

and scope of the government and how we reduce costs so you have more of your own money in your own pockets. You earned it, after all.

Here is the other refreshing thing. He talked about reducing Social Security taxes during the campaign. Guess what? If you make under \$75,000, you are going to have a nice tax cut if you are on Social Security. Let's remember that is on a tax you have already paid.

Second, he talked about the idea of no tax on tips. Again, this is in the proposal we are putting forth. That is not Elon Musk getting breaks. That is not some rich billionaire getting a break. These are everyday, working Americans who make this country operate every single day.

It is a welcome change to what we saw over the last 4 years, when they just kind of told people what they were doing behind the scenes but never actually addressed the public directly on it.

I want to say one last thing. I was here last night. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving in the chair where you are. For a long time, I heard a Member from the other side talk about tax cuts for the rich. Guess what? The tax rate for the rich is staying the same. It is 37 percent now. It is going to be 37 percent when we pass this bill.

That is not a tax cut. Get it straight. They are on the same level. They are in a situation where they are paying high taxes. Mr. Speaker, think about 37 percent. Thirty-seven percent of every hour and 37 percent of every dollar you earn goes to the government in that regard.

There is no tax cut for the rich. It is simply keeping the current tax rate. I wish the other side would recognize that. This is not a tax cut.

Finally, I will end with this, Mr. Speaker. The issue of China is very important. As we know, once they joined the WTO many years ago, they were supposed to play by the rules. We were all supposed to be on a level playing field. Instead, what they have done is abuse the privilege of being in the WTO, the World Trade Organization. They steal our technology. They pollute the world. They still have slave labor today. It is an unlevel playing field.

What does President Trump do? He put the pressure on them, and they capitulated right away. We brought down the rates, and we have a more logical agreement. I think that, with the good work of our Secretary of the Treasury, we will actually put it in order.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address the American public about what is really going on in our economy.

#### INTRODUCING LEGISLATION ON DRUG PRICING

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce as legislation Presi-

dent Trump's executive order for the most-favored-nation status on drug pricing.

My legislation will codify President Trump's executive order, which basically says that Americans should not pay more for drugs than people in other countries and other parts of the world.

Right now, we are paying two to three times more for our drugs than people in other industrialized nations. This executive order, codified by the legislation, will allow our Cabinet Secretaries to put pressure on Big Pharma and make sure that they are not price gouging and will allow for the importation of cheaper drugs.

Why do we need the legislation? The reality is that Big Pharma will sue over the executive order, like they did in the previous Trump administration. In the previous administration, they managed to kill the executive order. The only way we can stand up to Big Pharma is to codify legislation, which the President wants to do in an executive order.

Here is the deal. If I can cross the aisle and support President Trump's executive order and legislation, every Republican should be willing to cross the aisle and support my legislation.

It is a pretty simple test. Are we going to stand in this body with the \$16 billion that Big Pharma spent on lobbying, or are we going to stand with the American people? We will know that answer based on how many cosponsors we get for my legislation that simply codifies Donald Trump's executive order.

#### OPPOSING MEDICAID AND NIH BUDGET CUTS

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the cruel budget cuts on Medicaid and NIH. I don't want to sensationalize. I just want to give some of the facts.

The Republican budget would cut \$715 billion from Medicaid. They are going to freeze this thing called a provider tax, which means that the Federal Government is going to give \$600 billion less to hospitals across this country.

That is going to mean, according to the independent Congressional Budget Office, that almost 8.6 million people will lose their insurance. It is going to mean that many hospitals won't be able to offer services in physical therapy and mental health counseling. It is going to mean, unfortunately, that rural hospitals close.

Don't take my word for it. Take the word of Senator JOSH HAWLEY, who represents the State of Missouri. He said that these Medicaid cuts would be a total betrayal by the President and the Republican Party of the working class.

I never thought I would be quoting JOSH HAWLEY, but everyone should read his op-ed. He was pretty clear that these cuts would be devastating for working families.

Look at the cuts to the NIH. A report released today by the Senate says

there is already a 31 percent decrease in cancer research in this country. The NIH has been decimated with 30 percent effectiveness and almost a 40 percent cut. This is money that goes not just into cancer research but into Alzheimer's research and Parkinson's research.

We used to have a bipartisan consensus in this country that we did not cut Medicaid, that we did not cut medical research, and that we did not give more tax breaks in my district in Silicon Valley, to the billionaires in my district, at the expense of medical research and the working class.

Mr. Speaker, I hope people in this body will reconsider the cruel cuts to Medicaid.

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I hope people in this body will reconsider the cruel cuts to Medicaid, the cruel cuts to NIH, and tax the billionaires in my district a little more so we don't have to cut these essential programs.

#### WINNERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SPEECH COMPETITION

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce our winners today for our second annual Missouri's Fourth Congressional District speech competition for 2025. This is something we started last year here in this very Chamber, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to maybe adopt this in their district to try to re-instill patriotism into our great Nation.

Our prompt this year is: What does it mean to stand for freedom here at home and abroad?

Our first winner is Taylor Olendorff who is in the 11th grade at Glasgow High School.

Taylor wrote this:

Standing for freedom means advocating for the inherent rights of individuals to live without oppression, pursue their dreams, and express themselves without fear.

In America, freedom is foundational, symbolized by democratic values like free speech, equality, and the pursuit of happiness.

At home, this means protecting civil liberties and ensuring justice for all, regardless of race, gender or background.

Abroad, America plays a critical role in promoting freedom by supporting democratic movements, opposing tyranny, and providing humanitarian aid.

The U.S. has historically used its influence to encourage the spread of human rights and liberty worldwide, embodying the belief that freedom is a universal right, not just an American ideal.

Our next winner is Grey Landreth, who is in the 11th grade at Waynesville High School.

Grey wrote:

A tall, stone lighthouse standing firm against turbulent waters, giving a path for sailors even in the most treacherous of storms, always steadfast.

This is what it means to stand for freedom, to be resolute in one's principles in the face of adversity.

America is the lighthouse of freedom and democracy is the unforgiving sea of the world.

Illuminating the path to the patriotic way of life for which the previous people of this country fought so hard.

Not only is it important for the lighthouse to point the way for smaller vessels on the water, but also to maintain its light, to maintain its freedom.

Before America can radio the path for other countries, it must first prioritize its own freedoms and make sure its lightbulb never flickers.

Our next winner is Lauryn Lercher, who is also an 11th grader at Waynesville High School.

Lauryn wrote:

Freedom isn't just a word; it is a responsibility. To stand for freedom means defending the rights of others, even when it is difficult.

At home, America strives to protect democracy, ensuring every voice is heard.

But freedom isn't just for us, it is a global value. The U.S. promotes human rights and stands against oppression worldwide through diplomacy, aid, and example.

However, authentic leadership means acknowledging our flaws and working to improve.

Standing for freedom isn't about power, it is about justice, equality, and courage.

If we truly believe in freedom, we must defend it everywhere, for everyone.

Because without freedom, we lose what makes us who we are.

I am extremely proud of these young people. They are talented, smart, and patriotic Americans who want our country to be better. Let us all strive in this body no matter what side of the aisle we are on to make that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue at a later date with our remaining winners.

Again, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to adopt the congressional speech contest to build patriotism among our young people in the United States of America.

#### PROTECT MEDICAID

(Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, House Republicans are finalizing an extreme budget plan that includes the largest cut to Medicaid in our country's history.

This is an outright assault on the healthcare of nearly 14 million Americans, including over 370,000 people in my district, California's 29th.

Additionally, hospitals like Olive View Medical Center in Sylmar, where over 70 percent of patients rely on Medicaid, will suffer, and services at health centers throughout my district, including El Proyecto del Barrio and Northeast Valley Health Corporation will be cut.

Republicans' attacks on Medicaid means Americans, including millions who are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living, will be forced to pay more for healthcare.

Republicans continue to show that they have no plans to make life easier

for anyone who is not a billionaire. In fact, while the rest of the country gets sicker and poorer, Republicans are set to give their billionaire donors new tax breaks.

Protecting Medicaid is essential to our communities. That is why House Democrats and I are demanding an up-or-down vote to protect it.

I call on my Republican colleagues to join House Democrats in signing our discharge petition to protect Medicaid for their constituents and healthcare for children, seniors, and the disabled in their district.

#### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, this week we should be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the National Science Foundation and the countless investments it has made to propel our country ahead in the technological race.

However, since the start of the Trump-Musk administration, the NSF has been in its crosshairs. In total, Elon Musk, DOGE, and this administration have terminated over 1,400 meritorious grants totaling more than \$1 billion in funds.

Some of the projects that these funds would have supported include giving middle school students opportunities to use math and design to address agricultural issues; identifying the use of deepfakes and curbing the spread of misinformation; and supporting and training the next generation of quantum technicians.

Cuts to these programs, and many more, came with no transparency, little communication, and zero accountability.

My colleagues on the Science Committee have repeatedly demanded that the administration answer for their actions, even as recently as this week. Each time we were met with radio silence.

This administration needs to answer for its unprecedented attack and how it wiped out decades of progress for science, including decades of progress for diversifying the STEM workforce.

This week, we should be celebrating the advancements NSF has contributed to over the past 75 years and looking forward to a bright and innovative 75 more years. Instead, we are fighting to save it from the chaotic, reckless, and destructive actions of this administration.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. STUTZMAN of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on the dilemmas that we face here in Congress.

Watching what is happening not only here at home and here in Congress but also around the world, we have a great opportunity in front of us. We can be not only strong here at home, but we can also be strong abroad. President Trump is showing that as he travels today in the Middle East.

I just want to remind us all that we have threats around the world who are watching the United States on a daily basis.

I was recently over in Syria, and there was a great opportunity there that President Trump has addressed by lifting the sanctions on the Syrian people, but the Syrian people know that America can be trusted. Now, let's take that opportunity and help not only them, because that is going to help stabilize the region in the Middle East and it is going to help our ally, Israel, it is going to help our other allies who are participating in the Abraham Accords. I want to applaud President Trump for what he is doing.

However, to see how the people in the Middle East and others around the world who are there have respect for our President is refreshing, to know that they know he is going to do what he says he is going to do.

He is a strong leader. He is one who is willing to sit down and talk to anyone. He is not afraid to sit down and talk to anyone. He has the American people behind him. He has the American economy behind him.

Look at what he is doing with China right now, Mr. Speaker. We all know that China is the threat that we are concerned about the most. We also know that others around the world don't want to do business with China because of the way they operate. They manipulate their currency. They take advantage of their own people, and they don't respect the environmental standards that we do.

What President Trump is doing is truly remarkable. He is resetting the national stage, the global stage, for the United States of America and for the American people. The tariff policy that he has implemented is bringing people to the table.

People ask: Why are people wanting to talk to President Trump in the Middle East as he is there visiting?

They see how much they want to get his ear. It is because he has reset the table and said: The American people are going to be put first, no longer are we going to continue to supplement, subsidize, and let other countries take advantage of the American people.

So I applaud the President today.

#### THE BUDGET

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about our budget. We here in Congress have a greater opportunity and a responsibility to be sure that we move towards a balanced budget and reduce our debt and deficits.

I would encourage all of us, Republican and Democrats, to realize we are spending more money than what we make. Mr. Speaker, \$1 trillion goes towards our interest each year. That means \$1 trillion doesn't go towards helping the American people.

Also, we are in deficit spending. Trillions of dollars are going to the national debt. I was first elected to Congress in 2010. The debt was \$9 trillion. In 2017, I left for a period of time, it