

6 percent for inpatient revenues, but received a federal waiver to tax outpatient revenues at slightly over 10 percent, said Paul Kidwell, senior vice president at the Connecticut Hospital Association. It's unclear whether the federal government will continue to grant such waivers, he added.

"It's a big question mark," Kidwell said. "We're proceeding as if we can continue, with the knowledge that we need more information from CMS in order to be certain."

Capece, CEO at Middlesex Hospital, said the tax change could be the biggest financial disruptor for his hospital, even more so than changes to Medicaid eligibility.

"The risk really lies with regard to the provider tax issue," Capece said. "It's a huge amount of money."

Barwis, of Bristol Hospital, called the expiration of the agreement at the end of this fiscal year a looming "day of reckoning" for Connecticut.

"Will [the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services] grant a new waiver to keep it at 10.5 percent? Or will CMS say, 'No, no, no, we're not going to grant this waiver again. You need to go down to 6 percent.' And how will that affect hospitals in the state of Connecticut?" Barwis said.

At least some Connecticut hospital leaders hope the most potentially damaging effects of the bill could get scaled back or repealed before they go into effect.

Wade, who oversees strategy at Stamford Health, said there's a chance that, if Democrats take control of Congress in the midterm elections, some of the changes could be "pushed off or unwound entirely," he said.

"We're still doing a lot of advocacy at the federal level because this is still a moving target," Wade said.

Kramer, who heads up Day Kimball, agreed that there's still time for things to change. Capece from Middlesex said he, too, is "cautiously optimistic."

CHA's Kidwell is less convinced the law could be scaled back but, he said, he's grateful to be facing these federal changes in a state that wants to help as many people as possible keep their health coverage.

"We all have this goal of making sure as many people stay insured as possible and that compliance with federal rules is not so onerous that people fall off because of paperwork," Kidwell said. "I don't think that's the same in other states where they might have a different motivation."

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, again, this journalist went out and interviewed hospitals across the State. This included urban, rural, and suburban hospitals. What all of them are reporting is that the hit of \$1 trillion of Medicaid is going to ripple through the system and cause impact for everybody who relies on those critical services.

Daniel Keenan from Trinity Health Of New England, Saint Francis Hospital of Hartford is one of their big members. I was born there a number of years ago. He stated: "The impact goes far beyond those who lose coverage. Our entire health system and every community we serve will feel the effects. Reduced services, longer wait times, staff reductions, and potential closure of programs and facilities."

"Keenan pointed to emergency rooms as an example. When people don't have coverage, they turn to emergency departments for basic care, resulting in crowding, service delays and staffing issues that impact the entire system."

That affects everyone, and it will spill over into other people's employ-

ment-based insurance premiums, which the article goes through in great detail.

Madam Speaker, President Trump the other day said he actually doesn't think he wants to call the bill the One Big Beautiful Bill Act anymore. As he said, it was good for getting it approved, but it is not really good for explaining it to people. People have figured out enough in terms of deficit impact, taking away people's health insurance coverage, and the impact on services, particularly in the hospital sector, which they warned us about before the bill was passed. Yet, the majority and the White House turned a deaf ear.

We have a lot of work to do when we get back into town, starting tonight. Again, what would be nice is if all of the Members who had townhalls—and I know Republicans heard about this as well as Democrats—recognized that this bill is not the Ten Commandments.

Madam Speaker, we have the ability and the legal authority to make changes and listen to the people who are warning us that it is actually going to harm the American people, and there is nothing beautiful about it.

REFLECTING ON AUGUST RECESS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, it is great to be back in our Nation's Capital, especially now that President Trump has cleaned up Washington and made this city safer for all residents and visitors.

Madam Speaker, there is no place like home, and it is really hard to leave Iowa. August was an incredible month, working across Iowa's First District. I went corner to corner, visiting all 20 counties. I met with manufacturers, farmers, hospital leaders, nonprofits, issue advocacy groups, emergency services, law enforcement, county supervisors, and small businesses. They all highlighted the wins we have delivered, which is the largest tax cut in history for working- and middle-class Americans.

Madam Speaker, there is a 20 percent tax cut for small businesses, permanent relief from the death tax for family farms, historic investments in trade schools, and manufacturing provisions that keep jobs and innovation in America.

I was proud to lead a Made in America Manufacturing Tour with stops at Cemen Tech, Vermeer, and SSAB to showcase how these pro-growth policies are driving investment and creating jobs in Iowa.

I also held roundtables with hospitals, EMS, and small businesses to discuss lowering costs, cutting red tape, and ensuring our communities remain strong.

Of course, I joined thousands of Iowans at the great Iowa State Fair,

celebrating our traditions, supporting agriculture, and talking with families about the issues that matter most. August was not a break. It was a work period filled with results.

Under President Trump's leadership, we are cutting taxes, bringing jobs back, unleashing American energy, securing our borders, and restoring America's strength. I am proud of the progress we made, and I am committed to working for Iowa and our great Nation.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Iowa's Department of Physics and Astronomy for their critical role on the NASA TRACERS mission.

On July 23, 2025, the Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Electrodynamics Reconnaissance Satellites, also known as TRACERS, was successfully sent up from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. This innovative mission is being led by David Miles, a professor at the University of Iowa.

I had the honor of touring the TRACERS lab at the University of Iowa. I saw the impressive work being carried out by Professor Miles and his team. Aboard the rocket are two twin satellites that will be used to study how the solar wind's energy enters space and how the Sun transfers energy and mass throughout the solar system. They will also study how Earth's magnetic shield protects our planet from the effects of space weather.

I am proud of the team that is home to such groundbreaking work and innovation. I congratulate Professor Miles and the TRACERS team on a successful launch. Go Hawks.

REMEMBERING COLLETA "LETTIE" LOUISE HARDEBECK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of my aunt, Colleta "Lettie" Louise Hardebeck, who passed away August 16 at the age of 102.

Her celebration of life is tomorrow on September 3. I won't be able to be there because we are here in session.

Lettie was the energy and the adventurer of our family. She was born in 1923 to German immigrants in Simi Valley, California. She grew up on the family farm which was taken over by eminent domain for Interstate 5. She helped harvest oranges and walnuts.

After high school, she moved to Los Angeles where she worked for Prudential Life Insurance; rode the Red Bus with her sister, my Aunt Ellie; and met her husband, Bob, a Coast Guard sailor. They married in 1947 and raised four children together.

Lettie's life was marked by devotion to her family, to her Catholic faith, and to her community. She helped raise four children: Cathi, Larry, Jim, and Bobby. She also helped raise her grandson, Joey. She remained active in her church. Even at 100 years old, she was still attending Mass in person.

She loved the outdoors and adventure. She hiked Yosemite in her nineties, took her family camping in national parks, and even went sledding with her grandchildren in her eighties. She traveled widely, but she returned to the joy of family.

Because we were in the military, we didn't get to be with Aunt Lettie very much, but we remember her energy, her spirit, her love, her compassion, her adventurousness, and her love for her youngest brother, Freddy, my dad.

Madam Speaker, though I am sorry I won't be there with Aunt Lettie and her family tomorrow, we remember Aunt Lettie in our thoughts and our prayers.

Madam Speaker, I also wish my sister-in-law, Susan Branthoover, a very happy birthday. Happy birthday, Susan.

HONORING DAVID BROOKS

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and a bit of sadness that I rise today to say goodbye for now and thank you to my dear friend, and one of Congress' greatest champions for our public lands, Mr. David Brooks, who officially retires this week.

Over the last 38 years, David has served as an exceptional leader in the United States Senate and House, serving over the last 36½ years as counsel to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He is the longest tenured ENR counsel in history, working for eight different Senate chairs and ranking members and one House Member.

During this time, David has worked on bills protecting nearly 25 million acres of public lands, 25 million acres of wilderness, national parks, monuments, wild and scenic rivers, heritage areas, national recreation areas, and trails.

He helped to write, negotiate, and pass one of the largest conservation bills in modern history with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. He helped to create permanent and mandatory funding for The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has protected public lands across the country.

□ 1220

During his service, he helped craft 10 of the largest and most significant public land and water packages in decades, including helping to pass hundreds of individual bills and creating nearly 50 new national park units and 17 million acres of new national wilderness.

As counsel to two New Mexico Senators, he also helped to protect the Valles Caldera, Organ Mountains, and Columbine-Hondo Wilderness and many other efforts to protect the lands and waters of our State.

As you can see, Madam Speaker, the impact of David's work speaks for

itself. To any American who has stood in wonderment and awe of our Nation's public lands and most special places, behind the ever-contested efforts to protect these lands, year in and year out, has stood the humble and steadfast work of David Brooks.

For those of us who know David as I do, Madam Speaker, as a mentor, as a friend, and as a teacher, you know more than anything he would hate this speech. In fact, I am amazed that he is even here today in this Chamber to be recognized for his service. That is because the David we know and love has spent his entire career at his desk writing and negotiating bills, meeting constituents, working with Members, mentoring staff, and, yes, spinning the occasional tale or two.

For anyone who has visited that hub, or tornado, of activity, you know what I am talking about. David's office has always been a meeting place for debate, big ideas, tough conversations, and getting things done.

For those of us who have had the pleasure of working directly with David, we know him as a kind and wise teacher, mentor, and guide. This too will be his legacy of his time here in Congress, and for that we are forever grateful.

He will also be known as a true Tucsonan, who never lost his connection and roots to his hometown of Tucson, Arizona.

A hometown hero in his own right, David began his political career in high school volunteering for another Tucson icon, the great Congressman Raul Grijalva, cutting his teeth as a high school volunteer for one of Mr. Grijalva's school board campaigns in which Congressman Grijalva became the city's first Chicano school board members in history.

After graduating from the University of Arizona, David came to Washington in 1987 to work for the great Congressman Morris K. Udall where he worked in the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, now known as the House Natural Resources Committee.

Like Mo Udall and Raul Grijalva, whom he worked for, two of our greatest public lands champions, David leaves the Hill with exceptional service and an unmatched record in protecting our Nation's public lands.

If it is not already clear, Tucson has a lot to be proud of, which is why we are so grateful that some of Mr. Grijalva's former staff, staff from the House Natural Resources and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and conservation organizations working across the country, have joined us here today. We certainly know that John and Carol, his parents back home, and his wife, Celeste, and son, Ben, who are here with us today, are deeply proud as well.

Above all else, we are going to miss David Brooks and his constant presence on the Hill. For so many of us David has been a rock, a friend, and a person whose loyalty, kindness, and de-

cency stands out in a place where it is hard to come by.

David Brooks is a one of a kind, an American classic, and a Tucson hero. We congratulate him on his new retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

PROTECTING REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today because democracy is under assault in my home State. California politicians, led by the Governor, are throwing a grenade at our Constitution in order to strip power from voters and seize it for themselves. This fraud on our electorate compels action by Congress to protect the representative form of government that citizens of every State are due.

That is why today I am calling for a prompt vote on H. Res. 4889.

On three separate occasions, California voters have deliberately chosen to remove politicians from the process of drawing the lines for legislative districts. Voters have empowered an independent citizens redistricting commission to set the boundaries of representation so that free and fair elections, not political manipulation, are the motive force in our democracy.

This principle is so important and so vital to safeguarding democracy that the citizens commission is enshrined in our State constitution along with a number of principles to guide redistricting:

Redistricting occurs once per decade after the Census.

The legislature is barred from participating.

The members of the citizens commission may not run for public office.

Districts are to be drawn in an open process based on extensive public input.

Boundaries are to be set based on neutral criteria like keeping communities together.

District lines cannot be influenced by partisan considerations or drawn to favor or disfavor any incumbent or candidate.

In one fell swoop, Gavin Newsom is blowing up all of these constitutional principles. His unprecedented mid-decade gerrymander tears up the map created by our citizens commission, replacing it with one drawn behind closed doors and adopted by politicians. It is one designed with explicitly partisan