

Housing affordability is a good place to start. When and where a free market is maintained, homebuilders have every incentive to meet the housing needs at every income level. The profit margin might be bigger at the top, but the sheer numbers of lower income families compensate with volume, assuring ample affordable housing for all income levels.

Government sets basic safety standards but otherwise leaves consumers alone to make their own decisions about everything else. As the tax base grows, new revenues are available to expand water systems, electricity generation, highway capacity, schools, police, and fire, all the necessities of a community.

Landlords have every incentive to provide as many rental units as the population needs, while competition keeps rents low and demand keeps units plentiful.

What has happened? Government decided to solve what socialists viewed as problems.

To solve suburban sprawl, the socialists began imposing severe limits and costly fees on construction permits. Builders could no longer profit from building vast numbers of affordable homes, so they focused their limited permits on the pricier models.

To solve climate change, the socialists mandated outrageously expensive add-ons like solar panels and hermetically sealed windows.

To solve their environmental angst, they required pointless studies that were endlessly time-consuming and outrageously costly along with back-breaking, outrageous environmental fees, adding many tens of thousands of dollars to the costs that were all passed on to helpless homebuyers.

As these solutions drove up the price of housing, the socialists began offering subsidies to lower income earners who had been priced out of the market by the socialists' own policies. As taxpayer dollars flooded into the already constricted market, prices and rents rose still further. As socialists solved the rental problem by freezing rents, landlords stopped building new units or maintaining existing ones.

When anything is scarce, it is expensive. When it is plentiful, it is cheap. Socialists have made housing scarce and, therefore, expensive. Nowhere can this be seen more clearly than comparing the socialist utopia of California with the free State of Texas.

Last year, more housing permits were granted in the Houston and Dallas metropolitan areas than in all of Gavin Newsom's California. The median price of a home in Texas is \$345,000. In California, it is \$900,000.

Take healthcare. Americans once paid for their own healthcare. They could choose among policies offered by hundreds of competing providers for the one that best met their needs and circumstances. Most opted for inexpensive catastrophic plans for accidents and illnesses that could have bank-

rupted them, while paying for routine care out of pocket. Competition for their business kept prices low and quality high.

Socialists objected to leaving the poor to an extensive network of charities. They solved our healthcare inequalities with highly subsidized and mandated coverage that leaves consumers powerless to choose their own best options while severing the connection between the patient and the payer.

When somebody else is paying the bill, the patient doesn't care about price, and the payer doesn't care about quality. The result is costs spiraling out of control while patient satisfaction continues to decline.

At the center of socialism is the mistaken belief that profit is waste, and if it can be removed from the equation, everything will be cheaper. That is the fundamental misconception behind Mamdani's government grocery stores. Yet, profit is not waste. Profit is the essential ingredient that spurs competition, drives innovation, demands efficiency, and craves consumer satisfaction. Take profit out of the picture, and you have just learned the difference between FedEx and the post office.

Consumer electronics have steadily declined in cost while quality has steadily improved, precisely because the socialists have not yet decided to solve this market. When they do, you can expect the same high prices and decline in quality that they have already delivered in every field that they have solved, from housing to healthcare.

It comes down to four simple words: Freedom works. Socialism sucks.

CONGRATULATING TRACY EUBANKS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tracy Eubanks on his extraordinary leadership and decades of experience to Metrocrest Services.

For more than 40 years, Metrocrest has been a lifeline for families across Addison, Coppell, Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and Dallas, providing food security, housing stability, workforce support, and compassionate care in moments of crisis.

For the past 13 years, Tracy has guided this organization with vision, integrity, and a deep commitment to uplifting every member of our community.

Under Tracy's leadership, Metrocrest Services opened its new, state-of-the-art community center, an investment that will serve north Texas families for generations. He has strengthened partnerships, expanded critical programs, and ensured that every person who walked through Metrocrest's doors was met with dignity and hope.

As Tracy prepares for his retirement in 2026, we honor not just his accomplishments, but the countless lives he

has touched. North Texas is stronger, more resilient, and more compassionate because of his service.

I thank Tracy for his leadership, his heart, and his unwavering commitment to the people of our community.

HONORING PAULINE MEDRANO

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor County Treasurer Pauline Medrano for her extraordinary dedication to public service in her newly elected role as president of the County Treasurers' Association of Texas.

Treasurer Medrano has spent more than a decade in elected office, always putting the people of Dallas County first. Her leadership has helped to strengthen public institutions, increase transparency, and build a culture of accountability and service that has positively impacted countless residents.

Her election as president of the County Treasurers' Association of Texas is a testament to the respect she has earned across our State. It reflects her deep experience, her unwavering commitment to excellence, and a belief that government works best when it works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Treasurer Medrano for her years of leadership, her community involvement, and her tireless dedication to the people who she serves. Her willingness to answer the call of public service embodies the very, very best of civic leadership.

I wish her the best of luck as she takes on this new role on behalf of our community. I commend Treasurer Medrano for her invaluable contributions to Dallas County and to the State of Texas.

BRAZEN PAYOFF

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House voted last week on a bill to reopen the government, but tucked away in the fine print of that bill was something very disturbing and troubling: a very brazen payoff of millions of taxpayer dollars that could quietly be transferred to the personal bank accounts of eight Republican Senators. These are Senators who may have had knowledge or even participated in efforts to overturn the 2020 Presidential election.

At a time when Americans are struggling to get ahead, Republicans in both the House and the Senate signed off on a deal that lines the pockets of the very people who wrote it.

In every corner of my district, families are doing everything they can to make ends meet. They are juggling rising grocery costs, higher rents, and healthcare bills that seem to grow every single month. They expect this Congress to meet the moment with integrity, responsibility, and the basic respect for the people who we serve. What Republicans did was an insult to every hardworking taxpayer who plays by the rules and expects honesty from their government.

Republicans could have voted it down. They could have passed an

amendment to remove that provision from the bill. Despite being given the opportunity to do so, House Republicans let it pass.

Now I am grateful that the House voted just last night to pass a bill to take this away, but there is no guarantee that the Senate will actually do that.

The American people deserve better than these corrupt, backroom deals. They deserve better than legislation crafted to enrich the few at the expense of the many, and they certainly deserve better than a governing philosophy that treats cruelty as strength and corruption as strategy.

The contrast before us could not be clearer.

On one side, we see a Republican majority operating in the currency of cruelty and corruption, willing to hold working families hostage, willing to cut healthcare, and willing to undermine transparency, all to score political points and reward political friends.

On the other side, Democrats are fighting with courage and compassion. We are fighting to protect the Affordable Care Act and to keep healthcare accessible for millions of Americans. We are fighting to lower costs for families and restore trust in a government that should be working for the people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to reject this corrupt bargain and pass our bill that takes away this unethical and corrupt payout and to stand with the families who sent us here. These are families who deserve a government as honest, hardworking, and committed as they are.

HONORING A REMARKABLE LEGACY: GRUNDY HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING PROGRAM

(Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable legacy of the Grundy High School wrestling program, a program which has proudly served as a cornerstone of Buchanan County athletics for decades.

With most of the county's high schools set to consolidate into a single school next year, this year marks the final chapter for Grundy's historic wrestling program.

Grundy's wrestling program leaves behind an extraordinary record, which includes 27 State championships and countless individual State titleholders, including nine winners for State titles just last season.

Year after year, these impressive athletes have demonstrated remarkable discipline and determination that reflect the very essence of southwest Virginia. The wrestling program at Grundy High School has not only gotten the attention of regional athletics in southwest Virginia. Its renowned success has become a national phenomenon, receiving press and attention from all over the United States.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress, an Ohio Congressman, JIM JORDAN, who is a two-time wrestling NCAA champion, came over to me and asked if I now represented the great wrestling school from Virginia, Grundy High.

Student athletes from all Buchanan County high schools have contributed to a legacy that will inspire future generations of student athletes, and I look forward to watching them build on to their proud tradition.

Southwest Virginia, as a whole, congratulates Grundy High School on its historic wrestling achievements and extends a heartfelt thank you to the athletes, coaches, families, and extraordinary fans who made this legacy possible. They made it possible with their time, their dedication, and their donations.

A special nod goes to the Grundy Wrestling Club, a 501(c)(3) charity, that happens to support wrestling in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we recognize that as we come to the end of this chapter, it is not the end of the story for wrestling in the Grundy region and in Buchanan County but the beginning of a new one, rooted in the same values that carried Grundy High School to wrestling greatness.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Americans celebrate National Rural Health Day.

According to the Virginia Department of Health, 88 percent of Virginia is rural, including much of Virginia's Ninth District. As a result, communities face numerous barriers in the rural areas to receive adequate access and opportunities for healthcare.

Our rural healthcare providers do our country and our healthcare system a tremendous service, tending to the healthcare needs of rural communities.

I am committed to working to improve rural healthcare access in my time here in Congress.

Today, let all of us honor the profound contributions of these healthcare providers. I thank the doctors, nurses, advocates, and others who strive to make rural healthcare a possibility in America and to make America a truly healthy America in all regions.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAINIE JONES

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to recognize the life of my longtime friend, fierce leader, and cancer community advocate, Lainie Jones.

Lainie was a seven-time cancer survivor and known on social media as The Early Detective. Lainie lost her lifelong battle against multiple cancers on October 14, 2025, at the age of 41.

Diagnosed with cancer for the first time at 18 months old, after her third

diagnosis in her twenties, she discovered that she had Li-Fraumeni syndrome, or LFS, a rare genetic condition that predisposed her to multiple cancers.

Lainie faced adrenal carcinoma, sarcoma, breast cancer, thyroid cancer, melanoma, lung cancer, and, finally, glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer.

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Through it all, she remained positive, ensuring others heard her story as she was deeply committed to the importance of early detection, prevention, and knowing one's risk.

For the last 13 years, Lainie worked with the American Cancer Society, using her story to educate and empower others to take control of their health.

She called herself The Early Detective on social media, believing that asking questions and acting early is what will help others survive.

As a cancer survivor myself, Lainie was always an inspiration to me and so many others in the south Florida community. She tried to help people see cancer as she saw it and not to fear it. Lainie undertook every challenge with a smile and was incredibly generous in sharing her inspirational story with so many people. She lived by the words "live every day like it is your first."

It is my honor to soon reintroduce the Lainie Jones Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Act, which will seek to improve the health outcomes and quality of life for survivors.

Mr. Speaker, Lainie Jones was an inspiration and an example of how one must never lose hope, even in the darkest of circumstances. I hope her story and her spirit continue to inspire others across the country. May her memory be for a blessing.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA'S, CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the city of Hollywood, Florida's, centennial celebration.

The city of Hollywood was founded by visionary Joseph Young in 1925 as a small seaside dream and has since grown into a charming coastal community and dynamic city.

Over the past century, Hollywood has become known for its beautiful beaches, historic Boardwalk, scenic waterways, and unique blend of natural beauty and urban vitality. It is one of south Florida's most unique and beloved coastal cities.

My husband, Steve, grew up in Hollywood so the city holds a special place in our hearts. Hollywood's residents represent generations of families, new arrivals, and innovators who have built a strong and sustainable community that embraces inclusion, civic engagement, and diversity.

Hollywood is also home to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, its reservation, and ancestral lands. We also honor the