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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

more ounce of bloodshed or to the return home of a hostage 1 minute sooner or gets one more piece of bread into the hands of a starving Gazan or helps redeem the moral position of the State of Israel, our words are worth it.

Jewish tradition teaches in Mishnah Sanhedrin that saving one life is like saving the whole world. I hope that we can come together to heed the voices that are speaking out at this moment, and that together we can work to save as many worlds as we can.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER
CHARLES B. RANGEL

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the passing of our esteemed colleague and former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Charles B. "Charlie" Rangel.

Mr. Rangel served in this House of Representatives for 46 years. He was talented, hilarious to talk to in private and public moments, and an individual who, time and again, offered broad influence on important legislation that passed through this House and eventually became law, including the Affordable Care Act while he was chairman of the Committee.

He was one of the longest serving Members of Congress, but he was also a legislative titan in the sense that 40 bills or resolutions that became law were part of his rich legacy.

He was a friend, ally, and acolyte of the late Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill. He was also a dedicated member of the American military and, in fact, was wounded at the Yalu River during the Korean conflict.

His story is that of millions of Americans who, against extraordinary odds, succeeded. Educated by a family from Springfield, Massachusetts, the Putnams, he made his way through NYU and St. John's Law School and became a former assistant district attorney as well as a Member of this House and an assemblyman. He defeated Adam Clayton Powell in a very big upset, and 46 years later, he retired from this institution.

Amongst the most pleasant memories I have of Mr. Rangel, who was a great friend and mentor to me, and I stayed in touch with him many years after he had decided to retire, was his strong sense of independence.

I think for a young man growing up in the thirties and forties in Harlem, there must have been many serious challenges, but he always finished his sentences after a legislative task had been accomplished by saying and referencing "this great country of ours."

After the Yalu River, he wrote a very important book, "And I Haven't Had a Bad Day Since." The humor was clear to all of us as it was delivered with that raspy voice time and again. I know in reference to me it was always "Richard" and we knew what he meant.

One of my last get-togethers with Chairman Rangel was in New York City. I was reminded of that sense of independence as we had a seminar that was conducted by the Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee, and I called to make sure that this former alum would attend.

I asked if we could do anything, like providing him with transportation. He said no. In his early nineties, he would make his way there to the restaurant on his own.

At the end of the night, knowing that he clearly had lost a step in terms of some of that independence as he tried to navigate the staircase going up, I said: Charlie, can I help you with the staircase? And he said: No, you can't.

That was the Charlie Rangel we knew. It wasn't insolence. It was that sense of independence that he always maintained and kept.

I can't tell you how many nights in the Ways and Means Committee when Mr. Rangel would hold forth about the stories of people he had met along the way. The stories were always rather colorful and ended with a laugh. Those very people are part of the strong personalities that make up the institution of the House of Representatives, and he certainly was one of them.

He came from a time very different than the one that we find ourselves in now. It had nothing to do with performative politics and certainly nothing to do with social media. He found a little bit of comfort in taking on his most severe critics on cable TV. He was one of those Members of Congress who would accept an invitation from people who had been harshly critical of him to define his positions.

Charlie Rangel was one of those guys that changed this institution for the better and forever. I still recall those discussions he had as we related conversations to the Chinese Government, to his own upward mobility, to the legislation that he paved the way for. Charlie Rangel always cared about the people in Harlem, and Charlie Rangel always cared about the American people and the United States of America, as well.

He redefined what was possible. He shepherded much of the great legislation that we continue to enjoy today in America, but I will call attention to those statements that he made, Mr. Speaker, by always finishing with what a great country we live in.

DOGE HAS UNFETTERED ACCESS
TO PERSONAL DATA

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I, first and foremost, will associate myself with the remarks of Mr. NEAL from Massachusetts about our dear friend and colleague, Charlie Rangel.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I will point out, as well, that I believe the Representative

from Indiana was on the floor talking about how we should go after PBS and NPR. "Sesame Street" and Big Bird are really culprits here, and every American ought to be really concerned about that.

We still have something we call free press and free opinions. If you think that they are the kind of organization that they are—I believe the other night on the floor they were called communistic, as well. How about we have an open public hearing and debate on that and put legislation forward not in the dark of night but when the public can actually view what you are saying.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today primarily, though, to talk about Social Security and also to enlighten, I hope, my colleagues on the other side. I am very concerned about the Supreme Court's most recent ruling that overturned two lower courts with no logic and said, no, there shouldn't be a pause, that DOGE ought to be able to look at everyone's personal data and records.

To all Social Security recipients and all Americans out there that are tuned in to this, understand what this is about. This is about DOGE having access to the more than 70 million Social Security recipients and everybody who, in fact, is on Social Security, which will include basically the whole Nation.

Why they need this data they don't make clear, but then again, they have never been vetted. They have never had to go through a Senate process. They are a special group status that has no responsibility or accountability and have been given unfettered access to everyone's personal data and information.

I would hope that one Republican—perhaps you, Mr. Speaker—will stand up and speak out against this outrage, because you know how important Social Security is to your district and how many recipients you have and how much money comes into your district on a monthly basis.

Imagine, that hasn't been altered in over 54 years because this body hasn't taken action, but now Elon Musk and Trump will get over the dispute they had because their focus is on privatizing Social Security and going after the \$2.7 trillion of the people's money that is in trust. Their goal is to privatize Social Security by both dismantling it from within by laying off people, cutting phone service, closing regional offices, and suspending more than 7,000 workers under the guise of "we are after fraud and abuse."

They are about to take and use something that could be a very constructive tool in AI, but, no, they are going to be using that tool to go after the people's data and information and the \$2.7 trillion in the trust fund.

Will anyone on the other side of the aisle join Representatives NEAL and JEFFRIES in putting forward a bill that stops DOGE from looking at and taking people's personal data and information?