

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning to talk about what is happening here in Congress in regard to the budget proposal. I can't believe that many of my Republican colleagues, many of whom have larger numbers of folks on Medicaid, are proposing the largest cut to food assistance in the history of our country and the largest cut to Medicaid in the history of our country.

Many are actually denying that they are even cutting them. That is a slap in the face of so many people who depend on it.

Don't take it from me, Mr. Speaker, but take it from the Congressional Budget Office and many others who continue to say that nearly 14 million Americans will lose their healthcare, and thousands of people will be impacted by the proposal, the so-called reconciliation, that is going through this Chamber. We know that children and families will go hungry with this proposal.

Our residents can't simply stop being hungry or stop being sick, Mr. Speaker. For me, being on the front lines of a community that continues to get left behind with policies here in this Chamber, I know they feel very much that this budget is a betrayal to our families. If it wasn't bad enough, this all is being done to give trillions of dollars—not billions or millions, but trillions of dollars in tax breaks to the billionaire class and the largest corporations—corporations that do not need these tax breaks.

Don't worry, Mr. Speaker, there is a budget that got increased, which is the Pentagon and the defense budget. The war machine of the Pentagon budget can't pass an audit; seven audits in a row.

I read somewhere that in the most recent audit failure, the Pentagon could not account for one-half of its assets. One-half is hundreds of billions of dollars that are unaccounted for.

Many of my colleagues continue to talk about the deficit. I know this is a misnomer, but the Congressional Budget Office says that the deficit is being increased by \$3.8 trillion.

Why isn't there this outcry regarding that number?

It only seems to be an outcry when we are trying to, again, feed children who are hungry or to help make sure that people, again, through no fault of their own getting sick, get covered by Medicaid.

The budget would cut crucial programs for the poor and working families. That is a fact. It is not being made up. It is right there. It is going to take food away from hungry children. It will let people die from the lack of healthcare coverage. They are even cutting, again, trillions of dollars so that we can continue to fund a budget that can't pass an audit.

One of the amendments that I am offering this morning, Mr. Speaker, is one of the ones that says: If the Pentagon can't pass an audit, then we shouldn't be able to fund them.

I really believe no money for Pentagon waste. The amendment would prevent any funds, again, being allocated to this.

Mr. Speaker, when you talk about waste and when you talk about fraud, you look at the Pentagon budget.

However, instead, what did we do? We went to the most vulnerable. We went to the hungry, and we went to the sick. Why?

It is because many of my colleagues in this Chamber own stock in war manufacturing, Mr. Speaker. That is a direct conflict of interest. So every time they increase the budget for defense, many of them are benefiting personally from that increase.

There are no increases to helping the poor or helping the hungry, many of whom are in both Republican and Democratic districts.

Again, many of my colleagues have a lot more people on Medicaid than my district does. Yet, here we are gaslighting and misleading the public and saying: We are not cutting it. We are not doing this or that.

How is that possible in the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan agency that many of my colleagues on the other side have quoted themselves, many of the people who are the so-called "I am concerned about the deficit" are increasing the deficit by \$3.8 trillion. Put that aside, the cruelty of it. I have an amendment in there that talks about the fact that we need to focus on reducing the rate of infant mortality.

Why can't we work on that? Infant mortality is a national crisis right now. We can do that by ensuring that Medicaid covers all prenatal and postnatal care.

Why can't we support that? Why can't we make sure prenatal and postnatal care are covered?

I know over 40 percent of births in our country are covered by Medicaid, Mr. Speaker. Again, I am trying to propose these amendments to highlight the fact that these are very critical programs no matter where an individual lives in our country.

We can also be ending child poverty and ensure that every child has the resources they need to reach their full potential. We should be talking about these critical issues, of funding these programs. It is our tax dollars going back to our neighbors who need it most.

Instead of voting to make life easier, they are supporting polluters, corporations, and billionaires who do not need it.

Please, I say to all my colleagues, they won't ask Speaker JOHNSON or the President why they voted this way.

They are going to ask you when you go back to your district. Please do the right thing.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES WOOD HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. CLINE of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Wood High School in Frederick County, Virginia, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary, a proud milestone for an institution dedicated to cultivating excellence through student engagement.

James Wood High School, established in 1950 and led by Principal Paul Beable, became the sole high school serving Frederick County. Prior to its opening, the county supported five smaller high schools located in the rural communities of Stephens City, Middletown, Stonewall, Gore, and Gainesboro. Each school was named for the community it served and played a key role in educating local students. While those schools no longer exist, the communities they represent continue to grow and stand as a lasting reminder of the county's history and progress.

Named for James Wood, founder of Winchester, colonel of the Virginia Continental Militia, and friend of George Washington, the school stands on a foundation of history, leadership, and service.

Today, James Wood High School is led by Principal R. Shelly Andrews and thrives by promoting the Four Colonel C's: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

Mr. Speaker, as James Woods celebrates 75 years of service to our community, we reflect with pride on its past and look forward to its continued role in shaping future generations. Congratulations to James Wood High School and all who have contributed to its remarkable journey.

CELEBRATING LORD BOTETOURT HIGH SCHOOL'S 2025 VHSL TITLE VICTORY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional achievements of Lord Botetourt High School Lady Cavaliers basketball team, who were recently crowned the 2025 Class 3A State champions.

The Lady Cavaliers capped an extraordinary 26-3 season by toppling previously undefeated James Monroe, earning the program's fifth State title since 1995. Under the remarkable leadership of Head Coach Renee Favaro, now a two-time State champion with an impressive 117-29 record over six seasons, this team has continued to raise the bar.

The Lady Cavaliers also captured the Region 3D championship and saw standout players Madilyn Winterton and Maddie Caron named to the VHSL Class 3A All-State First Team.

This State championship adds to a storied program legacy, including back-to-back titles in 1995 and 1996 under Coach David Wheat, a 2018 title with Coach Chuck Pound, and a shared championship in 2020.

I would like to commend each of the dedicated student-athletes: Addison Naff, Reagan Meade, Abby Kingery, Jaiden Dann, Madilyn Winterton, Alicia Holmes, Madelyn Caron, Maggie Hoover, and Kayla Windsor, and extended heartfelt congratulations to

Coach Renee Favaro and the entire Botetourt community. They have made their school and Virginia's Sixth Congressional District extraordinarily proud.

Go Lady Cavs.

CELEBRATING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
ROANOKE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, a beacon of faith, service, and resilience, since its founding as Big Lick Baptist Church on May 16, 1875.

From just 20 charter members in a small village, this church has grown alongside the city it calls home. As Roanoke emerged as a railroad hub and flourished, so too did First Baptist, driven by a people focused on God, devoted to discipleship, missions, and the community.

From their first sanctuary in 1878 to today's impressive 300,000-square-foot campus spread over 11 acres, First Baptist Church of Roanoke has faithfully expanded its reach, and they have held onto their heritage, including the original pulpit from their 1891 sanctuary, a powerful symbol of enduring faith.

For 150 years, they have been a light in the valley, feeding the hungry, sending missionaries, broadcasting the Gospel, and transforming lives.

May God continue to bless First Baptist Church of Roanoke for generations to come.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day, we do more than remember. We honor the men and women who gave everything for this Nation. We remember the fallen, those still missing in action, those lost at sea, and the thousands who now rest beneath our flag, having paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

These heroes answered the call to defend liberty, knowing it could cost them their lives. Because of them, we live in a country where freedom still rings and the American Dream endures.

Their sacrifice is not just a chapter in our history; it is the foundation of our Republic. We are duty-bound to remember them, to honor them, and to ensure that their service is never forgotten.

May God bless the memory of our fallen warriors, and may He continue to bless the United States of America and all who wear the uniform in its defense.

PROTECT THE AFGHANS WHO SERVED US

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Department of Homeland Security's termination of temporary protected status for Afghans. TPS has provided a lifeline to

Afghans who supported U.S. national security efforts and risked their lives to support our missions.

We offered them protection here because when allies stand with us, we have a responsibility to stand with them. This principle is a national security imperative. It helps build trust and helps build more allies. That trust gets undermined when we turn our back on those who protected us.

Now, with the termination of TPS, we are sending our Army's allies back to the Taliban. These individuals and families were given just weeks to make an impossible choice: face deportation to return to Afghanistan under Taliban control where they will likely be suffering or even die.

Many of these families live in our community here in Virginia.

Take the story of a former captain in the Afghan National Army. He worked with the U.S. military, and his brother was shot by the Taliban. His entire family now fears for their lives. Abandoning Afghans now not only turns our back on those who risked their lives to protect us but puts our current and future global partnerships on the line.

We have an incredible Afghan-American community in Virginia, and we have to stand up for them and stand up for the Afghans who have come here and who served us there.

I urge the administration to reverse course.

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CELEBRATING RAJDHANI MANDIR

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, from celebrating holidays to hosting community events, the Rajdhani Mandir temple is a cornerstone of the Hindu community in our region.

This year, we will mark an important milestone of the temple's 25-year anniversary, years of bringing people together at events, festivals like Holi, Diwali, and Navratri, and for children's programming, too, including regular Sunday classes.

The temple also puts out programs for seniors and does incredible philanthropic work to provide food and resources to our community.

I am honored to celebrate this milestone with the temple this weekend. I congratulate the Rajdhani Mandir temple on a successful 25 years, and I am looking forward to the next 25 years of work.

CONGRATULATING STONE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the students of Stone Hill Middle School, in Ashburn, Virginia: Avee, Neil, Vibhav, and Aarav; and their teacher, Pardeep, for placing third in the National Space Sustainability Competition.

This competition allows students to address the need for sustainable practices in space by developing an engineering solution, creating a business plan, and submitting a video pitch for consideration.

Their project, the Orbital Ecosystem Engineers, was pitched as an aerospace

technology company to manage and remove space debris, which is a big problem right now. The technology used includes satellites, drones, and AI to find the best route to locate debris and the focus of the power of the Sun's rays to destroy the debris.

I am eager to see what our students continue to do with their company in the future, and I wish them the best of luck in tackling sustainability in space.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL EMS WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National EMS Week.

Since 1974, we have set time aside each year to honor the critical work of our Nation's emergency medical services professionals. These brave men and women are often the first line of defense in moments of crisis, responding to emergencies with speed, skill, and selflessness.

Whether it is an accident on a rural road or a medical emergency in a busy town center, EMS professionals are there to ensure that help arrives when it is needed most.

These individuals provide more than just medical assistance. They offer calm in chaos, hope in despair, and life-saving care under pressure. They work long hours, often in physically and emotionally demanding environments, yet continue to serve with unwavering dedication.

The job requires technical skills, physical strength, deep compassion, and a calling to serve others.

EMS providers are vital to maintaining the health and safety of the public, especially in rural communities like my district, where resources can be limited and the stakes are high.

As someone who has spent more than three decades on the front lines as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, I have seen firsthand the extraordinary courage and commitment of EMS personnel. I have been privileged to work alongside them during some of the most challenging moments a person or community can face. I can say with certainty that these professionals are heroes in every sense of the word.

Here in Pennsylvania, we are especially proud to recognize one of our own. Chief Fred Ferguson of Moshannon Valley Emergency Medical Services was recently named the recipient of the 2025 Pennsylvania EMS Educator of the Year Award. This prestigious honor is awarded to an EMS educator who has demonstrated excellence in preparing the next generation of emergency responders.

Chief Ferguson has more than 30 years of experience as a paramedic. He holds multiple instructor certifications, including basic life support, pediatric advanced life support, advanced cardiac life support, Stop the Bleed, and first aid.