a fire that had sparked in the woods. When the fire crew arrived, they contained the fire with the help of Mr. Bates, who then, sadly, experienced cardiac arrest.

Firefighter and EMT Tim Ellithorpe, Fire Chief Devon Kelble, and Lyons Fire Chief Zachary Miramontes launched into action, performing life-saving efforts. They succeeded.

This illustrates how our brave first responders will always answer the call.

In honor of the bravery of all first responders lost in the line of duty and recognizing National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend, let us celebrate those who are sworn to serve and to their dedication to public service to others.

As members of our community who have made great sacrifices, first responders truly are the backbone of public safety. They are the heroes and heroes of our northwest Ohio community.

EXPANDING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, my district has more Social Security recipients than 87 percent of the congressional districts nationwide. Back home I heard a clear, urgent message from seniors. They are scared because Social Security and Medicaid are not luxuries. They are lifelines.

They are earned benefits, not handouts, and now they are at great risk because DOGE-led staff cuts are making it impossible to get through and are breaking the agency.

I introduced the Social Security Expansion Act with Representative SCHAKOWSKY, Senator SANDERS, and Senator WARREN because we believe in protecting the promise of Social Security is our duty.

Our bill would increase benefits by over \$2,400 a year and extend the life of the program by 75 years, all without costing 91 percent of Americans one cent more.

We owe that to the seniors who built this country and to future generations who deserve the same dignity in retirement.

MOURNING MARSHAUN FUTRELL, JR.

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, another child in the St. Louis region is gone too early.

Marshaun Futrell, Jr., was 11 years old. He was a football star, a big brother, and a son. Monday night this 11-year-old was yet another victim of senseless gun violence.

Across the St. Louis region, 20 children have been shot since the beginning of 2025. This is not just a crisis, it is a collapse of our responsibility to protect our children.

Gun violence is ripping through our neighborhoods, and if we truly believe in public safety, then we must start treating it like what it is: a public health emergency.

That means commonsense gun reform, investments in trauma-informed care, and asking ourselves: How many more funerals before we decide enough is enough?

To the families who have suffered the unspeakable tragedy of losing a loved one, I hear you, I see you, and I will not stop fighting for the change we are long overdue for.

WE HAVE A SHARED HUMANITY

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, bigotry and hate threaten our mutual safety, and they deny our interconnectedness.

Yet, from the murder of Wadee Alfayuomi in Illinois to the recent attack on celebrants during the Assyrian New Year Parade in Iraq to the persecution of Ukrainian Christians by Russian occupation forces, so many of our neighbors at home and abroad live with vulnerability and insecurity as they endure the dangers of religious and ethnic persecution within their own communities.

It is important that these incidents, though only a fraction of the examples we have of the destructive force of hate are confronted and placed on the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Congress must renew its commitment to root out hate-fueled violence that violates our neighbors' safety, their dignity, and their rights because of their ethnicity, religion, or beliefs.

A more just, peaceful, and loving world that recognizes our diversity and

honors our shared humanity is, in fact, possible.

HONORING MARY ROSE WILCOX

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

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local Phoenix trail-blazer and community leader, Mary Rose Wilcox.

As the first Hispanic woman ever elected to the Phoenix City Council and Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Mary Rose spent her career in public service standing up for our vibrant immigrant and Latino communities and lifting up underserved neighborhoods like south Phoenix, the west valley, and Grant Park.

Even in her retirement, she and her husband Earl continue to bring the community together, utilizing their restaurant, El Portal, as a gathering space for advocacy and organizing.

She has been a huge inspiration to me in my career. More than anything, Mary Rose shows all of us what it means to be a fighter. Despite having faced discrimination, threats, and even violence, Mary Rose stands tall as an example of the resilient spirit of Phoenix.

I was so glad to see Mary Rose recently honored with a ceremonial street sign at Second Avenue and Grant Street, now named Mary Rose Wilcox Way. This weekend, I was honored to attend the celebration for the new Mary Rose Wilcox Health Center in Grant Park.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her for her service and kindness.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Trump administration's proposal to gut the National Institutes of Health.

Put simply, NIH's work is the difference between life and death for millions of Americans. Almost everyone knows someone who has lost a loved one to cancer or Alzheimer's, and cutting NIH funding will halt progress on developing cures for these diseases, just as we are on the cusp of once-in-a-generation advancements.

Mr. Speaker, 99 percent of all FDA-approved therapies between 2010 and 2019 were tied to NIH-funded science. Thanks to its research, heart disease deaths dropped 75 percent over the past 40 years.

If the majority wants to have a debate about whether it is worth curing diseases, then let's have it. I invite my colleagues to explain to their constituents why they are against fighting cancer or Alzheimer's.