

I have been proud to work for the people of Colorado Springs for over 30 years, and I have seen it grow from a thriving city to an emerging economic titan in Colorado and in the West.

Home to several military installations, Colorado Springs has always been a haven for Active-Duty service-members and our honorable veterans.

In 1870, General Palmer said this about Colorado Springs after seeing the area for the first time. He said: "Could one live in constant view of these grand mountains without being elevated by them into a lofty plane of thought and purpose?"

Madam Speaker, it is this thought and purpose that has driven Colorado Springs to be a world-leading city, and I look forward the city's continued growth.

CBP TURNS HOUSTON AIRPORT INTO TRAP

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

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, I take to the floor today because I am angry and so are Vermonters. We are furious because of what happened yesterday to a Vermonter, a U.S. citizen, as he attempted to return home.

Wilmer Chavarria is a community leader. He is a school superintendent in my State. He was held and interrogated for hours yesterday in the Houston airport by CBP agents and given no reason for his detainment. Wilmer called this experience psychological terror.

Again, we are talking about a U.S. citizen here. When we say this can happen to any of us, this is what we are talking about. This kind of violation of our constitutional rights is how leaders use terror to intimidate us into silence.

I don't want to hear about how everyone is going after the violent criminals in this country and trying to get violent criminals off the streets, when community leaders and school superintendents are being detained because of the color of their skin and the sound of their last name.

Madam Speaker, we need to hold onto our collective outrage. We do not need to accept this. This is not what Americans want.

RECOGNIZING CANTON REPOSITORY REPORTERS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize five exceptional journalists from the Canton Repository, one of Ohio's most important publications, as this Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Grace Springer received second place in the Best Government/Political Reporting category.

Charita Goshay received second place in the Best Religion Reporting category.

Nancy Molnar received first place in the Justice Reporting category.

Finally, for the Best of Show in Ohio category, Tim Botos received second place, and Kelli Weir took home first in this category.

I congratulate these outstanding journalists and thank them. I thank them for keeping readers across Canton Ohio's 13th Congressional District in northeast Ohio region informed.

These five journalists earned top honors in the 2025 Ohio's Best Journalism contest sponsored by the Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Their work at the Canton Repository is truly exceptional, and I am proud to represent a district that is kept informed by their outstanding reporting.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in saying congratulations to our fourth branch of government and these exceptional reporters as we recognize them as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

CELEBRATING RACER TRUST

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate RACER Trust based in Detroit for its extraordinary work turning abandoned industrial sites into engines of economic growth across Michigan and this country.

Following the Great Recession, the RACER Trust was established to clean up and redevelop over 7,000 acres of shuttered properties. In fact, it was created by the team that I had the privilege of working on in the Obama administration, the U.S. Auto Rescue Task Force.

RACER Trust has reimaged the process to meet challenges facing long-held industrial sites. I have also gotten a chance to visit many of these sites through my Manufacturing Monday program.

They include Williams International, United Wholesale Mortgage, Challenge Manufacturing, and the M1 Concourse featured here, all of which are located in Pontiac, Michigan. These were shuttered industrial plants that are now beacons of light in our community, and we should celebrate their success.

□ 1720

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF BEAVERTON AND MAYOR LACEY BEATY

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

Ms. SALINAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the city of Beaverton and Mayor Lacey Beaty for being selected as 1 of 50 finalists in the 2025 Bloomberg Mayors Challenge.

Selected from over 630 global applicants, Beaverton's bold initiative reimagines housing through community-

led, intergenerational models that put homeownership within reach for more Oregonians.

Imagine a walkable neighborhood with vibrant shops, restaurants, and community-led events for all residents, a neighborhood that sets up families with the resources and support they need to own a home, a neighborhood where sustainability and accessibility are priorities.

This is Beaverton's dream, and they are making it a reality. At a time when too many families are priced out, this idea addresses unnecessary barriers, high costs, zoning limits, and a lack of housing options through a new and innovative plan to create more starter housing.

I congratulate Mayor Beaty and the entire city of Beaverton for this remarkable achievement and for showing the world what is possible.

FEMA CUTS AND HURRICANE SEASON

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, the harrowing videos and stories out of Texas earlier this month are another reminder of how unpredictable and dangerous weather has become. Climate change is fueling more frequent and extreme weather events, and the Federal Government has a duty to be ready to respond quickly.

What happened in Texas shows we need to strengthen FEMA, not weaken it. That means making sure the agency is fully staffed and fully funded. That means answering the phones.

Unfortunately, the administration is doing the opposite, gutting our Nation's largest emergency management agency.

As a New Yorker, I saw the flooding in Texas and immediately thought of hurricane season on the East Coast. It has been a few years since a major storm hit our region. We are due. Local and State agencies are preparing, but this year they are doing so without the help of FEMA's predisaster mitigation grants because the administration canceled the program.

Cutting emergency preparedness funding doesn't prevent disasters. It just makes them harder to handle. Once again, it is Americans who will pay the price.

CLIMATE CRISIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare that climate crisis is a public health emergency, and the Federal Government must treat it as such.

In the last decade, more than half of the 120 public health emergency declarations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services were a result of climate-related events: extreme heat, wildfire smoke, hurricanes, floods, and the spread of disease.

Last week, I introduced the Climate Health Emergency Act to address this reality head-on. It directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to declare the climate crisis a public health emergency.

This declaration will unlock emergency powers and coordination to allow an effective response to the rapidly escalating public health threat posed by climate change. Enabling interagency coordination, this bill will break down silos, maximizing our ability to effectively and efficiently respond.

As a lung and critical care physician, I have seen the direct harm climate change has on our patients: organs shutting down from heat exposure and lungs failing from smoke inhalation. I will not stand by silently as our government continues to fail to meet this crisis with the urgency it so demands.

Madam Speaker, I urge your support. Our children deserve a healthy future. Our job is to fight for it.

CELEBRATING NORTH AMERICAN FILM ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate North American Film Association, NAFA, an organization dedicated to promoting Marathi cinema and culture in North America. By making Marathi cinema more accessible, NAFA aims to preserve Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage, bridge cultural boundaries, and create a more diverse arts and culture space.

NAFA is having a film festival of Marathi films in San Jose, California, on July 25 through 27, 2026, and I wish to convey my best wishes to NAFA.

I also want to recognize Mr. Abhi Gholap, an accomplished filmmaker and founder of NAFA. Abhi Gholap is also deeply committed to service, supporting children with leukemia in rural India through the Jiji-Bhau Cancer Foundation.

"Best wishes to NAFA from this Marathi-speaking Congressman";

"Tumchya Marathi bolnarya Congresssadaashyakadun uttam shubhechha."

SAFE KITS

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Madam Speaker, on March 13, the Department of Defense issued new guidance: Military health clinics overseas would no longer pro-

vide rape test kits to American civilian workers and contractors serving alongside our servicemembers abroad. These are our intelligence analysts, our teachers, our doctors, and our support staff performing critical roles all in support of our national security. We broke a fundamental promise with them, that when you serve your country in the most dangerous of places, your country will have your back.

I have spent my time on this House floor urging for the reversal of harmful cuts just like these, and I spend my time in committee questioning Secretary Hegseth as to why this policy was ever changed in the first place. Today, I am glad to report that 8 days after the hearing with Secretary Hegseth, that policy has been reversed.

It is proof that when the general public leans in and engages their government, and when Members of Congress amplify their voices, we can make meaningful change.

I will continue to call out the cuts of this Trump administration because the cost to all of us is far too great. There is too much at risk when this administration blindly takes a sledgehammer to the Federal Government and the services Americans deserve.

I urge my colleagues to follow this example.

□ 1730

VISION BENEFIT MANAGERS

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a crackdown on vision benefit managers, or VBMs, and their exploitative industry that exists only to profit from the eyeglass frames and lenses they make, the labs they own and operate, and the patient data gathering and mass retail operations built around them.

VBMs not only undermine healthcare access and quality, but threaten the existence of independent eye care practices nationwide.

VBM contracting abuses are already rampant, and their control over the independent eye care practice is only growing.

We cannot turn a blind eye, pun intended, to the serious conflict of interest concerns when a plan becomes both a healthcare provider and payer.

We cannot ignore the consequences of this unacceptable status quo, which has arbitrarily limited treatment options to those which are profitable for the VBM instead of effective for the patient.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the girls and women in my district who just lost access to their healthcare because of this budget bill.

Just weeks after this bill passed, two Planned Parenthood clinics in southwest Ohio are closing. These are clinics thousands of girls and women rely on for things like cancer screenings and contraceptive care, their basic healthcare.

It is a direct attack on women, and it is just the start. Millions and millions of Americans will lose their healthcare. In the end, more than 15 million people could be left without care, all to pay for tax cuts for millionaires, billionaires, and big corporations.

All it takes is a Congress that it is willing to make the wealthiest in America pay their taxes like the rest of us and give those 15 million Americans their healthcare back. It is that simple.

BUDGET BETRAYAL

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, Republicans rammed through Trumps' big budget betrayal with the largest cut to healthcare in American history. It will cut Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act by over \$1.1 trillion.

In Michigan, in my State alone, over 450,000 people are now at risk of losing their healthcare coverage, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities in our district.

These cuts will also impact EMS and ambulance services across our Nation. This budget will shrink the funds available to these departments and make it impossible for them to keep operating.

The impact will also be felt in rural areas where hospitals and community health centers will close because they rely heavily on Medicaid reimbursements.

We all know we have sick care in our country, and Medicaid is the only Band-aid right now to keep it all together. This bill is a death sentence, and over 50,000 people will die as a result of it.

Madam Speaker, you will see. Republicans gave away trillions of dollars to the richest people on the planet and are letting our children and seniors die from the lack of healthcare coverage.

They should be ashamed.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CHAOS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today frustrated by the chaos and harm that is being caused by House Republicans under the direction of the Trump administration. This week, the