

to get the care that saved her life and her future.

Yet, despite all of this, the people of Ohio did what we have always done in the face of injustice. We fought back.

In November 2023, Ohioans from across the political spectrum came together and voted to enshrine reproductive freedom directly into our State's constitution: the ability to bear a child, to use contraception, and to access abortion care. It was a powerful, hopeful moment, but, Mr. Speaker, our work is far from over.

That is because within days of that historic vote, Republican lawmakers in Ohio announced they would do everything in their power to prevent our laws from being removed.

That is right. Just days after the people spoke loudly and clearly, some legislators pledged to ignore the will of the voters, and now they are following through. Just last week, members of the Ohio House of Representatives introduced one of the most extreme anti-choice bills in the country.

This dangerous bill would ban nearly all abortions in Ohio, criminalize doctors, and potentially treat patients seeking care as criminals. Let me be crystal clear. Under this proposal, abortion could be prosecuted as homicide. There would be no meaningful exceptions, not for rape and not for incest.

One of the bill's lead supporters, an anti-woman activist, was asked whether he worried this would overturn the will of the voters, the constitutional amendment the people of Ohio passed a couple of years ago. He said that he wasn't concerned. He said: "The will of the voters was evil."

The will of the voters was evil.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have heard anything less American. The will of the voters is the bedrock of our democracy, and just as these extremists want to take away the decisionmaking capabilities of women, they have not stopped there. They want to take away the decisionmaking capability of all Ohioans.

That is the ideology we are up against. It is one where the voice of the people isn't just disregarded, but it is condemned. It is one where bodily autonomy is labeled evil. It is one where political extremists will stop at nothing, not even the State constitution, to impose their beliefs on the rest of us. It is chilling and it is dangerous.

This uncertainty is not just an Ohio problem. The United States Supreme Court's recent decision in *Moyle v. United States* dismissed an opportunity to affirm that emergency abortion care is protected under Federal law. Instead, they punted, refusing to give clarity and refusing to give peace of mind to women and doctors across the country.

That is why I introduced a resolution to reaffirm access to emergency care and abortion care to all Americans. That is why House Democrats have introduced bills to guarantee abortion

rights across the country and protect access to birth control, IVF, and other fertility care.

That is because at the heart of this fight there is something bigger than politics. It is about freedom, the freedom to control our own bodies. It is about the freedom to decide when, if, and how we grow our families and the freedom to choose our own futures on our own terms.

We are the best people to make those decisions for ourselves. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of brilliant minds here in this legislative Chamber and in State houses and in courts all across the country, but women do not need them to be in our most intimate decisionmaking moments. As a Representative of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I will keep standing up for our freedom, and I will keep working to ensure our laws reflect our values.

We must trust women. We must protect our rights, and we must never forget that democracy only works if we honor the will of the people.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

In this brief moment, O God, we call to You as You have invited us to do. We lay before You our concerns, our joys, worries, and hopes, praying that as You have promised, You will answer us.

We quiet our thoughts and open our hearts, putting ourselves in Your hands for You are the source of life and wisdom. Grant us Your guidance and reveal to us Your truth.

Our ears are attuned and our souls prepared to receive the knowledge that You alone possess, great and hidden things that we have not known and cannot on our own obtain without giving ourselves into Your sovereign care.

Though this encounter is brief, abide with us throughout this day, that we would be aware of Your leading. While this may be the only moment we have set aside to hear Your voice and share our hearts, may we be inspired to grow in our relationship with You and listen for Your Word and trust in Your daily mercies.

Let us make time today and every day to be still and know that You are God.

In Your eternal name, we pray.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TLAIB led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA OPPOSITION JAILED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the corrupt Georgian Dream party continues to wrongfully arrest opposition leaders of the Republic of Georgia.

As the Georgian Dream schemes a one-party state, gives the Chinese Communist Party their Black Sea port, and blocks America from trade, the Georgian people have conducted over 200 days of consecutive protests for freedom.

Americans stand with the legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili and the Georgian people. The MEGOBARI Act for freedom, sovereignty, and rule of law received 90 percent of the vote in the House. Joining the proposed Trump Tower in Damascus, Syria, should be the Trump National Golf Course in Tbilisi, Georgia.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is defending American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin's lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, and hosting Iranian murderers in Moscow.

#### NO MORE WARS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, no more wars. The majority of Americans do

not support our country getting into another endless war.

President Trump violated the United States Constitution by sending the United States troops to bomb Iran without congressional authorization.

Taking our country to war requires a vote in Congress. Every single one of us represents close to 800,000 people, and they deserve a vote.

The American people do not want another war. They do not want us spending endless amounts of money to invest in death and destruction. They want us to fund Medicaid, housing, and Head Start. They want access to clean water and so many critical programs that our communities desperately need.

We have seen our government manufacture consent for the invasion of Iraq that killed and displaced millions of people, our loved ones, and created total devastation and instability in the region.

We have seen our government lie about weapons of mass destruction before. We are not going to fall for it again. Instead of listening to the American people who are saying no more wars, Trump is listening to genocidal maniac war criminal Netanyahu who lied about Iraq and now is lying about Iran.

#### HONORING INGRID IZAGUIRRE

(Ms. HOULAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House and recognize the very hard work and the invaluable contributions of Ingrid Izaguirre to my office.

Ingrid has honorably served as a climate solutions fellow on my legislative team for the past 2 years. During her time with my office, she has stepped up to the plate to manage planning and programming for the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, turning what was an inactive caucus into one of the most active caucuses on Capitol Hill.

Notably, she has facilitated dozens of cross-aisle conversations and educational opportunities for both Members and staff. She has built bipartisan support for permitting reform and for the Department of Energy programs. She has spearheaded numerous legislative proposals through the National Defense Authorization Act to keep our Nation's energy infrastructure more secure and so much more.

Our HoulaTeam will miss her quick wit, unrelenting work ethic, and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, Ingrid has proven that bipartisanship and cooperation on climate change is possible even during these divided times. She should be very proud. We will miss her and welcome her to the Houla alum network, and I have no doubt that she will be successful in her next role.

#### MEDICAID SHOULD SERVE THE TRULY NEEDY

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of noise coming from the other side claiming that House Republicans are cutting Medicaid with our commonsense work requirements.

Let me be clear: That is just not true.

You can't cut something from someone who was never or is no longer eligible to receive it.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, of the 7.8 million people Democrats say would lose coverage, 4.8 million are able-bodied adults with no kids who could work, but don't. Another 1.4 million are in the country illegally and 2.2 million simply don't qualify under the law already.

Medicaid should serve the truly needy, not those who refuse to help themselves. House Republicans don't cut Medicaid. That is not what we are doing in this bill. We restore its integrity because work requirements are not a punishment. They are a path to dignity and independence.

#### AMERICANS OF ALL PARTIES DO NOT WANT MORE WAR

(Mr. KHANNA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose war in Iran or any wars of choice in the Middle East.

We need to be investing in good-paying jobs at home, healthcare at home, and childcare at home, not billions of dollars in missiles targeted at the Middle East that we can't afford. That is why Representative MASSIE and I introduced a resolution to prevent more wars of choice.

What did we achieve? The intelligence tells us that we just pushed Iran back 3 to 4 months in building a bomb. Vice President Vance says they still have enough nuclear fuel to have 10 nuclear missiles.

We need tough diplomacy to deny Iran a bomb, not more wars at the expense of the American people. Americans of all parties do not want more war.

#### HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JUAN SANTIAGO

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sergeant First Class Juan Santiago, a decorated veteran and American patriot residing in Melbourne, Florida.

Sergeant Santiago began his career in 1958 in the United States Army at

Fort Buchanan and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He went on to serve our Nation with distinction around the globe with deployments in Cuba, Italy, Germany, and five tours in Vietnam.

His exceptional service earned him a place in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame as well as many other numerous honors, including the Honorable Order of St. Michael and two Purple Hearts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank Sergeant Santiago for his bravery.

#### RECOGNIZING SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and recognize five outstanding young leaders from eastern North Carolina who have earned appointments to our Nation's service academies.

Abel Dees and Parker Stokes are headed to the United States Military Academy.

Leo Fletcher-Fontana will attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Nicholas Santiago and Dylan Sawyer are bound for the United States Naval Academy.

These remarkable young leaders have achieved academic excellence. They reflect the best of our communities and are answering the call that goes way beyond themselves. Behind each of them is a community of supporters and families whose love is making it possible for them.

Mr. Speaker, to our appointees: Abel, Parker, Leo, Nicholas, and Dylan, eastern North Carolina believes in them and we are proud of them.

#### RECOGNIZING ST. MARYS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Marys Area School District for launching a new agriculture education curriculum, an investment in both their students and the future of our Nation's food system.

Agricultural education is not just for those in rural areas. It is foundational to the future of our economy, environment, and our national security. Programs like this one help students understand where their food comes from, how it is produced, and the science and technology driving modern agriculture.

Beginning next school year, St. Marys will offer ag curriculum starting in seventh grade and extending through high school. Already nearly 100 students have signed up, proof that our young people are eager to learn more about the science, innovation, and business behind agriculture.