

think raising costs on families buying gifts, clothes, or shoes for their children does not sound very golden to me.

To the young constituent who wrote to me, I will fight to lower costs for all Virginians and all Americans and to keep Tariff Bear where he belongs, which is in hibernation.

HONORING HELVI LUCKADOO

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Helvi Luckadoo of Forest City, North Carolina, who recently passed away at the age of 94.

Helvi was born in Tartu, Estonia, where she enjoyed childhood until World War II turned her world upside down. At just 13 years old, she and her family fled the Soviet invasion, crossing the Baltic Sea to safety and eventually arriving in America through Ellis Island.

She built a new life in North Carolina, raising four sons, serving her neighbors at Rutherford Regional Health System, and later managing the bookstore as Isothermal Community College. She believed deeply in freedom, family, and faith.

Her story is one of perseverance and quiet heroism. Western North Carolina is a better place because of Helvi Luckadoo. She called it home, and she leaves behind a proud legacy and a family who loved her dearly. May her memory be a blessing.

OUR ATMOSPHERE AND CO₂

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is the time of year with a lot of fretting over heat waves. We are calling it a heat dome now. What does that really mean?

It usually means that the next step by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle typically is to say: Oh, my gosh, it is more climate change. We have to put out another tax for climate change.

California is getting ready to do that on gasoline starting on July 1. It is estimated anywhere from 47 cents to 65 cents per gallon. What are we talking about? It is CO₂, which is carbon dioxide.

Look at these charts. This is 1970 and 2025. Yellow is nitrogen. Blue is oxygen. Here is argon, and here is carbon dioxide. Look at that little sliver right there. Look at that one. It is the same.

It is an infinitesimal amount of the percentage of gases in our atmosphere. Yet we are spending trillions and changing our lifestyle in this country. We are chasing the number of CO₂ from 0.04 percent down to 0.035 or whatever the number of the week is.

We are harming ourselves while the rest of the world keeps moving forward. Oil and gas by other developing countries is going to skyrocket while we live in caves.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: It has been an honor to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from the 110th Congress until now. With this letter, I respectfully resign from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to facilitate my appointment to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

While I am stepping away from my formal membership on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will never stop being a champion for the transportation and infrastructure needs of Memphis, the distribution capitol of the United States and the world.

As always, I remain,
Most sincerely,

STEVEN COHEN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

HOLDING POWER ACCOUNTABLE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, I joined Representative CHUY GARCÍA, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON, and Representative DANNY DAVIS at the ICE Processing Center in Broadview to investigate ICE's inhumane and unlawful detention of immigrant families and our constituents.

The visit to the processing center comes after credible reports that the center is being used to unlawfully detain immigrants, contrary to city and State ordinances, including constituents of the Members who sought entry.

The reports suggest that constituents are being housed in the processing center for prolonged periods of time without access to their medication, to legal counsel, or even basic necessities.

Let me be very clear. Just because something isn't named a detention fa-

cility doesn't mean this administration isn't going to use it as one. If people are detained there, it is a detention facility, period.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I came to the ICE Processing Center in Broadview to fulfill my congressional oversight authority granted under appropriation laws.

Under the law, Members of Congress have the authority to enter any facility operated by the Department of Homeland Security used to detain people. Whether the facility is formally identified as a detention facility is irrelevant.

The operational capacity of agents and staff at the facility is also irrelevant when it comes to allowing access to Members of Congress. It is the role of Congress to provide oversight.

Let me say that loud and clear for any of my colleagues that are here and that perhaps have forgotten that. It is the role of Congress to provide oversight. I suggest Kristi Noem and DHS staff read section 527(a) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2024, which is Public Law 118-47.

Am I shocked? Let me be honest. I am not shocked. We were illegally denied entry. While we weren't surprised, it was pretty disrespectful for Members of Congress to not be able to do their job.

I want my colleagues to visualize this. There are four Members of Congress, all of them showing their ID. In addition to wearing their congressional pins, they are identifying themselves.

We ring the doorbell, and we are waiting for about 45 minutes. We wait to gain entry into the facility where no one comes to the door at any given time. No one responds through the intercom. The cameras demonstrate someone is watching us.

□ 1740

We are waiting there to do the job that we were called to do by law which is to conduct unannounced oversight. When we finally get acknowledged—which, by the way, it meant I saw unmarked cars going in and out of the side gate—as we walked through, we were talking to someone who was unwilling to identify themselves through a little hole through the gate.

He refused to identify himself. When we told him we were there, do you know what he said, Mr. Speaker?

“Given guidance by my superiors, I am told that you should send an e-mail to DHS.gov.”

He told four Members of Congress, including a Member of Congress who is the Member of Congress in that jurisdiction of where that holding center is: “Just send an email.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that people understand. We have sent emails, and we have sent letters. I want to make sure that the American people understand what is happening to us.

We have sent emails, and we have sent letters. We have challenged the illegal, unconstitutional actions of this

authoritarian government, and we have not received any responses.

It is our job as Members of Congress to provide accountability and oversight of activities of the executive branch. Activities that, by the way, this Chamber right here funds through appropriations. Activities that we authorize, or do not, through lawmaking, which is our constitutional role.

My favorite part of our interaction that day—1½ hours of our time outside waiting to be seen—was the sign that staff from the holding center placed on the door which reflects ICE's formal response to our visit.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what the sign said:

"ICE field offices are not detention facilities and fall outside of the section 527 requirements.

"When planning to visit an ICE facility, ICE asks for requests to be submitted at least 72 hours in advance. Visit requests should be submitted during business hours to the Office of Congressional Relations, (OCR) at CongressToICE@ice.dhs.gov. Visit requests are not considered actionable until receipt of the request is acknowledged by OCR to the requestor.

"ICE does not house aliens at these locations, rather these are working offices where ERO personnel process aliens to make custody determinations based on the specific circumstances of each case. Aliens determined to require detention are transferred to an ICE detention facility pending removal or the outcome of their removal proceedings. Due to our high operations tempo, we are not facilitating any visits to ICE field offices or suboffices at this time."

Mr. Speaker, is that unbelievable? Maybe it is.

Actually, it is believable because given Noem's disregard for Congress and the rule of law, this is what they do.

Mr. Speaker, do you know who makes the laws that govern the DHS facilities? Do you know who makes the laws, Mr. Speaker? It is Congress.

Mr. Speaker, do you know who doesn't get to just change the rules when they decide? It is DHS.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what is not a valid consideration for denying illegally required oversight? Your operations tempo.

You see, Mr. Speaker, as a result of our visit and the visits of Members that they have conducted in New Jersey, California, New York, and Illinois last week, ICE issued new guidance that unlawfully restricts Members of Congress to access ICE facilities.

Mr. Speaker, you heard me right. They decided that they were going to issue new guidance to go above Congress and further put a policy in place that is against the law.

Two days ago, Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON, Ranking Member JAMIE RASKIN, Subcommittee Ranking Member LOU CORREA, and subcommittee Ranking Member PRAMILA JAYAPAL, affirmed that Kristi Noem,

DHS, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement are illegally obstructing congressional oversight by denying Members of Congress access to multiple facilities used to detain immigrants in recent weeks.

Tonight, over the next 45 minutes or so, I will be here with my colleagues talking to the American people about what is happening, and what we are hearing directly from them. My colleagues and I will discuss how we will continue to assert congressional authority, even if Kristi Noem, even if Stephen Miller, and even if RFK and everyone else in that Cabinet attempts to obstruct us from doing our congressional work of congressional authority and legislative action.

I will yield to my colleagues who will share how they have attempted to provide oversight despite this hostile administration's lack of respect for Congress as a coequal branch of government and how we are actively defending our communities against this authoritarian agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the congresswoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to affirm a simple truth: Congress is a coequal branch of government, not a ceremonial afterthought, not merely a suggestion box, and not someone that is along for the ride. We are constitutionally equal with our powers delineated in Article I of the United States Constitution.

Yet, under the Trump administration, we have witnessed a disturbing pattern: a blatant disregard for the constitutional role of Congress and its vital duty of oversight. Subpoenas are ignored. Testimony is blocked. Oversight is treated not as a safeguard and not as a constitutional role or duty of democracy but as an inconvenience of power, an inconvenience of having the audacity to do our jobs and to make sure, yes, sir, that you are doing yours, because that is a part of our responsibility.

It is what we take our oath of office for. It is what the Constitution and the Framers of the United States Constitution envisioned when they set out some 237 years ago to write the United States Constitution, that no one body would become so powerful that it could do as it pleases without any checks or balances.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. This is not about partisan politics. It is about the preservation of our Republic.

When an administration past, present, or future believes it can operate without oversight or accountability, then democracy begins to erode.

Congress has both the authority and the obligation to shine light into the darkest corners of our government. Oversight is not obstruction, it is our constitutional duty.

We owe it to the American people to ask hard questions, to demand honest

answers, and to ensure that no one—I mean no one—not even the President, is above the law. That is not defiance, that is democracy.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his comments. That is democracy. Today we are talking about how we preserve democracy under the circumstances that we are living in.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) to say a little bit more about that today.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. RAMIREZ for convening this very important discussion.

I will talk about something that is a little bit of an extension of this, but I do want to remind people that I visited Delaney Hall Detention Facility in the State of New Jersey with LAMONICA MCIVER and ROB MENENDEZ. It was difficult getting anyone to address us and give us the kind of inspection and respect that our offices deserved.

The suggestion that Members now should have to make an appointment before inspecting one of these facilities defeats the notion of oversight. Oversight is to catch the operation going as it is. Oversight is to see if the conditions are humane, the food is delivered, and that people are treated well, et cetera.

It is insane that this administration could think that they could put this condition upon us.

I will talk about what I consider is a further extension that this administration is out of control. What we have seen in recent weeks in L.A. and over the past few months across the country is another illustration of an outrageous abuse of power by our President and his Cabinet.

□ 1750

President Trump, Deputy Chief of Staff Miller, and Secretary of Homeland Security Noem have gone too far, letting their hatred of immigrants overwhelm them to the point of abusing innocent Americans.

Their actions pose a threat to all of us. They have disregarded the rights of citizens and noncitizens alike.

In just the last few months, DHS has accused a U.S. citizen of entering the country illegally and held that person for days, despite the person showing his birth certificate and Social Security card.

A U.S. Army Purple Heart veteran who has lived in the U.S. for nearly 50 years was told to leave due to a 15-year-old minor drug conviction.

In Newark in January, ICE detained a veteran without a warrant, disregarding his veteran ID card.

A 10-year-old U.S. citizen with brain cancer was deported because his parents were undocumented.

Trump's actions tell us that no one is safe from his storm troopers. How ICE agents are going about fulfilling Trump's arbitrary arrest quotas is also alarming.

Masked, plainclothes officers have been entering communities and abducting people to process them for deportation. This is extremely dangerous for several reasons. The first is the risk of confusion for those being detained and arrested, as well as for bystanders.

Think about what you might do if you witnessed three to four men in street clothes grabbing someone off the street and throwing them in the back of a black SUV. It doesn't take much imagination to see the danger involved if a Good Samaritan were to intervene.

Additionally, the lack of clearly identifiable uniforms has made it easier for copycats and impersonators to purchase fake gear on Amazon, allowing them to go around neighborhoods harassing residents. We have already seen this happening.

In response, I introduced a piece of legislation, the ICE Visibility Act, to eliminate this confusion and increase safety in our communities by requiring ICE officers to wear visible and distinct uniforms at all times.

This administration is creating chaos and confusion on our streets and infringing on the freedoms and the liberties of Americans.

This bill that I am introducing obviously won't solve the problem of a runaway ICE that puts arrest quotas over the rights of our communities, but it might just prevent a disaster that is waiting to happen.

This illustration of governance abuse, about rogue ICE agents, about disrespect at detention facilities, and about the poor quality of those facilities means that our work is vitally important to the well-being and the safety and security of those who are in our country and those who are being detained here for whatever reason.

I thank the gentlewoman for this opportunity to speak to this issue.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her leadership, for her integrity, and for her principled leadership in times such as this. We are so grateful for her.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) to talk a little bit more about the work that we have to do, and frankly, to remind us that this Chamber, this House of Representatives that we call the people's House is a coequal branch of government.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for organizing this critical Special Order hour to shed light on the horrors inflicted on immigrant communities by the Trump administration.

I am proud to represent the Inland Empire of southern California just east of Los Angeles. My district is home to a thriving immigrant community. It has been enriched by immigrants just like so many other communities across the country.

In recent weeks, this community has been plagued by fear. Images of masked agents dragging people out of cars, using excessive force, and disappearing individuals in unmarked cars are sow-

ing fear. We cannot allow this to continue. Make no mistake, this is all on President Trump.

The President has instructed ICE to meet arbitrary deportation quotas. Their aggressive and baseless target number of 3,000 daily arrests does not require them to focus on violent offenders and criminals.

Instead, mothers and fathers who have been in this country for years with no criminal record and who have raised their children in the United States are being targeted.

This administration's claim that it aims to deport violent criminals is a falsehood.

What we are witnessing is the erosion of due process.

I have been especially troubled by the image of a landscaper, a man whose sons have served in the Marines, being punched repeatedly in the head by ICE agents this past Sunday.

Is this something my Republican colleagues are proud of? That we repay veterans of the United States Marine Corps by assaulting, detaining, and deporting their father who was simply trying to provide for his family?

Last week, I joined several of my colleagues to tour the Adelanto ICE detention center. Thanks to the work of my colleague, Representative JUDY CHU, our delegation was able to enter the facility to conduct an oversight visit and speak with some of those being detained.

What I saw was people held in deplorable conditions, many of them being denied access to clean clothes for 10 days. Immigrant detention is a multi-million-dollar industry with some private prison groups now aiming to cash in on the funding included in the Republican spending bill.

The GEO Group that owns Adelanto boasted about a \$31 million windfall if they keep full capacity.

Republicans want to boost the funding of ICE to hire more masked agents and pay out more contracts like that at Adelanto.

According to my Republican colleagues, our budget is too tight to provide healthcare or groceries for those in need, it is too tight to keep hospitals in rural areas open, but it is flush with enough cash to pay for more masked agents and more inhumane detention facilities for those who are beaten and dragged off the street.

This is not who we are. This is not the character of our country. I don't think my Republican colleagues understand the gravity of their silence. It seems they have been silenced from speaking out against this brutality due to their fear of this President.

They are even too afraid to hold townhalls to face their own constituents directly. It is sad that many Members of Congress have rolled over and enabled this cruelty that is now happening in our country.

There are Members on this side of the aisle who have not been silent, who have actively opposed this President

and will continue to speak out. Democrats will continue to be a check against this President. We will continue to fight for the due process rights of every American. We will continue to show up in our communities so that the American people can see that there are some Members of Congress who will actually listen to and fight for them.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I commend Congresswoman RAMIREZ for conducting this Special Order hour, and I thank her for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my Congressional Progressive Caucus colleagues to express my utter horror at the way in which the Trump administration is catapulting us towards an authoritarian state.

We in Congress are one of the three branches of government, yet the President has been acting like a king since day one.

Since assuming office, Donald Trump has dismantled Federal agencies and unlawfully halted billions of dollars in congressionally appropriated Federal funding. He has undermined the delicate system of checks and balances by flagrantly ignoring court orders. He has arrested a judge and a mayor. He has threatened to arrest a sitting Governor. He has taken to the floor and handcuffed and detained a United States Senator. He has accused and caused to be indicted a United States Congresswoman for having the temerity to do her job by being at an ICE facility to conduct oversight.

□ 1800

He has also violated the right to due process by dispatching armed, masked, unidentifiable people, wearing plain clothes and tactical gear, onto the streets of select American cities. They pull up on people, jump out with assault weapons, force them into unmarked cars, and disappear them. Their families learn days later that their loved one has been shipped off to a foreign gulag without presenting evidence to a judge that they should be removed.

Trump has done this to legal permanent residents and talked openly about doing it to American citizens.

While unleashing terror on our streets, Trump's brazenly corrupt decision to accept a \$400 million Boeing 747 jet from Qatar for his personal use is a direct violation of the Emoluments Clause of our Constitution, and it has caused a firestorm of controversy.

Yet, MAGA Republicans in control of Congress turn a blind eye to it. My Republican colleagues are afraid to hold Donald Trump accountable. The majority is afraid to investigate the serious national security, public integrity, and foreign policy implications of the President accepting an emolument from a foreign government and flying around in a Qatari jumbo jet, taking it

with him as a door prize when he leaves office in January 2029—if he leaves office. This is blatant, in-your-face corruption to see how far he can go in his attempt to replace democracy with dictatorship.

Congress has the authority to introduce Articles of Impeachment against the President, but I don't expect that it is going to happen because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are too afraid to do so. It is the ultimate exercise of congressional oversight, and it requires a simple majority vote in the House of Representatives and a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate in order to impeach and convict.

I am prepared to take any necessary action to stop Trump's reckless assault on the Federal Government and our democracy. While I believe many of Donald Trump's actions merit impeachment, I believe that the critical first step needs to be taken by this body as soon as possible.

As I said before, I don't expect it to happen because MAGA Republicans have completely abdicated their constitutional responsibility to exercise any shred of oversight on this out-of-control executive.

In fact, this Congress has acted as a rubberstamp as Trump consolidates power in and unto himself. Time and time again, Republicans continue to capitulate on their core principles in complete sycophancy of Trump's disastrous, antidemocratic agenda.

Despite being in the minority, House Democrats are working tirelessly to push back against Trump's hostile government takeover by litigating his illegal actions, introducing legislation to curb his powers, and mobilizing the public against his destructive agenda.

I have joined thousands of Georgians and millions of Americans against the Trump administration's attacks on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other public services, including SNAP benefits for children, infants, and seniors.

Though it is unlikely that a Republican-led House will do anything to hold this executive accountable, we are going to continue to do everything we can to demonstrate to the American people that we are not going to take this lying down. We are going to be with them. We are going to be out on the streets in peaceful protest. We are going to make sure that we preserve and protect this democracy that our forefathers and foremothers have fought so hard to guarantee to us.

I will not stop doing the job that my constituents sent me to Washington to do because a megalomaniac is trying to override the Constitution, and I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know about Congressman JOHNSON, but perhaps in Georgia or in other parts of the country this may be happening. I have not

met a constituent who has told me, "Congresswoman RAMIREZ, I wake up in the morning asking how my life could be better," and then answer that immediately by saying, "Do you know how my life would be better? If the President of the United States of America had a \$450 million new plane that had been donated from a foreign country."

I have never heard a constituent tell me when I have asked them what the most important thing is for them right now: "Do you know what the most important thing is for me? It is for Kristi Noem to get \$50 million more in the budget. By the way, cut my Medicaid, groceries, and SNAP benefits because what I really want is for this person who was never elected to get an upgrade on a plane. Make sure that you dedicate \$50 million of taxpayer dollars so that she can have a brand-new plane so that she can cosplay wherever the hell she is going."

I have never heard that. I hear the gentleman. I am curious. What Members of Congress have heard from their constituents—perhaps in Louisiana or other parts of the country—that what they care most about is that we cut their healthcare and cut SNAP benefits and that we make it harder for them to age in place or retire with dignity because their number one priority is to take their taxpayer dollars to ensure that the President becomes even richer and that she gets more costumes to wear around the country?

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his work and courageous leadership.

Something the gentleman said was that our constituents didn't send us here to make sure that the rich get richer. Our constituents didn't send us here so that the President can become even richer by selling off coins or offering people to be able to come to the White House, which taxpayers pay for, and have dinner with him if they invest more on his coins.

Our constituents said: "The rent is too darn high. I can't buy a house. I have to choose between going to the doctor and buying groceries. I don't know if I could afford the car payment and tuition for my son or daughter in college. This darn job I have, it is so difficult to make sure that I can cover the costs, so I have to work a second job. What are you going to do about it?"

That is why I am so grateful that we are here having a conversation about what the job of Members of Congress is: to make the lives of their constituents better.

It is not to make Donald Trump's life better, not to make Kristi Noem's life better or richer, but to make their lives better.

One of the other things that we should be doing as Members of Congress is affirming that we are a coequal branch of government, the thing that I ask eighth graders about in their Constitution tests all around the country.

Part of that work is oversight, but it is ridiculous and infuriating to me that

my Republican colleagues, who continue to obstruct oversight every chance that the majority can, don't seem to agree. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to think that who got them elected, who they serve, that the only people who matter are not the 730,000 constituents that they have but Donald Trump, Stephen Miller, and Elon Musk, as long as he and Donald Trump are getting along and paying for elections.

Congress' power is critical in this moment. Congressman JOHNSON said it so beautifully. We have to do everything in our power to ensure that our constituents know who we are here for. Otherwise, we can't be the people's House.

Congress' powers are established to be a check on an out-of-control, lawless executive branch like the Trump administration. For instance, when the executive branch decides to use a notorious offshore prison with a history of gross human rights violations as a staging location for mass deportations without due process and in violation of international law, I thought that would be an ideal time for Congress to conduct oversight.

□ 1810

It is why I requested that the Committee on Homeland Security, that some of us here serve on, would conduct an official oversight visit to CECOT.

I was of the opinion that a congressional delegation needed to urgently go to CECOT in El Salvador and check on the health and well-being of all the political prisoners who we have sent to that heinous place.

My Republican colleagues disagreed, and Chairman MARK GREEN said that my official request to conduct oversight in my capacity as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability was "to virtue signal to [my] radical base."

At least he responded to that one. When I asked him to conduct oversight of Guantanamo, after the first flights to Guantanamo separated undocumented immigrants from the protections of our Constitution and their due process, and even amidst the reports that the U.S. was spending more than \$40 million of taxpayer money holding migrants in Guantanamo, in that case, I was just ignored. I didn't expect much more.

Republicans in Congress have repeatedly given up their power. I don't know why. They got elected by the people to represent the people, but they are just rolling out the red carpet for Trump's authoritarian regime. Republicans in Congress have allowed Trump to literally walk all over them. They are enabling a massive expansion in Presidential power and completely surrendering the power and authority of Congress.

If they don't want to actually assert their authority as a coequal branch,

then why are you here? In allowing the administration to rescind funds, freeze funds, and cancel grants and contracts that were duly appropriated by Congress, Republicans have given Trump the power of the purse. But the power of the purse is Congress' power. It is our job. It is what we were sent to administer for the people. They have abandoned a critical check and balance.

Republicans have become the enablers of Trump's authoritarian power grab, and you don't have to look farther than the Speaker of the House. He was quoted yesterday saying: "Many respected constitutional experts argue that the War Powers Act is itself unconstitutional."

"I'm persuaded by that argument. They think it's a violation of the Article II Powers of the Commander in Chief. I think that's right."

That is the leader of Congress saying that Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, which gives Congress the constitutional authority to declare war, is a violation of Article II Powers of the President.

That tells you all you need to know. MIKE JOHNSON is more loyal to the President than he is to the separation of powers. He is more loyal to the administration's authoritarian agenda than he is to the Constitution. He is certainly more loyal to this President than his constituents who depend on Medicaid and Social Security for their daily life needs.

We will remind them that Congress has a job to do and that we will not concede the power of the people.

I ask my colleagues, again: Why did you come here?

They made a lot of campaign promises. Perhaps while you are campaigning you actually listen to some people. Perhaps what they heard from people was, we are tired of a government that doesn't deliver to the people. Make my life better, not worse.

Yet, somehow, we are waiting for a Senate bill, this big, ugly bill, as if it couldn't get any uglier, that would actually slash more resources from the very same people that sent us here instead of making their life better.

Mr. Speaker, we have to ask ourselves in this moment what role are we playing and who are we here for? Did we take an oath to protect the Constitution of the United States of America or not?

Is our loyalty to the values of this country and the people that sent us here? I hope it is not to super-PACs, but rather the people, our constituents.

Or is it doing whatever Donald Trump tells you to do?

This is a critical moment in U.S. history. I will highlight, as I wrap up my Special Order hour, a few people that despite the darkness, despite the stoking of fear that you see happening throughout the country, continue to demonstrate who we are and who we should be as a Nation.

I will start by recognizing someone who I believe to be a leader in the com-

munity. He is someone who I know stands up by defending our neighbors. He is someone who recognizes that fear does not create unity and love. Fear creates division. As we reflect on what it means to stand up to authoritarianism by defending our neighbors, our neighborhoods, and our culture, I recognize a longtime community leader and a public servant, Billy Ocasio.

Billy was born and raised in Humboldt Park in Illinois' Third Congressional District. Billy's leadership over several decades has made a significant impact in Chicago, Illinois, and its local Puerto Rican and immigrant community.

A proud product of Chicago Public Schools, Billy graduated from Von Humboldt Elementary School and Roberto Clemente Community Academy.

Rooted in the community that raised him, Billy served as the 26th Ward alderman for 16 years, from 1993 to 2009, where he championed major infrastructure and community development projects, including the creation of Division Street's signature Puerto Rican flags, the McCormick Tribune YMCA, and Humboldt Parks' first-ever public library branch.

Billy's service expanded as he became senior adviser to then-Governor Pat Quinn, as he was appointed to work on social justice issues impacting communities across the State of Illinois.

Both Billy and his wife, Veronica Ocasio, have lent their talents and time to creating and growing the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, also based in Humboldt Park. In Billy's role as president and CEO, as well as in Veronica's role as director of education and programming, the Ocasios have nurtured the museum to become a locally, nationally, and internationally celebrated institution.

Through exhibits, events, oral history sharing, and more, the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture does important work to preserve and uplift the rich culture of Puerto Rican traditions and to stand up to gentrification through cultural resistance.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Billy Ocasio for his lifetime of service and commitment to fighting for our communities. At a time when wannabe kings threaten welcoming cities like Chicago, I am inspired by the stories of local residents demonstrating that diversity, that equity, that inclusion which are exactly what make our communities and our country strong.

In a time such as this, we need to summon the courage of those who came before us to unapologetically and defiantly defend immigrants from the administration's authoritarian attacks. History presents us with plenty of inspiration. In some cases, it is someone who made it possible for the grandparents of so many of my colleagues to be able to serve in this very same Chamber.

Today, I honor the legacy of Sister Frances Xavier Cabrini, better known as Mother Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants, whose life and legacy remind us of the enduring strength and dignity immigrants in America have.

Born in 1850 in Lombardy, Italy, Frances Cabrini arrived in the United States in 1889 to New York, at the invitation of Pope Leo XIII, who encouraged her to bring her mission to the growing number of Italian immigrants in the Americas.

At the time, Italian Americans were targets of xenophobia, discrimination, and even violence, just like other immigrants living in the United States at the time and today.

Italians were wrongfully seen as unable to assimilate, dangerous, and a threat to the American way of life, language which is also, unfortunately, still familiar today.

Yet in the face of this hateful, dehumanizing rhetoric, Mother Cabrini responded not with fear or hatred—what our President wants—but with bold, unwavering love and compassion.

As the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she built a movement grounded in hope, service, faith, and fierce love for those under attack by those in positions of power.

Under her leadership, the Sisters established more than 60 schools, hospitals, and orphanages, many of them serving newly arriving immigrants, the sick, and the poor.

□ 1820

In 1909, Mother Cabrini became a naturalized citizen of the United States. She believed in the promise of this Nation—not as an abstract ideal, but as a place where those seeking refuge and opportunity could find dignity, community, and purpose. At a time when her own community, the Italian community, was under attack, she chose to claim her place in this country, not as an outsider, but as a full participant in shaping its future.

Her naturalization is particularly worth reflecting on today, when President Trump seeks to roll back the hard-won rights of immigrants, especially the right to birthright citizenship, which is guaranteed under the 14th Amendment of our Constitution.

President Trump has repeatedly questioned this right, threatening to unravel one of the most fundamental principles of American democracy: that all who are born here belong here.

In 1946, Mother Cabrini was canonized as a saint by Pope Pius XII, becoming the first American to be beatified by the Catholic Church. She is now recognized as the patron saint of immigrants, a title that honors her tireless advocacy for all those who migrate and her unwavering belief in the sacred dignity of every single human life.

In Chicago, many know her from the former Cabrini-Green public housing development, which stood as a symbol both of the challenges of poverty and

segregation, and of the enduring hope of working families seeking a better life. Her name endures in our memory because her legacy endures.

As we close out Immigrant Heritage Month, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini challenges us to stand up to those in power who would seek to divide us and pit us against our own neighbors.

Despite those who seek to use their faith to justify their cruelty, we remember that the Bible itself teaches us that: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as you love yourself."

For my colleagues who say they read the Bible every day, that is Leviticus 19:33-34.

In a time of rising nationalism, expansion of imperialism, and fear, may the example of Sister Cabrini guide us back to fierce, compassionate, inclusive love.

May her memory inspire us to build a nation where everyone feels a deep sense of belonging, where every person's humanity is honored, and where we truly love our neighbors as ourselves.

May she inspire us to build an empire, as she says, of hope, solidarity, and compassion.

As I close, I am reminded of the words of Mother Cabrini. I thank all of my colleagues who have joined today's Special Order on Holding Power Accountable: Congressional Oversight against Trump's Authoritarianism.

Members of Congress are actively defending our communities against this agenda, and we will continue to show up.

To the constituents who are worried about their Medicaid, to the constituents who are worried about their neighbors, to the constituents who are asking themselves: How can the President say one thing and do the other? How can he talk about peace and go start a war? How can he say that he is a Christian and hate his neighbors? I want you to know that not all Members of Congress here are the same.

Some of us have the courage, the ability, and the willingness to defend our communities, regardless of their legal status, regardless of who they love, regardless of their financial status.

We believe in due process. We believe in the rule of law and the Constitution, and I think that some of my colleagues on the other side took an oath saying that they believe in it, too. We believe in our democracy and checks and balances and accountability. We believe that undermining our laws and processes make all of us less safe.

We continue to demand that this administration allow us to exercise our right to oversight in all of its forms. I ask my colleagues, as I wrap up, the question that I asked before: Why did you come here? Why are you here? Why do you leave your family every Monday

or Tuesday to get on a flight and be here for 4 to 5 days? What will your legacy be? What will your grandchildren say about what you did in this place?

I know what Mother Cabrini did in a time where Italians were treated as less than human. She stood up for them. She made it possible so that your grandparents and your great-grandparents could be able to give your parents and your families the life that they deserve so that you can serve here in Congress with me.

What will your legacy be? If you are wondering why constituents don't believe in government, it is because we say one thing, and then harm them. I believe that this is a moment where we can choose to love, to choose compassion, to choose unity over hate, over darkness, or over using Truth Social to demean and degrade other people because we don't agree with them.

I say to you that as long as Members of Congress, like Congressmen JOHNSON, TAKANO, WATSON COLEMAN, CARTER, and I are here, we continue to demand that this administration honor due process, that we continue to do congressional oversight—especially in ICE facilities and detention centers, and that we ensure that people being held there are treated humanly, with dignity and respect. We are not alone.

The American people will continue to protest for their rights. The American people will continue to show up. The American people will continue to demand more of us, not less of us. They will continue to demand that we protect and expand democracy, not suppress voters.

We say and continue to say that it is our responsibility for such a time as this to be reminded why we decided to come to the people's House, and who we represent and who we serve because I do not represent or serve at the pleasure of Donald Trump. I serve and represent 730,000 people in the Chicago area, and I will fight for them every single day and the democracy that we all took an oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

DOBBS V. JACKSON ANNIVERSARY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), my good friend.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration that yesterday was the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which overturned the disastrous 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, a major victory for the pro-life movement. This decision rightfully reaffirmed that ending the life of an unborn child is not a constitutional right. While this was a step in the right direction, there is still much to be done to protect the lives of our Nation's most innocent.

Modern science objectively proves that new, distinct human life begins at the moment of conception. It is truly incredible that, with today's technology, we know that a baby's heartbeat starts at just about 22 days after conception, their unique fingerprints are formed at 12 weeks of gestation, and by 15 weeks, the baby is sensitive to pain. That is why I have cosponsored the Life at Conception Act, which legally recognizes the life and value of an unborn child regardless of their size or level of development.

Additionally, at the start of this Congress, I reintroduced legislation to recognize January 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, as the Day of Tears to memorialize the unborn victims of abortion.

Since the Dobbs decision, the fight to protect the unborn is far from over, given the issue of abortion was handed down to the States. Therefore, abortions are still occurring across the country, and the rapid rise in access to the chemical abortion drug, mifepristone, is deeply alarming.

It is estimated that mifepristone accounted for 63 percent of the abortions in 2023, resulting in approximately 642,700 unborn babies losing their lives that year.

Women and girls have been misled into believing that taking mifepristone to induce an abortion is as safe as using Tylenol. However, new data indicates that nearly 1 in 10 women taking the chemical abortion pill experience serious complications, such as sepsis, infection, hemorrhage, or another serious adverse event within 45 days of taking the drug.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, this real-world complication rate is 22 times higher than the FDA currently acknowledges on the mifepristone label.

Additionally, the Biden-Harris administration removed the requirement for a woman to receive these drugs in person from a healthcare provider. This in-person requirement allowed providers to determine gestational age, rule out life-threatening ectopic pregnancies, and identify signs of abuse before dispensing mifepristone.

This change not only poses serious, irresponsible medical risks but also bypasses pro-life State laws, like what we