

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-50)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared with respect to Yemen in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2025.

The actions and policies of Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis, continue to threaten Yemen's peace, security, and stability. These actions include obstructing the political process in Yemen and blocking the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM HARMFUL CRYPTO PRACTICES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. WATERS of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to further discuss with our Members and this country the situation that we find ourselves in, the chaotic situation that has so many people confused. It is a chaotic situation that is causing trauma and harm to the people of this country.

I know much of what I am going to say today perhaps has been said by others before, but we need to talk about this situation over and over again and daily so that people can understand what is going on and how our democracy is being challenged.

Madam Speaker, last year, Trump denied knowing anything about Project 2025, the radical rightwing plan to re-

shape the Federal Government. Of Project 2025, Trump said: "I don't know anything about it. I don't want to know anything about it."

Trump, Elon Musk, and his appointees are now following the Project 2025 playbook. They are recklessly gutting Federal agencies and government's capacity. Elon Musk has said that the government "should privatize everything that we possibly can." They are laying off or pushing into retirement tens of thousands of Federal employees. The cruelty is the point.

Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Project 2025 architect, has said of Federal employees: "We want to put them in trauma."

It has been over 100 days since President Trump was inaugurated. Since then, the President of the United States has questioned his role to uphold the Constitution, an oath he made when he was sworn into office. He has also questioned whether Americans are entitled to due process, a foundational civil protection. He has endlessly flouted the rule of law.

As a matter of fact, the American Civil Liberties Union has called the Trump administration's action: "One of the most abusive and aggressive assaults on human rights in United States Presidential history."

In carrying out their pro-billionaire agenda, Republicans have also gutted programs and agencies that serve as critical lifelines to American families, many of which include their very own constituents.

The international leadership which Americans benefit greatly and built for decades is now destabilized by Trump's trade war against our allies.

In just a few months, Trump has introduced chaos in the stock market and undermined confidence for consumers, investors, and small businesses, many of which have cautioned that they will have to close due to Trump's untenable tariffs which act as a tax on Americans and their businesses.

At the same time, as families struggle, Trump has increased his wealth by billions since taking office, which is a slap in the face to American families struggling to put food on the table.

Just last week, alarming new information came to light regarding foreign governments making business deals using Trump's crypto. A \$2 billion business deal using the Trump firm's stablecoins with a fund backed by Abu Dhabi was announced at a conference in Dubai.

This arrangement represents a significant contribution by a foreign government to President Trump's private crypto business that will abundantly grow the Trump family's wealth.

While Trump and his billionaire insiders' wealth catapults, Americans are bracing themselves for layoffs, shortages, and higher prices in a recession engineered by Trump.

While Trump and his family continue to land billions of dollars in deals and

investments with American companies and foreign entities, Trump has asked Americans to just withstand the "pain." This is from his economic policies.

While Republicans work hard to make room for \$7 trillion in tax cuts for American oligarchs like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, Republicans are cutting \$880 billion in funding from Medicaid food stamps for Americans who rely on this help.

Is this how Donald Trump has improved the lives of American families—by damaging their retirement plans, jobs, and social safety nets?

It is clear there is no such thing as business as usual anymore. This is why this week I took a stand against Trump's actions. For several years, I have led the effort in Congress to advance commonsense crypto legislation to protect American investors and consumers from fraud and from scams, while supporting crypto capital formation.

After years of good faith, bipartisan negotiation and collaboration with regulators and stakeholders, former Chair McHENRY and I even drafted payment stablecoin legislation that would create a strong Federal framework and put consumer protection front and center.

My bill would foster innovation, while properly addressing the concerns I have long held about safeguarding our Nation's consumers from scams that inundated the crypto industry. Our bill also addressed national security concerns that adversaries and criminal organizations could use stablecoins for their very harmful purposes.

While we are talking about crypto, I think it is important for me to let the people know that crypto is a digital form of private cash. It is very important that people understand that. We are trying to share the information so people understand about this digital form of private cash.

However, we live in a different world now. Many of these risks have only increased since the inauguration of President Trump. President Trump's actions have drastically altered the crypto landscape in ways that are far more dangerous than what we could ever imagine. He has gutted the financial regulators tasked with protecting Americans.

Ahead of the scheduled joint hearing between the Financial Services Committee and the Agriculture Committee on crypto market structure legislation, I presented a straightforward, acceptable, and basic request to the Republicans.

I told the Chair of the Financial Services Committee that I would only give my consent to this hearing if Republicans would include provisions to block Trump—or any sitting President—and his family, as well as Members of Congress, from further profiting off crypto at the expense of American families in his crypto legislation. That is all I asked for.

Unlike other hearings in Congress, this one was different. It required every Member—Democrat and Republican—to agree to hold this hearing. Well, I had to think whether I could agree to this hearing if there wasn't a commitment to address the corruption I and many across this country recognize.

Whether a Republican or Democrat, any Member of Congress that intends to protect the public from the exploitation of government power should stand by these foundational principles of our democracy.

Regrettably, Republicans rejected my request. In fact, rather than post my legislation to stop corruption, they decided to not even post their legislation.

Then when I asked for a commitment to include a prohibition on owning crypto by the public officials writing the laws and rules governing crypto, that was rejected, as well. Because the joint hearing needed the consent of every Member, I could not in good faith agree to such a hearing.

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Madam Speaker, you see, through this legislation, Republicans are legitimizing Trump's and his family's efforts to enrich themselves on the backs of average Americans. Through his crypto businesses, Trump has created a pathway to circumvent our country's national security and anticorruption laws. This approach allows adversaries like China and Russia to curry favor, either blatantly or anonymously, through transfers of money to him and his inner circle.

This week, we saw new reports that insiders made nearly \$100 million on Melania's meme coin.

Public officials being able to sell access using crypto undermine our democracy and free market system.

Let's look at this for what it is. This is how authoritarian regimes do business.

Trump has turned the Office of the Presidency into a personal money-making machine, and we must speak truth to power for the Americans we took an oath to protect.

Let's take a look at the timeline of this, shall we?

As the Republican Presidential nominee, Trump launched his family's crypto venture called World Liberty Financial, a decentralized finance crypto platform. The Trump family now has a claim on 75 percent of net revenues from token sales and 60 percent from World Liberty operations.

Concerning crypto industry data also shows that many investors in World Liberty's crypto are based abroad in countries like Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates. Because this company was launched during Trump's campaign, it gave him an avenue to possibly circumvent Federal laws that make it illegal for foreigners to donate to Presidential campaigns or inaugural funds.

After the election and just before his inauguration, President Trump and the First Lady, Melania Trump, kicked off his Presidency with the launch of their own meme coins, which have reportedly lost the investors, who trusted their President, \$2 billion.

Guess what, Madam Speaker? The President and his family made at least \$350 million.

Then, in March, President Trump's World Liberty Financial announced the launch of its stablecoin, conveniently named USD1, just before our Financial Services Committee was scheduled to vote on legislation regulating the stablecoin market.

Stablecoins are a type of crypto that claim to maintain a constant or "stable" value and are used in most crypto transactions today.

In May, World Liberty Financial announced the firm will be making a \$2 billion business deal with a fund backed by Abu Dhabi, using the Trump firm's stablecoins. This deal also includes Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange.

Recently, Binance's founder has been seeking a pardon from the Trump administration after he pleaded guilty to money laundering and spent 4 months in Federal prison. Nevertheless, Republicans' stablecoin bill did nothing to address Trump's conflict and instead voted to hand Trump the authority to write the rules over his and his competitors' stablecoins.

That is right. Traditionally, our Federal financial regulators were intentionally created by Congress to be independent from the White House in order to put the stability of our financial markets above politics. Trump has undermined that independence by making these independent agencies now clear all rules with the White House.

If stablecoin legislation is passed, then agencies would draft rules that would be sent straight to the Trump White House, and he could directly make edits that would benefit his own stablecoin business. His business could also make adjustments to their operations, knowing the rules before their competitors.

Later, in March, Trump's sons launched their own Bitcoin company called American Bitcoin. President Trump had conveniently already instructed the Treasury to create a Bitcoin reserve and a digital asset strategic reserve, a move that would boost the value of the Bitcoin he and his Cabinet members own, using taxpayer resources.

Leading up to the White House's first crypto summit, World Liberty purchased \$20 million in crypto tokens, some of which include those Trump picked for the strategic cryptocurrency reserve.

I found out recently that, last month, President Trump was venturing deeper into crypto with a new project. This would be his very own video game that uses crypto. The video game is supposed to resemble Monopoly GO! Play-

ers travel around a board and earn money for constructing buildings in a digital city.

Madam Speaker, you heard that right. Trump is producing video games that involve crypto to model his own real estate business, which went bankrupt.

Who do you think is helping him launch this video game? It is the same person who helped launch his meme coin. This is his longtime pal, Bill Zanker.

Other Trump companies, like Trump Media & Technology Group, which is the parent company of Truth Social, are also leveraging the Office of the President by partnering with major crypto platforms like Crypto.com, promising to purchase \$250 million in crypto, initiating plans to launch crypto exchange traded funds, ETFs, and more.

Trump is gearing up to host a May 22 dinner for top Trump meme coin holders. What this means is the more of his crypto that people buy, the higher their chances of getting access to Trump. We don't know everyone who is buying his cryptoassets. It could be foreign governments, individuals, or special interests looking to directly influence Presidential decisions.

Trump ran on a campaign to put more money in the pockets of Americans. It turns out he just meant his pockets and those of his cronies.

The first 100 days of the Trump administration were filled with failures, chaos, and incompetence. The United States' role and reputation globally have been severely damaged, and many Americans are worried they will no longer receive the Social Security checks and Medicaid they need.

Now, congressional Republicans insist on pushing forward crypto market structure legislation, without addressing any of the corruption I have mentioned here today.

Madam Speaker, I ask Members to keep in mind that all of this is occurring against this unprecedented backdrop. Every day that congressional Republicans refuse to stand up for their constituents, they diminish their power and Congress' and damage the country's democratic future.

At the same time, Trump has undone Congress' decades-long ethics rules and enforcement laws. In doing so, he has removed many of the institutions and watchdogs that would serve as a check on his own self-profiteering.

He has gutted the Corporate Transparency Act, frozen enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and disbanded the Department of Justice's National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team.

Trump has also been extremely clear about taking control of independent agencies, even issuing executive orders making sure they are no longer independent from the whims of politics. The Securities and Exchange Commission has suspended several ongoing cases for Trump donors and Trump's crypto investors.

For example, the Securities and Exchange Commission recently suspended its enforcement action against Justin Sun, founder of the TRON Foundation. The SEC's own complaint detailed how Sun sold unregistered crypto asset securities, manipulated trading to artificially inflate the prices of the tokens he issued, and secretly paid celebrities to tout his tokens, all in violation of well-established and widely recognized securities laws. The timing also raises significant concern as it aligns with Sun's \$75 million investment in Trump's World Liberty Financial.

We do not need to repeat the mistakes of the past with a new risky financial product. We can integrate the lessons of the past for a future that spearheads responsible innovation and growth.

Remember the predatory mortgages from the financial crisis? Those were also sold as innovative products without sufficient guardrails. Instead, they caused millions of people to lose their jobs, their homes, their savings, reversing and worsening any gains that had been made in Black and Latino homeownership and wealth. The collapse of the housing market during this time displaced approximately 10 million Americans.

As Trump wreaks chaos on the stock market and broader economy, he is also injecting additional risk to our financial system, ultimately putting the country on track for a recession and financial crisis.

Let's start with Trump's deregulatory agenda. Trump has shuttered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Republicans are paving the way for a reality where the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is dismantled and the economy is no longer guided by independent regulators. Instead, regulators are being manipulated to serve the political and financial interests of the President and his billionaire insiders.

In this context, Trump's light-touch crypto legislation could have real risk for us all.

Trump has undone critical enforcement mechanisms that make our marketplace safer for consumers and hold bad actors accountable.

The Trump administration is also integrating unnecessary risk and volatility into agencies. For example, according to recent reports, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, is attempting to experiment with crypto in their operations, including by paying grantees in stablecoin or crypto. One of Trump's executive orders leaves the door wide open for Trump to require the use of his stablecoins and meme coins in order to pay taxes or enter into other arrangements with the government. This would be just another in a string of this administration's egregious conflicts of interest.

During the 2008 financial crisis, we saw how poorly regulated money market funds needed to be bailed out by

the Treasury Secretary using the Exchange Stabilization Fund. We also saw how the Federal Reserve used its emergency lending authority to provide a bailout for American International Group.

When we step back and view all of these factors, it is clear Trump is socializing risk to American families who are not engaging with the crypto ecosystem. I am deeply concerned that, as President, Trump will transfer the risks from his ventures and sponsorship of the crypto industry to the American taxpayer.

As Members of Congress, we must legislate. Every day they try to shutter the CFPB, every day, we are fighting, whether it is at agency headquarters or in the court.

As Members of Congress, we have the serious duty to protect and defend the American public. Since the Republican majority refuses to do its job, I am determined to shed light on these critical issues.

Now, I will move from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau into the diversity, equality, and inclusion that he has made a top priority in his administration.

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There is a continuing legacy of racism, sexism, and discrimination in our society. Bias and discrimination have contributed to the exclusion of qualified women, people of color, LGBT, and persons with disabilities, and veterans.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion policies are not about mandates and quotas. On the contrary. DEI is about eliminating bias, opening doors, and giving everyone, no matter what they look like or who they love a fair opportunity for employment, promotion, and access to capital. DEI is about understanding and knowing what these differences are and doing everything that can be done, both in government and in corporations, to just let those who wish to have a promotion—many of whom have worked for 25 and 30 years—have a chance to interview, to see if their talents are understood, and that they will have the opportunity to move up.

Well, he has made DEI a very, very vocal point. He started out talking about getting rid of that. He sent memos around to all of the nonprofits and agencies telling them if they dare to have anything that looks like DEI, which he doesn't have a definition for, that they are going to be shut down, and that they are going to be penalized.

Trump and Musk are targeting any institution that displays a focus towards diversity, equity, and inclusion.

When I became the first Black and the first woman chair of the House Financial Services Committee back in 2019, I established Congress' first-ever Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, chaired by Representative JOYCE BEATTY. The Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion held 18 hearings, re-

leased three major reports, and brought long-overdue scrutiny to the ways in which systemic barriers in our financial system disadvantage entire communities. We exposed inequities in hiring and promotion. We shined a light on the racial wealth gap, and we demanded that corporate America take diversity seriously, not as a talking point but as a matter of policy, accountability, and economic justice.

We know the numbers. Women make up more than 50 percent of the population, people of color over 40 percent. And yet, in the financial services industry, representation of these groups drops dramatically, especially for women of color, at every level of leadership.

We are not dealing with a pipeline problem. We are dealing with an access problem; a power problem.

I want to be clear. My commitment to DEI did not start there. Back in 2010, I helped to create the Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion at our Nation's top financial regulators. These offices were designed to embed DEI into the DNA of the financial system, from hiring and contracting to how institutions supervise the banks they regulate.

These offices are now under assault, despite its legal mandate and critical role in promoting equity in hiring, contracting, and oversight across the financial system.

Let me be clear. DEI is about more than just checking a box. It is about upward mobility. It is about making sure women and people of color aren't just in the room but they are also at the head of the table and also serving on boards, making investment decisions, and building wealth that lasts.

That is why I fought to pass the Minority Business Resiliency Act, now law, and secured \$600 billion for community development, financial institutions, and minority depository institutions during the pandemic. That is why I continue to support the Minority Business Development Agency, which has now been defunded and dismantled, even though it has provided critical support to businesses all around the country.

Let me just continue on. You know, it is absolutely disturbing and upsetting to walk through what is happening in our country under President Trump and his entire administration.

Let me be absolutely clear. We are in the midst of a full-blown affordable housing and homelessness crisis with over 771,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in this country.

Rents and home prices are surging, and families are being priced out of their communities. Housing supply is not keeping up with demand. As a result, more and more families are pushed out onto the streets or forced to choose between paying rent or buying groceries.

Across the country, renters and homeowners alike are spending well

over 30 and even 50 percent of their income on housing.

That is why I will soon reintroduce my legislative housing package to address the housing and homelessness crisis head-on, which many of you are familiar with, my Housing Crisis Response Act, Ending Homelessness Act, and Downpayment Toward Equity Act. These bills will help increase the supply of housing, bring down costs, and revive the dream of homeownership for all.

While Democrats are fighting to deliver real relief to families across this country, President Trump, along with co-president Elon Musk and Secretary Scott Turner, are working to decimate HUD from the inside out.

Since January, this administration has halted critical agency operations, unlawfully put staff on leave or fired staff; terminated programs that are key to ending housing discrimination, such as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and the Equal Access Rules; compromised Americans' sensitive data by granting Elon Musk's so-called DOGE personnel with the agency exposing victims of domestic violence and/or assault; reported plans to launch dangerous blockchain and crypto experiments within HUD; and begun planning to shut down HUD field offices all over the country.

Make no mistake, this agency isn't a luxury. It is a necessity. This agency helps our veterans, our seniors, people with disabilities, and families struggling to stay afloat.

When I saw the harmful impact of this administration, I quickly took action and hand-delivered a letter to Secretary Turner, signed by 122 Democratic colleagues demanding answers. Now, I am talking about Secretary Turner who has been appointed to dismantle HUD by President Trump.

What is equally concerning to me in Congress is that Republican Members continue their push to slash Federal investments in housing, which represent less than 1 percent of all Federal spending. In their latest fiscal year 2025 budget, they slashed housing by more than \$500 million, which will put at least 32 million households at risk of eviction and homelessness.

Just this week, Trump released a heartless fiscal year 2026 budget that cuts 26 billion from rental assistance programs, including public housing, housing choice vouchers, project-based rental assistance, and housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

He is turning these lifeline programs into State block grants and imposing a cruel 2-year cap on aid for able-bodied adults.

It doesn't stop there. His budget also calls for the obliteration of critical community development programs like the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, and fair housing grants. These are the very programs that help create affordable housing, revitalize disadvantaged neighborhoods, and protect families from housing discrimina-

tion. Eliminating these programs will devastate our communities, displace families who are already on the brink of homelessness, and destroy the progress made to ensure every person in our Nation has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Despite all the chaos, I will not give up. I will not stand by. I will continue to fight against Trump's sabotage, defend the agency, and stand up for the families who depend on the agency to keep a roof over their heads.

I have fought too long and too hard to let this administration tear it down, and I will not stop until our Nation's affordable housing and homelessness crisis ends once and for all.

But that is not all. Let's take a look at Social Security. Trump promised repeatedly not to cut Social Security under his administration. He said: "Social Security will not be touched, it will only be strengthened."

But listen carefully to what Trump billionaire appointees are saying: Elon Musk called Social Security "the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time." Let me say it again. The co-president, not elected by anybody, appointed by Trump, Elon Musk called Social Security "the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time."

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said only a "fraudster" would complain about a missed Social Security check. He is saying: Seniors, if you didn't get your Social Security check, don't complain because if you complain, you must be about fraud. You must be about something else rather than getting your check.

I don't know who this Lutnick is, but I only know that he is, too, a billionaire. What the heck does he care about Social Security? What does he care about a missed Social Security check? Not a darn thing.

Trump, Musk, and DOGE are undermining the infrastructure of Social Security by planning to cut 7,000 employees at the Social Security Administration. They are planning to take away the option to use the phone to file for benefits, requiring seniors to visit a field office if they do not use the internet. Trump has put these plans on hold for now, but we know this administration will continue to make life harder for seniors.

Now Trump is adding Social Security numbers to the Social Security death list to force immigrants to leave the country. People who have their Social Security numbers placed on the death list by mistake can have their homes foreclosed on or bank accounts closed.

These actions would violate data privacy law. Those who end up on the death list report, those mistakes can take months to fix.

Trump is risking seniors' ability to receive the benefits they have earned. Now, I want to be very clear about this. He said he would not cut Social Security, but he is destroying the infrastructure of Social Security. So people can't have their questions answered,

they can't get into a Social Security office that has been closed down and they can't get any answers by phone.

This is outrageous, and I am so afraid of what is happening to those who depend on Social Security. I am so afraid that seniors with limited amounts of Social Security are going to end up hungry. Of course, they wouldn't be able to pay any rent unless they are getting subsidized by HUD in some way.

Let's go to Medicaid. Just like with Social Security, Trump and the Republicans are playing games with people's lives because now they are coming for Medicaid through this dangerous reconciliation bill.

Congress' nonpartisan scorekeeper, the Congressional Budget Office, just confirmed the truth: 5.5 million people would lose their Medicaid coverage if Republicans cut the Federal match for expansion States; 3.3 million more would lose coverage if they cap Federal Medicaid spending in those same States; 2.3 million people, mostly low income seniors and people with disabilities, would lose coverage if Republicans repeal Biden's enrollment rule; and a staggering 8.6 million Americans would be pushed off Medicaid if Republicans limit States' ability to fund the program through provider taxes.

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Here is what that means in real life: seniors losing nursing home care, children losing access to basic checkups, cancer patients cut off in the middle of treatment, and families forced to choose between a doctor's visit and rent.

Republicans say these cuts are about cutting waste, fraud, and abuse, but Americans know what this really is. It is an attack on the most vulnerable to pay for the wealthy and the well-connected.

These cuts would not just shrink the deficit. They would shrink the life expectancy of millions. They would drive up hospital costs, emergency room visits, and medical bankruptcies. These proposals would lead entire communities, especially communities of color, Black, Latino, and rural populations, without a healthcare safety net.

Republicans don't care as long as their billionaire boys' club can pad their pockets. It is a stark reminder of whose interests they are really serving.

This is from a Washington Post article:

"One month into a sweeping new tariff regime that President Donald Trump vowed would bring jobs and factories 'roaring back,' a Pennsylvania manufacturing hub is full of skepticism.

"Trump once told supporters here in the Lehigh Valley that they know 'better than almost any place in this country' how global trade has 'outsourced your industries' and 'wiped out your steel mills.' Now, even in one of the communities the President suggested would benefit most from his tariffs, his

economic overhaul is disrupting lives and testing some voters' patience in an election-deciding swing State.

"New hires at a local truck-making plant had just started on the shop floor last month when their company announced an abrupt change: layoffs that could hit more than 10 percent of the workforce and that the company blamed on tariffs and other economic uncertainty. Even Trump's fans sometimes grimace at his plans to remake the world economy, worried about higher costs in a politically competitive area still scattered with lawn signs that read: 'Trump Low Prices Kamala High Prices.'"

He had these signs all over America, promising low prices.

"Almost two-thirds of Americans disapprove of Trump's handling of tariffs, and a lasting backlash could be especially consequential for Republicans in areas such as the Lehigh Valley, a perennial Rust Belt battleground where Trump's campaign pitch resonated with many voters."

They believed him.

"Trump's tariffs have put pressure on some of the GOP's most vulnerable incumbents in Congress, including the local Congressman, freshman RYAN MACKENZIE, as they try to defend Trump's agenda while also acknowledging their constituents' concerns.

"Officials here are doubtful that any tariffs, no matter how drastic, can recreate the economy of the past, when one steel company's facilities in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, alone employed 30,000 people. Manufacturing is still the biggest industry in the Lehigh Valley, with investment booming in recent years. At the same time, leaders are proud that they managed to diversify their economy after Bethlehem Steel collapsed decades ago.

"Brian Higgins, a longtime Republican commissioner in Lower Macungie Township, home to the truck plant, said it is hard to imagine manufacturing rebounding to where it was decades ago. 'I don't think anybody thinks that you could bring the Lehigh Valley back to what it was,' Higgins said. 'Could we bring some manufacturing back there? Probably, but not to the extent that people believe.'

"I just think it is going to cost more money, and then it is going to hurt us with retaliatory tariffs," said Higgins, a self-described 'Reagan Republican' who could not bring himself to vote for Trump.

"Trump argues that levying tariffs on imports will give him leverage for trade deals and ultimately compel companies to ramp up production in the United States. Critics say the strategy will raise costs for consumers and destabilize the economy while leaving businesses too uncertain about the future to make plans."

Here, let me just share with you what was on an article from The Washington Post: Trump's tariffs are causing untold harm to America.

Let me read another story. This story is from The Wall Street Journal,

"The Dumbest Trade War in History." The Wall Street Journal said that.

"President Trump will fire his first tariff salvo on Saturday against those notorious American adversaries, Mexico and Canada. They will get hit with a 25 percent border tax, while China, a real adversary, will endure 10 percent. This reminds us of the old Bernard Lewis joke that it is risky to be America's enemy, but it can be fatal to be its friend.

"Leaving China aside, Mr. Trump's justification for this economic assault on the neighbors makes no sense. While House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said they have 'enabled illegal drugs to pour into America,' but drugs have flowed into the U.S. for decades and will continue to do so as long as Americans keep using them. Neither country can stop it.

"Drugs may be an excuse since Mr. Trump has made clear he likes tariffs for their own sake. 'We don't need the products they have,' Mr. Trump said on Thursday. 'We have all the oil you need. We have all the trees you need, meaning the lumber.'

"Mr. Trump sometimes sounds as if the U.S. shouldn't import anything at all, that America can be a perfectly closed economy making everything at home. This is called autarky, and it isn't the world we live in or one that we should want to live in, as Mr. Trump may soon find out.

"Take the U.S. auto industry, which is really a North American industry because supply chains in the three countries are highly integrated. In 2024, Canada supplied almost 13 percent of U.S. imports of auto parts and Mexico nearly 42 percent. Industry experts say a vehicle made on the continent goes back and forth across borders a half dozen times or more, as companies source components and add value in the most cost-effective ways, and everyone benefits.

"The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative says that in 2023 the industry added more than \$809 billion to the U.S. economy, or about 11.2 percent of total U.S. manufacturing output, supporting '9.7 million direct and indirect jobs.' In 2022, the U.S. exported \$75.4 billion in vehicles and parts to Canada and Mexico. That number jumped 14 percent in 2023 to \$86.2 billion, according to the American Automotive Policy Council.

"American carmakers would be much less competitive without this trade. Regional integration is now an industrywide manufacturing strategy—also employed in Japan, Korea, and Europe—aimed at using a variety of high-skilled and low-cost labor markets to source components, software, and assembly.

"The result has been that U.S. industrial capacity in autos has grown alongside an increase in imported motor vehicles, engines, and parts. From 1995 to 2019, imports of autos, engines, and parts rose 169 percent while U.S. industrial capacity in autos, engines, and parts rose 71 percent.

"As the Cato Institute's Scott Lincicome puts it, the data shows that 'as imports go up, U.S. production goes up.' Thousands of good-paying auto jobs in Texas, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan owe their competitiveness to this ecosystem, relying heavily on suppliers in Mexico and Canada.

"Tariffs will also cause mayhem in the cross-border trade in farm goods. In fiscal 2024, Mexican food exports made up about 23 percent of total U.S. agricultural imports, while Canada supplied some 20 percent. Many top U.S. growers have moved to Mexico because limits on legal immigration have made it hard to find workers in the U.S. Mexico now supplies 90 percent of avocados sold in the U.S. Is Mr. Trump now an avocado nationalist?

"Then, there is the prospect of retaliation, which Canada and Mexico have shown they know how to do for maximum political impact. In 2009, the Obama administration and congressional Democrats ended a pilot program that allowed Mexican long-haul truckers into the U.S. as stipulated in NAFTA. Mexico responded with targeted retaliation on 90 U.S. goods to pressure industries in key congressional districts.

"These included California grapes and wine, Oregon Christmas trees and cherries, jams and jellies from Ohio, and North Dakota soy. When Mr. Trump imposed steel and aluminum tariffs in 2018, Mexico got results using the same tactic, putting tariffs on steel, pork products, fresh cheese, and bourbon.

"Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised to respond to U.S. tariffs on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Canada could suffer a larger GDP hit since its economy is so much smaller, but American consumers will feel the bite of higher costs for some goods.

"None of this is supposed to happen under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement that Mr. Trump negotiated and signed in his first term. The U.S. willingness to ignore its treaty obligations, even with friends, won't make other countries eager to do deals. Maybe Mr. Trump will claim victory and pull back if he wins some token concessions, but if a North American trade war persists, it will qualify as one of the dumbest in history."

Continuing with The Washington Post article:

"The Trump administration's policies are delivering much-needed economic relief for everyday Americans while laying the groundwork for a long-term restoration of American greatness,' White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement, noting that inflation cooled in March and that gross private domestic investment increased by 22 percent in the first quarter of 2025.

"Employers added 177,000 jobs last month, a strong showing, despite the upheaval from Trump's tariffs announced April 2. In interviews, Lehigh Valley voters who had heard about the

Mack layoffs often brushed them off as routine—the company has downsized before—or said they weren't sure they believed the firm's explanation.

"But many, including Trump voters, also said they are bracing for economic pain in the valley, which spans two counties: Lehigh, which Democrat Kamala Harris won by less than 3 percentage points in the fall, and Northampton, a bellwether that frequently backs the winners of Presidential elections and went narrowly for Trump.

"Adrienne Rinehimer, 51, said she is building a house and might push back her timeline if prices get too high. Retiree Rick Janko was mostly"—he was at one time—"mostly supportive of the President's agenda but rolled his eyes at claims that tariffs will bring manufacturing back. Like Rinehimer, he cast his ballot for Trump last year."

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, with the short time left, I say that I came to the floor to talk about the harm being caused by the Trump administration, the corruption in crypto, and the harm to people just trying to live their lives.

Trump's regime is going after the supports that government provides to help Americans live in safe homes, put food on the table, and take care of the health of their kids. His tariffs are leading to a recession and raising costs of food, cars, and housing.

The consistent and cruel policies are not just harming our pocketbooks, but they are going after our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the time that I have been afforded on the floor today to give light to and transparency to what is happening in this administration. I know that it is hard to believe. I know that people could not believe that the President of the United States is undermining our democracy, but this is a President who has no care, no concern, and no respect. This is a President who dresses himself up like the Pope and invites photographers to come and take a look. When I talk about disrespect, this President disrespects everybody but his money.

This is a democracy that is under fire. This is a democracy that is at risk. This is a democracy that Democrats and Republicans alike should be concerned about, that we would be willing to fight for. It was at one point in time that we thought those on the opposite side of the aisle were so patriotic.

Where is their patriotism now? Where will they stand up when the democracy is at stake? This is a time when we thought that they were so concerned about law and order. They have the biggest crook in the history of this country, having been convicted 34 times. They cannot say one word about what is wrong and about what he is doing and how he has no respect for the law.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Republicans: Why don't you prove who you say you are instead of being afraid of

the President of the United States, who you think will primary you? Why is it you keep your mouths shut because you don't stand up for the people in your districts because you are afraid that President Trump will be angry with you?

Enough said. I thank you all so very much for affording me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEGICH). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CALIFORNIA'S DISASTROUS POLICIES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, Californians could soon be paying over \$8 a gallon for gasoline. That is the result of the disastrous policies that have been imposed by Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature's supermajority.

The most recent news is that there are two refineries that are closing operations in California: the Phillips 66 refinery in L.A. by the end of 2025, and the Valero refinery by April 2026.

According to a letter from Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones in California, these two facilities produce about 20 percent of California's in-State gasoline supply.

According to a recent study by USC Professor Michael Mische, the effect of this is going to be an increase in gas prices in California of up to 75 percent by April of 2026. The projections estimate a 33.6 percent increase just by April of 2025. By next year, 2026, we could see prices rising as high as \$8.43 per gallon by the end of 2026.

This is because we are going to see a severe decline in in-State production. Indeed, it could fall from over 34 million gallons per day in 2023 to just 27 million gallons by the end of 2026. Then you factor in the higher transportation costs. You are going to see Californians not only paying these astronomical prices at the gas station, but it is going to increase the cost of goods and services throughout the economy.

That is not to mention that it is going to lead to the loss of hundreds of jobs for the folks who were working at these refineries. The gas that we are now going to have to import from other States or other countries is not only going to cost a lot more, but it is going to be way worse for the environment, releasing way more emissions.

The fact is California already has, by far, the highest gas prices in the country. We pay over 30 cents more than second-place Hawaii, which is an island State. This is because of nonsensical regulations, including the new fuel standard that was just recently im-

posed by the Air Resources Board, as well as a slew of other regulations relating to the fuel mix and other factors, as well as having the highest gas tax of any State in the country.

By the way, you would think that, since we have the highest tax, we must have great roads as a result. No, that is not the case either. We have just about the worst roads of any State in the country.

How does that work: highest taxes, deepest potholes? It is a stark illustration of our State government's utter inability to provide effective services to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on Governor Newsom and the State legislature to take immediate action to prevent Californians from having to pay over \$8 a gallon for gas by the end of next year. We need immediate action to overturn regulations and to restore common sense in our State.

FRAUD IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have sent a letter along with several of my colleagues in the California delegation to Secretary of Education Linda McMahon and Attorney General Pam Bondi asking them to investigate a simple question: Why is it so stunningly easy to commit fraud against the State of California?

During the COVID era, we saw fraud unlike we had ever seen when \$32 billion in unemployment benefits were purloined from fraudsters, international criminal syndicates, who were easily able to just defraud Gavin Newsom's Unemployment Department.

Mr. Speaker, the latest example that we have learned is that over a third of community college applications in the State were fraudulent. These were not real people, not real students actually seeking a spot at one of our community colleges.

What they were instead were scams, individuals who were trying and succeeding in committing financial aid fraud, siphoning more than \$10 million in Federal funds and millions more in State aid, according to the California community chancellor's own office.

We have asked the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education to look into this matter and see why California has not been able to stop this from happening.

We know that, with respect to the EDD fraud in the COVID era, the Governor's office failed to take the basic commonsense steps that other States took that the Federal Government had advised. For example, cross-checking applications for unemployment against the prison rolls, something that almost every other State did, and California didn't do. I would not be surprised to learn that there were similar oversights here with respect to the community college fraud.

We look forward to getting back the results of this investigation, and urge the State to take immediate action to make sure that millions more in taxpayer dollars aren't lost.