

percent. Yet, the Fed has not moved much and has left interest rates as high as where they currently are, 4.5 percent.

Mr. Speaker, a 1 percent reduction of interest rates to 3.5 percent would add \$290 billion in GDP growth while also delivering \$200 billion of savings in the service we pay on our debt. That is an improvement of \$490 billion to boost our economy.

Lower rates today will advance housing, an industry with a 3-to-1 multiplier, spur capital investment, and unlock durable good purchases, including cars and household appliances. Unfortunately, fear-mongering by the media drove consumer sentiment down despite, in fact, the lower inflationary data.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Fed to choose growth over apprehension, as the President is urging.

CONTINUE BUILDING WORLD'S STRONGEST MILITARY

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we are voting on the fiscal 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, an essential bill that demonstrates our unwavering commitment to our veterans, military families, and national security.

This is a major piece of legislation, totaling \$453 billion, that ensures we support those who have worn the uniform and continue building the strongest military in the world. This bill fully funds veterans' medical care, backing up the words we often say on this floor and throughout our districts that we support our veterans and thank them for their service.

Let me quickly walk through what is in this bill: \$453 billion in total funding, \$150 billion in discretionary funding, \$300 billion for mandatory programs, \$131 billion to fully fund veterans' medical care, \$2 billion for military family housing, and over \$1.2 billion for Guard and Reserve construction facilities.

This supports President Trump's initiative to end veteran homelessness through the Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment program, protects veterans' Second Amendment rights, and invests heavily in general military construction.

I proudly represent more than 45,000 veterans in Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District. When I include their families, many of whom have served or are preparing to serve, well over 100,000 Pennsylvanians just in my district alone will be directly impacted by what we do today. We also have 800,000 veterans throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, our Lebanon VA in my district was ranked among the top VAs in the Nation for many years in a row. That is something we certainly take pride in and something this bill supports.

I am also proud to represent Fort Indiantown Gap, the second largest

Army helicopter training facility in the U.S. In total, the Gap trains more than 130,000 military personnel each year.

This bill not only honors our past military heroes, but it also helps inspire the next generation to serve. We are seeing that patriotism grow. Recruitment is way up, thanks in part to the new culture of strength and support for our military under President Trump's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical appropriations bill. It reflects our values, strengthens our defense, and ensures we never waver in our duty to those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

(Ms. GOODLANDER of New Hampshire was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's firefighters and first responders. These are American heroes who put their lives on the line every single day to keep our communities safe. These are heroes who give their lives to saving lives.

Firefighters run into fire for us. They are on the front lines of fighting our Nation's opioid epidemic. In their service to all of us, firefighters are exposed to toxic chemicals and cancer-causing chemicals every single day. That is why cancer is the leading cause of death for America's firefighters.

They do all this work for us, knowing the hazards of the important job that they do. That is what makes them the best of America. They are heroes with families and loved ones who deserve our support.

Today, the families of fallen American heroes who died from cancers they developed in their service to all of us aren't getting the Federal benefits they have earned because of a gap in existing law. Let me repeat that. American heroes who have died from cancer in service to our country aren't getting the benefits that they have earned because of fixable gaps in Federal law. That is not right, and Congress can do something about this.

I am here today because we must close this gap for New Hampshire heroes who are standing beside me today and who are with us today in this Chamber. They are New Hampshire heroes Lieutenant Jessica Wyman of Nashua Fire Rescue and Lieutenant Aaron Cooper of Keene Fire Department, both of whom lost their lives to lung cancer that they developed in the line of duty.

These two brave heroes gave their lives to keep our communities safe. Their families and loved ones deserve to get the benefits they have earned.

That is why today, Mr. Speaker, I call on Members of Congress from across America to support bipartisan, bicameral legislation, the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, H.R. 1269. This

is commonsense, long overdue legislation that I am proud to cosponsor. It will deliver for our first responders and their families.

I say today I am forever grateful to Lieutenant Chris Wyman, a hero in his own right, who is here with us in this Chamber today. He has come to Congress to do what we all should hope every American will do, which is to advocate for this legislation that we have to get done.

In this Chamber, there are words behind me, words of New Hampshire's own Daniel Webster, who called on us to do something, to do something worthy to be remembered. These heroes, including this hero standing before us today, have done so much that is worthy to be remembered and worthy to be honored.

As eloquent as Daniel Webster was, I want to say that Lieutenant Jessica Wyman lived by a motto that is even more powerful to me. It resonates even more deeply with me. She lived by the motto: Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.

I thank Lieutenant Wyman from the bottom of my heart for involving me in this cause. It is a cause that I am going to fight for because it is a cause that we should all be on board with. It is honoring American heroes who are the best of our country.

By making the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act law, the United States Congress will do something worthy to be remembered. I want to get all of my colleagues involved. With that, I say let's get this done this Congress. It is long overdue, and I thank Lieutenant Wyman for her service.

HONORING ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, a time to bring attention to a disease that impacts nearly every family in America in some way.

This month serves as a solemn reminder of the devastating toll Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia continue to take on our loved ones, our caregivers, and our communities.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's today. Around the world, nearly 50 million people are facing daily struggles with this disease or related dementias.

Alzheimer's is not just a health issue. It is a national crisis. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and remains the only one in the top 10 with no known cure. There is no way to prevent it and no effective means to slow its progression.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, deaths related to Alzheimer's increased by 16 percent, further underscoring the urgency for action. Behind these statistics are real people.

I recently had the privilege of meeting with two advocates from my district, Maria Frank of Wellsboro and Julieanne Steinbacher of Williamsport. They came to Washington on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association to share their personal experiences and to urge continued investment in research and support for patients and caregivers.

However, the Alzheimer's Association does more than just advocate for Alzheimer's, dementia patients, and their families. Through its strong network of nationwide chapters, the Alzheimer's Association invests directly in cutting-edge research, offering free, 24/7 care consultation for patients and their families. It hosts community education programs and caregiver support groups, ensuring families and patients receive the critical resources that they need.

Their stories are a powerful reminder that behind every diagnosis is a family doing everything they can to hold on to moments, to dignity, and to hope. This is personal for so many of us.

A diagnosis of Alzheimer's doesn't impact one individual. It affects entire families. There is hope. We have seen progress through bipartisan investment in research. Continued support for groundbreaking innovation can bring us closer to treatment and, one day, a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Maria and Julieanne for their tireless advocacy and commitment to this cause. This month let's support the families impacted and never stop believing in a future where Alzheimer's is no longer a devastating diagnosis but a defeated disease.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE BY ICE

(Mr. MIN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 516, sponsored by Representative YOUNG KIM. This resolution has a lot of things I think we all can agree upon, including recognizing the right to assemble and protest peacefully and condemning violence against law enforcement.

In the very last clause, it specifically expresses gratitude to law enforcement including ICE for "keeping our communities safe in the face of danger."

I want to be clear. I commend local law enforcement, including the Orange County Sheriff's Department, which I represent, for their professionalism and courage. It is a tough job, and I am so grateful for the men and women who go out there every day and risk their lives to keep our communities safe.

To extend these thanks to ICE, while failing to acknowledge the myriad of ways in which ICE is making other communities more dangerous, is outrageous and dishonest.

I hear every single day—and I know YOUNG KIM does, too, because we represent neighboring districts in Orange County—I hear from constituents who are deeply concerned about ICE's

lawbreaking. We have seen the videos. We have heard the eyewitness accounts.

ICE agents are kidnapping people in broad daylight. They are assaulting people in broad daylight. They are doing so while masked up, refusing to identify themselves, while wearing civilian clothes like jeans and sneakers.

They come out of unmarked vans. They tackle people. They assault people. Frankly, other than the ICE vests or jackets they are wearing, which, by the way, can now be purchased for \$29.99 on Amazon, they look more like gang members than Federal law enforcement agents.

If a person runs away from these masked vigilantes, they will beat and chase that person down. Mr. Speaker, if you ask to see their identification or their warrant, they will assault you and arrest you. If a person films them, they will pull a gun on that individual.

These tactics are grossly illegal and not tactics that local law enforcement engage in. Our local law enforcement follows the law. They wear body cameras. They are subject to disciplinary actions if they violate due process rights.

ICE is completely unaccountable and totally out of control. We have seen them assault citizens. We have seen them assault elected officials, including Members of Congress and my colleague from California, Senator ALEX PADILLA. Just 2 weeks ago, he was assaulted, tackled, handcuffed, and shoved to the ground for asking a question at a press conference.

The idea that ICE is making our communities safer is ludicrous. I quote the podcaster Joe Rogan: "... if the Trump administration, if they're running and they said ... we're gonna arrest all the people at Home Depot. We're gonna go to construction sites and we're going to just like tackle people at construction sites, I don't think anybody would have signed up for that. "They said, we're gonna get rid of the criminals and the gang members first."

Right? That is crazy.

It is crazy because the reality of the situation is that ICE is not going after violent criminals. They are going after peaceful, law-abiding immigrants. As the rightwing Cato Institute recently found, 93 percent of the people being apprehended by ICE have had no convictions for violent crime.

ICE is not going after MS-13 or murderers or rapists. They are going after innocent people, including a woman in Tennessee who was 5 months pregnant and engaged to a U.S. citizen.

Iris Dayana Monterroso-Lemus was transferred to a detention center in Louisiana. She was forced to sleep on the floor and eat food infested with roaches. She was denied medical care, despite complaining repeatedly about sharp pains in her pelvis. She lost her baby because of this mistreatment.

She was not a criminal. She was an expectant mom whose child died. It is

clear that ICE's lawless actions are making our communities much more dangerous.

Here is a statement issued by the mayor of Santa Ana, which has been the epicenter of ICE raids in Orange County. She said: "The Federal immigration raids ... in Santa Ana have created a climate of fear, anxiety, and instability across our community."

"The aggressive tactics used by Federal agents have shattered trust in law enforcement and are eroding the critical relationship between our residents and the Santa Ana Police Department. When families are too afraid to report crimes or engage with local authorities, we are all less safe."

ICE's lawless sweeps have also deeply impacted the Korean community in SoCal. The first ICE raids targeted Korean-owned garment factories and have caused significant confusion, fear, and terror in the Korean-American community.

I hear every day from Korean Americans who are terrified about ICE. I know that my colleagues, including YOUNG KIM, do, too. They know that ICE is making our communities less safe.

I will close with this. We have all seen the videos and images of Narciso Barranco, a gardener and father of three U.S. Marines, who was tackled and punched repeatedly in the head by ICE agents wearing jeans and sneakers.

As one of his sons, Alejandro, a current marine, stated, while deployed as a marine, if he had treated a detainee the same way ICE agents treated his father, it would clearly be a war crime.

While Narciso Barranco is a resident of Tustin, he is a constituent of YOUNG KIM. I would guess that he would vehemently disagree with the claim that ICE is making our communities safer.

How can anyone express gratitude to ICE when they are literally committing war crimes against their constituents? This resolution is shameful. It is morally wrong. Thanking ICE is the worst kind of political stunt at this point in time when our constituents and our communities are living in fear and terror.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD four items. The first is: "ICE Immigration Jacket Becomes Bestseller on Amazon." You can view the link here: <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-immigration-jacket-best-seller-amazon-2035114>.

The second is a Cato Institute blog entry: "65 Percent of People Taken By ICE Had No Convictions, 93 Percent No Violent Convictions." You can view the article at this link: <https://www.cato.org/blog/65-people-taken-ice-had-no-convictions-93-no-violent-convictions>.

The third and fourth items I would like to add are a statement from Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcuea and a statement from the Korean-American Federation of Los Angeles in response to the ICE raids on June 6.