

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.

Captain Wilson will be remembered by colleagues for his depth of knowledge and experience, for his toughness, and also for his heart of gold. He expected a lot from his crew, but he also created a fun atmosphere to work in.

Captain Wilson's legacy of service, humility, and devotion will continue to resonate in Loudoun County and beyond.

May we keep his family in our prayers and honor his memory by carrying forward the values he lived by.

□ 1830

HONORING MICHAEL FRIEDMAN

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the time to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of my dear friend and neighbor, Michael Friedman, a tireless champion of social and economic justice and workplace democracy.

From his early days as a truck driver and founding member of Teamsters for a Democratic Union to his distinguished legal career, Mike's life was rooted in advancing the rights and dignity of working people.

Mike believed deeply in the power of unions and cooperatives to transform lives for the better.

As general counsel at the Center for Community-Based Enterprise, Mike dedicated himself to helping businesses transition to worker ownership, empowering employees, and strengthening communities.

Mike was an active social justice organizer in Detroit for decades. He co-founded our local Jewish Voice for Peace chapter and helped lead their work challenging the U.S. support for the Israeli Government's apartheid and genocide in Gaza.

His legacy will continue to inspire all of us who fight for justice, equity, and workers' rights. Our thoughts are with his wife, Barbara Harvey, and their family during this very difficult time.

GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask when the majority will join us to address the epidemic of gun violence in our schools in America.

A recent shooting at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis left 2 children dead and 21 injured when a shooter opened fire during morning mass.

Since 2013, there have been more than 1,500 incidents of gunfire on America's school grounds, resulting in 485 deaths and 1,100 injuries nationally.

As a result of California's strong gun regulations, residents of that State, my home State, are 25 percent less

likely to be killed in a mass shooting than people in other States. California's overall rate of gun deaths is 42 percent lower than the national average. However, 40 percent of the guns used in California come from outside of the State. We need to deal with this nationally even while States show action.

The national statistics are much more troubling. For example, the U.S. gun homicide rate is 26 times that of other high-income countries. House Republicans continue to block all legislation to address this crisis.

It is past time that we put the safety of our children before the profits of the gun lobby and finally pass laws to protect our communities and young Americans from gun violence particularly in school.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

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

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Greek Orthodox community in Florida and also across the United States to extend a heartfelt welcome to his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who will visit Washington, D.C., from September 15 through September 17.

For many Greek Orthodox faithful in my district, His All-Holiness is more than a religious leader. He is their spiritual father. He is a voice of compassion, a symbol of faith that has been carried across generations of families who came to America in search of freedom of opportunity. His visit to our Nation's Capital is an occasion for pride for my constituents and all Orthodox Christians who call America home.

Patriarch Bartholomew is known worldwide as a bridge-builder, working tirelessly to promote peace, dialogue, and respect among all different faiths. He is also a champion for protecting our natural environment, earning him the title of the "Green Patriarch."

His leadership is a source of inspiration not only for the Greek Orthodox community but all those who care about human rights, religious liberty, and the stewardship of God's creation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming His All-Holiness to the United States and celebrating this historic visit with many Greek Orthodox Americans who are honored by his presence. This moment is a reminder of enduring contributions that faith, family, and the community make the strength of our Nation a great nation.

HONORING SOPHIA L. REID

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. TORRES of New York was recognized for 60 min-

utes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader in my district and a true champion for older adults in the Bronx, Ms. Sophia L. Reid.

For nearly two decades, Ms. Reid has dedicated herself to the health, dignity, and well-being of our senior community. As program director of the Eastchester Neighborhood Older Adult Center under R.A.I.N., Sophia is more than an administrator. She is a mentor, a caregiver, and a tireless advocate for our community's older adults.

Sophia brings compassion and leadership to everything she does by fostering a sense of community, by organizing health education programs, and hosting wellness activities. As one of her residents retells: "Sophia has provided an environment where her older adults feel safe, comfortable, and happy to be in daily."

The older adults that come are from various ethnic backgrounds and not all speak English, but Sophia says: You don't have to love each other, but you must respect each other, and that is how it is.

Her years of dedicated service and passionate care have led her to receive countless awards from the New York City Council, the Bronx Borough President's Office, and now a congressional recognition.

Her work in recognition speaks volumes to the impact that Sophia has had on the Bronx. Sophia has created a space where our seniors feel safe, valued, and seen.

In a city as diverse as New York, she reminds us that respect, community, and care are the foundations of aging with dignity.

On behalf of the people of the Bronx, I thank Sophia Reid for her unwavering service.

HONORING ALLISON GRIFFITH AND RADCLIFF
MAGENTA BLOCK ASSOCIATION

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor the extraordinary dedication of community leader Allison Griffith and the Radcliff Magenta Block Association, whose tireless work has transformed their Bronx neighborhood.

Over 20 years ago, Lillian McDuffie and Yvonne Long fought against a serious health hazard in which raw sewage was backing up into their homes every time it rained. Their persistence brought attention to a dangerous problem that endangered children playing in basements and resident safety.

After over a year of fighting for the issue to be addressed and for the continued cleaning of the sewer system, the request was approved, and the reconstruction on the area began to fix the sewer system as a whole.

Their commitment didn't stop there. Seeing neighborhood children with nothing to do, they helped start a block party to bring the community together, fostering connection and care among neighbors.