

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an inspiring moment in our community, the Spokane Impact's first home match this past Saturday at the HUB Sports Center in Liberty Lake.

The Spokane Impact is one of the founding teams of the Inspire Soccer League, the first-ever national soccer league created specifically for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Launched by Project Inspire, this league is about more than just soccer. It is about bringing people together from all walks of life and making sure that everyone has a chance to experience the joy and connection of sports.

Too often, athletes with special needs are left without access to the kinds of opportunities so many take for granted, which is real teams, real competition, and real crowds cheering them on.

This is an exciting new effort. There is so much going on with soccer in Spokane and across the country with the launch of our USL team and the coming World Cup. I am so proud that this has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a special shout-out to the team's manager, Anna McCoy, who is doing a wonderful job in her new role.

#### BRINGING COMPASSION TO OUR NATION

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in crisis. We are in a very dark place. Americans are scared, and they want to see a way forward. We all need to start with ourselves.

This morning, I sat, and I lit a candle. I thought about the anguish and suffering of Representative Melissa Hortman's two children as they try to cope with the assassination of their mom and dad.

Then I sat, and I thought of the pain and the torment of Charlie Kirk's family as they try to cope with the killing of their dad.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am inviting Americans across the Nation to do the same. I invite them to sit for a few minutes in the pain of these two families. If they can feel compassion for one family and not the other, that should tell them about the work they need to do and the work that we all need to do.

#### 2025 COLORADO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE D.C. FLY-IN

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce for hosting the chamber fly-in to Washington, D.C., this week.

Over 90 members of the Chamber, from the Aerospace and Defense, Energy, Housing, and Community Development sectors, among others, made the journey to our Nation's Capital.

I had the opportunity to meet with several of these business leaders individually. We discussed how we can work together to lower regulations, support businesses, and keep jobs in our community. Many of these business leaders are the reason why the Pikes Peak region is becoming one of the economic titans of the West.

Relationships are the most important part of the legislative process, and I look forward to continuing to work together with these and every business leader in the Fifth Congressional District to continue to grow our thriving community.

#### HONORING WOMEN OF TOLEDO

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Women of Toledo. This remarkably dynamic organization is celebrating 10 productive years of advancing good works, opportunity, sorority, and leadership in northwestern Ohio.

What began as a simple focus group has grown into a vibrant hub, connecting thousands of women and girls to mentorship, education, and resources to build lives forward.

Through initiatives like HerHub, which champions women-owned businesses, and Girl's Hub, which inspires our next generation of leaders in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, Women of Toledo is shaping the future of our community. Bravo.

Their story is a testament to the power of vision and persistence with good people and good women. From coffee shop conversations to packed ballrooms, they have built a movement rooted in "e pluribus unum"; "out of many, one." Women of various heritages are working together for community betterment.

Women of Toledo forges partnerships with business, not-for-profits, and neighborhoods who believe that when women rise, our entire community rises. Congratulations, Women of Toledo.

#### STALWART REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the last 2 days have actually been remarkable. Led by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman BRIAN MAST, we actually met for nearly 36 hours straight on an amendment for inclusion in the State Department Authorization Act.

Indeed, I am very grateful that last night a very historic step was taken as

the people of the United States showed their love and affection for the people of the Republic of Georgia. An amendment was passed that provides for no recognition of the illegitimate Georgian Dream government that has seized power in a rigged election in Georgia on October 26, 2024.

We now have a resolution or amendment that calls for nonrecognition. I am so grateful to my colleagues who joined in supporting that resolution. Indeed, it is an indication that what has been done is positive.

The Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, has denounced this legislation. In an unintended consequence, he reveals that the people of Georgia want to live in fairness and freedom. Additionally, today the United Kingdom has passed legislation to block recognition.

With this, we conclude that Charlie and Erika Kirk are making a difference for God, family, and country.

#### REDISTRICTING MAPS FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, under the process in this country of drawing maps for representation, it is done every 10 years immediately following a census. This year, States are setting out to redraw maps mid-decade and mid-census without any census data. This is done for partisan purposes.

For example, my home state of California has a commission that is supposed to draw the maps and put them in the grubby hands of legislators with a pen or pencil and eraser. The voters of California affirmed three different occasions by their vote on the ballot that they don't want it to be done by legislators.

We see a scheme going on right now to take that away from the voters and put it back in the hands of the legislators. Here is one of the results rights here. Where the top of California meets Oregon and Nevada, that corner there is Modoc County. It sounds as rural as the name "Modoc" implies. It is now being linked all the way down here to the north half of the Golden Gate Bridge in Marin County.

This is the area where wolves have been introduced that are devouring the wildlife and the farmers' and ranchers' livestock up there by the people down here who think it is a really good idea. They are not going to have any voice to balance out and to talk about how they are being devastated by policies coming from the urban areas. That is what is known as Proposition 50.

Mr. Speaker, they should vote "no" on that in California and bring balance back. Leave the balance in place instead of partisan lines.

□ 1120

## CENSURED BUT NOT SILENCED

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and I rise now to proudly yield to a person with great honor and integrity. She is a Member of this Congress who has been on the right side of righteousness. She is a Member of this Congress who stands for those who are among the least, the last, and the lost. She hails from the 14th Congressional District in the great State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the State of New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

## THE KIRK RESOLUTION AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for yielding to me.

Today the Republican House majority brought to the floor a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk.

Charlie Kirk's assassination was a horrific and vile attack. It was an incident of political violence, and condemning the depravity of Kirk's brutal murder is a straightforward matter. It is one that is especially important to help stabilize an increasingly unsafe and volatile political environment where everyday people feel more at risk.

We can deeply disagree and come together as a country to denounce the horror of this killing, and it is not a license for the abuse of power and whitewashing of American history.

Today's resolution only underscores the majority's recklessness by choosing to offer this condemnation and honoring on a purely partisan basis, instead of uniting Congress in this tragedy with one of the many bipartisan options to condemn political violence in Kirk's murder as we did with the late Melissa Hortman. Instead, the majority proceeded with a resolution that brings great pain to the millions of Americans who endured segregation, Jim Crow, and the legacy of bigotry today.

We should be clear about who Charlie Kirk was. He was a man who believed that the Civil Rights Act that granted Black Americans the right to vote was a mistake, who after the violent attack on Paul Pelosi claimed that "some amazing patriot" should bail out his brutal assailant, and accused Jews of controlling "not just the colleges, it is the nonprofits, it is the movies, it is Hollywood, it is all of it."

His rhetoric and beliefs were ignorant, uneducated, and sought to disenfranchise millions of Americans, far from the "working tirelessly to promote unity" asserted by the majority in this resolution.

It is equally important that Congress does unite to reject the government's attempt to weaponize this moment

into an all-out assault on free speech across the country all in the name of Charlie Kirk.

President Trump and the FCC are now cynically threatening to shut down ABC and any outlets that gives airtime to the administration's political critics.

This is a disgusting attack on the American people and the very First Amendment rights that define us as a country. It is also the ABC corporation's responsibility to refuse to embolden and participate in this corruption and escalation of censorship.

We continue to pray for Mr. Kirk's family and loved ones in the wake of this terrible act. I am thinking especially of his children and his wife whose grief cannot be measured.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. I bid the gentlewoman a good day, and we will proceed now, Mr. Speaker, again.

And still I rise.

And I rise today, Mr. Speaker, with the notion in mind that what I have stood for I still stand for. What I have stood for I still stand for. It wasn't that long ago, Mr. Speaker, that I stood right over to my right, the seat next to the aisle. Mr. Speaker, when the President of the United States of America was here for a joint session of Congress, the President of the United States of America indicated that he had a mandate.

I, with a degree of spontaneity, Mr. Speaker, from right over there, the second seat from the aisle, collected my portable items and was about to make my departure. I traversed up to the doors and made my exit as a means of protesting what the President was saying.

However, Mr. Speaker, as I did this, I became overwhelmed with just the notion that something was going to happen very ugly and it would be something that would hurt people who are on Medicaid and Medicare. I also brought up Social Security when I spoke, but these are the things that I was overwhelmed with. As a result of understanding what was about to happen and knowing that the committee with jurisdiction over Medicaid had a mandate to cut more than \$800 billion, I was overwhelmed, Mr. Speaker. I did rise to my feet, and I did say to the President: You have no mandate to cut Medicaid.

My colleagues across the aisle became very rambunctious and decided that what I was saying did not merit being heard, so they performed very loudly. I am not angry with them. They performed loudly. I wanted to make sure that the President heard my statement, and I repeated myself and added Medicare and Social Security.

My colleagues continued, and I continued.

I was evicted, and I was later on censured, censured but not silenced. Yes, I stand today where I stood then. Censured but not silent I stand today where I stood then. It is best captured in this photo that depicts what occurred: censured not silenced.

So I stand today where I stood then, and I stand today where I stood then because there is a CR that has been brought before this House, and if I had voted for that CR, then I would legitimize what I stood against.

I refuse to legitimize what I stood against when I said: You don't have a mandate to cut Medicaid, Medicare, and I introduced Social Security into the equation.

That is what this was about for me, today. The question was whether I would stand where I stood then or whether I would now agree that what was done then is something that I condone now. I condemned what happened then. My mind has not changed. The people who will suffer will still suffer.

Mr. Speaker, why would I now decide that I am going to bless, if you will, condone, a CR that continues what happened, when my Republican colleagues did what they thought was right, I assumed, and passed the legislation without the help of Democrats?

If you can pass the initial legislation without the help of Democrats, Mr. Speaker, then why do you want me to join in your CR?

Pass this without my help.

Censured but not silenced. I stand now where I stood then. I went out, and I addressed the press. I didn't go out to address the press, the press asked and appealed to me to come over. I was making my way to my home where I could watch the rest of the joint session of Congress, but I went over to the press, and I said to them what I said to the President. I am on record.

Why would I now decide that I somehow conclude that what was done to Medicaid and Medicare is somehow something that I would now condone?

I have said, and I continue to say that this piece of legislation that was passed—not the CR, but the original legislation, that one big, ugly steal of a bill—this piece of legislation as it continues to develop is going to hurt people on Medicaid. If you live long enough, Mr. Speaker, you are going to need Medicaid because if you live long enough, then you are going to need some sort of long-term healthcare if you are fortunate enough, and you are going to get that from Medicaid.

I refuse to change my position. I stand now where I stood then, and I believe that what we are doing is the greatest cut in healthcare history. It is the greatest cut in healthcare ever.

□ 1130

All we are trying to do as Democrats, or at least this one Democrat—I don't speak for the Democratic Party. I speak for myself and everybody who agrees with me.

What we are trying to do is to protect Medicare. That is all that CR is about for me. It is about a lot of other things as well, but I am trying to protect Medicare as I tried at the joint session of Congress. I am going to stand where I stood then.

I am proud to tell you that Democrats have produced some documents