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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 25, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL MEUSER, 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 11:50 a.m.

KEEP RURAL HOSPITALS OPEN AS LIFELINE

(Ms. McBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the rural communities in Delaware and the hospitals that are their lifelines because if the Republican budget is passed, that lifeline will be cut.

Across Delaware, rural hospitals are doing more than just providing care. They are holding communities together. They are delivering babies.

They are treating emergencies. They are caring for aging parents. They are anchors of both health and economic stability.

Under this budget, all of that is at risk. For rural hospitals, it means more unpaid bills, more red tape, and more patient bankruptcies. For some rural hospitals, it means closure. When Medicaid is gutted, rural hospitals don't just struggle. They shutter.

Today, over 40 percent of rural hospitals operate at a loss. They rely on Medicaid to keep the lights on and the doors open. Take that funding away, and entire regions lose access to maternity care, cancer treatment, mental health services, and more.

This isn't hypothetical. Before Medicaid expansion, clinics were closing, nurses were being laid off, and people were driving for hours just to see a doctor. Now, the majority party wants to bring that devastation to Delaware, where we have diligently worked to ensure that we have no care deserts.

Even in the places where those hospitals will survive, fewer patients will have coverage.

This budget would impose endless red tape and import the worst parts of the private healthcare system, confusing paperwork and needless bureaucracy, into the Medicaid program.

In total, 16 million people could lose coverage. Millions more could lose access to care in their community. In Delaware, that will mean 40,000 of our neighbors—working families, children, seniors in assisted living, and people managing chronic conditions—getting dropped from coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you what that means in real life. It means missed chemotherapy appointments because the hospital shuts down. It means laboring mothers being driven 1½ hours to the nearest delivery room. It means children skipping care for chronic asthma because their pediatrician can't afford to stay open. It means working

people in Delaware will skip doctors' appointments because they have lost their insurance, only to end up in the emergency room and facing longer wait times and crushing medical bills.

Rural hospitals are left to absorb the costs while patients are burdened with life-altering debt, and, yes, it means more preventable deaths.

All of this, Mr. Speaker, is just to partially—just partially—pay for tax breaks for billionaires.

I have heard from healthcare leaders across my State who have told me plainly that if this budget passes, they will have to reduce services and lay off staff. Their facilities serve hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of Medicaid patients. They are operating on razor-thin margins already.

This plan would push rural hospitals and clinics over the cliff. Cuts to Medicaid aren't just cuts to line items on a budget. They are cuts to care that keep my constituents alive.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest about what this is: a budget that raises costs for working families, adds red tape for patients and providers, and gives handouts to billionaires, all while risking the collapse of rural healthcare systems.

If you believe in the dignity of rural communities and if you believe that no one should die because their local hospital couldn't keep its doors open, then join me in opposing this horrible and heartless bill.

HONORING BRI ELLIS

(Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Arkansas softball sensation Bri Ellis, the Southeastern Conference and USA Softball Player of the Year in NCAA women's college softball in 2025.

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, before I speak to her personal credentials, I will say the Razorback softball team had another banner season, albeit short of qualifying for the Women's College Softball World Series.

The Hogs advanced to its fourth super regional in program history. Under Coach Courtney Deifel, Razorback softball has steadily climbed in the rankings over the last several seasons. Much of that success over recent years is clearly due to attracting quality players like Bri Ellis.

Bri is a native of Houston, Texas. She is a graduate of Memorial High School in Hedwig Village, Texas, and is the 20th ranked player in the Nation. She signed with Auburn and played two seasons with the Tigers before entering the transfer portal and coming to Arkansas.

As a junior, she became a first-team All-SEC player, and it got better in her senior season. This year, Bri hit .440, with 59 hits, 9 doubles, 26 home runs, and 72 RBIs. She posted a nation-leading 1.142 slugging percentage and a .646 on-base percentage.

Her talent and skills made things difficult on opposing teams, but no one sequence during the year better described this young lady's ability than a game against Georgia in the 2025 SEC tournament in Athens.

Realizing her prowess, the Georgia strategy was to limit any damage Bri could inflict on the Bulldogs by refusing to pitch to her, effectively surrendering to her as a base runner, with nine straight pitches out of the strike zone. She was walked twice and then hit by a pitch in her first three at-bats but then came the bottom of the seventh and final inning. The score was tied at 1-1, and Arkansas had loaded the bases ahead of—you guessed it—Bri Ellis. One run wins the game. Georgia had to pitch to her.

On the 10th pitch that she saw that day, Bri did what Bri does best. She launched one deep over the left-field fence for a walk-off grand slam home run.

No moment in Razorback softball history fully captures the impact that this outstanding player has had on the sport in Fayetteville than that game.

Softball experts, recognizing her accomplishments, made her only the fifth position player to win the Player of the Year honor. Bri Ellis didn't just elevate Razorback softball. She became a Bogle Field legend at Arkansas.

I join her parents, Ron and Molly Ellis, and her sister, Emily, in congratulating Bri for an outstanding collegiate career and the legacy she leaves at the University of Arkansas.

Go Hogs.

HONORING WEHIWA ALOY

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Arkansas baseball sensation Wehiwa Aloy, the 2025 Golden Spikes Award recipient given to the top amateur baseball player in the United States.

This great shortstop propelled the Razorbacks to the semifinals of the

Men's College World Series in Omaha. Previous to this honor, Wehiwa was named the 2025 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year.

Aloy was one of college baseball's most electrifying all-around players in 2025. This Wailuku, Hawaii, native started all 65 games at shortstop during the season, and he turned in one of the best offensive campaigns in Razorback history.

He led the team in nearly every major category, including slugging percentage, on-base plus slugging, hits, runs scored, doubles, triples, home runs, extra-base hits, multihit games, and total bases. In many of these categories, he ranks among the top 10 in the program's single-season record book.

Defensively, Aloy dazzled with just 5 errors in 229 total chances while helping turn 31 double plays during the 2025 season.

Wehiwa reached the pinnacle of collegiate baseball without having earned major offers out of Baldwin High School on Maui. Yet, after a year at Sacramento State, he transferred to Arkansas and found his groove.

He captured the hearts and minds of Razorback fans everywhere. In fact, Baum-Walker Stadium looked more like a luau on game day, with so many fans donning leis, Hawaiian shirts, and other island merchandise in recognition of his native Hawaii.

He joins former Razorbacks Andrew Benintendi and Kevin Kopps as the only Arkansas players with national player of the year honors.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an unprecedented spring at Arkansas, with Razorback athletes claiming player of the year honors in both softball and baseball. That has never happened before.

I join his parents, Jamie and Napua; his brother and teammate, Kuhio; and his sister, Kiani, in congratulating Wehiwa Aloy for his Golden Spikes Award and his impact on Razorback baseball. We wish him well as he embarks on what should be a promising professional career.

Go Hogs.

RESPECTING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very special message—an admonition, a prewarning—for the most powerful man in the universe, I am told, the President of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, there is talk of having to go back into Iran. There is talk of the job not having been done as expected.

I make no comments about whether he should or shouldn't go, but I do comment on the Constitution. I do say to the most powerful man in the universe: Mr. President, if you go back

into Iran and do not get the consent of Congress or appropriately notice Congress, Mr. President, I will bring Articles of Impeachment against you again.

Mr. President, no one person should have the authority to take 300-plus million people to war on his own volition. The Congress of the United States must be engaged in this process.

Mr. President, it is pretty simple. Either you will respect the Constitution of the United States of America, or you will expect AL GREEN.

TAKING A STEP TOWARD TRUE ENERGY DOMINANCE

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, if you are packing up your car, booking a flight, or planning a trip this summer, you have probably noticed that things feel a little bit better this year, a little bit smoother, and much more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, that is not luck. That is because Congress is working to pass President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and it is already making a difference in our summer travel plans.

Mr. Speaker, hardworking American families deserve the freedom to fuel up without pinching pennies, and Trump's bill gets us one step closer to true energy dominance.

One of the biggest costs to families hitting the road this summer is the price at the pump. That is why we fought hard to include an important provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that cuts red tape on domestic energy production. It reopens Federal lands for drilling and streamlines refinery regulations.

Mr. Speaker, it is simple: When America produces more energy, we pay less at the pump. That means that we don't have to beg foreign dictators for oil.

In fact, experts are already predicting a decline in gas prices as we move through the summer months. Usually, they go up because the summer fuels are more expensive. Because of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, we have the freedom to make more summer family memories without breaking the bank.

It is not just about driving, either. If you have flown lately, you have probably experienced the delays, cancellations, and chaos plaguing America's airlines and our airports.

□ 1015

President Trump's big, beautiful bill tackles this head-on by investing in modern air traffic control technology, expanding staffing pipelines, and overhauling the bureaucratic logjam that has kept our skies grounded for way too long.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to President Trump, America will begin streamlining hiring for air traffic controllers, improving FAA coordination, and bringing our aviation infrastructure