

NO on Roll Call No. 250 on Smith of NJ Amendment No. 7 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 251 on the Patronis Amendment No. 9 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 252 on Wilson of SC Amendment No. 11 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 253 on Mills Amendment No. 18 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 254 on Davidson Amendment No. 20 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 255 on Greene of GA Amendment No. 22 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 256 on Greene of GA Amendment No. 23 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 257 on Greene of GA Amendment No. 24 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 258 on McCormick Amendment No. 25 to HR 3838,

NO on Roll Call No. 259 on Biggs Amendment No. 29 to HR 3838,

AYE on Roll Call No. 260 on Rose Amendment No. 253 to HR 3838,

YEA on Roll Call No. 261 on the Motion to Recommit on HR 3838, and

NO on Roll Call No. 262 on Final Passage of HR 3838.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 3838, STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT FOR EFFECTIVE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 3838, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section and title numbering, cross-referencing, conforming amendments to the table of contents and short titles, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

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 HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCLINTOCK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

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 REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5239

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) as cosponsor of H.R. 5239.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 111

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.J. Res. 111.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

□ 1800

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 3944, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII, and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Cole of Oklahoma moves that the House take from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 3944, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I support this return to regular order in the appropriations process.

I support the motion. I yield back the balance of my time, and move the previous question.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

The question was taken; and the motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. DeLauro of Connecticut moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3944, be instructed to agree to the funding level proposed for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC] (\$8.2 billion) as part of the matter proposed to be added by the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to instruct conferees to adopt the Senate funding level for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for

Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, as part of the conference on three fiscal year 2026 funding bills: Agriculture, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and legislative branch.

Besides cutting WIC to unacceptable levels, House Republicans are coming to the table with funding bills that are filled with extreme reckless cuts and harmful riders that have been rejected on a bipartisan basis.

We are now 9 months into this administration and weeks away from the end of the fiscal year, and the cost-of-living crisis has only gotten worse under President Trump. Americans are struggling with rising costs of everyday necessities. They are living paycheck to paycheck, but the President and House Republicans are not laser focused on the cost-of-living crisis. They are making it worse.

Instead of lowering prices, Republicans passed a bill to cut nearly a trillion dollars from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, which will strip healthcare coverage for more than 15 million people. Over \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare will be triggered by this law, harming America's seniors. In their signature law, Republicans slashed nutrition benefits for poor families, which will cause an additional 1 million kids to go hungry.

They did all of this in order to pass trillions of dollars in tax cuts for big corporations and for billionaires, adding \$4 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

Since then, House Republicans have only doubled down on their attacks on the working class, the middle class, and vulnerable Americans.

Last night, Republicans on the Appropriations Committee forced through their reckless 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies funding bill that assaults public health, slashes medical research, eliminates funding for reproductive health, and eviscerates education and job training.

They used this bill not to right the wrongs of their big, ugly law, but to make healthcare even more expensive and slash research into lifesaving cures.

They cut funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They slashed funding for State and local health departments, substance use prevention and treatment, mental health services, and eliminated funding for tobacco prevention and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

To top it all off, House Republicans continue to full-scale attempt to eliminate public education, decimating support for children in K through 12 elementary schools, and threatening the future of the entire generation.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education funding bill was cut from the same cloth as the agriculture funding bill we are preparing to conference. At a time when families around the country are struggling to

afford healthcare, housing, and other essentials for their families, House Republicans fail to provide WIC with the resources it needs to help Americans keep food on their tables.

That is why the House conferees must support the WIC level in the Senate bill, \$500 million over the budget request and the House bill. This should be a simple ask. On Monday, the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, asked for funding of the continuing resolution at the Senate's level of \$8.2 billion.

□ 1810

Mr. Speaker, this should be a simple ask. On Monday, the Office of Management and Budget asked for funding in the continuing resolution at the Senate's level of \$8.2 billion. Yesterday, the administration released its Make America Healthy Again report. The report commended the WIC program for its science-based approach to evaluating the health and the diet of participants and working to improve them.

Unfortunately, the report made no mention of the administration's drastically insufficient budget request for WIC or the need to fully fund vouchers issued to participants for fruits and vegetables.

House Republicans must do more than pay lip service to the goal of making healthy food available to children and families. They must fund WIC at the Senate's proposed level and support the fruit and vegetable vouchers.

House Republicans' Agriculture funding bill also fails to provide the Food and Drug Administration with the funding it needs to keep Americans healthy and safe from foodborne illnesses and harmful additives. From keeping track of food recalls to rigorously inspecting processing facilities to protecting infant formula to banning toxic dyes, the FDA cannot accomplish its missions if we slash its resources.

Given many recent food recalls, and particularly with contaminated foods and medical products that are imported, there is a need for the FDA to expand its presence. That cannot be done for free.

We must follow the Senate's lead on funding the FDA. The Senate bill provides \$3.5 billion for the vital agency, \$332 million over the House bill and roughly equally to the 2025 level. This level provides significantly more funding for human foods and drugs work, two of the most vital responsibilities of the FDA.

Even beyond the insufficient and dangerous funding levels for WIC and FDA, there are other reckless cuts and policies in the Agriculture funding bill that must be addressed in conference.

Despite Republicans claiming to support farmers and rural communities, their bill cuts investments in rural America, including grants that help hardworking Americans buy homes in rural areas and programs to help build drinking and wastewater infrastruc-

ture in rural communities that need it most.

House Republicans are using this bill to eliminate protections for small meat and poultry producers against large corporations that have dominated the market, forced small producers out of business, and price gouged consumers.

We are in an era of unprecedented corporate consolidation. Mr. Speaker, four countries control over 80 percent of the beef market, four companies control 70 percent of the pork industry, and four companies control more than half of the chicken industry.

House Republicans' bill will help these major companies dominate the market, grow their power, and raise prices on the backs of hardworking Americans.

The two other bills in this package, the Military Construction and Veteran Affairs and Legislative Branch funding bills, also need significant improvements in order to earn support from Democrats.

As it stands now, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill would worsen the quality of life for servicemembers and their families and raise costs for Americans, while helping big corporations profit from privatizing medical care for veterans and hurt military readiness.

This extreme proposal also furthers Republicans' constant attempts to roll back women's rights by restricting healthcare access for servicemembers and their families.

House Republicans' Legislative Branch funding bill, typically a bill that has been quickly agreed to by both parties, jettisons bipartisan priorities in order to aid and abet OMB Director Russ Vought in stealing funds from American taxpayers.

This bill's drastic cuts and restrictions on the Government Accountability Office and the Library of Congress will inhibit our ability to hold government accountable and will let waste and fraud run rampant.

It is astonishing that for all the talk about finding and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, that House Republicans would defund the watchdog that is tasked with precisely that role.

The only plausible explanation is that the majority, and the administration to which it is blindly loyal, is upset that GAO has repeatedly found that the White House is stealing funds away from taxpayers.

This conference takes place as our entire legislative branch of government is being undermined. The Trump administration, guided by Project 2025 author and Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought, is unlawfully stealing funds that we, Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate, elected by our constituents for this purpose, passed into law.

Russ Vought continues to withhold more than \$410 billion from families, from farmers, from children, from

small businesses, and from communities in every part of the country.

As the courts have repeatedly concluded, this administration's disregard for our Nation's spending laws and Congress' power of the purse has harmed every corner of our country. Children in elementary schools have been denied resources they need to succeed. Farmers in rural communities have been left to fend for themselves. Communities have been robbed of resources to keep people safe.

Russ Vought has stripped hope away from cancer patients and singlehandedly made the cost-of-living crisis even worse for working families.

Make no mistake. This is all part of Russ Vought's plan to centralize and hoard power for himself over all others. He is poisoning these negotiations. Every illegal action he takes is designed to spite Congress and make sure his dark vision comes to pass.

Russ Vought wants a shutdown. He wants the country to continue spiraling into chaos so that he can keep stealing from our communities and dismantling Congress' power of the purse.

I stand ready to move forward to fund the government in a bipartisan way, and to pass funding bills that address the cost-of-living crisis that President Trump is escalating. Any funding agreement must reflect Democratic priorities. We must pass full-year spending bills that ensure that lawmakers, not President Trump and Russ Vought, decide how taxpayer dollars get spent.

Democrats want to lower the cost of living for all Americans and deliver critical services and investments to the working class, the middle class, and the vulnerable. That victory can be achieved through bipartisan cooperation to pass annual funding bills, signed into law by President Trump, that ensure this elected body's commitments to our constituents are fulfilled.

It cannot be achieved through another full-year continuing resolution that only increases Russ Vought's power. If Republicans choose to empower an unelected bureaucrat over the voices of the American people, then Democrats will not provide our vote to such a dangerous usurpation of congressional power.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Motion to Instruct, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, for yielding and for her strong leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Motion to Instruct. From the very beginning of this Congress, Democrats have made clear that

we are willing to work with anyone in this town who is committed to lowering the high cost of living.

America is too expensive. Far too many people in this country are working hard and playing by the rules, but they are unable to get ahead and can barely get by.

Yet, what we have seen from this Congress is that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have consistently made life harder for everyday Americans. That is what the one big, ugly bill was all about. It was to hurt everyday Americans in order, Mr. Speaker, to reward billionaire donors with massive tax breaks.

Why was this done? The one big, ugly bill rips healthcare away from millions of Americans. Hospitals, nursing homes, and community-based health clinics will close. The American people are now confronting dramatic increases in healthcare premiums, copays, and deductibles. America is already too expensive. President Trump and House Republicans are making things worse.

Democrats are prepared, under the leadership of ROSA DELAURO, to sit down anytime and anyplace to negotiate a bipartisan spending agreement that meets the needs of the American people in terms of their health, public safety, and economic well-being.

□ 1820

What Democrats will not do, Mr. Speaker, is support partisan spending legislation put forth by Republicans that continues to gut the healthcare of the American people.

Enough is enough. We need to reverse the damage that has been done, not do more.

The big, ugly bill steals food from the mouths of hungry children, seniors, and veterans. Why? Once again, it is to pay for massive tax breaks to Republican billionaire donors. This is unacceptable and unconscionable.

This motion to instruct will help ensure that in a conference between the House and Senate, between Democrats and Republicans, we are actually protecting women, infants, and children here in the United States of America, all over, in urban America, rural America, small-town America, suburban America, exurban America, and the heartland of America.

The assault on the social safety net that Republicans have engineered this Congress, Mr. Speaker, has been completely and totally unacceptable, hurting everyday Americans and exploding the debt and the deficit at the same period of time.

Nothing has been done by this Republican-led Congress to lower the high cost of living. Donald Trump promised that costs would go down on day one. Costs have not gone down. They are going up. Inflation is on the way up. Life has gotten more expensive. Electricity bills are skyrocketing and out of control. Now, healthcare premiums are on the verge of increasing by thousands of dollars a year for 20 million

Americans unless Republicans choose to join us and act with respect to the tax credits that will expire at the end of this year connected to the Affordable Care Act.

There is much work that needs to be done. Again, Democrats are ready to sit down anytime and anyplace to work out a spending bill on a bipartisan basis that actually makes life better for the American people, but we will not allow this administration and the Republican Congress to continue to hurt everyday Americans.

That is why I strongly support this motion to instruct. That is why we have made clear that under no circumstances will we support a partisan Republican spending bill that continues to rip away healthcare from the American people.

Vote "yes" on this motion to instruct.

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as our leader said, we are ready to move forward to fund the government in a bipartisan way, as we have done historically, and to pass funding bills that address the cost-of-living crisis that is the central issue for the American public today.

It is the cost-of-living crisis that the President is escalating. Take a look at food prices today. He said that prices were going to come down on the first day. They are skyrocketing.

While I am prepared to meet anytime, anyplace, anywhere, what is critical is that any funding agreement must reflect Democratic priorities. We must pass full-year spending bills that ensure that lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans, decide how taxpayer dollars get spent and not the President and not Russ Vought. They have no authority to steal the funds that Democrats and Republicans, in a bipartisan way, historically appropriated.

We need to lower that cost of living. Bipartisan cooperation is essential, and we need to ensure that this body's commitments to our constituents are fulfilled.

I also believe it cannot be achieved through another full-year continuing resolution. That only increases Russ Vought's power. If Republicans choose to empower an unelected bureaucrat over the voices of the American people, then Democrats will not provide our votes to such a dangerous usurpation of congressional power.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the motion to instruct. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CALLING FOR SUBSTANTIVE ACTION ON SHOOTINGS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I have some comments that were drafted before today's events.

Last month, in Minnesota, a gunman opened fire on Catholic schoolchildren praying. Again, thoughts and prayers are offered, but what do we say and what do we do when the victims were already praying?

This cannot be our only response. We need substantive action.

As Westchester County executive, we acted early to ban gun shows from county-owned buildings. It was a small but meaningful sign that we were serious about keeping guns out of our communities.

Now, Congress must show that same seriousness. We need universal background checks. We need weapons of war off our streets. We need strong red flag laws to keep guns away from abusers.

State laws are not enough. Guns can easily be trafficked across State lines.

Thoughts and prayers didn't save children at Sandy Hook, Uvalde, or in that Minnesota church. They won't save the next victims unless we act. We have to keep weapons of mass death out of the hands of those who would use them to kill innocent people.

In the last few hours, we have one more example, the murder of Charlie Kirk. Any person, regardless of their politics, should be able to express their ideas without violence.

Commonsense gun laws save lives, Mr. Speaker, and we must pass them now.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CAPTAIN DANNIE NELSON WILSON, JR.

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Captain Dannie Nelson Wilson, Jr., who passed away after a brave battle with cancer.

Dannie was a devoted husband to Tara, a supportive stepfather to Matthew, a loving father to Dannie III and Morgan, and an adoring Pap to Lillian and Ryann.

Dannie first joined the Loudoun County Volunteer Fire and Rescue service in 1989 as a volunteer. In 2000, he became a career firefighter, serving our community at various stations. He rose the ranks over his decades of service and ended up as a captain.