

With Republicans pushing a reconciliation bill that would kick millions off from their medical care, the administration has also created an unprecedented attack with power to revoke nonprofit status.

The reconciliation bill would allow the executive branch to revoke status from nonprofits that they believe are terrorist-supporting organizations without requiring evidence, meaning no due process.

This vague provision is Trump's way of targeting organizations that he opposes or that just don't align with his agenda. Those are organizations that are doing right in our communities, and we have to say no.

□ 1920

#### BABY BONDS

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of investing in every child's future.

Six years ago, I joined Senator BOOKER to introduce baby bonds legislation to disrupt the cycle of intergenerational poverty, close the racial wealth gap, and ensure every 18-year-old has the financial opportunity to go to college, buy a home, or start a business.

Now, Republicans are stealing a good idea and twisting it. The so-called MAGA accounts in their reconciliation bill are intentionally designed to help the rich get richer while poor children are left further and further behind.

Their proposal would weaponize the tax code to exacerbate wealth inequality, ignore the expertise of economists, and penalize States and non-profits that try to help low-income families.

In America, a child born into poverty is likely to stay there through their adult lives. That is a policy choice, and a violent one.

Our babies deserve better. Our babies deserve opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this regressive proposal and support true baby bonds.

#### WESTERN MARYLAND FLOODS

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the first responders and local leaders who have been working tirelessly to address the fallout from last week's major flooding in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

Stormwater rushed through Westernport and Lonaconing in western Maryland last Tuesday, washing out gas lines, damaging roads and bridges, and flooding businesses, homes, and even the local firehouse and library.

When students and faculty were trapped in Westernport and George's

Creek Elementary Schools, swift water rescue teams answered the call, bringing more than 200 students to safety while waters rose.

This flood only underscores how important it is to fully fund FEMA and to make sure that FEMA continues to help those who are most struck by disaster. Severe weather events are hurting communities across this country at rates we have never seen before.

While we are still assessing the damage, we know that Federal assistance will be necessary for a full recovery. Although the road ahead will be challenging, western Maryland will remain stronger because of the storm.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to keep my constituents in their prayers and also all those impacted by storms during the past week.

#### HONORING SARA SCHALLER, CARNEGIE MEDAL RECIPIENT

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to honor Ms. Sara Schaller from Hammond, Indiana, who was a recent recipient of the Carnegie Medal.

Northwest Indiana is home to over 40 miles of incredible shoreline on Lake Michigan, which is a tremendous attraction for tourism and our economy, but also can at times pose great dangers with its currents and riptides.

In 2023, Ms. Schaller observed a 14-year-old girl who had been caught in a dangerous current, and without hesitation, she courageously swam over 300 feet to rescue her. Where many hesitated, Sara stepped up and took life-saving action.

The Carnegie Medal is awarded to civilians who enter extreme danger, risk death or serious injury while saving or attempting to save the lives of others, and it was recently my honor to present Sara with this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Sara Schaller for her quick and courageous action and congratulate her on her deserved recognition.

#### WHAT IS THE RECONCILIATION BILL HIDING?

(Ms. STANSBURY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know what is happening in this body this week as the GOP is intentionally making moves in the dark of night.

Last night at 10 p.m., the Budget Committee passed the reconciliation bill by one vote while four Republicans sat it out, and tomorrow night they will move this shame-filled bill at 1 a.m. in the Rules Committee.

What don't they want the American people to know?

Is it that their bill will take away healthcare from 13.7 million people? Is it that it will take food out of the mouths of children? Is it that it will gut environmental programs? Is it that it gives giveaways to tech companies and their buddies, or that it increases taxes on working Americans who are struggling to put food on the table?

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: When you convene in the dark of night or whether you do it or not, we will be there fighting for our communities. We will be fighting for our elders. We will be fighting for our veterans. We will be fighting for our kids, and fighting for the future and the dignity of this country and our communities.

#### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION: ERASING BLACK HISTORY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. BROWN of Ohio was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the subject of this special order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this CBC Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague, Representative KAMLAGER-DOVE.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on erasing Black history, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, as well as all Americans.

It is with great honor that I rise today to lead this CBC Special Order hour. For the next hour, members of the CBC will speak directly to the American people on the topic of Black history and ongoing efforts to erase that history.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time of fear, worry, and anxiety for millions of Americans. President Trump said that he was going to usher in a golden age. However, after 119 long, long days of this Presidency, it hasn't felt like a golden age. It has felt like a dark age, especially for Black Americans.

President Trump and his administration have attacked diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in the government, in schools, and in the private sector.

President Trump has rolled back anti-discrimination laws, and Trump has tried to freeze Federal funds that benefit Black communities, including in my district in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio.

It is not just about his actions. It is also about his words, his rhetoric, and what he values.

President Trump and his allies have blamed diversity, which is just code for Black people, for the January plane crash at Ronald Reagan Airport; for the South Carolina wildfires; for the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge collapse in Baltimore; and even the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment; and on and on and on.

If something goes wrong somewhere, anywhere, in their mind, diversity, equity, and inclusion is to blame. In President Trump's vision, every Black American on the job, every woman, and every immigrant is a DEI hire, a DEI hire who is blocking more qualified White men from the jobs and the positions of power that are rightfully theirs.

Moreover, President Trump has the audacity to talk about his agenda being about restoring meritocracy. They use that word over and over and over again in their executive orders.

Meritocracy: The meritocracy of his Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, who is an unqualified TV host and who texted war plans to people by accident; the meritocracy of his Health and Human Services Secretary, Mr. Robert Kennedy, Jr., who is a conspiracy theorist and whose primary experience in healthcare and science is using Google; the meritocracy of Elon Musk's unvetted, unqualified, and unaccountable minions at DOGE.

The spoken and unspoken message behind all of this is that Black Americans and other minorities don't deserve a seat at the table and that we don't have merit.

□ 1930

The impact is real. Last month, in my district, a man checked out 100 books on Black, Jewish, and LGBTQ topics from the Beachwood Public Library. He didn't check out those books to read them. He checked them out to burn them, and he didn't do it in secret. No, he didn't hide behind shame. He posted this on social media because he wanted people to see.

See, this kind of hate doesn't happen in a vacuum. It is part of a disturbing wave we are seeing across the country, a wave fueled—sometimes with a wink and a nod, sometimes with a bullhorn—by leaders who should know better than to fan the flames of division for political gain, a wave normalized by the Secretary of Defense banning books about diversity and deleting Pentagon websites highlighting the service of women, LGBTQ people, and minority servicemembers, including Major League Baseball legend Jackie Robinson.

Mr. Speaker, what happened in my district isn't just censorship. It is an act of hate, plain and simple.

I join leaders from across northeast Ohio in condemning this act. These attempts to erase the voices of marginalized communities are an attack on the values of inclusion, empathy, and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, you can only truly have a community with understanding, and

to understand your neighbor, you have to understand history.

That is our topic tonight: history. I am deeply concerned about the ongoing effort to erase Black history from our museums, schools, and American life.

Last month, President Trump issued an executive order on "restoring truth and sanity to American history." Of course, there are all kinds of debates when it comes to history. That is how we advance knowledge.

Is that what Trump cares about when he talks about truth? Of course not.

His executive order directed Vice President VANCE and the Secretary of the Interior, two individuals who are not historians, to remove objects, exhibits, and funding from the Smithsonian museums and national parks that don't fit Trump's agenda or Trump's incorrect version of history. That bears repeating: Trump's incorrect version of history.

Think about all the Smithsonian museums, all the national parks, and all the historical exhibits around the country. Where do you think they directed most of their attention? That is right. Their main focus has been on the National Museum of African American History and Culture, right down the street on The National Mall.

Are you surprised? You shouldn't be. Trump's executive order mentioned that museum by name out of hundreds across America and laid the foundation for denying future Federal funds.

One thing we have seen from this administration is that they mean what they say. This is such a radical shift, and it has happened in just a short time. Trump's takeover of the Republican Party seems like it has been forever, but it hasn't always been like this.

When the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened in 2016, it was a bipartisan celebration. Joining President Obama that day were President Bush and Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. These aren't woke individuals by any means, but they understood the importance of that museum being on The National Mall. In a perverse way, Trump does, too. That is why he is attacking it.

Black America is not taking this sitting down. In the last month, Black churches from across the country have organized trips to the museum and fundraisers to support it.

Black America raised their voices when Pete Hegseth tried to erase the history of Jackie Robinson because our history matters.

Black excellence should be celebrated. The role we have played in shaping our country should be recognized, and the pain and legacy of slavery and discrimination should be understood. If we don't reckon with our past, we will never understand the present, and we will never build a better future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I know it is not just the President who wants to erase

Black history, and I know the backlash didn't start just this year.

In 2023, the State of Florida, our Nation's third most populous State, released education guidelines that included that slavery provided benefits because slaves were able to learn skills. They now require that as part of their curriculum, that slavery was beneficial, some type of workforce training program.

Florida also launched a comprehensive effort to ban advanced placement courses on Black history, while local school districts were newly empowered to ban books on Black history.

This is a nationwide problem. In fact, there are now more States where teaching Black history has been restricted than there are States where it is required. That is right, only 12 States out of 50 require Black history to be taught, while there are now 18 States that have passed legislation restricting Black history education.

Here is why this matters. We know there is inequality in this country. No one would deny that. We know who overwhelmingly has the wealth, power, and influence and who doesn't. In America, for every \$100 in wealth owned by White households, Black households own \$15. You can find statistics like that, no matter how you slice it, on housing, health, savings, you name it.

Last week, we were debating nutrition benefits and food stamps in this body. In my district, one in three Black households relies on food stamps. For the White households, it is 1 in 10.

This is the heart of the issue. Do you recognize, like I do, like my CBC colleagues do, that this discrepancy did not happen by accident? It didn't happen by accident. It happened by design. Do you deny that and think that all the racial inequality in this country is really the fault of Black people?

That is really the argument. The only way you can make that case is to erase history, whitewash history, and rewrite history.

That is why history matters. That is why our museums matter. That is why our books, literature, and experiences matter. That is why we are going to keep fighting back.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to lead this Special Order hour tonight. I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE), my friend from the 37th District.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN) and the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing this Special Order hour.

Tonight, I, along with my colleagues, rise to talk about something that should terrify every freedom-loving American: the coordinated, relentless Republican campaign to erase Black history, erase American history, whitewash the truth, and silence our stories.

Donald Trump called for patriotic education instead of honest education.

This is a dangerous euphemism for censoring Black pain, Black resilience, and Black excellence from the classroom.

Since then, over 1,500 books have been banned in public schools and libraries across this country. More than 40 percent of them feature Black authors or Black characters.

What kinds of books, you ask? I have some for you, books like “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neale Hurston, like “Go Tell It on the Mountain” by James Baldwin, and, oh, my God, even a children’s book, “I Am Rosa Parks.”

□ 1940

Why are Republicans trying to erase a book written for babies to help them learn their history? Why are they so scared of little babies and books that we have all read in school, books that we have all checked out in libraries, books we have all discussed in book clubs, books we have all shared with the little ones in our lives? Why this ban?

When our history is erased, it is easier to erase our progress. Trump and his MAGA allies want our children to grow up ignorant of the truth and of who they are. They are trying to scrub Federal websites. They are scrubbing Federal websites of any mention of Black contributions to science, literature, politics, or innovation.

Let me say the list is long because we have been in this thing for hundreds of years, bringing innovation and progress to this country.

All I have to say to that is, wow, Mr. Speaker, just wow.

Yes, they want to alter the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, a museum that millions have visited from around the globe, including students and families, to learn about our Nation’s true story and all because they don’t agree with how their ancestors and themselves have been portrayed.

Don’t be mad at me because you don’t like you. Let me say that again. This President is trying to erase institutions, literally. Mr. Speaker, that is just a weak move. That is a punk, weak move.

The President has said he wants to get rid of every policy, every agency, every grant, and every effort related to DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion. It sounds to me like somebody who is scared of the truth. That means rolling back protections against discrimination, removing mentorship and workforce programs aimed at closing opportunity gaps, and wiping clean any official recognition that America ever wronged Black people in the first place.

Guess what? We ain’t going to be that afraid. We are still here. We ain’t going nowhere. This isn’t just about politics.

While Trump and House Republicans are busy erasing our past, they are also

working overtime in the dead of night to erase and destroy our future.

Mr. Speaker, we know this White House is serving the billionaires in this country. But the House, this body, is supposed to directly serve the people. Instead, the majority party has decided to serve Donald Trump, and that is the problem.

How are Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans serving the President? I am glad you asked that, Mr. Speaker. Even though you didn’t, you know you want to.

This is when I am going to pivot to the so-called big, beautiful bill, or how about the billionaires’ backstabbing bill, a nearly 400-page monstrosity. Here it is again in small font, in fine print, and designed with one goal in mind, to enrich billionaires and punish working families, especially Black families.

Let’s start with the numbers. There are \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid, a rollback of SNAP and nutrition assistance, which hit the Black and Brown communities the hardest. In 2023, over 25 percent of Black households relied on SNAP benefits, and a whole bunch of other groups relied on SNAP benefits, too.

There is no meaningful investment in housing. While over 40 percent of Black renters are cost-burdened, this bill offers nothing, nada, zip, to ease the affordable housing crisis.

There is a plan to unravel Social Security as we know it, directly harming the nearly 5 million Black Americans who rely on those benefits in retirement.

To top it off, there is a permanent tax break for billionaires like Elon Musk and the President. That’s right, while they strip away healthcare and housing, they are cutting taxes for billionaires with private jets and yachts and \$400 million planes.

To be clear, less than 15 percent of constituents in every single congressional district, yo, red and blue, less than 15 percent of constituents in every single district support cuts to Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you read this: Moody’s just downgraded the U.S. credit outlook. What does that mean? Higher interest rates, more expensive loans, deeper household debt, more expensive money. This hurts families already stretched thin and it disproportionately hurts Black families who already face a median wealth that is just one-tenth that of White families according to a 2022 study.

When this President and MAGA Republicans say they want to help the American family, we have to ask, which American families?

The regular families I represent in south Los Angeles, Culver City, Ladera Heights, and all across the 37th Congressional District in California are not being helped by this bill. They are being targeted.

Just to reiterate, I have 700,000 constituents in my district. Like every

other Representative, I have 470,000 constituents that will be kicked off Medicaid if this bill is passed. My constituents are being told they don’t deserve to learn their history, they don’t deserve access to healthcare, they don’t deserve decent housing, and they definitely don’t deserve a tax system that is going to treat them fairly.

Mr. Speaker, the American Dream should not be reserved for those with a trust fund or a Mar-a-Lago membership. The American story should include all of us, our ancestors, our struggles, our achievements.

We cannot build a just future on a foundation of lies and fear and erasure.

The real question is why are Republicans so afraid of us? People certainly try to get our hair, our men, our body types, our culture, our food. They want us as friends and validators. Quite frankly, it is exhausting having to navigate all of the insecurities of those trying to erase us.

Democrats here in this Black Caucus are not going to forget but are going to fight against policies that punish the poor and reward the powerful. Democrats are going to fight for a country where Black history is American history and Black futures are American futures.

As the saying goes in our country: If you don’t tell your story, someone else will. You best believe they will get it wrong. We are telling our story tonight, and we are telling the real truth.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TROY CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank our outstanding leaders tonight for this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of our museums, our cultural institutions. We know that African-American history is, in fact, American history, and it must be recognized as such.

The Musk-Trump administration’s executive orders targeting museums are disgraceful. It is a disgraceful attempt to erase Black Americans’ contributions from our Nation’s history.

I am especially disgusted by the administration’s attack on the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

For so many years, under the leadership of the late John Lewis, who played a key role in the efforts to secure funding and legislation for this museum. Our community fought for the creation of this museum. Our community fought many times for it when Republicans fought against it. Finally, it was signed into law in a bipartisan way. It was signed by George W. Bush in 2003.

□ 1950

Mr. Speaker, it was a bipartisan effort—this museum that tells the story of the struggles of African Americans and the contributions of African Americans, which, by the way, is American history, history that everyone should know—the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is history, just that. It happened.

You can't untouch or touch up what has already happened.

When it was finally signed, many stood together hand-in-hand—Black and White, Republican and Democrat—recognizing the significance and the importance of this monumental legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Why was it okay then for Republicans, Black and White, Democrats, and Independents to stand together hailing the importance of this international museum of history that recognizes the contributions of African Americans and the pain and suffering of the African-American community?

Why was it okay for us to be lockstep then and not now? Why is this Republican administration so threatened by this museum that it would seek to defund, defame, and deface?

This museum today is a testament of the legacy of generations who sacrificed everything for justice, progress, and equality. We will not stand by as our history is dismissed, diminished, or defunded.

The National Museum of African-American History and Culture is not divisive; it is essential. It tells the truth of a people who built this Nation, endured its greatest injustices, and still rise to shape its future with brilliance, faith, and resilience in the face of great obstacles, even in 2025. Yet, we rise.

When the administration chooses to target museums that honor Black history, it is engaging in a deliberate attempt to silence the truth and to erase the past.

I demand, we demand, and we all should demand full support for every museum and institution that honors dignity, struggles, and the contributions of African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and all Americans because our history is important.

African-American history is, in fact, American history. You cannot separate the two. Our history is a history that everyone should know.

The Congressional Black Caucus earned the name, the "Conscience of the Congress." We are here tonight to say:

Hands off of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

Hands off of our hard-fought gains.

Hands off of the efforts to remind people that a history that is forgotten is a history that is repeated.

History and culture will stand, and all other similar institutions across our Nation should likewise be protected. Let's end this foolish, foolish Musk-Trump notion that our Constitution doesn't matter, that our rule of law doesn't matter, and that our ability to work together somehow is a bad thing. We know it isn't.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to wake up and not let anyone divide us any further than we have already been divided. We are one country. We have a responsibility to the people to do the right thing.

We will continue to use all of the tools in our toolbox. You have heard me speak of the three Cs—the Congress, the courts, and the community—and we will use every one of them, and we will continue to fight until victory is won.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), a place with rich culture.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinguished privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN), my good friend who represents the Fourth District.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud Virginian.

Virginia is the birthplace of American democracy. It is also the birthplace of American slavery.

From the beginning of this country, we have been on the right side of history and the wrong side of history. I am proud to stand here as a history maker in my own right, elected in 2023 as the first African-American woman to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia.

How did I get here? My interest in government was sparked by a love of history. My love of history was sparked by my parents.

My father, who was born in 1925 in Nashville, Tennessee, spent his summers in Alabama at a school that his grandfather, my great-grandfather, founded because Tennessee did not think Black children were worthy of a high-quality public education.

I am the daughter of Lois McClellan, born in the Gulf Coast of Mississippi in 1932, who had to leave her town to become the first member of her family to go beyond the eighth grade because the State of Mississippi did not deem Black children worthy of a quality public education. The Catholic church did, but only to the eighth grade.

Listening to my parents' stories as a child, they saw the best of government through the New Deal. They saw the worst of government through Jim Crow. Yet, it wasn't just what I learned in a textbook because their stories—my grandparents' stories and my great-grandparents' stories—weren't in the Virginia textbooks. I learned them at my parents' feet. I learned them because my great-grandfather happened to write a book about his experiences.

This history helped me to understand how this country was actually founded. By going to historic sites, the names and dates came alive, but my family's history wasn't told. When I would go to Monticello, I was fascinated by the idea written by Thomas Jefferson that "... all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Yet, I learned nothing about the hundreds of Black people, including the mother of his children, who lived at Monticello and served him but weren't free. I didn't learn those stories while visiting Monticello. I learned them later as an adult.

My study of history has shown that, in Virginia, this beautiful idea of a government derived from the people, rather than divine right through kings, was created in Virginia, the first representative democracy in the Western Hemisphere, less than an hour away from where I live, in Jamestown. Yet, those settlers came on a business venture to take land that was already settled by Algonquian-speaking people for over centuries, and that land was exploited to make money for the crown of England.

Yet, they created a government in July 1619. A month later, the first recorded Africans were brought to our shores at Point Comfort, who were stolen from their home in Angola, stolen again from a slave ship by pirates, and traded to those settlers for goods and victuals. Their names weren't even recorded. They were listed as 20-some-odd Africans. That is how this country was founded. It is uncomfortable, but it is true.

I will spare you the full 400-year history, but there is a pattern to it. History may not repeat itself, but it rhymes. The history of our country has been: How do we reconcile the ideal upon which we were founded by the reality upon which we were founded? How do we reconcile that every time we make progress toward that ideal—and we have made progress. I wouldn't be standing here today in a body that was not built for people like me but may have been built by people like me. We have made progress, but every time we make progress, there is a backlash. That backlash has included three things: propaganda, violence, and voter suppression.

□ 2000

My great-grandfather experienced the first backlash. Born on a plantation in Alabama, he got the right to vote after he took a literacy test and after he had to answer two sets of questions because he was on a list of people not to register because he was a teacher teaching other Black people in his community how to get a better life.

He experienced the terror of lynchings, being afraid that if you looked at someone the wrong way, you could be hung. If you disrespected someone, you could be shot by a mob that was never brought to justice. That was the backlash that came in response to Reconstruction, which was never fully taught in my history books. We went from the end of the Civil War to the civil rights movement.

The second wave of progress and in response to that progress was the backlash of our leaders being assassinated. I heard these stories from my parents and my grandparents, but they are not here anymore. My father passed away over a decade ago. My mother passed away last year. As more and more people who lived under the terror of Jim Crow are moving on from this mortal plane, it is important we keep that history alive.

Not all of them shared that history because it was painful and it was uncomfortable. They didn't like talking about it and many of them did, but their stories are fading. That is why our museums and history and books that can continue this legacy on are important because I can't quite explain to my now 10 and 15-year-old children in quite the same eloquence that my parents did. I can't explain what they went through the same way. When they were here for spring break earlier this year, we went to the African American History Museum. Watching that history come alive through my children again, I felt my parents with me. I felt my grandparents with me. I felt my great-grandparents with me.

As I stood in the exhibit on the Middle Passage thinking about what somebody in my family lived through so that I could be here in this moment and fight this latest backlash to erase our history, somebody survived being chained in the bottom of a slave ship with hundreds of other people from Africa to Virginia, but I don't know who they are. I don't know who their children are. I don't know who their grandchildren are. In my father's family, we can only trace back to his grandparents because before that, no one deemed it important to write down the names of the people they enslaved.

That is why not only is this personal for members of the Congressional Black Caucus but is also important to our country to heal because the American people are family and like every family, we have suffered trauma. Like every family, if you ignore the trauma, if you bury the trauma, it doesn't heal. The only way it heals is when you acknowledge what happened and you learn from it. That is why every time there is a backlash and it involves propaganda to erase what happened and the truth, it doesn't erase it, it buries it and the trauma flares up.

Why do you think the Russians in 2016 decided to choose race as the scab to pick at? That is because in this country we have never truly healed. Until we talk about all of our history, we will never heal as a country and we will never live up to the ideals upon which we were founded.

The Congressional Black Caucus will fight every day to make sure that our stories are told, that all American stories are told, whether they are uncomfortable or not. They happened and they made us who we are as a people. It made us who we are as a Nation, and we cannot run from it.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her personal and powerful story about the benefits of history, as well as healing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable GLENN IVEY.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Ohio and California for hosting this event today.

My colleague from Virginia who just spoke, which I hadn't actually planned

on talking much about that, but after my family moved from North Carolina, we moved to Virginia and one of the things I recall was Virginia history.

We had our history book. Interestingly enough, it started with Jamestown and Williamsburg obviously, then it kind of skipped ahead to the Civil War and the focus of the Civil War. There is no mention of slavery in between the two, by the way, or barely any.

The focus of the Civil War was what they called the great Confederate generals: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the others. It talked about how great they were as generals, and the fact that if they only had an equal amount of supplies as the Union generals, they would have been able to win the war. They called it the war between the States.

In some instances, the war of northern aggression, which is a little hard to imagine these days, but that was the schoolbook I learned from in my public school in Prince William County.

The interesting thing about that, we have seen what the effort was with respect to the attempt to change history, we became the United States after the Civil War, after the African-American community was liberated from slavery and there was a chance to have the opportunity to vote, to participate fully in the community, in the Nation. That was overturned essentially by a deal that was cut between the North and the South after President Lincoln was assassinated and it led to the segregation of African Americans across the country.

What went side by side with that was the obliteration of the actual history of what had led up to that point and the twisting of history to argue that, essentially, African Americans couldn't be trusted to be voting people in the democracy; that, in some instances, they even claimed that African Americans belonged in chains, belonged in slavery. As you heard earlier, the suggestion—I think that was from the Florida State government, not 150 years ago but recently—that African Americans actually benefited from being enslaved.

Now, we all know how silly that is or, I guess, our colleagues, maybe not necessarily in Florida, but it is a ridiculous statement. It is the kind of erasure and twisting of history that I think is critical to make sure that we fight against.

My mother was a librarian. My mother-in-law ended up being a librarian, so we had a heavy concentration of focus on books in my family during that stretch and the importance of history. I thought I would give a couple of examples of some of the issues that had popped up with respect to what the Trump administration has done.

This is the executive order by President Trump that was issued in March. It was titled: "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History." The reality is it wasn't about restoring truth

and sanity to American history, it was really about hiding and deleting and whitewashing American history.

One of the things they did in their first steps was to go to the Naval Academy. I guess an executive order was issued and the Department of Defense focused on this, in part. The Naval Academy, in response to that executive order and those directions from the White House and the Pentagon, pulled the book called "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" from the bookshelves at the Naval Academy. That was by Maya Angelou, who was one of the most respected writers in American history.

If I recall correctly, she was one of the poet laureates and spoke at one of the inaugurations, as well.

□ 2010

What I thought was interesting about that was that even though they pulled Maya Angelou's book from the shelves—the book, by the way, was an autobiography. It talked about her rise, her growth as she was raised in the South, and the terrible things that she went through, including sexual assault and racial discrimination issues, and how she rose above it. In fact, a later book that she wrote based on one of her poems is called "And Still I Rise," and it is the type of inspiring literature that I think not only should we not be hiding from Americans, but we should be encouraging all Americans to see.

The Naval Academy pulled that book, but they left two copies of another book, "Mein Kampf" by Adolf Hitler, still on the shelves. In addition to that, there was another book that they left called "The Bell Curve." You might not recall "The Bell Curve," but I distinctly remember when it was published. "The Bell Curve" argued that Black men and women are genetically less intelligent than White people. That is still on the shelves at the Naval Academy, but the book that critiqued "The Bell Curve" was pulled. This is what we are getting from the Trump administration.

Of the books that they called for them to review, I think it was approximately 900 books. They reviewed those books, based on the request from the Trump administration, based on the executive order. Ultimately, it resulted in nearly 400 books being selected for removal from the Naval Academy's library.

What I thought was interesting about that was the person the library is named after, Admiral Nimitz, actually held a totally different conception about what should happen with respect to the sharing of information in books. In fact, he founded the library for this 179-year-old institution in Annapolis, Maryland.

I represent Maryland. I am proud of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, but this is a low moment in the history of the academy, I must say.

In response to this decision, one of its alums, Admiral James Stavridis,

said: "The Pentagon might have an argument if midshipmen were being forced to read these 400 books."

By the way, he is an author, an academy alumnus, and a former Commander of all U.S. forces in Europe.

"As I understand it, they were just among the hundreds of thousands of books in the Nimitz Library which a student might opt to check out. What are we afraid of keeping from them in the library?"

I couldn't agree more with this question.

"Book banning can be a canary in a coal mine and could predict a stifling of free speech and thought," he continued. "Books that challenge us make us stronger. We need officers who are educated, not indoctrinated."

General Mark Milley is not a fan of the Trump administration. Certainly, the feeling seems to be mutual. You may recall, back in June 2021, this issue came up where they were challenging him with respect to something that was called critical race theory. We won't go into all of that, but keep in mind that K-12 schools never taught critical race theory. In any event, they brought it up with General Milley. He said: "I have read Mao Zedong. I have read Karl Marx. I have read Lenin. That doesn't make me a Communist."

He then offered an argument for expanding political studies in the service of defending the Constitution after the January 6 attack on the Capitol. He said: "I want to understand White rage, and I am White and I want to understand it. What is it that caused thousands of people to assault this building and try to overturn the Constitution of the United States of America?"

Just a little aside on that point, there is a plaque that has been requested to be posted here in the Capitol that represents the brave men and women of the Capitol Police who fought to protect the people who were trapped here by the attacking mob. The Republican leadership refuses to post that plaque, but you can't change history.

As another example, they wanted to eliminate information about Jackie Robinson, the celebrated baseball player, a Hall of Fame star, who was a great baseball player for sure but also celebrated because he integrated Major League Baseball. Prior to his arrival, African Americans were basically not allowed to play in the major leagues. They wanted to strip out this information about Jackie Robinson.

This is an article that talks about Robinson's military service during World War II, when he served in the 761st Tank Battalion, the Black Panthers. It noted that he was court-martialed, but eventually acquitted, after refusing to move to the back of an Army bus in 1944. He received an honorable discharge later that year.

This touches me a bit because my father-in-law served in World War II and was a decorated soldier, as well. In fact, after World War II, he reenlisted

for ground combat in Korea. They made him wait a few days to make sure that he really knew what he was doing, and of course, he did. He is buried at Arlington now. He had a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, outstanding service, and rose to the level of captain.

When he came back from Italy, where he had been serving, to the United States, he was in an all-Black battalion. There were German prisoners who actually had a chance to ride in the front of the train, while he and his other Black colleagues still had to ride in the back because segregation continued. Even though the war against Hitler was supposed to be a war to end racism and fight Nazi discrimination, when he got back here, it was still the same old story.

They also tried to strip out information about Medgar Evers, a World War II veteran and Mississippi civil rights activist who was assassinated in 1963. He had been a leader with the local NAACP and was assassinated because he was fighting for the right to vote for African Americans. They erased that information from the Arlington National Cemetery website.

The Army removed, but subsequently reinstated, a website dedicated to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in military history. That unit was made up of Japanese-American soldiers who fought despite the internment of their families. Those were the concentration camps that held Japanese Americans, largely in California but also in other parts of the country.

Despite that, Japanese-American soldiers volunteered to fight in World War II. One of those soldiers, Daniel Inouye, later became a long-serving United States Senator from Hawaii. I remember Senator Inouye primarily from his leadership in the Watergate hearings. He was an outstanding public servant, a great American, and a great soldier, but they tried to eliminate his history from the history books here.

We have this most recent incident, too. President Trump fired the Librarian of Congress. This one kind of came out of the blue, it seemed to me. She had served in that position for nearly 10 years, including during his first administration. She had been celebrated as a great Librarian, and she had done a great job in the position.

Normally, you get long terms for your service, and there was no indication that she had done anything wrong until Trump two came back, Trump 47, and they decided to fire her. They gave her a two-sentence letter that said, after all of your years in service, you are still terminated.

It kicked up such a controversy, the White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, said there were quite concerning things that she had done at the Library of Congress in the pursuit of DEI and putting inappropriate books in the Library for children.

Keep in mind a couple of things. One is that the Library of Congress is not a

lending library for the public, so there was no risk that any kids would be taking these books or any books from the Library of Congress.

Secondly, the Library of Congress has over 178 million items. It is the repository for the United States Congress. The department that deals with copyright for books is under that, and the Congressional Research Service is under her authority, as well.

□ 2020

Mr. Speaker, that is why they have so many books, including books that you or I might not want to read or we might not agree with. The point is all of the books need to be there because we need that repository.

By the way, it is the Library of Congress. Those of us here in Congress know this is a resource for us. There is absolutely no reason that the President of the United States should be meddling with our repository. It is really inappropriate and wrong. That is why it hadn't happened prior to that.

Congressman GERRY CONNOLLY made this observation about the firing of Ms. Hayden, the librarian. With this decision, Donald Trump continues his attempts to censor our history, bend our culture to his will, and interfere with the free flow of information among the American people. It is a national disgrace.

I couldn't agree more. The reality is that, despite the executive order, this administration is actually making it more difficult for children and adults to learn about American history. They are slashing museum budgets by gutting the Institute of Museum and Library Services. They are defunding public broadcasting and public television.

The President does not decide what is worthy of being in a museum, and he shouldn't decide what is worthy of being in a library. He should not be deciding what our children learn in school, and he should not be afraid of American history.

Knowing our history makes us stronger because knowledge is power. That power, the power of the truth, belongs to all Americans. It is the basis of our democracy. It is the key to our future.

It is critical, as the United States moves forward, that we preserve our history, learn our history, and understand our history so that we don't repeat the negative aspects of our history.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and the Congressional Black Caucus for their work on this matter.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 4 minutes remaining.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, as we talk about the importance of Black history tonight, I also want to highlight northeast Ohio's rich connection to Black history.



In northeast Ohio, our Black history legacy stacks up against anyone's. In fact, one of the first places to celebrate Black History Month for a whole month was Kent State University. After decades as just a week-long event, Kent State made it a full month in 1970, 6 years before the White House did.

Northeast Ohio is also home to the great Jesse Owens who smashed the myth of white supremacy on a global stage, right under Hitler's nose at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Northeast Ohio has shaped the life and stories of Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison and the poet, Langston Hughes.

Cleveland is where Larry Doby integrated the American League. Carl Stokes made history as the first Black mayor of a major city, and Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light.

Black leadership from Cleveland also changed the calendar. In 1890, Ohio Representative John Patterson Green, the first Black-elected official in Cleveland, authored legislation to establish Labor Day as a State holiday 4 years before it became a Federal holiday.

Frederick Douglass spoke in Cleveland multiple times, beginning in the 1840s, connecting us to the abolition movement nationwide.

In 1851, Sojourner Truth delivered her famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" down the road in Akron; a landmark event in Black feminism.

A century later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke frequently in Cleveland and lent his support for our local civil rights efforts.

Northeast Ohio's Black history legacy includes three Representatives who came before me: Representatives Louis Stokes, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, and Marcia L. Fudge represented northeast Ohio for over 50 years. They chaired committees and subcommittees and served on some of the House's most powerful committees.

Congressman Stokes and Congresswoman Fudge both chaired the Congressional Black Caucus.

In 2021, Congresswoman Fudge was confirmed as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the first Black woman to lead the agency since the 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we continue to celebrate Black leadership, Black achievement, and Black excellence because we have been so frequently ignored, erased, and minimized.

Finally, Black history is American history and local history in Ohio and across the country. In 1967, Dr. King spoke at Glenville High School in Cleveland. Speaking that day, he talked about how our history isn't separate from the country's; it is part of it. He said: "Abused and scorned as we may be, our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America."

Speaking in Cleveland, Dr. King concluded with a simple message which

should be our charge today: "... we must keep moving, we must keep going." The goal of the Congressional Black Caucus is to keep us moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues and I have highlighted over this past hour how this administration is intentionally attacking Black history, which is an attack on American history, we will not allow this attack to continue.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today on account of flight delays.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-963. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 25-003 pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-964. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 25-027 pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-965. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Article 12(3) of the Treaty Between The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, and section 126.16(o) of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-966. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 25-007, Report of Proposed Exports, pursuant to section 40(g)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(g)(2)); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-967. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the U.S. Capitol Police for the period October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (119 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 119-53); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC-968. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Department of Com-

merce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; 2024 Commercial Quota Harvested for the State of New York [Docket No.: 231215-0305; RTID 0648-XE552] received May 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1578. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary, with an amendment (Rept. 119-102). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1969. A bill to amend and reauthorize the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (Rept. 119-103). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1815. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-104). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LANGWORTHY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 426. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act"; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 119-105). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 3479. A bill to improve the licensing and security of submarine and cross-border terrestrial telecommunications cables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.