

Program furthers this mission by providing grant funding to organizations that support eligible, lawful permanent residents with the U.S. citizenship application process, civics instruction, and other services to help prepare for naturalization.

If my colleagues haven't been to a naturalization ceremony, I encourage everyone to do this. These are the types of people we want to be U.S. citizens.

In response to my letter, USCIS Acting Deputy Director Kika Scott tried to justify the decision to cancel this program by stating that it no longer effectuates the agency's priorities. That is unacceptable and a frustrating explanation.

First, we frequently hear from our colleagues across the aisle who say that people need to come here legally. As I said, this is a program that helps eligible, legal permanent residents with the U.S. citizenship process.

Second, Congress already appropriated this funding, so it is illegal and unconstitutional for the administration to block the grant funding just because a President doesn't like immigrants and is doing everything in his power to vilify them.

The United States was built by people who came to this country to seek a better life for themselves and their families. This thoughtless decision is an abuse of power and just one more example of how the Trump administration is scapegoating immigrants.

Today, during Immigrant Heritage Month, I am, once again, calling on USCIS to reinstate the remainder of the canceled grant awards that helped refugees and other aspiring Americans who came to the United States through legal pathways to assimilate and contribute positively to our vibrant communities and the economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RESCISSIONS PACKAGE IS FIRST STEP

(Mr. STUTZMAN of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that Congress has a spending problem. We continue to spend taxpayer funds despite our \$36 trillion debt. This level of debt is massive, equaling over \$323,000 per taxpayer when split up among the taxpayers of this country.

If that wasn't bad enough, when we look at this spending, billions of taxpayer dollars are wasted on frivolous efforts to support programs that have no benefit to taxpayers themselves.

I was excited to see President Trump taking an unprecedented approach to curb excessive spending by our Federal agencies by establishing the Department of Government Efficiency. Since established, DOGE has illuminated the

billions of dollars being drained on pointless projects that do nothing to help the American people.

For example, DOGE has exposed million-dollar contracts, including \$3 million to support "Sesame Street" in Iraq and \$6 million for net-zero cities in Mexico. Funding for USAID programs is also frequently going to NGOs that work to promote their liberal agenda in the most conservative parts of the world.

Just imagine \$1 million going to one of the cities in our congressional districts and the impact that it could have there. It is a disgrace that Americans' hard-earned tax dollars are being used to support these programs and organizations under the guise of necessary foreign aid.

In addition to this, Congress continues to prop up the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to promote public media stations like PBS and NPR. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to promote a narrative that demonizes one side of the aisle or another. Yet, that is exactly what these media stations continue to do. NPR and PBS have continued to have an ideological bias, promoting things like critical race theory and the LGBTQ agenda.

From foreign aid to NPR, massive amounts of taxpayer dollars are wasted every day with little to no government oversight. Congress cannot continue to let blank checks go out the door without revisiting the way that these funds are used to help the American people.

This is why I am proud to support the rescissions package sent to Congress by President Trump. This package will claw back \$9.4 billion of wasteful government spending, including \$8.3 billion allocated to dozens of wasteful programs at USAID and \$1.1 billion to prop up the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

This rescissions package is the first step in ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used to promote everyday Americans in very real ways.

I look forward to passing this first rescission package and look forward to continuing to support the work of President Trump and the DOGE team to identify and eliminate wasteful government spending.

END MISUSE OF EMERGENCY SPENDING

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, speaking of spending, outside of wasteful spending on international aid and public media, Congress has another problem contributing to the national debt: emergency spending.

Over one-third of our current national debt, about \$12 trillion, can be attributed to emergency spending. This is an addiction that needs to be remedied. Shockingly, money used on emergency spending is rarely paid back and most is never used for actual emergencies.

For example, emergency spending during the COVID-19 pandemic spent \$70 million on tourism marketing campaigns in Puerto Rico and another \$6 million to replace irrigation systems

at two golf courses. Other emergency spending bills have dished out \$140 million for infrastructure improvements for Gulf Coast shipyards and \$9.7 million for an assistance program to compensate eligible orchard tree losses.

We cannot continue to use emergency spending to fill gaps in funding that weren't properly appropriated to begin with. This spending not only contributes to the national debt but furthers a spiral of spending for the next fiscal year.

I am proud to have introduced my bill, the Emergency Spending Accountability Act, to correct this gross misuse of emergency spending.

My bill will ensure that every taxpayer dollar spent on emergency spending is fully paid back and accounted for over the following 5 years once the bill passes. Additionally, my bill would restore integrity to the term "emergency spending" by requiring committees to justify why these funds qualify as necessary, sudden, urgent, and unforeseen and are not permanent.

These provisions will help to put Congress back on track toward fiscal responsibility and prevent further abuses of this funding mechanism.

I thank all Members who support this legislation, and I am looking forward to seeing its progress through this body.

ICE, SURVEILLANCE, AND TRUMP

(Ms. OMAR of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the Trump administration's police state tactics in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, New York City, and so many other cities across the country.

We should speak clearly about what is happening.

Masked agents of the state in unmarked vehicles are terrorizing communities. They are disappearing people. They are targeting political opponents of the President.

They are using militarized force to silence, intimidate, and brutalize not just Americans who are exercising their First Amendment rights but also members of the press.

They are partnering with Trump's donors, Silicon Valley oligarchs, for a sinister and deeply un-American agenda of surveillance and criminalization based on people's political views or, in some cases, just based on where they live.

There was a story that Trump told during the campaign about the need to restore law and order, about the need to target criminals. Within moments of assuming the Presidency for the second time, though, his true agenda became clear.

The administration has no interest whatsoever in targeting criminals. What they want is to fulfill Stephen Miller's white nationalist fantasy. They are targeting law-abiding people.

In fact, they are punishing immigrants who are following the law.

Let me say that again: They are punishing immigrants who are following the law.

That is what it means to use IRS data to target people. It means targeting people who are paying their taxes. That is what it means to send agents, with their faces covered by bandanas, to immigration court to arrest people while leaving their hearings. They are punishing people who are doing things the right way by showing up to court and going through the process.

It can be a little easy in politics to point out the hypocrisy on the other side and to point out people's inconsistencies when their own party is in charge. Yet, I can't ignore the irony that the Republican Party has spent my entire life railing about Big Brother when Democrats want to put simple things like energy standards on appliances.

For the last 4 years, the majority has gone on and on about the weaponization of the Federal Government. My Republican colleagues created a special subcommittee here in the House, which I happily voted for, to hammer the idea that Americans were being targeted based on their political views.

I wonder, when the Federal Government is sending marines to break up protests in Los Angeles, why are we hearing little from that side about the States' rights.

I wonder, when unaccountable rogue agencies are partnering with tech companies like Palantir to surveil and profile Americans, why are we hearing so little from the other side about civil liberties.

I also wonder, when people are being arrested, stripped of their green cards, and deported because they do not agree with our government's position on Gaza, why are we hearing so little from that side about the weaponization of the Federal Government.

The American people are right to be disturbed by these unmistakably fascist tactics, and they are showing up in numbers to oppose the militarized raids. They are using their constitutional rights to oppose the brutality of Trump and Miller's policies.

I stand in solidarity with the people in my district and across this country who are coming out to peacefully make their voices heard and demand respect for our constitutional rights and values.

The people who are standing up for their neighbors, standing up for families, and standing up for communities are showing more patriotism and more genuine commitment to our founding ideals than the people running the executive branch. This administration will not last forever, and the reactions of everyday Americans to this authoritarianism give me heart.

A couple of weeks ago, after an ICE raid at a pizzeria in Honesdale, Penn-

sylvania, two people gave quotes to local news that have been making the rounds. One of them said: "It is just made to instill fear, and I am not sure why we need fear in our communities instead of love and caring and community."

That is what we are about in this country, and that is what we will continue to stand up for.

□ 1045

SUPPORTING ISRAELI SECURITY AND PALESTINIAN FREEDOM

(Mr. NADLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israeli security; Palestinian freedom; a just, peaceful, and swift end to the war in Gaza; and an eventual, viable, and negotiated two-state solution.

The situation in Gaza today is dire. I want to be clear. The war in Gaza began with Hamas' brutal attack on innocent Israelis on October 7, the bloodiest day in Jewish history since the Holocaust. For many in the Jewish community, in the United States, and around the world, time stopped on that day and has not yet resumed.

It will resume when all the hostages are home. It will resume when the war is over and the reservists can return to their families. It will resume when there is enough food, water, and medicine in Gaza to alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe. It will resume when families on both sides of the border can sleep peacefully without the constant fear of rockets and bombs falling from the sky. It will resume when there is a lasting, durable, and negotiated cease-fire.

Mr. Speaker, that day need not be far away. Israel achieved its goal of destroying the military capabilities and existential threat of Hamas months ago. Now, Prime Minister Netanyahu should be proclaiming victory and indicating his readiness to withdraw from Gaza contingent on the return of all the hostages, both living and dead.

He should be signaling his willingness to support an international security force on an interim basis to ensure law and order and Israel's support for international investment in the training and equipping of an eventual Palestinian security force. He should be supporting confidence-building measures in the West Bank, which empower the Palestinian Authority contingent on the PA embracing and implementing real reforms. He should not be enacting an annexationist vision while the plague of settler violence runs rampant.

The alternative, Mr. Speaker, is a stark and disturbing picture. This week, Tom Friedman wrote in *The New York Times* that: If "Israel goes ahead with Netanyahu's vow to perpetuate this war indefinitely—to try to achieve . . . the far right's fantasy of ridding

Gaza of Palestinians and resettling it with Israelis—Jews worldwide better prepare themselves, their children, and their grandchildren for a reality they have never known: to be Jewish in a world where the Jewish state is a pariah state, a source of shame, not of pride.

"Because one day, foreign photographers and reporters will be allowed to go into Gaza unescorted by the Israeli Army." And when they do, the full horror of the destruction there will become clear to all.

Friedman continued, Mr. Speaker, writing: "Israel, instead of being seen by Jews as a safe haven from anti-Semitism, will be seen as a new engine generating it; sane Israelis will line up to immigrate to Australia and America rather than beckon their fellow Jews to come Israel's way. That dystopian future is not here yet, but if you don't see its outlines gathering, you are deluding yourself."

Mr. Friedman is not alone in this analysis. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, former Israeli security officials have been speaking out. Last week, two former Israeli Air Force pilots, Brigadier General Asaf Agmon and Colonel Uri Arad, published a letter in Hebrew in the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*. They wrote: "As the war in Gaza dragged on, it became clear that it was losing its strategic and security purposes and instead served primarily the political and personal interests of the government. It thus became an unmistakably immoral war, and increasingly appeared to be a war of revenge."

I agree with these distinguished former officials. It is clear to me that we long ago reached the point where victory is no longer the goal, and the main obstacle to bringing the hostages home and ending the war is the politics of one man: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

General Agmon and Colonel Arad are not peace activists, Mr. Speaker. They are former top Israeli Air Force pilots and high-ranking officers. We must heed their calls.

They are not alone, Mr. Speaker. Commanders for Israel's Security is a movement of over 550 retired senior officials from Israel's defense, security and diplomatic services. The "Commanders," as they are often referred to, recently published a letter urging Jewish diaspora voices to speak out in favor of ending the violence in Gaza.

They wrote: "Accused of weakening Israel or betraying their connection to the Jewish state, they are told that those who live abroad or do not serve in the IDF must keep silent. We categorically reject the notion that Jews in the diaspora must remain silent on matters concerning Israel. . . . To those who fear that public criticism undermines Israel, we say that open, honest dialogue only reinforces our democracy and security."

This is true for this body, too, Mr. Speaker. We all must speak up. If our voices contribute to preventing one