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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 21, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARIN LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### BIG, BAD BILL IS CRUEL

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, the news today is about a bill. It is a big bill. The Republicans' big, bad bill is cruel, coldhearted, and completely unnecessary. It is not even fiscally responsible. It is actually going to add to the deficit.

This massive bill, which is more than a thousand pages, was and is being negotiated behind closed doors. The debate started at 1 o'clock in the morn-

ing, in the darkness of night. This bill is going to strip healthcare and food assistance from millions of Americans so billionaires can get trillions of dollars in tax breaks.

Mr. Speaker, who is afraid of the big, bad bill? A lot of people are, and for good reason. Make no mistake, if you rip healthcare away from millions of Americans, people will die.

Right now, this is the largest Medicaid cut in American history. In fact, a headline today summarizing the Congressional Budget Office score on this bill said: "Wealthy gain, low-income people lose from GOP megabill." They are right.

There are about 1.4 million Oregonians on Medicaid, including one in three children. I challenge my colleagues to go to a pediatric cancer wing and tell a child with leukemia and their parents that they can no longer afford lifesaving treatment. If my colleagues don't have the courage to tell them to their face, then don't support this bill.

This bill takes food from hungry children. SNAP helps more than 775,000 Oregonians, 50 percent of whom are children, put food on the table. This bill would lead to a significant reduction in food benefits for families.

I guess billionaires can eat caviar in their mansions or on their yachts while launching celebrities in rockets on vanity tours of space, but everyday Americans will be left unsure about whether they will have enough to feed their families.

The top 20 percent of income earners are going to get at least 68 percent of the benefits in the bill, while Oregonians and Americans who benefit from Medicaid and SNAP will be left to suffer.

Student loan borrowers could be in debt until they die because of this big, bad bill. Many students who get Pell grants will be harmed. The bill will raise monthly student loan payments

for working- and middle-class borrowers, affecting 15 million people across the country. That includes more than 50,000 Oregonian students and families who, with this bill, will have limited options for repayment relief. No question, unless you are from a wealthy family, this bill will close the doors of opportunity for the next generation to access affordable college.

Families will pay more for groceries, gas, insurance, and utilities, but oil companies and corporate executives will get tax breaks. This bill will hike the average household electricity bill by about 10 percent, forcing families to pay more while corporate polluters are getting a windfall. Nationwide, families would pay an extra \$6 billion.

Republicans are going to make it easier for corporate polluters to poison our water and air. We will see an increase in the number of wildfires and floods that devastate communities, and that will lead to continued skyrocketing insurance premiums and property damage.

Farmers and ranchers are collateral damage. This bill green-lights more drilling and mining that will spoil water supplies used for irrigation and livestock, poisoning the land while fossil fuel CEOs profit.

Public lands belong to all Americans, not billionaire donors, but Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are going to privatize, drill, and destroy them for profit. That will eviscerate the very spaces that make us America the beautiful.

Finally, tucked into this bill is a 10-year block on State regulation of artificial intelligence, which might make sense if we had policies at the Federal level for safety, security, and bias. We don't, so the public will face uncharted and unchecked harm.

For all these reasons and more, I oppose this misguided legislation, and I urge every one of my colleagues to vote "no."

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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# HONORING BARBARA HARPER ON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our outstanding caseworkers, Barbara Harper.

Barbara is retiring at the end of the month after nearly two decades of public service to the people of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. We are lucky to have Barbara here on the floor today for this speech.

This is a bittersweet moment. As the lead caseworker in our office, Barbara repeatedly demonstrated compassion, tenacity, and dedication. These values define public service. Her career as a caseworker began over 18 years ago under Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, whom she first met when their children were in school together in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Concerned by the curriculum her kids, Ben and Libby, were exposed to in the public school system, Barbara teamed up with other parents, including Representative Bachmann, to voice their concerns. It was through this shared passion that Barbara and Michele developed a friendship. It wasn't until Barbara, her late husband, Larry, and their kids returned from a 3-year stay in Singapore for Larry's job that Barbara's career in public service began.

Barbara reconnected with Michele in the grocery store. Michele remembered Barbara's passion for school choice and concerns with the school system. Barbara went on to help Michele in her Minnesota senate campaign as a volunteer scheduler. When Michelle decided to run for Congress, Barbara helped organize and support her campaign. After her victory, Barbara joined the Bachmann staff as a caseworker. She has led casework operations for the last 18 years, starting in 2007.

Barbara is a total powerhouse. Her efforts alone returned hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars rightfully owed to our constituents. She has helped secure more than \$1 million in Federal funds for Minnesotans in the first 5 months of this year alone. Still, it is the human impact of her work that sets her apart.

Barbara helped hundreds of Minnesota families with foreign adoptions, notably reuniting 4-year-old Otra, who was in a Kenyan refugee camp, with her family in the United States. Otra was a baby when her family left for the U.S. and lacked the proper paperwork to emigrate with them. After years of work, Barbara secured authorization for Otra to enter the U.S. and coordinated with the airport to ensure a smooth arrival. It was an understandably emotional reunion for the family and one that continued to serve as motivation for Barbara as she worked to solve similar cases for other Minnesota families.

The walls of Barbara's office are covered with photos of families she has as-

sisted, thank-you cards, and drawings from young children as a token of appreciation for her help. Not only does she support families in need, but she actively fights the Federal bureaucracy on Minnesotans' behalf.

One story involves a simple display of the First Amendment. A constituent of mine had signed and filed his tax return while adding the words "under protest without prejudice." For this, the constituent received a threatening letter from the thugs at the IRS, telling him he could be fined \$5,000 for adding those words. Barbara contacted the IRS, stood up for free speech, and prevented a fine from ever being levied against him.

Barbara represents the best of all of us. She attends community events like the Senior Expo and brings casework directly to constituents. Barbara has held close to 100 hours of mobile office hours across our district.

Barbara also led our office's Congressional Art Competition, a program that actually turned into a passion for her. For years, we struggled to receive submissions, but thanks to Barbara's efforts, the program has turned into one of our most successful outreach projects. The best part is the joy it brings to Barbara when we recognize the young artists and their beautiful work.

Barbara's commitment to service is unmatched. She often stayed in our office late into the night and worked weekends to help our constituents. Barbara has left an incredible impact on our community and has touched countless lives, including my own.

Anyone who knows Barbara knows she is a devoted patriot. She frequently reminds our legislative team of the importance of our pro-liberty, America First principles, and she staunchly opposed the Big Government policy positions of the Obama and Biden administrations.

Barbara is one of a kind. My wife, Jacquie, and I will always cherish her friendship. On behalf of our staff, the Sixth District, and the Nation, I thank Barbara for everything. I wish her all the best. I urge everyone to thank Barbara for her years of service to this institution.

## RECOGNIZING LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALCARIO "AL" CASTELLANO

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

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN—and I know Congressman RO KHANNA also would like to be represented—to recognize the life and contributions of U.S. Army veteran and community leader Alcario "Al" Castellano for his dedication to advancing education, arts, and leadership in San Jose and the greater Silicon Valley of California. He is not simply a tremendous model of gen-

erosity but, more importantly, of purpose.

Al Castellano won the lottery. No, I am not just talking about his unique fortune of building a beautiful family with his wife, Carmen, or his three beloved children, Armando Castellano, Maria West, and Carmela Castellano-Garcia. In 2001, Al and his wife, Carmen, won a \$141 million California Lottery jackpot.

More importantly, the Castellanos were already pillars within the community, known for volunteering on committees and boards for local schools and civic organizations like San Jose GI Forum and contributing to arts and cultural organizations like Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana and the School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza.

It came as no surprise when the family turned their moment of good fortune into a lifetime of impact. It is often noted that their generosity and values didn't change after the win, only the size of their checks did.

With their winnings, Al and Carmen created the Castellano Family Foundation to uplift San Jose's Latino community. Through the years, the foundation awarded millions of dollars in grants and scholarships to over 150 Silicon Valley nonprofits. Together, the Castellano Family Foundation and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation created LatinXCEL Fund, a \$10 million effort to support Latino leaders and groups in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Al and Carmen were married for 57 years before she passed away just a few years ago in 2020. In the years after her passing, the Castellano children were the driving force behind the foundation until its operations concluded in 2023. The impact of their monetary contributions is exceeded only by the change they cultivated on behalf of the Latino community by pushing for cultural preservation and more diverse representation in nonprofit leadership.

On April 26, Al Castellano passed away in his Saratoga home surrounded by loved ones. His most important role, of course, was that of a loving husband, father, and grandfather to his family.

It wasn't just Al who won the jackpot. We were the ones who hit the jackpot by having him as a wonderful friend and neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LICCARDO for yielding.

I first met Al and Carmen in the late 1970s. When I was elected to the community college board, Carmen was the secretary for the president of City College, and Al was a hardworking guy. What really stood out was the two of them constantly volunteering their time for the community through the GI Forum and the scholarship programs.

I am not a fan of the California Lottery, but it was great to see them win because what they did with their newfound wealth was in keeping with their