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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 13, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for the last 5 months, across the country, people have been waiting with bated breath to see what this big, beautiful bill is that the Republicans have been working on behind closed doors, much of it down in Florida putting it together, particularly America's healthcare sector. It has been clear from the outset that the Medicaid program, the program which provides

more coverage for more Americans than any other program, 72 million Americans, was a target in this budget reconciliation bill.

Over the weekend, the measure had been released and we finally get to see what, in fact, it looks like. The chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, who is a good friend and a good guy, came right out and said that Democrats are going to use this as an opportunity to engage in fear-mongering and misrepresent our bill as an attack on Medicaid.

Madam Speaker, it is not just Democrats and Republicans that have an opinion about what is happening here, it is about the people that the Medicaid cuts are going to impact, particularly our healthcare sector, particularly the hospital sector.

This morning, Politico's headline shows what their reaction has been over the last 48 hours, which is "Hospital groups slam cuts to Medicaid in megabill."

This is a sector that has many trade associations, the biggest one, the American Hospital Association, came right out and said that it will lead to millions of Americans losing access to healthcare and leaving many of our hospitals struggling to maintain services and stay open for their communities.

The Catholic Health Association said, Congress has a moral obligation to consider the harm that this would have for America's most vulnerable communities, cascading effects of lost coverage and cost-shifting will impact nearly every American.

Children's hospitals, who depend on Medicaid, can't cost-shift to older patients on Medicare. They have been blasting this proposal from day one and they have continued it.

Essential hospitals, which are the safety net hospitals for this country, have also said that it is going to lead to closures of hospitals as well as the private-sector hospitals.

The Federation of American Hospitals, Director Chip Kahn, came right out and said that it is imperative that congressional Republicans go back to the drawing board. Too many lives depend on it.

The American Cancer Society, not a Democrat organization, said the results of these Medicaid cuts will be devastating. Lives will be lost and State economies will suffer.

It is not too late for this Congress to finally engage in a bipartisan negotiation about ways that we can address the budget deficit and protect the most vulnerable people in our country, but unfortunately, part of this plan, this, megabill, is a tax cut, and this chart shows who benefits.

This bar here, that is the rich folks in this country, the top 20 percent; everybody else gets peanuts. That is what this cut is aimed at trying to offset, the impact, the fiscal impact, on the deficit that these tax cuts will produce over the next 10 years.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget issued their report last night and they conclude that this plan is going to add \$4 trillion to the national debt. That is even with the cuts that were part of the Medicaid plan, which I talked about a little bit more. We have a bill, which is going to cut services, basically put one of our most vulnerable sectors in our economy which we all rely on, our hospitals, at greater financial risk all for the benefit of the small slice of America's population and it is going to add to our national debt, which according to what the committee said is now \$36.2 trillion.

Last month, we paid \$89 billion in interest on that national debt. That is the second biggest expenditure for the Federal Government. It is bigger than the Department of Defense last month in terms of what was paid, and that is what we are faced with.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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This is a gut check moment for this country in terms of where are your values? Where are your priorities? Are you going to listen to the caring professionals, the people who are the nurses and the people that take care of us in times of healthcare crisis? Are we going to listen to that top 1 percent who are clamoring to make sure that their tax cuts—the Bezoses, the Musks, the Gateses—they don't really need the help. The people who are working their butts off every day in hospital wards making sure that we are all healthy and safe and cared for, they are the ones that need the help.

We need to reject these Medicaid cuts and reject this plan. Let's go back to the drawing board, as Mr. Kahn said from the Federation of American Hospitals, and do it the right way. Let's protect our values and protect our priorities, which all Americans depend on.

DELIVERING ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S AGENDA

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the House Energy and Commerce and the House Ways and Means Committees will hold markups on their respective portions of President Trump's big, beautiful bill this week.

This bill is our chance to lock in the agenda that the American people voted for in November by cutting out waste, fraud, and abuse, supporting small businesses, and supporting the American working class.

This legislation that we have produced in the Energy and Commerce Committee will strengthen Medicaid for low-income children, for pregnant women, for the elderly, and for those with disabilities. For far too long, illegal immigrants and able-bodied Americans, who can return to the workforce, have been draining funds from the citizens who deserve and need Medicaid.

This ends now. The Ways and Means Committee is also delivering on President Trump's agenda by permanently extending the President's 2017 tax cuts. Our small businesses will continue to prosper. Also included in this big, beautiful bill is the removal of taxes on tips. It removes taxes on Social Security. It removes taxes on overtime, finally giving relief to the American middle class.

Additionally, this legislation also removes the tax-exempt status on university endowments like the more than \$50 billion endowment that Harvard controls. The American people voted for an agenda that roots out waste, fraud, and abuse of our programs and gives the middle class the economic boost that they need.

Today, marks the beginning of delivering on President Trump's agenda.

HONORING OUR COURAGEOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week is National Police

Week, where we have an opportunity to honor the courageous law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line each and every day to protect us.

On the House floor this week, we will address the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Reform Act, legislation to allow our active and retired law enforcement officers the ability to conceal carry firearms where it may normally be restricted.

Our law enforcement officers are committed to protecting their communities and their fellow citizens, and they receive rigorous training throughout their careers. By allowing these brave men and women the opportunity to conceal carry where it is normally restricted, these local heroes will have the ability to respond to emergencies whether they are on duty or not.

Last Congress, I proudly supported this legislation on the House floor, and this Congress I look forward to seeing this commonsense legislation pass the House and the Senate so that President Trump can finally sign this into law.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF ROBERT GLENNY OF GETTYSBURG

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Gettysburg Police Chief Robert Glennly as he makes the next step in his career.

Chief Glennly attended Juniata College before beginning his 35-year career as a law enforcement officer with the last 6 years spent as the chief of police in the Gettysburg Police Department.

Before arriving in Gettysburg, Chief Glennly started his career in the Ferguson Township, Pennsylvania, Police Department, where he spent 26 years on the force.

During his time in Ferguson Township, Chief Glennly held roles that included patrol officer, traffic enforcement, and police sergeant.

Then, after a brief stop in Colorado to serve as the police chief there, Chief Glennly returned to Pennsylvania to proudly serve the people of Gettysburg.

During this time, Chief Glennly worked tirelessly to improve public safety and to build strong relationships within the community. As he moves on to his next position, the chief of police is held in high esteem in Gettysburg.

Madam Speaker, I thank him for his leadership and his ability to serve his community and wish him all the best in his next endeavors.

HONORING JOHN MASSIMILLA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of the president of WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital, John Massimilla.

For 35 years, John has worked in Pennsylvania healthcare, working to ensure that patients throughout the Commonwealth have access to the care that they need.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have had the privilege of visiting John Massimilla and the WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital multiple times, and I am always thankful for his insight and commitment to the community.

John always looks to increase the hospital's ability to implement innovative treatments, truly elevating the level of care at the hospital. Additionally, under John's leadership, the WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital has implemented state-of-the-art security systems.

Throughout his career, he has exemplified what a true healthcare administrator brings to the equation.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate John on his retirement.

HONORING TOM NICHOLS

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Tom Nichols, a longtime radio host and owner of KVRE, a beloved radio station in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

Through nearly seven decades on the radio, Tom has done more than inform and entertain. He has a trusted voice, a steady presence, and a true reflection of the character and kindness that define Arkansas at its best.

His show, "Ask Your Neighbor," has been on the air for 45 years. It is a daily reminder of the value of connection, offering a place where neighbors can come together, share what matters, and strengthen the bonds of community.

Therefore, it is with great pride that we recognize Tom Nichols today for his induction in the Arkansas Walk of Fame, an honor that he has earned many times over for his outstanding contributions to our community.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING RAYE MONTAGUE'S LEGACY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Raye Montague, whose creativity has earned her a place on the 2025 American Innovation \$1 Coin, representing our State of Arkansas.

In 1972, Mrs. Montague made history by creating the first computer-generated rough draft of a naval ship, the USS *Oliver Hazard Perry*. This was a groundbreaking achievement that revolutionized ship design.

Mrs. Montague's work has not only reshaped the U.S. Navy's approach to engineering, but demonstrated the transformative power of technology in the defense of our country.

Ultimately, for Mrs. Montague's efforts, she was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame. In addition, she was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award by the U.S. Navy.

Upon her return to Little Rock, I was pleased to meet Mrs. Montague and hear her inspirational story firsthand. Montague's visionary coin design was chosen by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee. The coin depicts Mrs. Montague and the ship that she crafted with her groundbreaking model.

It is fitting that we celebrate Mrs. Raye Montague's legacy. Years later,