

These are cuts they know will negatively impact their constituents, just like they would mine in north Texas.

This isn't about balancing a budget, responsibly cutting spending, or making government more efficient. This is about trying to balance the books on the backs of working families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

In Texas, these healthcare cuts will be catastrophic. We already have the highest uninsured rate in the country, with nearly 5 million people in Texas lacking health coverage. Mr. Speaker, one in four Texas children rely on Medicaid or CHIP, and more than one-half of Texas births are covered by Medicaid.

These cuts would gut funding for rural hospitals, eliminate access to care for thousands of Texans with disabilities, and put even more pressure on emergency rooms that are already stretched very thin, causing hospitals to close and making it even harder to find care.

It is cruel. It is reckless. It is part of a broader agenda that prioritizes tax breaks for Trump and his friends over healthcare for the people who need it the very most.

Instead of expanding Medicaid like we should have done over a decade ago, Republicans are trying to dismantle this basic-needs program altogether.

I won't stand by while they try to take healthcare away from Texans who need it most. I will fight tooth and nail to protect Medicaid, to protect our hospitals, and to make sure no Texan is left behind simply because they are sick, struggling, or don't make enough money to exceed the meager income limits for Medicaid.

Republicans should be working with us to build a stronger, more equitable health system instead of destroying the one lifeline millions of Texans rely on.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid is the foundation of our healthcare system. It is good for business. It is good for our economy, and it is good for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join Democrats in defense of this vital program.

#### DIGNITY OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House Agriculture Committee marked up our portion of the one big, beautiful bill to deliver on the mandate the country gave us on November 5, 2024. In total, we saved American taxpayers more than \$295 billion and made long overdue investments to support the farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers of the Big First and all of rural America. I am very proud of all that we were able to accomplish.

However, Mr. Speaker, I have been gravely disappointed in how some of

my Democrat colleagues have continued to blatantly lie about our legislation throughout this process. Rather than work together to get our fiscal house back in order and ensure programs like Medicaid and SNAP are on a sustainable path, they have chosen to misrepresent and oppose everything we are working toward.

As the fifth generation to grow up and work on my family farm, I understand the weight and pride our Nation's farmers have in feeding, clothing, and fueling the world. Not a single Member in this body wants to see people go hungry, and I am personally offended by these lies.

We want families to be able to put food on their tables. The difference is, Mr. Speaker, we want these programs to actually serve the most vulnerable communities for generations to come: the single mom taking care of kids too young to be in school, the disabled, and the elderly, not the person who wants the government to foot their bill while they sit at home.

Why would we willingly jeopardize the benefits of vulnerable Americans for someone who is perfectly capable of making an honest income but isn't willing to join the workforce?

These programs were meant to be a bridge to a better life. They were intended to help Americans who fell on hard times and needed a helping hand, but today my Democrat colleagues are defending them as a final destination. That is not right, Mr. Speaker, and it is anti-American.

Even former President Biden once said: The culture of welfare must be replaced with the culture of work. The culture of dependence must be replaced with the culture of self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. The culture of permanence must no longer be a way of life.

This used to be a bipartisan agreement we could all rally around.

I sincerely ask my Democrat colleagues: What has changed?

We live in the greatest country in the world, where anyone from anywhere can come here legally, make an honest living, and pursue the American Dream. That is what House Republicans are fighting for.

It is unfortunate that the other side would rather see programs that were meant to help the neediest Americans continue to be riddled with fraud and abuse, intentionally mismanaged, and undermined all for the sake of scoring political points.

House Republicans are committed to ensuring our programs help the most vulnerable Americans, slashing wasteful, fraudulent, and abusive spending, and preventing American families from seeing a \$2,200 tax increase next January. That is what this is all about, and that is what 77 million Americans endorsed last November.

I am disappointed that not a single Democrat has been willing to work with us, but I feel confident that this majority, along with the Senate and

President Trump, will deliver for the country.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Nation has come together to celebrate National Police Week. It is a time to honor the brave men and women who wear the badge and put their lives on the line every single day to protect our families and our communities.

In the Big First and across the country, law enforcement officers run towards danger when many would run away. They wake up every day with a calling to uphold the rule of law, serve their neighbors, and keep their communities safe. Yet, too often, they are met with hostility and policies from Washington that make their job harder and put their safety at risk.

Let me be clear. I unapologetically stand with the men and women in blue. I will always oppose any effort to defund, demoralize, or dismantle the law enforcement agencies that keep our streets safe. These men and women put their lives on the line every day to make our communities stronger, safer, and more secure, and we should all be grateful.

I express my deepest gratitude to the police officers, Customs and Border Patrol agents, detectives, State troopers, sheriffs, investigators, correction officers, drug enforcement agents, and U.S. marshals who have dedicated their careers to serving their communities. Today and every day we recognize their sacrifice and honor in all that they do to serve our great Nation.

America is grateful for all that they do, and I am grateful for them.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. VASQUEZ of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor the courageous law enforcement officers from New Mexico who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our communities.

Every day across our country and in my home State, law enforcement officers wake up, put on the badge, and commit themselves to protecting our neighbors. It is a calling that demands bravery, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication.

This week, we remember those who answered the call and never returned home.

This year, three officers from New Mexico are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall here in Washington: Corrections Officer Roberto Rodriguez of Dona Ana County, Patrol Officer Jonah Hernandez of the Las Cruces Police Department, and Patrolman Justin C. Hare of the New Mexico State Police.

I also want to honor those who recently did not have the opportunity to come home: Las Cruces Police Officer

J.R. Stewart, Albuquerque Police Officer Bianca Quintana, Alamogordo Police Officer Anthony "Tony" Ferguson, Alamogordo Patrolman James M. Sides, New Mexico State Police Officer Darian Jarrott, and Curry County Sheriff Michael Reeves.

To their friends, families, and colleagues: Know that your loved ones are not forgotten. We grieve with you.

As we reflect on their sacrifice, we must also recommit ourselves to doing more for those who wear the badge today. That means investing in officer safety, mental health, and wellness. It means supporting their families, and it means ensuring they have the tools and resources to serve our communities with dignity and professionalism. Choosing a life of service and law enforcement is not easy. It comes with risks that most of us will never know, but because of officers like Roberto, Jonah, and Justin, our communities are safer, and our values of justice and service endure.

On behalf of all New Mexicans, I offer my deepest gratitude. May their memories be a blessing, and may we continue to honor them with action, compassion, and resolve.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF JEREMY STORY

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional public servant from my district, Chief Jeremy Story.

Chief Story is from the Las Cruces Police Department, my hometown, and he is someone I was proud to serve with in local government. Chief Story has spent over 18 years in service to Las Cruces, rising through the ranks from cadet to chief of police. He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, a graduate of New Mexico State University, and a man deeply rooted in the values of duty, accountability, and community.

Earlier this year, our community faced a horrific mass shooting, an act of senseless violence that shook Las Cruces to its core. In the face of this tragedy, Chief Story responded swiftly and with compassion. His leadership was grounded in facts, calm under pressure, and, most importantly, rooted in empathy for the victims, their families, and all of those affected.

□ 1100

At a time when our community needed strength and clarity, Chief Story was there, not only with answers, but with presence. He brought together law enforcement, emergency responders, and community leaders, not just to respond, but to begin the healing of our community.

In May of this year, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. That recognition was well-earned. Today, I want to make sure that his dedication is honored here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all New Mexicans, I thank Chief Jeremy Story for his continued leadership and unwavering commitment to the people of Las Cruces.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor the men and women in law enforcement for their invaluable service to our Nation.

I especially thank all of the police officers in my district who work tirelessly to ensure that southeastern Arizona is safe, secure, and the best place to live and to carry out our own American Dream.

During times of crisis, when others run away, our brave police officers run toward danger, putting themselves at risk to protect life and property.

Their courage, selflessness, and dedication deserve our deepest respect, not just this week, but every single day.

Let us also remember, honor, and mourn the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their legacy lives on in the lives they protected, the officers they mentored, and the communities they kept safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every single officer across this great Nation for their service. We are a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Nation because of them.

#### RECOGNITION OF SHANEQUA MATTHIAS

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today full of pride to congratulate Cochise County Teacher of the Year and Carmichael Elementary School's fifth grade teacher Shanequa Matthias.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of our students.

I firmly believe that education is the pillar of the American Dream, and it is our teachers who care for our students, pass on the knowledge and skills that they need to succeed, and inspire them to dream big and embrace all of the opportunities our great Nation has to offer.

As a teacher, she embraced a non-traditional, engaging classroom style, where learning is less about memorization and more about creativity, play, and hands-on experience.

Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering belief in the potential of every single one of her students is deeply inspiring and has left a permanent mark on all who learn from her.

Her work is directly contributing to a bigger, better, and brighter future for Cochise County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her for always uplifting her students. May she enjoy this well-deserved recognition. Once again, congratulations to Shanequa Matthias.

#### CONGRATULATING CANYON DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate CDO High School in Oro Valley for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest level recognition given to a public school. Go Dorados.

#### CONGRATULATING INNOVATION ACADEMY IN ORO VALLEY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Innovation Academy in Oro Valley for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Scorpions.

#### CONGRATULATING LAWRENCE W. CROSS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lawrence W. Cross Middle School in Tucson for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Rams.

#### CONGRATULATING MICA MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mica Mountain High School in Tucson for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Thunderbolts.

#### CONGRATULATING RATTLESNAKE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rattlesnake Ridge Elementary in Marana for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Rattlesnakes.

#### CONGRATULATING SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY EAST

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sonoran Science Academy East in Tucson for receiving A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-Level recognition given to a public school. Go Eagles.

#### CONGRATULATING VILLAGE MEADOWS ELEMENTARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Village Meadows Elementary in Sierra Vista for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Wolves.

#### CONGRATULATING WRIGHTSON RIDGE SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wrightson Ridge School in Sahuarita for receiving an A+ School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school. Go Road Runners.

#### PUERTO RICO'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, in March, I stood on this floor and sounded the alarm that Puerto Rico's energy crisis was about to get a lot worse starting in May due to selective power outages as a result of a lack of generation capacity.