

was \$18 trillion. Now we are in 2025, and the national debt is \$36 trillion of debt. That is going to be put on the backs not only of our children and grandchildren, but it is going to be put on the backs of us as Americans today.

Hardworking Americans are watching what we are doing. They are working hard.

Are we working hard for them?

We need to come to the table with this reconciliation package. I want everybody—we should all be at the table and realize that our healthcare costs are out of control. President Trump is already showing leadership on this. If the healthcare industry can't get its act together and lower the costs, then we are going to have to address it. It is no longer a free market in healthcare.

So I believe that we, as Congress, are going to have to start taking measures to be sure that the cost isn't just continually passed on to the American people and driving our debt further and further.

I would challenge the healthcare industry: Start doing it now; start lowering the cost.

We know healthcare costs in this country are out of control. Medicaid is the one that is now paying for it, and more and more people have been forced on to Medicaid. This goes back to ObamaCare. We were told by the Democrats that ObamaCare was going to fix our healthcare problems. Look where we are at today, Mr. Speaker. It is worse today than what it was back in 2008 and 2009 when ObamaCare was passed.

This is our opportunity to realize we have to cut spending in Washington. Let's make sure we take care of our men and women in uniform, but let's address the healthcare costs that are truly subjugating our Federal budget.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Ms. GILLEN of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Police Week, and on behalf of New York's Fourth Congressional District, I am proud to stand here today to honor our brave men and women in law enforcement. Every day, our officers are on the front lines of the most urgent public safety challenges in service to our community.

When disaster strikes and people are in need, our law enforcement officers are the first to respond. Despite the risks, the long hours, and the constant stress, hundreds of thousands of officers wake up each day, put on their badge, and answer the call. They do it for us, for our loved ones, and for our communities.

This week serves as a solemn reminder of the dangers that our officers face daily. Without law enforcement, we would not enjoy the security we often take for granted. With courage and with bravery, our officers run toward danger every day to keep us and our loved ones safe.

Today, we honor Nassau County's own who gave their lives in the line of duty. Among them are Officers Erick Contreras, Christopher Cizmarik, Kevin Canavan, and Philip Schifini of the Nassau County Police Department who bravely served our community on 9/11, one of the darkest days in American history.

□ 1100

In the aftermath of the worst terrorist attack on American soil, they are among the brave first responders who ran toward danger, working tirelessly among the toxic rubble at Ground Zero. Years later, all four would tragically lose their lives caused by the toxins that they were exposed to in their heroic efforts. This is a painful reminder of the lasting cost of their selfless service.

Unfortunately, thousands of our heroic law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel who bravely answered the call on the darkest day in our Nation's history continue to suffer from life-threatening cancers, respiratory diseases, and other debilitating conditions from the toxins at Ground Zero.

That is why I was proud to help reintroduce the bipartisan 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act, which would permanently fix the current funding shortfalls in the World Trade Center Health Program.

We owe it to our 9/11 first responders to ensure that the programs they rely on will be fully funded and fully staffed.

In addition, last year, we also lost Officer Jonathan Diller who proudly served with the NYPD. Tragically, he was killed last year while conducting a routine traffic stop in Queens.

In just 3 years on the force, Detective Diller made over 70 arrests and was honored with three Excellent Police Duty medals. His colleagues remember him as a bright, positive presence, always eager to learn, deeply dedicated, and truly passionate about the job he loved.

The names I mentioned are not just names on a list. They were fathers, brothers, sons, and friends. They were pillars in their department and in their communities, whose courage will never be forgotten, and their sacrifice will never be in vain.

On behalf of all of Long Island, we will never forget those who laid down their lives in service to others. As we mark Police Week, may God bless the officers who gave up their lives to keep Americans safe and may He give their loved ones comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, honor, and stand with all of our officers, past, present, and future.

SPEAKING TRUTH ABOUT POWER

(Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, driven by conscience, to embrace the moral imperative to speak truth not only to power but to also speak truth about power.

I rise today to acknowledge, driven by conscience, what the world is witnessing as we see the collective punishment being imposed upon Palestinians in Gaza.

I rise to say that this level of punishment is something that is intolerable and has to be addressed.

I rise to say that not only is there collective punishment, there is ethnic cleansing taking place in Gaza.

I rise to say that, at some point, we in this Congress have to take a stand against the injustice being perpetrated against innocent Palestinian men, women, and especially children.

This level of injustice is something that this country has always stood against, but we find ourselves today standing with Mr. Netanyahu and the government that is bringing shame to the country of Israel. Israel should never do what it despises. I believe that the country of Israel would despise this level of punishment, this level of injustice being perpetrated upon another country. Yet, we find today, under Mr. Netanyahu's leadership, Israel is gaining a reputation as a pariah country.

Mr. Speaker, to add insult to this grave injury, the United States of America, by and through President Donald John Trump, is aiding and abetting by simply having him conclude that somehow Gaza should become a resort of a sort and that the Palestinians would be moved to some other place. That is a form of nouveau ethnic cleansing.

I do not support it, and I want the world to know that if in this bill, this big, beautiful bill that the President would have us sign off on that I am already antithetical to, if there is money in that bill to support the continued ethnic cleansing, the continued inhumanity that is taking place against the Palestinians, I cannot support that. I will not vote to send more money to see innocent men, women, and especially children slaughtered the way it is taking place right before our very eyes.

The unfortunate thing is there are too many among us who are afraid to speak up. I refuse to be among those who at this time are challenging controversy, who would sit and cower. I am going to take a stand not because it benefits me personally but because conscience says we cannot allow these injustices to go unpunished. I am driven by conscience to say that I won't be supporting sending any additional dollars to Israel, having already sent and voted for more than \$50 billion.

Nobody can accuse me of not being supportive of Israel. I have supported it, but I can't support the Netanyahu administration and what it is doing to the country of Israel. I can't support what is happening in my country as our President would embrace this ethnic cleansing.

This is the hour of decision. This is the time for every person of good will to make a decision. I stand for peace in Palestine and the two-state solution.

There are those who say that there is no plan for the interregnum, what we call the day after. Mr. Netanyahu does have a plan. It is to take all of Palestine. It is to take all of Gaza. It is to take the West Bank. He has a plan. Don't assume that because he is going in without our permission that he doesn't have a plan; he does.

My plan is to vote against any additional funds to the State of Israel.

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

CELEBRATING HEAD START'S 60th BIRTHDAY

(Mrs. MCBATH of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, this weekend marks a very important anniversary in our Nation's history. On May 18, we celebrate the 60th birthday of Head Start. I take this time to acknowledge the leaders and advocates from the YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia's largest Head Start provider.

Through the years, my office has developed an outstanding partnership with the YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta as we work hand in hand to serve our children. Next week, the supporters of Head Start from across Metropolitan Atlanta will gather to wish a happy birthday to this critically important Federal program.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago, President Lyndon Baines Johnson spoke from the Rose Garden to announce the opening of 2,000 child development centers across the country.

Project Head Start was developed as a community-driven initiative to ensure that children born into poverty would not remain there for the rest of their lives. In order to get a good head start on the future, children would receive preschool training to get them ready for school. They would receive medical and dental care. Their parents would receive counseling on how to provide the best environments for them at home.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years later, Head Start's legacy continues to make America proud. This Federal program has served nearly 40 million American children. From classrooms to the kitchen table, Head Start walks alongside our families and their young children to serve them through the four pillars of every Head Start program, from education, health services, family involvement, and wraparound services.

The benefits of Head Start are clear. Children who attend Head Start are more likely to complete high school and more likely to enroll and complete college. They are less likely to have run-ins with the law, less likely to

enter foster care, and less likely to experience poor health.

I am proud to serve in Congress with notable Head Start alumni, such as my colleagues Representative TONY GONZALES, TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ, ANDRÉ CARSON, JAHANA HAYES, and of course, Georgia's very own Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

Sadly, over the last 60 years, the transformational legacy of Project Head Start seems to have been forgotten and its future has faced recent threats by many of the Republican colleagues and the Trump administration. Just last month, a leaked Republican budget proposed a complete elimination of funding for Head Start. In Georgia alone, over 22,000 children would stand to lose out on the opportunity to participate in this life-changing and transformative program.

As a mother who fights for the safety and success of every child in America, I will not be silent in the face of these attacks. That is why I have been standing up and sounding the alarm, working to educate people back home about what these cuts would mean for our community, not only in Georgia but all across the Nation. Georgia is facing a childcare crisis. At a time when access to childcare is severely limited, cuts to Head Start would impact not just the lives of the children and their families but our entire communities.

Head Start is a core component of our local economy, and without access to this option, many parents would be forced out of their jobs. Head Start affords working families the peace of mind that their children will be safe, healthy, and well cared for during the day.

Just as President Johnson did, we are continuing to fight for investments and opportunities for our children so that they have the tools necessary to achieve their highest ambitions. Federal investment in the foundational development of our children must remain our national priority.

As we prepare to wish Head Start a happy 60th birthday, I call on all Georgians and all Americans across this country to take action and speak out in support of our children. What we do today matters a great deal for the future of our next generation.

It is my hope and my prayer that 60 years from now this body will be comprised of many more Head Start alumni, living proof that this program must continue.

LETTER TO SECRETARY NOEM AND SECRETARY RUBIO

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I recently wrote a letter to Secretary Noem and Secretary Rubio, which I will share with my colleagues.

"I write today to express my grave concern over the administration's apparent misuse of obscure provisions in

our Nation's immigration laws to deport or detain indefinitely individuals without due process. Independent of whether a noncitizen is guilty of what they are being accused, I fear these actions are setting a bad precedent that undermine the American justice system, runs contrary to the letter and the spirit of the U.S. law, and pose a risk to American citizens at home and abroad.

"The Fifth Amendment provides that all persons in the United States are entitled to due process of law, including, at minimum, notice, an opportunity to be heard, and a decision by a neutral decisionmaker. Contrary to this constitutional protection, the administration has decided to leverage exceptions in the law, such as invoking the foreign policy bar of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and/or the Enemies Alien Act of 1798 as its reasoning for detaining or deporting individuals without due process.

"The foreign policy bar of the INA states that if the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds to believe an alien's entry, proposed activities, presence, or activities in the United States would have 'potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States, that person can be excluded or deported from the United States.'

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"Similarly, the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 permits summary deportations during times of war and was last invoked during World War II. These provisions now have novelly been used during peacetime as grounds to send Department of Homeland Security agents to the homes of individuals with varied alien status, including permanent residents and asylum seekers, arrest them, and either detain them indefinitely or forcibly deport them. Lawyers representing the subjects have been denied access to their clients as well as access to the warrants and other official documents. Judicial orders have been blatantly ignored and courts denied access to potentially evidentiary information.

"I am concerned these actions by the administration are simply a trial balloon to expand Presidential authority without judicial or legislative oversight in order to detain individuals at their will or discretion. The constitutional checks and balances and our Bill of Rights have been the envy of the free world and a warning to dictators everywhere that a nation can be strong and secure and at the same time show forbearance in the administration of justice. Seeing the erosion of these concepts in our own Nation is disheartening, to say the least, and a dangerous precedent to entertain for any free people.

"It is my responsibility to speak out, not because I agree with the affected individuals or sanction acts for which they are accused, but because if we wish to live in a democratic society, we