

The bill is moving in the Senate, literally as I stand here in the well of the House. In the light of day over the last month or so, a lot of the rocks have been kicked over in H.R. 1 to sort of see what is in there. A lot of pretty ugly things have slithered out, including a provision to auction off some of our precious public lands out West, basically robbing those treasured assets from future generations.

There are deregulated gun silencers, which have been on the National Firearms Act since the 1930s. Who benefits from that? I am sure there are a lot of criminals that are rooting for them to be able to go out and buy tax-free gun silencers.

It increases the national debt by \$5 trillion, with about \$3.5 trillion in new debt with another \$1.5 trillion in interest payments. It cuts taxes for American families with a yearly income above \$500,000 to the tune of over a trillion dollars with a pittance for middle-class and working families. It raises the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion so the government can sell bonds to finance debt. Again, it is a bill that basically benefits the Elon Musks and Jeff Bezos of the world.

What is really at the heart of H.R. 1 that should concern every single American is a provision that includes the largest cut in healthcare spending in American history with over a trillion dollars of cuts in the bill as it left this floor on May 22. I have here a poster next to me that talks about what the real-life impact is going to be on hospitals all across the country. It is not coming from me as a member of the minority caucus. This comes from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which has been around for 50 years and is a completely nonpartisan analyst in terms of healthcare spending and healthcare financing throughout the country.

What it did was break down State by State what the impact of this bill will be. For the State of Connecticut, where I am from, it is actually about a \$9 billion cut over the next 10 years in terms of the Medicaid program, as well as eliminating the premium tax subsidies for people who get their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. That is about 15 million Americans. The hospitals, in particular, are going to take the biggest hit. As this headline says in the Connecticut press, it is about \$4 billion over the next 10 years.

All of my colleagues that are here today, I encourage them to look at this analysis which shows State by State, sector by sector within healthcare spending, hospitals, physicians, and prescription drugs, in terms of the impact that this bill will have. There was a lot of hope that maybe in the Senate this bill might be fixed and addressed, particularly because it hits rural hospitals so hard. There are so many Republicans in the majority caucus in the Senate that obviously are going to feel the pain if this provision goes through.

Unfortunately, what we saw come out of the Senate Finance Committee

is even worse in terms of what came through from the House. Don't take my word for it. Listen to the Catholic Hospital Association, who issued a statement just a few days ago after this provision came out. They had warned them before of the devastating impact it would have, particularly on safety net hospitals which Catholics are definitely a part of all across the country. It fell on deaf ears.

Children's hospitals rely on Medicaid to a greater proportion than other hospitals because they don't have elderly patients, obviously. They are children's hospitals, and Medicare pays for a lot of those patients. Children's hospitals have no place to cost-shift, so they have uncompensated care with this devastating Medicaid cut that is going to hit every State in terms of its Federal matching funds. This is going to land on the most vulnerable in our society and the people who are delivering the care. They are not partisans. They are not approaching Congress as Democrats or Republicans. They are there as people who are doing their job day in and day out.

I visited one of those hospitals last week, Lawrence Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut. Over 40 percent of their patient census is on Medicaid. It is in the heart of New London, a wonderful, historic community, but it has a high Medicaid population.

Mr. Speaker, we have to stop this insane attack on healthcare that affects every single American. We have got to block H.R. 1. We got to go back and do a better job for the American people.

HONORING ROBERT TURNEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. WEBER of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a man who has been more than just a reliable IT, or internet technology, guy. Bob has been a quiet, constant, behind-the-scenes hero, and for many of us here, a trusted partner and friend.

Bob Turney is retiring today, Mr. Speaker, from the Chief Administrative Office after nearly three decades of dedicated service to this institution.

Let me tell you, in this business, it is rare to find someone as steady, sharp, and, yes, selfless as Bob Turney. It is even rarer to find a tech guy who not only understands computers but understands people. Bob Turney is that guy, Mr. Speaker.

I am proud he is a fellow Texan. He started in the House way back in the summer of 1996, working in the district office for a Member of Congress. He later served in the D.C. offices of two different Members before making the leap into IT in the year 2008. That is when Bob officially became the go-to guy who could fix just about anything with a keyboard, a cable, or even a calm word of advice. He is great.

He has seen Congress through dialups, shutdowns, upgrades, and upheav-

als, Mr. Speaker. He kept us wired. He really had things wired. He kept us wired when the system crashed, and he kept calm when the screens turned blue. Believe me, that is no small feat when you are dealing with a bunch of Members of Congress and a great staff, Mr. Speaker, who, by the way, need help unlocking their iPhones.

More than his technical skills, Bob Turney brought wisdom, humor, as well as humility. He understood the importance of servant leadership, Mr. Speaker. He never sought the spotlight. He simply showed up and did his job when it mattered the most.

Bob is retiring under circumstances, Mr. Speaker, he did not choose, but he is doing so with grace and grit that reflects the very best of who he is and who we all aspire to be like. His health challenges may have forced this chapter to close, but knowing Bob, the next one will be just as meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, if Bob is watching, I say thank you to my friend, my pal, and my buddy. I thank him for his blood, toil, tears, and sweat, as Churchill would say. I thank him for his service to the people's House. I thank him for being one of the good ones. Bob may be hanging up the laptop, but his legacy is logged in for good. May God bless him. Godspeed.

EVERY 4.5 DAYS A WOMAN IS MURDERED IN PUERTO RICO

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of women everywhere, but particularly women in Puerto Rico. Every 4.5 days, a woman is murdered in Puerto Rico. That is not a statistic. That is a national shame.

It is the sound of silence after a scream, the echo of a child left without a mother, and the consequence of a government that has delayed action for too long.

During a recent district work period, I met with Coordinadora Paz para las Mujeres and they shared that between 2019 and 2025, we have lost 435 women: mothers, daughters, sisters, and neighbors to gender-based violence.

Mr. Speaker, 87 percent of intimate partner femicides this year involved firearms. However, shelters are still underfunded, legal aid is limited, and survivors are turned away. The government has not taken decisive action.

Coordinadora Paz para las Mujeres is a nonprofit that has tackled gender-based violence in Puerto Rico for over 35 years. It is now at risk of losing the Federal funding that sustains its work. According to Executive Director Vilma Gonzalez Castro, the impact would be devastating as 80 percent of their budget comes from Federal sources. For organizations like CPM, these cuts would not just reduce services, but could mean total elimination.

This is not just a Puerto Rico issue. This is an American crisis. Today, I

urge my colleagues to protect and expand Federal funding for domestic violence shelters, emergency services, and trauma-informed care. I ask that we not just count the dead but honor them through policy.

We must stop confusing austerity with justice. Cutting these services does not save money. Cutting these services costs lives. Let us act with urgency, with dignity, and with the full force of Federal responsibility because all of this will ultimately save lives.

PELL GRANTS IN PUERTO RICO

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, in Puerto Rico, over 134,000 students rely on Pell grants to access higher education. That is \$783 million in Federal aid. More than just a number, it is the key to success for students and their families to help pay for tuition, textbooks, and other basic expenses in order to be successful in obtaining their degrees.

These grants open doors to universities, community colleges, technical institutes, institutions that, in turn, train the very people who serve our communities: our teachers, our engineers, our healthcare workers, our middle class, the core of our society.

Yet, these lifelines are under threat. Republicans have proposed billions in cuts from Pell grants and changes to PLUS loans to help pay for tax breaks for billionaires at the expense of education opportunities. They are willing to help the most well-off in our society at the expense of our students.

In Puerto Rico, such a decision will not just hurt individuals. It will ripple through every public hospital, every rural clinic, and every school. It will weaken the very infrastructure that sustains life on the island. Health services provided by students in higher education would be reduced dramatically across the whole Nation, as I learned from meeting with officials from the Carlos Albizu University during a recent district work period.

Let's be clear: Pell grants are not charity. They are a covenant, a promise that talent, not income, should determine your future. To break that promise is not just bad policy. It is a betrayal of American ideals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this Congress to protect Pell grants. Our whole collective future depends on it.

HONORING CHERYL PETERSON ON HER RETIREMENT

(Mrs. FEDORCHAK of North Dakota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cheryl Peterson of Carrington, North Dakota, as she wraps up a 30-year-long chapter at the local pasta plant.

Since 1984, Cheryl's morning routine has included packing her lunch and driving across town to the pasta plant where she has clocked in 5 days a week.

Cheryl is deaf, but that hasn't stopped her from being a steady and

trusted employee committed to helping others out. In the words of her production manager, Cheryl is a reliable employee with a positive attitude who is willing to help with anything.

She never sought the spotlight. She just showed up, did the work, and made a difference. North Dakota is great because of people like Cheryl: humble, hardworking, and full of heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Cheryl Peterson's remarkable career and wishing her a joyful and well-earned retirement.

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RECOGNIZING DAVE FLOHR

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Flohr for his outstanding service to North Dakota.

For more than four decades, Dave has dedicated his career to strengthening communities through safe, stable, and affordable housing.

His leadership at the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency, especially these past 5 years as executive director, has helped thousands of families in North Dakota achieve the dream of homeownership.

Dave's deep knowledge, steady guidance, and passion for serving others have left a lasting effect on our State. He built partnerships, created solutions, and made homeownership possible for so many North Dakotans.

On behalf of our State, I thank Dave for a lifetime of meaningful service. I wish him all the best in retirement, though I know his influence will be felt for years to come. Congratulations.

CONGRATULATING DOUG DARLING ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize President Doug Darling for his extraordinary 36-year career at Lake Region State College.

From his early days as a marketing instructor to his decade of leadership as president, Dr. Darling has poured his heart into this institution. He has been a mentor, a builder, and a steady hand, helping shape Lake Region into a place where students from all walks of life can find opportunity and purpose.

Dr. Darling's legacy is measured not just in programs launched or buildings improved, but in the thousands of lives changed under his leadership. His belief in the power of education has left a permanent mark in North Dakota.

As he steps into retirement, I join many across our State in thanking him for his service and in wishing him well in his next chapter. I thank Dr. Darling.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two remarkable North Dakota festivals that earned national recognition in Cenex' Hometown Throwdown.

Hazen Chalkfest won second place and a \$20,000 prize thanks to its stunning 3D artwork and more than 600 local participants. Just look at that.

Wahpeton's Borderline Chalkfest claimed third, with a \$15,000 award for its imaginative perspective art, like the chalk s'more that had folks saying: "That looks delicious."

These awards aren't just about art. They reflect strong community spirit, hometown pride, and the creativity that thrives across our beautiful North Dakota. Our small towns are doing big things, earning national attention, drawing families together, and inspiring joy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what Hazen and Wahpeton have accomplished. Please join me in congratulating them for showing the rest of the country just how vibrant and innovative North Dakota communities are.

CONGRATULATING RANDY HEDBERG

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Randy Hedberg of Parshall on his induction into the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame.

Randy is a true North Dakota success story, an all-sport college athlete at Minot State, an NFL quarterback, and a legendary coach who never forgot where he came from.

His coaching career spanned 45 years, including 11 years at North Dakota State University, where he helped lead the Bison to not one, not two, not three, but—count it—seven national championships. He also mentored future NFL stars like Carson Wentz and Trey Lance.

What sets Randy apart isn't just his record but his character, humility, and deep commitment to his players and our State. He represents the best of North Dakota.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join me in celebrating Randy Hedberg's remarkable legacy and thanking him for inspiring generations of athletes.

RECOGNIZING BAD BUNNY

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, this Puerto Rican Heritage Month, I rise to recognize Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, better known for many of us as Bad Bunny, for his worldwide contribution to the arts, music, and culture.

Born and raised in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, Bad Bunny is a global phenomenon. His songs transcend borders, sharing the vibrant culture of Puerto Rico with millions, while stirring a deep sense of pride and connection for Latinos across the globe.

His 2022 album "Un Verano Sin Ti" made history as the first Spanish-language album nominated for the Grammy Award Album of the Year. His recent album "Debi Tirar Mas Fotos" has inspired millions as a powerful tribute to Puerto Rico and his hope for its freedom, while reminding us of our shared struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and displacement.