

New Yorkers. We need to hold the line and push for a full repeal that will bring tax bills down and give Long Islanders much-needed tax relief.

I came to Congress to cut taxes and make life more affordable for my residents. I will continue to explore every possible avenue to do just that.

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RECOGNIZING AANHPI MONTH

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the month of May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Virginia is home to a dynamic and growing AANHPI community, a community that across the country and in Virginia contributes in every field, including business, education, science, technology, and, of course, government.

Many leaders in our community emigrated from Asian countries in pursuit of the American Dream, like my family. Their stories and success are a testament to the founding ideals of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy AANHPI Month to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the month of May as National Cancer Research Month.

Every day, 5,000 Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. More than 1,600 will die from it every day.

Now more than ever, we must support our dedicated scientists and doctors across the country who work to treat and care for patients.

I urge everyone to support robust funding for medical research for cancer so we can find a cure and stop the cuts to cancer research.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy National Cancer Research Month to everyone.

RECOGNIZING SUE ABDERHOLDEN

(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 Sue Abderholden for her transformational leadership and advocacy for accessible mental health services in Minnesota.

During her 24 years of service as the executive director for the National Alliance on Mental Health Illness Minnesota, she helped pass over two dozen landmark laws that reshaped education, healthcare, housing, and criminal justice to better serve people living with mental illness.

Sue championed legislation to require mental health training for teachers and expanded crisis and early intervention services. Thanks to Sue's unwavering commitment to expanding culturally responsive, person-centered

mental health care, our communities are safer and healthier.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for her years of service, and I hope she has a wonderful retirement.

CLEANING UP GOVERNMENT

(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 call out and condemn Donald Trump's astounding corruption.

Just last week, he signaled that he would change the name of the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Gulf. Today, he arrived in the Middle East, where he is expected to accept a luxury 747 worth \$400 million from Qatar to replace Air Force One.

From attempting to rename the Persian Gulf to accepting luxury airplanes as unprecedented personal gifts, Donald Trump would rather waste time on ridiculous political stunts designed to curry favor with foreign governments and line his own pockets than address the issues affecting the American people.

Mr. Speaker, as the first Iranian-American Democrat elected to Congress, I can tell you that the Persian community in the United States and across the world is outraged at the attempt to change the historically significant name.

That is why, today, I am proud to introduce the Persian Gulf Act to prohibit any Federal funds from being used to rename the body of water and prevent government documents from referring to the Persian Gulf by anything except that name.

As Donald Trump acts only for himself, I will continue fighting against his corruption and the American people.

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

RESTORE FUNDING FOR LIFESAVING FOOD AID

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the eighth time to call on the Trump administration to restore funding for lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

Edesia Nutrition in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, produces more than 88 million pounds of Plumpy'Nut, a peanut paste that has served millions of malnourished children around the world per year. At least they did until Donald Trump stopped that funding.

Despite Congress passing this funding that would continue this food aid, and the promises from the administration that the program will continue, Edesia recently received a notice that read: We will not be moving forward at this time.

This is despite the urgent, lifesaving need for relief around the world. While Edesia's work has been interrupted and will continue to feel the consequences of this interruption, it is not too late to restore this funding.

Congress has already appropriated this funding in a bipartisan manner. The money has been appropriated.

The Trump administration just needs to do what it said it was going to do and restore the flow of funds for this lifesaving food aid. The lives of children around the world depend on it.

NICE GRAFT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Trump was offered this \$400 million airplane. He said he thought it was a "nice gesture."

A nice gesture is when somebody passes the salt and pepper. That is a nice gesture.

A nice gesture is when somebody says, "Good morning. Have a nice day." That is a nice gesture.

A nice gesture is when a gentleman pulls a chair out for a lady to sit down. That is a nice gesture.

To take a \$400 million airplane from Qatar as the plane of the United States of America's President is cheap, demeaning, and harmful to our country that has always flown high as the finest nation on this Earth. It is also graft and corruption.

Mr. Speaker, the emperor wears no clothes.

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

BIG, BACKSTABBING BILL

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, along with my distinguished colleague from the great State of Ohio, Representative SHONTEL BROWN, who hopefully will be joining us.

Along with some of our other colleagues, she is in her committee hearing, trying to figure out if Republicans

will stand up with the American people and vote down so many of the disastrous proposals that are being brought up in these various committees as it relates to the reconciliation bill.

Mr. Speaker, for the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people and directly to you on the Republicans' disastrous reconciliation package. This is an issue of great importance, of utmost importance, and of perilous importance, not just to the Congressional Black Caucus but to everyone.

Hopefully, Republican Members, not just Democratic Members of Congress, will stand up with and for the American people and vote down some of this nonsense that is going to be coming before all of us in our committees. At the very least, let's not be silent. That is why the Congressional Black Caucus is here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee just released text. This is the one big, beautiful bill. This is the 386-page manifesto that killed trees and trees.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that there are only two words in that phrase that are accurate. This is a bill, and it is big, but it is not beautiful. It is a backstabbing bill because all the items in the 386 pages of this bill are about how this administration is going to backstab the American people. It is not going to feel good.

Unlike the O'Jays song "Backstabbers," this doesn't have a good melody.

This is about cutting Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and benefits for veterans. This is about killing young people, seniors, and those who are disabled. This is about cutting important critical services for the American people to give tax credits to billionaires. There are a lot of B's in this statement. None of them are very good.

Let me be very clear: Republicans have barely made any attempts to support working families. Instead, they have written an economic love letter to people like Elon Musk. This is a 386-page love letter to Elon Musk.

Republicans can run from the truth all they want—they have been silent—but the truth is in the eyes of this administration: Americans don't need healthcare, but this administration somehow needs a \$400 million plane gifted to them from the Saudi Government. Americans don't need SNAP assistance, but this administration and all of his billionaire buddies need millions in tax writeoffs.

Mr. Speaker, how are my constituents supposed to live? How are your constituents supposed to live? How are any of our constituents supposed to pull themselves up by those ridiculous bootstraps that people like to talk about?

This administration and the House majority are actually not just taking away their boots but taking away the leather, the rubber, the soles, and the

labor that would be used to even make these boots. We are going to be spending the next hour talking about all of that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. IVEY), my very good friend.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to address and speak to these issues because they are so timely.

There are new developments that come every day that keep us guessing as to what the Trump administration is going to do from one moment to the next. I am going to talk about this plane from Qatar toward the end.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today about my deep concern about the appropriations and budget processes as established by the Constitution because they are broken. I rise out of deep concern for our institution, our responsibilities, and for the American people who elected us to make decisions.

The continuing resolutions that we have been passing are temporary stopgaps, but they have become the norm. It is not just a failure of a process. It is a failure of President Trump's leadership and House Republican leadership.

Trump's economic failures include trying to make his tax cuts permanent, the DOGE cuts, and the irresponsibility of the tariff packages. Thank goodness, I think he backed away a few days ago with respect to cutting a deal with China, but that is only for 90 days.

The challenge of the erratic and illegal behavior he has been exhibiting is that it really puts companies in a very difficult spot. Companies have to make decisions not just moment to moment, as apparently President Trump does, but over months and sometimes years, especially if they are going to make major decisions about something like investing to build a new plant. That can cost millions or even billions of dollars.

When he does things like puts up 130-something percent in tariffs against one of the main trading partners of the United States, like China, it creates a major problem for companies that trade with China and that get their materials or send their finished products to China.

Many of them are small American businesses. We have seen and heard from many of those over the past couple of days. I have been listening to some who are toy manufacturers. They talk about what has happened to their companies on the radio. They are concerned about what might happen for them during the Christmas holidays, a key time of year for their businesses.

The Trump administration didn't pay any attention to that. In fact, he just moved forward with the tariffs that he put in place. He did so not just against China, not just against our adversaries, but against allies like Canada, Mexico,

France, Germany, and other countries. It has been devastating to the American economy and businesses across the country.

□ 1945

He ran for election telling the American people that he was going to make their economic lives better and that he was going to help them financially be better off than they were under the Biden administration. However, it is clear in the first 6 months that what he has been doing is he is not putting money in their pockets, he is taking it out.

I think it is critical for us to make sure we understand fully what is going on here with respect to the packages that they are trying to move. He is trying to do this mainly through executive order. He has been unable to move major pieces of legislation through the House, and House leadership hasn't pressed him to do it, even though we are supposed to be doing these things through the appropriations process.

As a matter of fact, the Constitution gave us the obligation to move these bills through the appropriations process, but the Republican leadership in the House has failed to do that.

The failure to pass these appropriations bills has led to things like Federal workers are being forced out of their positions. Some of them are concerned about whether their paychecks are going to come. Small businesses, we just mentioned a moment ago, especially those who are relying on government contracts, are having trouble making payroll. In some of those instances, they have already done the work that they are supposed to get paid for.

However, the Trump administration has done two things. One is it has withdrawn contracts, but it has also, even though they performed the work, refused to make the payments and forced some of these companies to shut down and fire some of their employees even though they already did the work.

We are also going to have challenges I think, too, with respect to communities who have been hit by major disasters. Unfortunately, I just saw while we were waiting to start this process a few minutes ago, we had three major natural disasters today across the country, but FEMA is under attack, and the funding is being cut.

With respect to reconciliation, as we just talked about a moment ago, the \$881 billion in cuts to Medicaid are a shocking development. We know what that could mean for communities across the country is that hospitals have to shut down, medical treatment facilities might have to be closed, and people who perform medical services like doctors and nurses might not be available.

Certainly, in urban areas and suburban areas like mine, there is going to be a major impact from that, and in red States and rural districts as well.

I just heard a report on the radio last week. It was talking about a district in

a rural area where I think they said that 70 percent of their funding comes through Medicaid in one way or another. If these cuts are made then that hospital is going to have to close and if that hospital closes then it creates, essentially, a medical desert going 200 miles each way. So the next time you have a serious car accident in that area, Mr. Speaker, they are going to have a tough time getting people the care that they need for any kind of medical emergency, say perhaps from a complication in a birth scenario or basic day-to-day medical services, they are going to have to drive hundreds of miles, in some instances, just to go see a doctor.

With respect to the impoundment issue, I want to raise that too because the Trump administration has started making the argument that even though money has been appropriated, they don't have to spend it. The reason they are trying to do that is because they want to take control away from Congress. They want to take control of the power of the purse that was given to Congress through the Constitution. They want to do that so they can marginalize Congress and make the spending decisions that they want to make.

We saw that with the \$1.6 trillion, the Trump administration decided how to spend that because we didn't pass a regular appropriations set of bills. We had to do it through the continuing resolution. It left them discretion that I don't think they should have. I have to say I am concerned about the way he has used that discretion in some of these processes.

They have made budget cuts, for example, to VOCA. That stands for the Victims of Crime Act. They are cutting grants to help people who are victims of crime.

Why would he take a step like that? The Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, is to help women who are surviving sexual assault and domestic violence.

Why would he cut a program like that?

They cut USAID programs. One of our colleagues referenced earlier about how that has had a positive impact on the starvation issues, the USAID efforts. However, they are cutting programs that will lead to, I saw one estimate, 1.6 million people who will die over the next year based on these cuts that he is making right now to foreign aid.

We stopped funding AmeriCorps, which means less teachers in areas that are in desperate need of teaching assistants. We have a lot of schools out there who are short on full-time teachers. They are certainly short on full-time certified teachers. Cuts to AmeriCorps just exacerbate the problem.

Cutting rental subsidies means that low-income families will have trouble keeping a roof over their heads. The Trump administration is going to

make it even harder for them to do that.

Why would we take that step? How is that consistent with the promise he made to help American people who needed help the most?

He is making cuts to mental health services. We have got kids who are struggling in school. They are bullied sometimes. We have some scenarios where we have serious violent attacks in the schools. It might be a mass shooting from a gun situation. It might be something less serious than that. We have got kids who need assistance with their mental health challenges across the country, and making cuts to those sorts of programs only makes it harder for these kids to survive and get through the school process.

There are cuts to NIH. Now, I know he had, frankly, a vendetta, essentially, against Dr. Fauci, and he is taking that out on many of the health institutions, like the NIH. However, at the end of the day, it is clear that the NIH has been and continues to be, hopefully, at least if it can survive these cuts, one of the premier institutions that do medical research that makes a difference here in the United States and around the world.

He is cutting medical research on cancer. I am a cancer survivor. It is important to folks like me, and there are a lot of folks who are cancer survivors. The only reason we are still here is because of the medical advances that were made at places like NIH based on research that was done using government funding. That is how these things happen.

Alzheimer's is another one. My father died from Alzheimer's. It is one of the most horrific diseases you can possibly imagine. Mr. Speaker, you would never even wish it on your worst enemy. It is hard to even explain how tragic it is to watch a human being slide from being the full person that they were into something ravaged by Alzheimer's. They cut funding for clinical trials for Alzheimer's at NIH. The thing about clinical trials that you need to remember, Mr. Speaker, it is not like an off switch. You don't just flick it on and off and it comes right back. If you shut down a clinical trial, Mr. Speaker, you might have to start that all the way from scratch. In some instances, the research and the projects that have been going forward under that have taken years. So he is setting that back years and months.

Why? Why would he do that?

He is making cuts to grants to help people who want to go into the science fields. The United States, certainly in the last 50 years and the postwar era, has been the premier nation with respect to science and technology and innovation.

That is how we got Apple, that is how we got Microsoft, and that is why we have quantum computing. All of these fantastic innovations and giant steps forward came from the United States, in part because of the research that

was funded in part by the Federal Government. The people who developed many of those advances got their training and got their college and Ph.D.s paid for using funding that helped them get through school. They wouldn't have been able to pay for it otherwise. Yet the Trump administration is making cuts not just to those programs but also to the grants and funding that help those people get through.

To add insult to injury, he makes personal attacks on research institutions like Harvard, which has been the source of some of the best, the brightest, and most talented who have taken leadership in these fields. He is making threats to undermine those institutions and those universities just out of personal venom.

It makes absolutely no sense. It is damaging to the United States, and it undermines our leadership in science and technology in the world. He says it is America first, but sometimes it feels like China first. Sometimes it feels as if he is actually trying to help the Communist Chinese Party leadership surge ahead of the United States in its leadership role in science and technology.

Then there are \$40 million in cuts for election security. I know he still says that he won the 2020 election. Okay, fine. However, one of the things we can all agree on for sure is that we know the Russians and the Chinese and, in some instances, Iran and terrorist organizations around the world are making efforts to influence our elections with misinformation, disinformation, and the like.

Why would we ever make our elections more vulnerable to those kinds of attacks by cutting the funding that helps defend against it?

I will stop with this regarding the plane. When I first saw that on the news, I thought it was a joke. I thought it was a clip from Saturday Night Live or something. I never imagined that the Trump administration or the Trump family would even consider taking a \$400-million plane from a country like Qatar, which is not exactly an adversary country but certainly it is not an ally country. It is a foreign country. The reason the Emoluments Clause was put in place in the Constitution was to make sure that Presidents of the United States of America, whether it is number one or number 47, are not tempted or tested with these kinds of, essentially, bribes to try and get them to lean and issue support for their countries in making decisions. We want to make sure we have people like the President of the United States not tested by the money and not tempted by the money but always making the decisions for the best possible reasons and the best interests of the United States.

However, here we have a \$400-million plane, and apparently, he will eventually own it personally.

Now, Mr. Speaker, tell me why that is beneficial for the country. It creates

conflicts of interest and then some, because we have all of these issues with Qatar, including the negotiations with the Gaza conflict.

How is this going to be beneficial to the United States to create these levels of conflict?

Even if he can rise above them, the appearance of the conflicts is ridiculous, it is astonishing, and it is unacceptable. The National Review, not exactly a liberal rag and not exactly a liberal bastion, has said that the swamp is under new ownership.

So much for the commitments that he made to the American people when he first ran and when he ran again to so-called clean up the swamp.

Here we are. It violates the Constitution. I think on its face he should know better, and I am sure that everybody in the Congress knows that sometimes he needs guardrails. He always needs guardrails. This is the moment we have to make sure we stand up and put the guardrails in place.

To my colleagues here in Congress: Let's get back to work. Let's stand up and address this issue. As far as the conflicts of interest with the plane, let's make it clear that we unanimously oppose him taking the plane, certainly on behalf of the United States, and certainly in his personal capacity.

We unanimously want to move forward with a budget that is fair and reasonable and helps the American people, not one that takes \$881 billion out of their pockets, out of the pockets of kids, out of the pockets of seniors, out of the pockets of the disabled, and the people who need it the most.

We have to make sure that when the budget process is done, we are protecting the people who need it the most. Right now it looks like we are taking from the most vulnerable to give to the most wealthy, like Elon Musk and his allies. We have got to reverse that process.

I want to commend the gentlewoman for pulling this together, my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus, my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus, and, hopefully, my colleagues in the Republican caucus who will stand up and say: We can't do this. We cannot cross these lines. The plane is over the line. The \$881 billion in cuts to Medicaid is over the line. The no more appropriations bills, that is over the line. Let's get back to work. Let's engage in clear and proper oversight, and let's address these problems and do the work that helps the American people.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. IVEY) for keeping it real and really underscoring the challenges that are in front of us as Americans and for really articulating why courage, backbone, and just basic common sense are so needed right now in these perilous times.

Why are these times perilous?

These times are perilous because in Congress we are in the process of de-

bating and trying to pass this reconciliation bill.

People might be saying: Well, what is it?

It isn't actually a budget. In each of the committees, discussions are had about where to spend and where to cut. This House majority has been given marching orders, and the marching orders are to cut as much as possible and to cut until the American people bleed. The only folks who will be able to afford Band-Aids to prevent them from bleeding to death will be the richest of the rich.

□ 2000

Everyone else, you will have to fend for yourself. In each of these committees in which we sit, on which we sit, we are debating cuts that will hurt this economy, that will hurt constituents, that will hurt American businesses, that will hurt our standing in the world.

This is not a red or blue discussion. This is not even a Black Caucus or other caucus discussion. This is about what is at risk, who is at danger, who is being put at risk by this administration and, quite frankly, by the silence coming from this House majority.

Tonight and later on this week, Ag, Energy and Commerce, and the Ways and Means Committees are meeting, and they have been meeting earlier today, and they are also continuing to meet right now.

The challenge is meeting this late in the evening allows them to do dirty business, allows them to vote on bills and amendments that will hurt the American people without the benefit of having the news being able to report on it before people go to bed. It is almost like these dirty deeds will be happening at night when no one can see or hear what is going on.

Maybe we are spending our time talking about this \$400 million bribe that was just given to this administration when we should be talking about all of the cuts that are going to be coming from these committees.

With reconciliation, Republicans want all the cuts, but they do not want the political consequences. That is why we are here tonight talking about what those consequences will be, talking about what is in these reconciliation bills, what is in this package, because we don't want anyone to get political amnesia.

We don't want anyone to forget when they are hurting, when they are trying to pay a bill, when they are trying to get gas, when they are trying to buy eggs, when they are trying to buy a home, when they are looking for a job, when they are trying to bury a loved one, why it is so hard to do any of those things, why the costs are so high.

We are going to continue to remind the American people why all of those costs are going to be so high, and it is because of the cuts that are coming in this reconciliation bill, cuts that Republicans could have stopped, but they have been too silent.

Last week we were here, and we had hearings in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Small Business, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Natural Resources, in those committees and in others.

I don't know if many of these discussions or outcomes from these committees have made it into the news cycle, so folks don't know what really happened in those committees. I am going to say, in those committees we talked about cutting State Department by close to 50 percent, terminating workers in the State Department, finalizing the shuttering of USAID.

People might say, well, what is USAID? Well, part of what USAID does is contract with American farmers. Farmers have contracts with USAID. USAID buys their product and then uses it. All of those contracts have stopped because Republicans are looking for ways to fill the gap, the big gap, the chasm that has been made by these tax cuts going to billionaires.

They have done so much at the State Department that they have even fired the people who are responsible for purchasing the tickets to bring Americans home from all of their missions around the world. You have Americans who are stuck in countries around the world separated from their families, unable to get home because the ticket agency in the State Department has been shut down.

In the Committee on the Judiciary, we talked about billions of dollars going to ICE for bonuses to buy computers and cars and deporting Americans and allowing January 6ers to be hired to work for the Federal Government, people who came in here trying to bludgeon the Capitol Police and the people who work in this very institution.

In that committee, Republicans voted to allow them to work for the Federal Government and have the authority to go after other Americans.

In the Committee on Natural Resources, they passed a bill that would allow us to sell Federal land, land that we all enjoy, parks, recreational services, and forests.

I want the people in my life, the little people in my world to be able to go and visit a natural reserve or to go to one of our national parks and monuments and see that it is still owned by the United States, that we haven't sold it to some corporation or, God forbid, some other country, someone with the highest bid.

We are selling that land, and the proceeds are going into the coffers because, remember, we have to cover the \$4.5 trillion gap that House Republicans made because they want to give tax cuts to the wealthiest of the wealthy.

What else does that mean? It means that Republicans plan to cut \$900 billion to Medicaid, kicking 8.7 million people off of Medicaid over the next 10

years. The plan calls for new requirements for beneficiaries, for those who are on Medicaid, work requirements.

Some say: Well, I don't have a problem with people going to work. They are also saying: We want seniors, we want folks who are disabled, we want the elderly, we want those folks to be schlepping down the street trying to find a job in this market, of course, when it is actually hard to find employment.

They have been saying: Well, you can make these cuts because there are not even that many people on Medicaid. There are these people who are 150 years old or 130 years old or they have been dead for 4 years, and they are on Medicaid. Well, the reality is that so many of us have constituents who are dependent on Medicaid and Medicare and Social Security that are going to be devastated because of these cuts.

In California, there are 470,000 people on Medicaid, and they are going to be at risk of losing their care because of what the Republican budget plans to do. This is 140,000 children under the age of 19 and 40,000 seniors over the age of 65 just in my district.

I am going to say it again. My district has the 4th highest Medicaid enrollee numbers in the country. California has 7 of the 10th highest Medicaid enrollee districts. There are poor people, there are struggling people everywhere in every district in every state who need Medicaid, who need Medicare, who need Social Security.

I just have to say: If Republicans are so enamored with this big, beautiful, backstabbing bill and believe it to be the manna from heaven, then they shouldn't be afraid to go into their districts and talk about the cuts, talk about cutting Medicaid.

Look at the person in the wheelchair, look at the person who is dependent on Social Security benefits, look at the veteran who is receiving Social Security, and tell them that they don't matter. Tell them that their benefit is not as important as giving the money to Elon Musk and the billionaires. You tell them that.

If you are not telling them to their face, you are certainly going to be telling them that when you vote for this reconciliation bill.

Let's talk about education. DOGE and Musk, under the authority of this administration, have already fired half of the staff in the Department of Education. I don't know about you, but I have young people in my family who are excited about going to college, and they are also scared because they don't even know if the colleges are going to stay open.

I am not just talking about elite Ivy League institutions. I am talking about community colleges; I am talking about state colleges. I am talking about legacy institutions where parents and grandparents went to, and it means something to be able to get into that school and graduate.

I have talked to young people who don't know if there will be any money

for them if they get in, even with the grades. I have talked to young people who are getting ready to graduate and don't know if there will be a job for them. And I have talked to young people who were excited about representing this country and helping us be more competitive and now don't even know if this country is for them.

News flash, all of these young people who I have been talking to are U.S. citizens, American-born, who don't even know if there is going to be a country left, who don't even know if there will be educational institutions left because this proposal includes \$330 billion in cuts that will impact Pell grants, Head Start, school lunches, and more.

We are talking about a \$1 billion freeze for school-based mental health. I don't know about you, but it seems like every single person in this country should be accessing mental health services right now just to make it through the day.

That is what is coming out of this reconciliation package.

Going back to student loan borrowers who saw a glimmer of hope last year, and now they are going to be tracked down like animals in the night when you have an administration that just accepted a \$400 million bribe from another country. The math doesn't math up.

Why are you asking for young people to pay their fair share when it seems like not everyone else is doing the same thing? The regional Head Start office serving my district closed, and Head Start funding at roughly \$12 billion annually represents less than .2 percent of total Federal spending.

Eliminating Head Start would cut childcare and supportive services for about 80,000 young children in California.

Then let's talk about ag. This proposal would halt funding for the Rural Energy for America Program. Once again, cutting a billion dollars in funding for programs that help schools and feed folks through food banks. Cutting this funding would threaten the livelihood of our American farmers and also threaten the nutrition of our children.

Let's talk about our veterans. Under this reconciliation package proposal, we are talking about firing 6,000 veterans. My God. My God. People who have served our country in wars, who have stood up for this country and the people in it, who have stood up for our Constitution, who came back from their service and were hired by the government will be fired, have been fired, are being fired.

Not only are we talking about firing 6,000 veterans, but we are also talking about cutting their services, cutting their medical services, forcing longer wait times for them because when they call, when they go to the VA to get help, there will be fewer people there to help them.

I think about the veterans in my district that I talk to, and they don't deserve to be mistreated like that.

□ 2015

My God, they want to come back and enter into society and be part of a thriving business, to help open a business, and they still need access to their medical care. They still need access to their mental health support, and we are going to cut that. In my mind, that is just so unchristian.

Then, we are talking about cutting Health and Human Services so that if we are trying to make sure that folks don't get tuberculosis, that we keep measles at bay, that we keep HIV at bay, well, if you are at risk, you are going to be in greater danger because the proposed cuts would be cutting NIH, the National Institutes of Health; CDC, the Centers for Disease Control; and FDA, the Food and Drug Administration—the people who make sure that the food we eat is safe, is not poisonous, won't kill us, and the people who make sure that we get accurate, nonpartisan, truthful information about the diseases and the ailments that are out here in this world so that we have the information that we need to keep ourselves and our children safe and healthy. We are not going to have access to that.

The research that is being done to help us fight against cancer and to cure so many other diseases that are out there, those research programs are going to be compromised. The clinical trials happening are going to be compromised because we have decided this reconciliation package, which is a statement of values, is going to be deciding that those things are not important. It is not important to eat healthy food. It is not important to have access to medicine. It is not important to research, to find cures for diseases and illnesses that have plagued our grandparents, our parents.

Have you gone to a children's hospital? Have you visited a child who is dying from cancer? Would you go to that child and tell them there is a higher probability that you are going to die because we are cutting the grants that would allow us to find a cure? That is what is in this reconciliation package.

Then Social Security, cutting 7,000 employees, you cut so many employees in your thirsty quest to find ways to fill this hole for these tax cuts for the billionaires, but you crashed the Social Security website. You have closed offices. You have told seniors and those with disabilities to figure out a way to get themselves to one of the few offices that are still open, but you are going to have to wait in a longer line because we have fired employees and are actually ending phone services for claims.

Really, it is a very sneaky, shady way of kicking people off of the services because you are constricting access.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to see a bunch of seniors struggling in a car or trying to get on the bus to go to the Social Security office that now has shorter hours and longer

lines because they are trying to get a claim that they have earned. Who tells a 75-year-old, a 68-year-old, an 80-year-old grandparent to go suck it—basically, figure out how you are going to survive. We are going to cut all of this from you, but I still want to visit you on Easter. I don't know what people say. I don't know how the hypocrisy formula works, but I am not down for cutting access to Social Security, cutting Social Security, and hurting our seniors because we want to give billions more, trillions more, in tax cuts to millionaires.

Let's talk about the arts and cutting funding for the arts, closing down museums, grant programs, and after-school programs that teach young people how to play music, how to play an instrument, and shutting down libraries.

It is so healing when we turn on the radio. We want to go to a concert. We go to an art performance because that is meaningful, regardless of your political party. Everyone deserves an opportunity to enjoy art, to be able to go to a library and have the choice of what book you want to pick out, but you have no choice when they are all shut down. That is what is in this reconciliation package.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). The gentlewoman from California has 15 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I almost lost my train of thought, but it has come back to me because I was talking about the arts.

The gentleman from Maryland was talking about our leadership as a country and how our leadership is in question. I would just like to add that not only is our leadership in question, but our attractiveness as a country is in question. Our competitive edge is in question. Our ability to be seen as forthright and a country of high integrity is in question.

These cuts are hurting our children. They are hurting our grandparents. They are hurting our farmers. They are hurting our small businesses. They are hurting the infrastructure in our States. They are hurting our ports. They are hurting our hospitals. They are hurting our clinics. They are hurting our parks. Honestly, they are hurting our hearts.

I think about that big red, white, and blue flag right behind the Speaker's chair and what that flag represents: opportunity, access, honesty, integrity. What we have seen last week and what we are seeing this week from the House majority when it comes to this reconciliation bill is silence. It is silent on these issues that mean so much to the people in our communities.

I can't tell you how many times I have walked down the street and have had an older person grab me and say, "What is going to happen to my Social Security?" Coming here to vote, I had a Capitol Police officer pull me to the

side and ask me what it meant for his job, if he would have a job. Going to talk to farmers, I had them tell me that they may have to fire or lay off the rest of their employees, that they would not be able to make it. Small businesses in the community that are hiring other people from the community are concerned.

Everyone asks, "What are Republicans doing? Why aren't they standing up for us, too?"

I don't have an answer to that question. I want an answer to that question because when you are silent, it means you are complicit or apathetic. I would hope that there would be no one here who would want to be complicit in the taking away of Social Security, Medicaid, or Medicare. I would hope that no one here would want to be complicit in having young children with cancer at a children's hospital die because we have cut cancer research funding.

As I say this, I think about my mother, a breast cancer survivor who wonders every day if it will come back. Boy, how do you think it gets me right in the craw to have to tell her that this country doesn't care if she lives or dies because it doesn't care enough about finding a cure for cancer to continue to fund that kind of research?

We just celebrated Mother's Day. I wonder if people shared with their mothers how all the support that helps mothers will now be on the chopping block.

I am sharing all of this on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus because as we wait to see what comes out of the remaining committees that are meeting, just know that there is a \$290 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, cutting off food assistance to thousands of families who need it.

Just know that, in these committees, they will be debating raising the age for mandatory work requirements because we want people to work longer and harder and get less while somehow billionaires make more off of the backs of these working families.

Just know that, in these committees, they are going to be talking about cutting access to school lunches. So many of us live in districts where the school district is actually responsible for feeding the children in the community because of the free lunch program.

I know that people might be distracted by the Qatar gift, the \$400 million flying palace. Let's hope there are no bugs in it. I don't know. I know people want to be distracted by all the other things that seem to be coming out of the administration, but I don't want us to be distracted by that.

I want us to be talking about this reconciliation bill. I want us to remember what is going to be voted on in this package, and it is a thing. It is a thing that it is actually taking so long for this package to arrive on the floor.

Do you know why it is a thing? Because we have a House majority trying to wiggle through the truth and figure

out a way to spin death, destruction, and poverty.

There is no way to spin kicking granny off of Social Security. There is no way to spin shutting down hospitals and clinics. We can demonize the folks who are on Medicaid and Medicare, but I want to also remind us that if there is a doctor, if there is a clinic, if there is a hospital that is receiving a reimbursement for taking care of a recipient on Medicaid, that doctor, that hospital, that community clinic is open to serve you, too, because that reimbursement allows that clinic, that doctor, that hospital to stay open to help and serve everyone else in the community.

A lot of this rhetoric that you are hearing from people who don't want to talk about this reconciliation bill is trying to divide us into "us" and "them" buckets. The truth is that we are all in this together. We are all in this country together. We are all in this debate together. We are all in this fight together to make sure that the people in our districts have access to the services that they deserve.

□ 2030

If you are not willing to stand up for Medicare—and don't sign a letter and then run and don't show up in a district. Stand up and talk about saving it, protecting it, defending it, and making it better so that it can serve more people who deserve it rather than cutting it and lying about it and running from the truth.

The truth is that this reconciliation bill, this package, is going to hurt people. It is going to impoverish people. It is going to destroy businesses because the funny thing about economies is that they are circular. Nothing happens in a silo, in a vacuum. Businesses stay open because people are able to go into those businesses, and they are able to shop and buy things. When that happens, that business is able to grow, and they are able to hire more workers. Then those workers are able to do more or produce more.

Mr. Speaker, that is how it works. Yet, when you cut off opportunity, access, incentive, and support, then you compromise that ecosystem. We all have those micro-ecosystems in our communities. That is what makes this country strong. That is what makes this country unique. That is what makes this country worthy of this kind of debate.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to close right now because I know the witching hour is among us. I am grateful for the time that has been given to the Congressional Black Caucus. The Speaker has heard from my distinguished colleagues about this reconciliation package and about all issues of great importance to this caucus, to our constituents, to the Congress, and to all Americans tonight.

This reconciliation bill is a big deal. It is important and it should be talked about and discussed. The best disinfectant is sunlight, and we have to stop allowing people to be so shady about

what is happening in these committees and what is being cut. We have to turn all the lights on and talk about all of the cuts that are coming in this reconciliation package. Yes, we have to point the fingers and point the blame at the people who plan to make these cuts and kill the American people.

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

LIBERTY VERSUS DICTATORSHIP

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to place remarks on the RECORD this evening focusing on liberty versus dictatorship.

We have several Members who wish to submit comments for the RECORD. Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY is here this evening. Congressman EUGENE VINDMAN is in a committee markup right now, and Congressman STEVE COHEN will also have remarks for the RECORD.

I will begin briefly, and then I will yield to my fellow Congressman from Illinois.

China's dictator Xi was recently at the historic military parade that fellow dictator Vladimir Putin celebrated in Moscow. The purpose of the celebration was to honor the anniversary of Europe's defeat of Nazi Germany, signaling Putin's intent to actually use that occasion to turn his binoculars on capturing more free territory to control Ukraine and beyond.

Putin and Xi together in that situation was rather hard to look at. Yet, their presence underscored the danger stemming from their close and increasing cooperation, enlarging the spiderweb of tyranny led by Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran, all of them acting against liberty around the world.

Xi said that Russia and China should be friends of steel. He said that they would deepen relationships in all areas, including military ties, and strengthen coordination in order to decisively counter Washington's course of dual containment of Russia and China.

What is more, North Korean troops who have been fighting against Ukraine's freedom and their freedom fighters for months were fully on display in Red Square, where Putin embraced them.

America, pay attention.

While Iran was not present at the parade, it continues to be omnipresent in the skies above Ukraine. Ukrainians can't avoid the Shahed drones that Russia is using and buying from Iran to kill innocent Ukrainian civilians who are fighting for their very liberty.

This military parade took place at a critical moment in Moscow's aggression on Ukraine as American efforts proceed to negotiate an end to it. To be clear: Vital NATO interests are at stake in central Europe, where Ukraine serves as the scrimmage line for liberty across Europe today.

Russia is the free world's only peer in terms of its nuclear capabilities, and Russia's national security doctrine declares our country and our people as its principal foe.

America, pay attention.

Putin has made clear that he wants effective political control in Ukraine and other free nations that used to be part of the Soviet Union. Putin also wants a veto over defense measures being taken in the former Warsaw Pact states that want to remain free. Putin doesn't want that. This means he wants to dictate the fate of many of our NATO allies in Europe and beyond.

Instead of strategically pushing back on Putin's unchanged goals of European and global domination, this administration has steadily given Russian exactly what it wants, both in Ukraine and well beyond. If Putin had a checklist of things he wanted America to do, I will in a brief time tell you what it would look like, and it is exactly what the Trump administration is doing.

Before I get into that, I am going to call on my dear colleague from the great city of Chicago, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY, to enter his remarks.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for 1,176 days, people of Ukraine have lived under constant threat of attack and attack. As the war has dragged on for over 3 years, Ukrainians have refused to submit to Putin's violence. At every turn, they have shown the world what it means to be fighting on the front lines for democracy. At every turn, the Ukrainian people have been willing to do what is necessary for protection and for peace.

When their sovereignty was threatened by Putin, they defended their country courageously. When the opportunity for diplomatic negotiations arose, they were willing to come to the table. In exchange for their bravery and sacrifice, all they have asked for is respect for their independence, their autonomy, and their democracy.

Peace between Ukraine and Russia must not come at Ukraine's expense. We want peace. Ukrainians desperately want peace, but it cannot be a Russian victory. In order to have a just and lasting peace, we must return Ukraine to its 1991 borders. Ukraine must also have serious security assurances from the U.S. and NATO so that Putin is deterred from ever threatening the country again.

Russia must alone help fund this great construction after targeting civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities, hospitals, and schools. We must also hold Putin accountable for his army's war crimes, like those in Bucha, which I witnessed, and for the kidnapping of thousands of Ukrainian children.

As the Trump administration continues to push for negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, we must all keep in mind exactly who we are dealing with. Putin has refused to negotiate in

good faith, reportedly violating the very same cease-fire he unilaterally declared last week. So far, he has refused to even direct negotiations with President Zelenskyy in Turkiye.

This is the same man who has welcomed China's, Iran's, and North Korea's support for his war effort. He has shown contempt for all international democratic norms, both in his own country and in dealing with others.

This is why the only way to deal with Putin is by sending a clear message—a message of strength and of unity. As the United States has for the better part of a century, we must continue to stand up to tyrants and defend freedom. We have learned that isolationism and appeasing autocrats is a losing strategy. As President Trump and his administration continue to push for negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, I encourage them to remember history. Remember the reasons we fought the Second World War and the reasons we founded NATO.

Now is not the time to abandon our values or our position as a leader of the free world. Now is the time to pressure Putin to end this brutal war for good. The future of the Ukrainian people, the future of Europe, and the future of democracy are dependent on how we meet this moment. This is a moral, tactical, and strategic imperative.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank our co-chair of the Ukrainian Caucus, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY of Chicago, for participating this evening.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I will go back to discussing some of the actions the administration has taken that have undermined America's position globally.

First of all, the Trump administration has sided with Russia over Ukraine, most especially by pausing military assistance to Ukraine. Mr. Speaker, 75 percent of those dollars are spent in this country on weaponry to help Ukraine repel the enemy.

Ukraine has been courageously standing and fighting in the breach between liberty and dictatorship. This has come at great cost to her people, her prosperity, and her aspirations.

The poorest country in Europe, Ukraine is holding back Putin's covetousness and aggression against the Continent of Europe. Ukraine wants nothing more than to finally and permanently ascend to the community of free nations in the European Union and join as a strong ally in NATO. For that aspiration, Putin attacked Ukraine and