

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIGAN). The question is on adoption of the resolution.

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

Ms. PEREZ. 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.

POLITICAL CONTEMPT FOR THE AVERAGE AMERICAN

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on that last debate for a second. We are in danger in this country. One of the ways we are in danger is that there are certain politicians who are becoming more and more prominent and who have a contempt for the average American.

Sadly, I have seen this happen more and more over time in the Democratic Party. We have seen it in their higher offices where Kamala Harris was hand-picked by the billionaires. We saw it where everybody else had to clear the decks for Joe Biden to become President after these offices were determined and nominees were determined for many years in primaries. The same thing happened in Wisconsin in a U.S. Senate seat.

We now see it happening in Congress where a sitting U.S. Congressman handpicks his successor. Of all successors, he picks a staffer. There is such contempt for the average people. I am sure these are people who have worked for years in the Democratic Party or years in various, different local elections. They are being shoved aside so that an insider can grab the slot.

Mr. Speaker, in any event, I thank my colleague from Washington for bringing this forward.

WORKING PEOPLE PAY THE PRICE

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

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, how do we know if this President is working for us? He is working for us if we make over \$4 million and are about to pocket a new tax cut of \$300,000.

He is working for us if we attend Great Gatsby parties at his club or plan to sip cocktails in his new White House ballroom.

He is working for us if we bankroll his crypto schemes or pony up for Presidential pardons.

He is working for us if we are wealthy, well-connected, and don't want the Epstein files to see the light of day.

Mr. Speaker, if we are struggling to afford rent or groceries, if premiums are breaking our budget, he is not working for us. No, he is driving up our costs by imposing reckless tariffs and cutting SNAP, Medicaid, and ACA subsidies. This President works for the wealthy, and working people are paying the price.

SUPPORTING EPA AND ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

(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, today the announcement from the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers is a very long overdue course correction. This has to do with the definition of the Waters of the United States, which had been defined most recently in the Biden administration and Obama administration to have Federal regulators claim jurisdiction over mud puddles and temporary ponds that are dry within a few hours after a rainstorm.

Mr. Speaker, they want to control everything, and this happens on private land. With the reversal of this decision, the farmers, ranchers, and landowners don't have to worry about Federal regulators coming in and jumping on them for a temporary mud puddle after rain.

The Supreme Court made clear in the decision of Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency that was never what Congress intended. No, it was not. This new proposal finally moves us back to a commonsense reading of the actual law. It reins in Federal overreach, and it restores the rights of States and private landowners. Importantly, it keeps clean water protections in place.

By narrowing the jurisdictions of the waters that truly meet the standard and by removing ditches, groundwater, or other things that really shouldn't be in there, the EPA is bringing clarity and predictability back to those who work the land every day.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the EPA and Army Corps for this course correction.

REOPENING THE GOVERNMENT AND LOWERING PREMIUMS

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, many in eastern North Carolina and throughout the Nation who purchased healthcare through the ACA marketplace are deeply worried about rising premiums.

As open enrollment is underway, constituents remain uncertain and are in a holding pattern, waiting to see if Con-

gress will fix it. Many are experiencing emotional distress, including a mother who even broke down in tears. Some are considering changing their coverage or foregoing it altogether. Some are considering taking on multiple jobs or even tapping into lines of home equity to fill the gap if Congress fails to act.

I have signed on to a discharge petition, calling to extend ACA premium tax credits. I have also signed on to a bipartisan letter to Senators in support of a real solution.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the people of eastern North Carolina and our Nation. Members of Congress who have health insurance should not deny coverage to hardworking families.

RAISING AWARENESS OF PRETERM BIRTH RATES

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, the United States has one of the highest preterm birth rates in the world, which is a leading cause of infant mortality.

Today, the March of Dimes released its 2025 report card on the state of maternal and infant health. The United States received a D-plus for preterm birthrate for the fourth consecutive year in a row.

In 2024, 380,000 babies were born prematurely. That is 10.4 percent of all babies born. The worst rates are in the southern region of the United States.

These statistics are personal for me. My daughter was born 9 weeks early when my placenta ruptured. We both nearly died. She spent the next 6 weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit. We were among the lucky ones. Far too many mothers and babies don't have that same outcome.

Mr. Speaker, today I join Representatives JENNIFER KIGGANS and ROBIN KELLY to introduce a bipartisan resolution to designate November 2025 as Prematurity Awareness Month, and I join my colleagues to do more to prevent preterm births.

□ 2010

MEDICARE FOR ALL

(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, the healthcare system that we have today doesn't work for anyone except if you are an insurance company. I hear it from Vermonters all the time: Our healthcare system is on the brink, and every choice Republicans make leads us further into collapse.

Republicans have no plan for healthcare, and they never have. For the last 15 years, all they have done is try to repeal, defund, deauthorize, and dismantle the Affordable Care Act with no alternative ever presented.

Americans are so tired of hearing about a concept of a plan or volumes of ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you the plan: Medicare for all. I will tell you the vision. It is that every American has access to affordable healthcare, to good jobs, to good schools, to clean air and water, housing they can actually afford, safer communities, and a functioning democracy. That is the vision.

I want the American people to know that Democrats are not giving up on healthcare. We are going to continue to fight.

SALUTING THE WORK OF BARRY HOFFMAN

(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, today I rise to salute the work of Barry Hoffman, founder and artistic director of the Symphony of Westchester, which began in 1984.

Barry has blended together 50 outstanding music professionals to perform classical music works for adoring audiences. There are four concerts held each year at Iona University in New Rochelle, each drawing 350 attendees to experience the orchestral brilliance of the works of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Dvorak, and other great composers.

In addition, the symphony organization hosts an annual jazz institute, a young artists concerto competition for students of all ages, an apprenticeship with New Rochelle High School musicians, and so much more.

Barry and his army of woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings have delighted and educated our area for over 40 years with many more years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Barry Hoffman for his contribution to Westchester and the Bronx, and for the quality of our lives made more vibrant by music.

TAKE ICE OUT OF MEMPHIS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I had a community meeting this weekend and met with some folks in Memphis. The issues that they were most interested in were immigration, ICE. They were very concerned about the people from ICE with masks on their faces mistreating people. They were dragging them out of cars, stomping on their heads, and arresting them.

We have seen oftentimes they have done that to American citizens, and they did it in error.

They were also concerned about the immigrants who were taken out of our community who do so much good in our community.

I am writing a letter to Kristi Noem and reminding her that she said they were going to get the worst of the worst: the murderers, the rapists, and the sexual offenders.

She is not doing that. They have decided they are going to get anybody who is in the country improperly, and that is wrong.

I will write the Trump administration and ask them to take ICE out of Memphis. It shouldn't be part of this surge they have to help us with our crime problem.

Hispanic immigrants are not part of our crime problem. If they were, he would go after one or two of them and not so many.

Get to the business of taking care of Memphis and not eliminating and deporting people who help our society and our community.

STORIES FROM HOME: THE HUMAN COST OF EXPIRING HEALTHCARE TAX CREDITS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Sometimes the voices of people and businesses impacted by congressional action or inaction get lost in the back-and-forth of the floor and the media.

For months, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have focused on amplifying the stories of our constituents, and tonight we do the same, amplifying the stories of people whether they are small business owners, they are employees, they are self-employed, farmers, or others, who could find themselves unable to afford healthcare without an extension of the enhanced premium tax credit.

We know that there is a healthcare crisis looming in this country. We know that every American is one illness or accident away from economic devastation. That is the point of health insurance, to make sure that when they need care, they can access it without going bankrupt.

While the healthcare system isn't perfect, the point of the Affordable Care Act was to ensure more people had access to insurance through Medicaid expansion, through employer provided healthcare, and through the Affordable Care Act exchanges. It is called Marketplace Virginia in my State.

The more people have insurance, the more we know when they need care they can get it and not go bankrupt. More importantly, they can get pri-

mary care and preventative care so that when they get sick—because they will—they don't show up in the hospital when it is too late or more expensive to treat. Also, when more people show up in those hospitals uninsured, they will get care, and the cost of that care goes to everybody else.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, you will hear stories of people who purchased their insurance through the Affordable Care Act exchange who, because of the enhanced premium tax credits, can actually afford their premiums. Without those tax credits, many of them—we have heard time and time again—will be forced to choose: Do I buy that healthcare plan, or do I feed my family?

Do I pay for that healthcare plan, or do I pay my mortgage or my rent?

Do I buy that healthcare plan, or do I pay my utility bills?

For too many Americans, the cost of everything is too high. Unfortunately, many are being forced to forgo health insurance and gamble and hope that they won't get sick. They will, and we will all pay the price for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

□ 2020

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Just like the rest of America, we in Alabama are facing a health crisis caused by the Republican Party. Thanks to President Trump and Republicans in Congress, more than 58,000 of my constituents in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District will see their health insurance premiums skyrocket next year.

One of my constituents is a 63-year-old gentleman from Wilcox County, Alabama, in the rural part of my district. This gentleman works for the Wilcox County Water and Sewer District. Just like his coworkers, he receives health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

Currently, his premiums cost \$188.29 per month. After receiving his rate letter last month, he learned that his monthly premium would increase by 700 percent to more than \$1,500.

That is right, thanks to President Trump and Republicans in Congress, this gentleman will need to pay \$1,300 more per month to keep the same healthcare plan.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply outrageous. The people I represent cannot afford these ridiculous Republican price hikes.

Throughout the government shutdown, and well before, Democrats have been sounding the alarm. We have been demanding that Republicans work with us to lower the cost of healthcare and address the crisis that they have caused.

What did they do instead? They shut down the government and held food assistance hostage from the most vulnerable Americans.

Make no mistake, the consequences of inaction will be dire. If Republicans