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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 3, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TAYLOR 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 1:50 p.m.

NIPPON STEEL AND U.S. STEEL MERGER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Nippon Steel and U.S. Steel merger brokered by President Trump to ensure that a critical American company remains right at home in Pennsylvania.

By ensuring that U.S. Steel retains an American CEO, an American-dominated board, and allows the U.S. Gov-

ernment to have veto power over critical business decisions, President Donald J. Trump has fully protected our national security.

This merger will be a huge benefit for the Pennsylvania economy and for our workers, as it not only includes a massive investment in U.S. Steel's operations already present in Pennsylvania but also includes up to \$4 billion for a new steel mill, creating thousands of additional jobs.

President Trump stepped up to the plate to protect a critical American company. Mr. Speaker, because of his leadership, the Pennsylvania economy and our Nation that depends on steel production will once again see another example of the golden age of America developing right in front of our eyes.

SUPPORTING FENTANYL LEGISLATION

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, already this Congress, the House of Representatives passed the HALT Fentanyl Act, legislation to crack down on the criminals who create, traffic, and sell the deadly fentanyl that takes the lives of so many Americans.

This week, we will be taking another step to further support our fellow Americans struggling with the deadly cycle of addiction by passing the SUPPORT Act. This legislation will ensure our brave first responders can access and administer Narcan to save the lives of those suffering from an overdose, as well as to continue the resources for comprehensive opioid recovery centers to further support recovery.

Too many of our Nation's citizens are stuck in the deadly cycle of addiction, and we must extend a helping hand so that they can return to a normal life and be integral members of their communities.

I look forward to supporting this legislation on the House floor this week to help ensure that our fellow Americans address this vicious cycle of addiction.

SUPPORTING WHOLE MILK AT SCHOOL LUNCHES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 649, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, legislation to permit schools to provide whole milk at school lunches.

School children throughout our country are unable to receive the health benefits and the nutrients that whole milk provides due to out-of-date regulations that limit the type of milk that students can drink at lunch.

As a doctor, I know how important a diet that includes whole milk is to ensure that our Nation's kids have the building blocks to build strong bones, strong muscles, and strong brains.

Even the CDC agrees that whole milk is the healthiest drink available for our children. Not only will this legislation result in healthier children, but it will be a critical boost to our Nation's dairy industry, an industry States like Pennsylvania rely on.

In Pennsylvania, we produce more than 10 billion pounds of milk annually from 470,000 dairy cows throughout our Commonwealth. Our dairy farmers work incredibly hard to provide healthy products for our families, and now it is our turn to support them and to support our children with this commonsense legislation.

HONORING CHIEF ROBERT STATLER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Johnstown Fire Department Chief Robert Statler who retired after 40 years of distinguished public service.

Chief Statler joined the Johnstown Fire Department 29 years ago as a firefighter. Throughout the years, he fulfilled the responsibilities of driver, captain, training officer, and assistant chief before he was promoted to chief in 2019.

Before joining the Johnstown Fire Department, Chief Statler began his impressive legacy of public service as a fourth-generation volunteer firefighter with the Windber Fire Department.

□ 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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In addition to the leadership that he provided to Johnstown as fire department chief, he also served as co-city manager, emergency director, and liaison between the firefighters and city management. Throughout the Johnstown community, he is known as a faithful colleague and a consistent professional.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I express gratitude to Chief Statler for his devotion to public safety and offer best wishes for a life of enrichment through all of his future endeavors.

ONE BIG, UGLY BILL

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, June 3, Congress reconvenes after a 12-day break. On May 22, the last time we were here, this Chamber was involved in a 2-day marathon. H.R. 1, the misnamed one big, beautiful bill, was jammed through in the dead of the night, as it was being written in real time, by a vote of 215 to 214.

During my time home, I held two townhalls. One was up in Tolland, Connecticut, near the border of Massachusetts. The other was down along the shoreline in Madison, Connecticut. Both townhalls were well-attended.

Last night in Madison, it was standing room only. People were bursting with questions about how a bill that can change the tax code for the next 10 years, that can intervene in terms of our healthcare system, in terms of taking away people's health coverage, can happen with no transparency and no public input.

As I said, it was being written in the dead of the night prior to the vote on May 22. This is what we know now as the dust has settled in terms of what the impact of this bill is.

In terms of healthcare, the bill is going to cut our Medicaid program, America's largest healthcare program, and extract roughly \$700 billion from the system over the next 10 years.

The Affordable Care Act, subsidizes premiums, which provides health insurance for millions of Americans. Again, those premiums are going to be cut. As a result, people are going to lose their health insurance. That is not me saying that. That is the Congressional Budget Office, the neutral umpire that calls balls and strikes around this Congress who is saying that.

Again, they have calculated that 15 million Americans will lose their health insurance as a result of this measure which was passed by the majority and jammed through in the dead of the night.

In Connecticut, we have already seen what the numbers mean in terms of this bill. The Kaiser Family Foundation is not a partisan group. They have been studying healthcare trends and finance for decades. They determined

that 140,000 citizens in the State of Connecticut will lose their health coverage as a result of this bill.

As the dust has settled, we now know of one thing that didn't get a lot of attention. As a result of the deficit impact of this bill, which is going to add trillions of dollars to the national debt, it is going to trigger a sequestration, an automatic cut to the Medicare system. Medicare is the system that provides health insurance for people over 65 and people on disability.

That is \$500 billion over the next 10 years. Again, it is going to be a cut across the board to hospitals, to physicians, and to a whole series of medical devices and pharmacy products that are covered by Medicare.

Again, this is because of the reckless deficit spending that this bill creates. That is not me saying that. The calculation of the Joint Committee on Taxation was \$3.7 trillion of new debt on top of the \$36 trillion of debt that we have today.

The Wharton School of Finance, where President Trump attended school, calculated \$3 trillion, as well. When they added the interest costs that are going to be paid on that additional deficit, that spending, that is going to push the number closer to \$5 trillion.

Again, today the deficit is \$36 trillion. We are spending \$89 billion a month in terms of interest costs on the existing debt. That is larger than what we spend in the Department of Defense on a monthly basis. It is bigger than any other account in the discretionary budget of this government.

This bill accomplishes two harmful, damaging impacts to America which are, number one, 15 million people are going to lose their health insurance. We are also going to see the deficit grow by anywhere between \$3 trillion and \$5 trillion. For what? It is to reward the top 1 percent whose tax cuts are going to be extended and enlarged for many over the coming years, leaving working families and the poor in the dust.

We can do better than this as a nation. Again, it is not too late to stop this. The Senate is now going to take up this bill.

The external pressure is going to rise up with the American Hospital Association and with patient groups like the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, Autism Speaks, and people who represent disability groups. They are rising up now to stop this bill because of the harm it is going to cause on individuals and families all across this country.

It is time to stop this one big, ugly bill that is going to do so much damage to the American people.

CONGRATULATING LUCAS GASTON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

and congratulate several military academy appointments.

Lucas Gaston of Brookville, Pennsylvania, has recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Lucas is the son of Becky and Mike Gaston and the grandson of Hazel and Joe Gaston, as well as Nancy and Ted Fox of Brookville.

As a student of Brookville Area High School, Lucas is active in the classroom and on the athletic field and throughout his community.

Lucas is serving as the secretary of his class. He is a track and field and golf athlete. He participates in concert and marching band, and he is a Special Olympics volunteer and a member of the National Honor Society.

I thank Lucas for his commitment to service and wish him the very best of luck as he embarks on this exciting new phase of life at West Point.

CONGRATULATING BRYONY SHIPE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bryony Shipe of Ford City, Pennsylvania. Bryony recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

She is the daughter of Amanda and Lucas Shipe and the granddaughter of Kathie and Dave Olinger, as well as Patty and Larry Shipe.

Bryony is a senior at Commonwealth Charter Academy and is an excellent example of a well-rounded student and active community member. Bryony is an active volunteer and tutors at a local education center. She is a varsity athlete in cross-country and swimming, and she is co-captain of the varsity swimming and diving team.

Her focus on service to others is an extremely valuable attribute that will contribute to her military career at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

I offer Bryony best wishes at Kings Point, and I look forward to seeing all that she achieves.

CONGRATULATING ARCHIE WALKER

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Archie Walker of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Archie accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Archie is a senior at Central Mountain High School. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Greg Walker. Archie is an accomplished young woman, striving to make a difference in her country.

Walker is currently serving as the vice president of the Rotary Club. She is a 3-year varsity athlete in soccer, a dual-enrollment student at Commonwealth University, and a member of the National Honor Society.

Walker has proven herself on the field and in the classroom. I have no doubt that her determination will serve her well at the military academy, and I wish her the very best in this next chapter.