



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

No. 146

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. KIM).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 8, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable YOUNG KIM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I spent August talking to and listening to my constituents, as I hope my Republican colleagues did, too. What did I hear the most? They are scared out of their minds about the impact of the Republicans' big, ugly bill, particularly on how it will make hunger worse in this country.

From community-based organizations to food pantries to hospitals to farmers, they are all terrified about

the nearly \$200 billion in cuts to SNAP. This is why, Madam Speaker, I am stunned, absolutely stunned, that the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, of which I have been proud to serve on for 14 years, seems to be hell-bent on jamming a farm bill through the committee this month with no plans, none at all, to address the draconian SNAP cuts.

Let me say loud and clear that I, for one, am not open to negotiations and discussions about a new 5-year farm bill unless fixing the cuts to SNAP is on the agenda. Democrats will not be a cheap date when it comes to feeding people in this country. We are not just going to roll over and move on. No way.

To talk about a new farm bill without addressing the big, ugly bill's nutrition cuts is unconscionable. It is cruel. Let me remind my colleagues that the average SNAP benefit is about \$2 per person per meal. A cut of nearly \$200 billion is an awful lot of meals that Republicans are taking away from vulnerable Americans.

SNAP cuts are imminent. Despite Republican attempts to push some of the biggest cuts off until the 2026 midterms, very real benefit cuts for some of the most vulnerable of all are expected to go into effect within weeks.

Any day now, USDA is expected to release regulations on new time limits for veterans, former foster youth, and homeless populations who were previously exempted.

According to a recent CBO report, the new onerous paperwork requirements and time limits alone will kick at least 2.4 million Americans off of SNAP. That is parents with school-age kids, veterans, seniors, and the disabled.

Furthermore, CBO expects that some States will choose to abandon SNAP altogether. For the first time ever, the big, ugly bill mandates a State cost-share requirement for food benefits. If

States can't pony up their share, which for some States could run into the billions of dollars, they will just choose to walk away. It is an enormous burden on States already strapped for cash.

Let me also say this. If Republicans think they can just throw a few extra bucks at TEFAP, which is the Federal program that helps food banks, and call it good, they are out of their minds. We can't food bank our way out of this Republican-made crisis. Charity alone can't pick up the slack of millions of people losing their Federal food benefits.

Madam Speaker, it would be utterly reckless of us to try to jam a 5-year farm bill through Congress right now.

Let me also say, it is not just the "usual suspects" sounding the alarm on SNAP cuts. A couple of weeks ago, I went on my 15th annual farm tour across 12 farms in central and western Massachusetts. Over and over again, I heard from farmers about how they are bracing for these drastic SNAP cuts. Why? We can only buy food with SNAP benefits.

Who grows that food? Our farmers, like my constituents, grow that food. They are already seeing the abrupt cancellation of USDA programs that support the purchase of fresh, local produce for schools and food banks. Not only did these cancellations reduce the amount of healthy fruits and veggies going to people in need, it took income away from our farmers.

The very real and impending SNAP cuts are just another economic hit to our farmers. Madam Speaker, we are not operating in anything resembling business as usual right now. Republicans have ripped apart the long-standing farm bill coalition between nutrition and farming interests.

The big, ugly bill decimated modest, yet meaningful SNAP benefits, all to give more tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy and well-connected.

Madam Speaker, we either want to end hunger or we don't. Trump and his

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Republican cronies in Congress have clearly chosen to make hunger worse. We cannot stand idly by while hunger is made worse in this country, the richest country in the world.

Again, what is particularly galling is that Republicans champion tax cuts for multimillionaires and billionaires, while decimating an essential program to help put food on the table. What is wrong with these people.

Madam Speaker, we do not share the same values. We say no new farm bill without fixing the big, ugly bill's cuts to SNAP. We can and we should do more, a hell of a lot more, to end hunger now.

#### SUPPORTING THE STOP OF CHINESE FENTANYL

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week I was proud to support the Stop Chinese Fentanyl Act, legislation that will put sanctions on any individual, including senior members of the Chinese Communist Party, who are responsible for the production, the distribution, the sale, or the financing of synthetic opioids.

It is no secret that China is the leading producer of the base chemicals, the ingredients, that are needed to make fentanyl and that the Chinese Communist Party is more than willing to work directly with Mexican drug cartels to ensure that this poison continues to reach America.

Unfortunately, drug overdoses have become the leading cause of death for Americans who are ages 18 to 45, with fentanyl causing nearly 70 percent of those deaths. With strong leadership under President Trump back in the White House, our southern border is finally becoming secure.

We here in the House must take every action possible to stop the flow of the poison that fentanyl is before it ever reaches our border.

#### STRENGTHENING OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week, my colleagues and I will take up H.R. 3486, the Stop Illegal Entry Act. This legislation will strengthen our immigration laws and deter criminal illegal aliens from crossing our southern border.

For 4 long years, President Biden and his administration were asleep at the switch, allowing our borders to be flooded with illegal immigrants, most of whom were simply released into our communities.

This legislation gives Federal officials more tools in their tool belt to prosecute illegal immigrants by requiring significant imprisonment for illegals who commit crimes.

President Trump has worked tirelessly to make our southern borders secure again. Now it is our job here in Congress to ensure Federal law enforcement and prosecutors have the tools that they need to deter further illegal immigration.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to supporting this strong, commonsense piece of legislation on the House floor this week as we continue to work to make our Nation once again safe for all Americans.

#### CELEBRATING CENTURY FARMS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the William and Richard Farabaugh and Joseph Burkhart farms in East Carroll Township of Cambria County for receiving the designation of Century Farm from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

A Century Farm is a farm that has been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years, has a family member who still lives on that farm, and has at least 10 acres of the original farmland.

William Farabaugh purchased the family farm in September 1918. He and his wife had 10 children: 8 daughters and 2 sons. The Farabaugh family introduced the use of silos in the area. Fifty-eight of the original acres and the barn are still in use today.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations to the Farabaugh and Burkhart families and express gratitude for their enduring commitment to one of Pennsylvania's most vital industries, and that is agriculture.

□ 1210

#### HONORING PARTSCH FARM IN CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Partsch Farm in Conemaugh Township of Cambria County for receiving the designation of a Century Farm from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Cecilia Partsch's grandfather, Frank, purchased the farm in April 1924. Frank Partsch was a dairy farmer who supplied milk for processing at Sani Dairy in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

The original barn and house are still in use today. Cecilia Partsch's father, Harold, took over the farm in 1972. Currently, the farm continues to produce both beef and hay.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations to the Partsch family and express gratitude for the family's enduring commitment to agriculture, the number one industry in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

#### CONDEMNING BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

(Mr. POCAN of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the genocide that is occurring in Gaza against the Palestinians.

I am not ignoring the outrageous attacks on October 7 that left at least

1,200 people dead and the dozens of hostages who remain. Nor am I ignoring the decades of isolation that Gaza has endured by the Israeli Government, essentially turning the small but densely populated region into an open-air prison from which few could easily come and go as they pleased.

However, it is simply outrageous what is occurring in Gaza right now, and not speaking out against the inhumanity could be considered complicity.

At least 64,000 people have been killed in Gaza since October 7, 2023, including tens of thousands of mothers, children, and other innocent people. Sadly, it is likely that the actual death toll is even higher. The U.N. estimates that approximately 92 percent of residential buildings and 70 percent of all the buildings in Gaza have been destroyed.

Starvation is rampant, as is disease. Famine is no longer an imminent threat. It is happening now, and babies are dying. The killing of people in hospitals and those trying to get food aid, normally considered off-limits even in war, occurs regularly, with an official shrug when the Israeli Government is called out.

The definition of genocide by the New Oxford American Dictionary is "the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group."

That is exactly what we are seeing in Gaza right now by the Israeli Government under Benjamin Netanyahu, an accused war criminal by the International Criminal Court.

This war isn't a targeted response against Hamas, guilty of the October 7 attacks and decades of violence. This is a wholesale attack on the people of Gaza.

Israeli groups like B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel have recently called what is happening genocide. International human rights groups like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have as well.

Recently, the International Association of Genocide Scholars added their voices on the genocide. The United Nations' special committee said last November that Israel's war conduct in Gaza is "consistent with the characteristics of genocide," including mass civilian casualties and using starvation as a weapon.

No weapons should be sent from the United States to Israel that could be used against the people of Gaza. Instead of photo ops with Benjamin Netanyahu, it is time for condemnation. Help facilitate the serving of an arrest warrant from the ICC to him.

Let's make him the international pariah he should be. Let's use our leverage to pressure him not to commit genocide in Gaza. People of good conscience must join in this denunciation of what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank.

#### FUNDING MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, the Republicans in the appropriations process