

food and medicine. Millions will lose control of their personal information, such as Social Security numbers, banking information, Social Security checks, and Medicare benefits.

Elon Musk does not care about us because he does not have to and does not want to. Rest assured, Democrats care, I care, and we will use every tool at our disposal to get rid of this unelected, power-hungry, egocentric billionaire.

#### IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise for every American whose life has been made better because of the work of Federal civil servants.

President Donald Trump and his power-crazed posse of billionaire bosses are firing our Federal workers. Our quality of life is degraded and diminished because of that.

They are moving to install their unqualified followers to do the dirty work of a hostile takeover of every facet of our lives, like Medicaid, the National Weather Service, and the Department of Education.

Their deferred resignation plan is a scam. Firefighters, nurses, TSA agents, park rangers, and foreign aid workers are refusing to go quietly in the face of an authoritarian. I commend them.

America is indeed at a fork in the road. Do we want a qualified, respected workforce serving us, or do we want an army of clueless yes-men working to serve the selfish?

I know what I want, what the American people want, and what the American people deserve. It is a government that works for them. I thank our Federal workforce and our civil servants.

#### SUPPORTING FEDERAL WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Labor Caucus comes today to oppose the Trump administration's unlawful and unconstitutional attacks on Federal workers.

Our Federal workforce has the experience and expertise that America needs. We must protect the public. The

air that we breathe, the water we drink, the medicine we take, and the food that we eat hangs in the balance.

This fight is too important. We cannot allow the Trump administration to replace a competitive merit system with a political spoils system. That is why we will keep fighting in Congress and the courts. I have my colleagues with me today who have come to express their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Labor Caucus, I am here today to speak on something I didn't think we would ever have to. We have to talk about the hard work of our Federal workforce, those workers who get up every day to go to work, the ones who keep our food safe, the water safe to drink, and the air safe to breathe.

Federal workers are nurses. They are doctors. They are in the VA, taking care of our vets each and every day. They are civilian DOD workers. That is right. They are working in the Pentagon and around the world to make sure that our military is ready to go. They are the ones who are processing Social Security checks for our seniors. They are the TSA agents, who we see every time we go to the airport.

Trump is making it hard, almost impossible, for them to do their jobs. He wants them to quit. They dedicated their lives for us. Who is the Federal workforce? They are you and me.

They say they have to come back to the office when it is more efficient for a person, agreed upon with management, to work from a different location.

I suggest, if we really want to know where Federal workers are, look at the offices where the Member is supposed to be showing up. Tell me how many times they go to the office. That is what we are dealing with.

Trump is revoking their union contracts, the contracts which they negotiated legally and tried to enforce. It is so important. Trump doesn't have the authority to change these agreements, but he is doing it. It is going to take our courts to turn this around.

America's civil service is a merit system. Trump signed another executive order to remove jobs from the non-partisan civil service. Here we are, back again.

These civil servants wake up every day to help us. I am not seeing any of those civil servants flying their private airplanes like Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump. They are just regular people like us, trying to get by.

As we have this discussion with all the Labor Caucus, I want to take a minute to thank GLENN IVEY, who represents so many Federal workers back in his district, and STEPHEN LYNCH, who has been leading our fight at the Postal Service.

At the end of the day, we have to stick together. Right there, carved into the wood, it says, "Union," and that is what we have to have.

God bless them. I thank every Federal worker for what they do.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman IVEY for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this is so important, yet we should be ashamed of the way the Trump administration has been absolutely attacking our Federal workers, the people who go to work every single day to do important functions.

They don't have any ulterior motive. They are making sure our senior citizens get their medications and that we take care of our veterans who need help. These are the kinds of things they do. They are servants to all of our people. They are doing their best job, yet they are being criticized.

I thank them, and I pledge to all of our Federal workers that I will be here to praise them, to protect them, and to say that they have not only every right but every privilege of serving the American people as they have done day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, I say hooray to the workers who do so much every single day. They don't ask for any special awards but do the work that the people of the United States need. We have to thank them every single day for their work and not denigrate them as the Trump administration has done.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Representative SANCHEZ.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank GLENN IVEY for his wonderful work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's Federal workers. As a member of the Labor Caucus, I stand with the essential workers who provide critical services to the American public.

Make no mistake, we are seeing a direct attack on our democracy right now. Efforts to shut down Federal agencies are designed to erode our Nation's foundation. No one, not the President, not an unelected billionaire, has the right to singlehandedly dismantle Federal agencies created and funded by the Congress, yet that is exactly what is happening.

President Trump has surrendered control over to Elon Musk, allowing him to dismantle our institutions without any oversight. This is a blatant abuse of power, and it is happening on this Congress' watch.

They have attacked Federal workers, replacing skilled civil servants with political loyalists. They have targeted and smeared public employees who have served this country honorably, many for decades. They are even rejecting union contracts that were lawfully negotiated between the government and workers. This is union-busting, plain and simple.

As a former union member, I won't stand for that. These contracts are protected by law and cannot be changed

on a whim or, more likely, on a tantrum.

It gets worse. Elon Musk's DOGE has even infiltrated the Treasury Department. He and a bunch of twentysomethings now have access to the Federal payment system and the confidential data of almost every American.

Why on Earth do a bunch of kids who are not even legally old enough to rent a car need access to Americans' personal information and data? Why should they have their hands on our Social Security or Medicare payment or see whether we or a loved one has a disability or whether or not we received a tax refund?

This isn't just a violation of privacy. It is a breach of the trust of the American people who they put in government.

DOGE needs to be held accountable for its unlawful actions, and Democrats are and will continue to fight back. We are demanding hearings, investigations, and supporting lawsuits that seek to protect our constituents' very personal information.

We need the few Republicans in this body who care about the rule of law to join us in this fight. We need to defend Congress' constitutional authorities, the power of the purse, and oversight of the executive branch. We need Republicans to stand up for all Americans.

We want all Federal workers to please know that they are essential. America values them, needs them, and has their backs. When they are attacked, every American who depends on them is also attacked.

Mr. Speaker, I once again thank my colleague, Mr. GLENN IVEY, for yielding.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. IVEY for convening this Special Order hour and for his hard work on behalf of the Federal employees and all workers in his district. As a co-chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus, I am proud to stand with our essential workers who keep the government running every day.

Since day one of this administration, President Trump has relentlessly attacked Federal employees as he and Elon Musk seek to eliminate non-partisan, career public servant jobs across the country. These attacks on Federal workers are straight out of the Project 2025 playbook.

Unelected billionaire Elon Musk has been bulldozing through the Federal workforce, demanding the firing of hundreds of thousands of employees whose only fireable offense is trying to serve the American people.

□ 1730

Federal workers are nurses and doctors at veterans hospitals. They process Social Security checks for seniors. They are TSA agents and air traffic controllers who keep us safe when we fly.

More than 85 percent of the Federal workforce operates outside of Washington, D.C. In my home State of Wisconsin, there are 18,000 Federal civilian employees, including over 5,800 Federal workers in my district alone.

In the last 2 days, my office has gotten over 1,000 constituent calls with people angry, hurt, and terrified that the services they use every day will vanish along with the workers who make these programs run. An attack on Federal workers is an attack on the services that Americans rely on every day.

Elon Musk and Trump will continue to put lives at risk as they seek to cut \$4 trillion over the next 10 years to pay for tax cuts for Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and the wealthiest.

To all the selfless civil servants, our message is clear: America needs you, and we have your back. We are fighting in Congress to oppose Donald Trump and Elon Musk's baseless attacks on you and your important work. We urge you to stand strong.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his remarks.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my incredible colleague GLENN IVEY for convening us here today and for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with our Nation's Federal workers, including the more than 22,000 who live and work in the great State of New Jersey.

Our Federal workforce is a vital cornerstone of our work to protect the most vulnerable amongst us, grow our economy, protect our national security, and to keep us safe.

In Newark, our air traffic controllers and TSA agents devote their careers to keeping our skies safe and getting us to where we need to go safely.

Social Security employees in the Hoboken field office assist our seniors and those with disabilities in receiving the benefits they have earned and depend on.

USCIS officials in Newark assist immigrant families with processing their visas, green cards, and applications for naturalization.

Our Nation runs because of Federal workers, and an attack on them is an attack on the services that Americans rely on every day.

Along with my Democratic colleagues, I want to make our message to Federal employees clear. We have your back, and we will not back down. We will continue to oppose this administration's baseless and lawless attempts to diminish the important work you do every day.

Our civil service is a merit system protected by the right to due process, and attempts to implement Schedule F, union bust, and undermine our collective bargaining process will be met with swift and unyielding resistance from me, the Congressional Labor Caucus, and my colleagues on this side of the aisle.

The decision to enter public service is an honorable one, and millions of Federal workers and retirees who have made that decision deserve our support.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY).

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Labor Caucus, I rise today to stand up against the administration's actions against our 2.2 million Federal workers, including 35,000 of them in the Sixth District of Maryland.

America's greatest asset is its people, and our dedicated civil servants are no exception.

I am so deeply troubled by the administration and Elon Musk's efforts and actions to access every Americans' data and to more importantly access the U.S. Treasury Department's Federal payment system, including U.S. taxpayers' confidential financial information to slash critical Federal programs and to threaten the termination of thousands of Federal workers.

I am even greater alarmed by the Trump administration's flagrant efforts to seek political retribution against Federal agents for past investigations, including investigating the violence that occurred on January 6.

Many Members feared for their lives that day, and insurrectionists violently assaulted officers tasked with protecting the people here in this building. Now, these agents are at risk for losing their livelihoods for following the law and doing their jobs.

All of this follows the Trump administration's OMB directive to illegally freeze congressionally approved Federal funding and its letter to more than 2 million Federal employees offering a buyout from service. I implore you, do not take that buyout. It is not to be trusted.

As the buyout letter says, we are truly at a fork in the road. Do we defend American workers and our institutions or gut the Federal agencies of the knowledge that fuels American innovation and strengthens our national security?

These attacks strike at the bedrock of our American values and represent an unprecedented power grab that undermines our democracy's checks and balances.

Many of these actions have not been authorized by Congress and rightfully belong under its purview.

While I have long believed in seeking common ground when governing, I must now stand my ground for the 35,000 government employees in my district and countless more across the country looking now for Congress to take action.

Yesterday, I joined a briefing with several colleagues from Virginia, Maryland, and other places along with members of AFGE, AFSCME, Democracy Forward, NTEU, IFPTE, NARFE,

NFFE, and AFL-CIO in conjunction to develop an action plan to better defend our workers at USAID, at DOL, at the Department of Education, at NOAA, and so many other agencies under imminent threat of mandated leave, termination, or closure.

In closing, from NIST to Fort Detrick to our National Fire Academy in the Sixth District, Federal workers in Maryland are counting on us, the people in this Chamber and in our communities, to stand up and speak up for them.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of our public servants as they face an unprecedented, illegal attack by the Trump administration.

Our Federal employees are part of every single community in America. They keep us safe. They sustain us, and they support us. Now, they are under attack.

Donald Trump and Elon Musk's attack on the Federal workforce is an illegal purge. Don't let anyone call it anything else. This is a purge. It is an unlawful attempt by a reality show wannabe king to install cronies and bootlickers.

Our public servants represent the best of us. They are selfless, determined, disciplined, and professional. They are everything that Donald Trump and his MAGA flunkies are not.

To our public servants I say this: Do not be afraid. Do not be intimidated. The law is on your side. We are still with you. A grateful Nation is still with you. You have dedicated your lives to the American people. You have made our country strong. Have faith that our country is strong enough to withstand the petty tantrums of a small, self-obsessed man who disgraces the very idea of public service with his every breath.

Now is the time for courage. I am grateful for your service. I believe in you.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN).

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support our Federal workers. These are public servants who live and work all over the country. The vast majority of our Federal workers do not live in the Washington, D.C., area. It is a big misconception. People think, well, these are Federal workers. They are just here in D.C.

They are in our districts. Each one of us has probably tens of thousands of Federal employees in our congressional districts, meaning that we serve them. It just so happens that they serve us.

Trump and Elon Musk have been setting these fires all over the Federal Government. They have launched this reckless trade war with China. They tried to stop Federal funding from going into our communities. These are our tax dollars. Trump gave an

unelected tech billionaire access to our Social Security data, to all of our data, to our Federal payment system, and empowered him to purge as many public servants from our Federal agencies as he possibly could.

One of those public servants is a constituent of mine in southwest Ohio. She lost her job. For 20 years, she worked at USAID leading the agency's famine early detection efforts. Her work ensured food reached children, families, and communities in crisis. She saved lives.

It is not just about food. Hunger fuels instability. When people are desperate, terrorism thrives. When the U.S. pulls back, it creates a vacuum for China to step in. This administration's actions are just cruel, and they are making our country and our world less safe.

Why are they purging our Federal workforce? They have got to find \$4 trillion—\$4 trillion that won't go to you or me or our communities. They are planning to use these dollars to pay for tax giveaways for the uberwealthy, for the Elon Musks of the world. They are stealing from our workers, our country, and our allies all so the uberwealthy can get wealthier. It has to be stopped. This Congress can stop it, but the majority has to step up.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, last week I spent an afternoon at the National Air Traffic Control Center in Aurora, Illinois. I had been invited to discuss some work our office has been doing to make sure these folks are not penalized for seeking mental health care. None of us could have anticipated that our visit would be after the crash of American flight 5342 in Washington, but it is safe to say that that office was shook. Then we started talking about mental health.

One employee said that their staff still remembers the arson attack on the facility back in 2014 and that they were nervous that recent budget cuts have limited their ability to maintain security levels at the facility.

Another employee asked how should they interpret announcements from the Trump White House that Federal employees were going to get laid off. Would they have a job? If they got laid off, who was going to do their work? How would they continue to support their families?

A female air traffic controller asked why Donald Trump immediately blamed the crash on DEI hiring practices. It wasn't lost on any of us that our air traffic controllers, like our society, are not exclusively straight, White men. She was wondering if she was about to get fired solely on account of her gender.

Now, let that all sink in. These are hardworking Federal employees who have dedicated their lives to keeping our skies safe. They are overworked, underpaid, and now they are wondering

whether the President of the United States, his Republican enablers, and his IT goons are about to fire them, curtail their pay, and blame them for airline tragedies because of the way they look, who they love, and how they pray.

What possible good comes to the American people by having a bunch of stressed-out air traffic controllers?

The United States Government can't function without these nonpartisan civil servants: our air traffic controllers, our TSA agents, our VA hospital workers, and the people who make sure your Social Security payments get through.

Why would we want to break that? Maybe you want to break it because you are carrying out Russia's foreign policy. Maybe you want to break it because you are just a grifter who has figured out that you are going to short the stock market after you tank it. Maybe you are just a coward. Maybe you are an idiot. Maybe you think it is better to be proximate to power than to stand up for whatever is right. Whatever it is, it ain't patriotism, and it scares the dickens out of me that standing up for America in 2025 is a partisan endeavor.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for hosting this Special Order. I thank my colleague for his service.

In full disclosure, my colleague and I probably represent between us about 150,000 Federal employees. I rise not only for those Federal employees, who I care a lot about, as does Mr. IVEY, but I rise for the Federal employees throughout America. I rise not just for them. I rise because they serve America every day in critical places for veterans, for homeowners, for moms, for dads, for teachers, for doctors, and for nurses, all of whom rely on the Federal Government so that they can give services needed by the American people.

□ 1745

Why are we doing this?

I just said upstairs that I have been here for 44 years. This is an unprecedented move taken by the Trump administration and the Musk administration in the first 15 days. There has been no thought, no planning, and no consultation. It is a blitzkrieg on the American Government.

Mr. Speaker, let me just give you the words of Russell Vought who is going to be heading up, apparently, the OMB, the Office of Management and Budget.

This is what he said not so long ago: "We want the bureaucrats to be traumatically affected. When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work because they are increasingly viewed as the villains. We want their funding to be shut down."

He is referring to the EPA, but he has aimed his objective at all of the agencies of government.

Mr. Speaker, I rise not only on behalf of Federal workers, as I said, who every day perform the services we, the Congress representing the American people, have asked them to do. They didn't create any of these agencies, we did. They did not give them the objectives, we did. They are performing the services for the American people that the American people need and, yes, want.

The initial notice went out to 2 million people, approximately all of the civilian employees of the Federal service. I want everybody to think for just one second what if all 2 million of Americans' civil servants said: Okay, we are gone. Then having been promised to be paid for 7 months for doing no work, the government shut down. Business, commerce, education, healthcare, and public safety would all be shut down. That is not what the American people voted for.

Mr. Speaker, are the people who help feed our seniors and our children, who provide medical care to our veterans, who keep our communities clean and safe, who help Americans recover from disasters, and who defend our national security and provide countless other services to American people villains? Hell, no. They are heroes and absolutely essential for America to be great.

When you treat Federal workers as villains, then you turn the American people into victims. That is what this administration is doing.

They have offered Federal workers a buyout with a deadline just hours away without any consultation to determine the adverse or, frankly, positive impact of such an action. That is not what the American people expect us to do.

I, and the Members who speak here, hope all the Members of this House, will do what the Founding Fathers thought we should do: Be an independent branch of government to set policy and not allow the Federal workers or the Federal Government to be run over by somebody who likes firing people.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN.)

Ms. BROWN. I thank Congressman IVEY for organizing this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of more than 9,000 Federal workers in my district and their dedicated colleagues across the country.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. President Trump and unelected billionaire Elon Musk are waging an all-out assault on Federal workers. In just 2 weeks, they have engaged in unlawful union busting, budget freezes, and civil servant layoffs all designed to intimidate, weaken, and dismantle our Federal workforce.

This isn't just an attack on Federal employees. It is an attack on all of us. In northeast Ohio, Federal workers process Social Security checks for seniors. They are doctors and nurses car-

ing for veterans. They are TSA agents and air traffic controllers who keep us safe when we fly. They are researchers developing new technologies at NASA Glenn. These are hardworking, honorable public servants who deserve our respect, not threats and not pink slips.

Let's be clear. This reckless effort to push Federal workers out isn't about rightsizing government; it is about gutting it. It is about dismantling the very services that millions of Americans depend on. This is part of a coordinated effort to erode trust in government because the President and his billionaire buddies want it to fail. They don't want experienced workers loyal to the country. They want political lackeys loyal to only one man. They push the lie that government is inherently wasteful and that Federal employees are part of some so-called deep state.

It is nonsense, and it is dangerous. Here is why they are really doing it: To strip away labor, consumer, and environmental protections. Most notably, it is to hand billionaires and their corporations massive tax breaks while sticking it to working Americans.

We have to ask: Is this a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? Or is it a government of the billionaires, by the billionaires, and for the billionaires?

Federal workers don't serve a President or his billionaire buddy. Let me say that again: Federal workers don't serve a President or his billionaire buddy. They serve the American people, and we stand with them.

Mr. IVEY. May I inquire how much time is remaining, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 27 minutes remaining.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's Federal workers.

As a member of the Labor Caucus, I am proud to stand with these public servants who have dedicated their careers to delivering for the American people.

This administration has relentlessly attacked these nonpartisan expert workers who make sure our food is safe to eat, our water is safe to drink, and our air is safe to breathe.

As a third-generation union member, I am particularly outraged by the obvious intimidation and union-busting tactics that this administration has used on these essential workers. However, these actions are not just an attack on Federal workers. They are an attack on the services that these hardworking people of my district and this country rely on every day.

Let's be clear. Firing Federal workers means delays in receiving Social Security checks and fewer law enforcement officers keeping our communities safe.

If the Department of Labor doesn't have sufficient personnel, it will be

easier for employers to commit wage theft and workplace safety and rights violations.

Whom does that benefit?

It is not the American people and not working people. In my district, we know Federal workers are not lazy or ineffective. They are our friends, our family, and our neighbors who support us every day. They get up and they go to work to work for the people of this country and not for a political party.

Federal workers have had our backs, and I assure them that we have theirs.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I first thank Congressman IVEY for putting this together here today and for his leadership.

I rise today to stand in unwavering solidarity with the hardworking men and women of our Federal workforce.

As a member of the Labor Caucus, I am proud to support the public servants who dedicate their lives to keeping our country running, including the 8,500 Federal employees who call my district home.

These workers are not faceless bureaucrats. They are the backbone of our communities. They are our neighbors, and they are our friends. They process veterans' benefits, ensure Social Security checks go out on time, make Medicare payments to our seniors' physicians, ensure our air and water are clean, keep our Nation safe, and much, much more.

Yet, right now, they are under attack from a President who has outsourced his own power to a billionaire hell-bent on dismantling our government to serve his own greed.

The administration and so-called Department of Government Efficiency are purging career professionals, politicizing civil service, and handing over even more power to the ultrawealthy.

I have been hearing from constituents all week, and this is not what people in my community and across America want.

They do not want an unelected billionaire who, I might add, has made billions off taxpayer-funded contracts to actively weaken our government.

They do not want an unelected billionaire to create a system where the rules don't apply to him and democracy takes a back seat to his own profits.

They do not want an unelected billionaire to attack our Federal workers whose love for our country keeps our communities safe and our society functioning.

We will not stand by while they buck the rule of law to dismantle the very institutions that protect hardworking families, seniors, veterans, and our democracy.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. This is an attack on Federal workers that will allow those at the highest levels of our government and their billionaire buddies to exploit the concerns of our

constituents, take power away from the people, and enrich themselves at the expense of hardworking families in America.

America's civil service is a pillar of our society, and we will defend it.

I say to the Federal workforce: Thank you for your service. We have your back. We will fight for your jobs, your dignity, and the services that millions of Americans rely on.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to stand with our Federal workers and civil servants and to tell them that we will fight these illegal actions.

The Trump administration is treating our Federal workforce as if they are the enemy. These are regular Americans who work important jobs all over the country, not just in D.C., but in all of our districts.

In fact, 85 percent of the nonpartisan civil servants are spread around the country. Vermont is home to 8,000 of these Federal workers. They are part of the 2 million Federal workers who operate our national parks. They are scientists at the FDA. They work at hospitals, at NASA, and they protect our national security. In fact, 70 percent work on behalf of our national security and defense.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned that the illegal purge of our civil servants at the Department of Justice and at the FBI will lead to another 9/11 terrorist attack.

I ask Americans: Do we really want to put our Nation at risk so that billionaires can get a massive tax cut?

Follow the money. What this is about is firing our Federal workforce to fund tax cuts for billionaires. Don't be fooled by what is happening here. It is about the money. Follow the money.

Our Federal workers are civil servants because they are here to serve the people. They are hired on a nonpartisan basis because they keep our country running, and they keep us safe.

What is happening is an illegal takeover of our government. By locking them out of their jobs, firing them illegally, and bullying them out of a job, Trump and Musk are trying to create chaos and confusion. It will harm Americans, not just the people who are being fired illegally, but it will harm all of those Americans in our districts who seek services from these workers.

None of this is about making our government work better for Americans. It is a well-worn tactic used by authoritarians and dictators like Orbán in Hungary and Bolsonaro in Brazil. They do it to destroy government services so that they create chaos and they create confusion, and then we turn against each other.

This administration is using chaos and cruelty to amass power and wealth, not for us and not for Americans, but only for them.

□ 1800

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding. I am here on behalf of the House Labor Caucus, and I thank the gentleman for convening us today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of our Nation's Federal workers, who are under a brutal and heartless assault by Elon Musk and his co-President, Donald Trump.

A week ago, they sent the now-infamous fork-in-the-road email to 2 million Federal employees, trying to trick them into a quick decision to retire immediately and receive 8 months of severance pay, which is false, while threatening that if they refused to retire, their jobs might be eliminated.

My brothers and sisters, don't fall for the okey doke. Don't retire. Stay on the job.

Federal workers have rights that protect their jobs. Federal workers should not be intimidated into retirement. This country needs them to continue their work. They are professional and highly skilled people, and we know they work long hours, often under difficult circumstances. They do so because they believe in the importance of public service.

We will not allow Elon Musk and Donald Trump to replace Federal workers with people who are willing to kiss Trump's ring rather than serve their country. Federal workers should stay the course and keep their eyes on the prize, and House Democrats have their backs.

I thank the Federal workers for their service.

Mr. Speaker, I point out that Elon Musk and President Trump are doing this with House and Senate Republicans letting it happen. Don't fall for the okey doke.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the actions coming out of the White House are shocking, alarming, and unconstitutional. We have seen an unelected billionaire attempt to lay off, fire, and purge Federal employees from across the executive branch. No agency or department is safe, not even the department taking care of veterans.

As the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have been quick to warn employees at the VA not to fall for the recent attempt from Musk to buy out employees. I have warned VA employees and providers. Elon Musk thinks they are stupid and won't see through his deceptive and fraudulent buyout offer.

VA employees should ignore his email and send it to the trash bin. The Trump administration is playing a dangerous game with their livelihoods and veterans' lives.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a mandate to ensure that veterans with visual, hearing, mobility, and cognitive impairments can still apply and receive care. The Trump administration put an end to that mission to reach out to veterans with visual, hearing, mobility, and cognitive impairments. He put an end to that mission in the fervor to get rid of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in Federal agencies.

Yes, diversity, equity, and inclusion include veterans with visual, hearing, mobility, and cognitive impairments. So far, 60 employees with the mission of reaching out to these very veterans with unique challenges, to encourage them to apply for VA benefits, have been put on leave. They have been put on leave. We are talking about veterans with visual, hearing, mobility, and cognitive impairments.

The Federal hiring freeze initiated on President Trump's first day in office has left approximately 700 open positions that cannot be filled. These are 700 opportunities to increase veterans' access to care that will instead stay unfilled.

What is even more shocking is that my Republican colleagues have stayed silent while veterans' care is being impacted by DOGE.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge my Republican colleagues who sit idly by to stand up to the richest man in the world. Stand up to this would-be autocrat. Stand up to this bloodless coup. Stand up for Federal workers and your constituents.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of our Nation's Federal workers. As a proud member of the Labor Caucus, I stand with these professionals who keep our government running. Their work is vital to the health, safety, and security of the American people.

Since taking office, President Trump has attacked Federal employees, seeking to replace nonpartisan civil servants with unqualified political loyalists. These workers ensure our food is safe, our air and water are clean, and our veterans are cared for. They process Social Security benefits, safeguard our airports, and protect our communities.

More than 85 percent of Federal workers serve outside of the National Capital region, meaning these attacks impact every single congressional district in our Nation, including mine in New Orleans and the River Parishes.

Firing Federal workers leads to delays in Social Security payments, longer VA wait times, and fewer law enforcement officers on the street. We cannot allow reckless policies to dismantle these vital services.

Trump's administration recently issued a deferred resignation offer, claiming employees could resign by February 6 and still receive pay benefits until September 30, 2025. There is no evidence that this is legal or even real.

Federal employees who accept this offer may face retaliation, unemployment, and no recourse. This is a calculated effort to weaken agencies and cut services. Simply put, it is a sham.

We must also oppose Schedule F, which would strip civil service protections, making employees at will and vulnerable to political purges. Our government should be staffed by professionals based on merit, not political loyalty. The American people deserve a government that works for them and not for some partisan politician.

Finally, Trump's union-busting tactics, including rejecting legally bargained contracts, cannot stand. The right to collective bargaining is a fundamental right, and these agreements must be honored.

To all Federal workers: America needs you. The Labor Caucus has your back, and we will fight for your rights, your jobs, your dignity, and your livelihood. Stand strong. We are with you. Don't fall for the okey doke. Know this: We stand with you, and we have your backs.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. ELFRETH).

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, 44,000 civil servants—hardworking, qualified, passionate public servants—call Maryland's Third Congressional District home. In the last week, thousands have reached out to my office. They were concerned, anxious, and wondering if their government actually values the work they do on behalf of the American people.

It is clear that, through the fork-in-the-road email that 2.2 million Federal employees received in attempts to expand Schedule F, President Trump and Elon Musk are trying to remove civil servants from the civil service.

Instead, they want to fill our Federal workforce and put lifesaving services for the American people in the hands of unqualified political cronies in a modern-day spoils system.

The irony, of course, is that the civil service was created to avoid this situation. The Congress recognized that cronyism and corruption did not serve the American people, and Congress did something in 1883 to create a merit-based civil service system.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, as the proud daughter of two civil servants, and as a proud member of the Labor Caucus, I stand here appalled by this administration's changing of the rules on these workers.

Everyone in my district and every Federal worker in this Nation should know that House Democrats have their backs.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. IVEY, for yielding, and I rise today as a proud vice chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus to stand with the hardworking men and women who keep our government running.

Federal workers show up every day to serve their neighbors and our country. These are the workers who make sure that Social Security checks go out to your parents and grandparents. These are the men and women who deliver our mail, no matter the weather, and the doctors and nurses at the VA who provide care to our Nation's bravest.

When Donald Trump and Elon Musk attack these public servants, it means fewer law enforcement officers working to keep us safe, slower disaster response for families hit by severe storms, and longer wait times for Social Security and Medicare.

Attacking these workers is exactly what Donald Trump and his co-president, Elon Musk, have set out to do. They are attacking air traffic controllers, postal workers, food inspectors, and people who keep us safe. Why? To find money to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

That is right. Their goal here is to line the pockets of the wealthy off of the backs of working people and the services that all Americans rely on. These attacks on Federal workers are an attack on all working people across this country.

I want to tell the Federal workers in Rhode Island and across the United States that House Democrats stand with you. We see your dedication. We know the positive impact that you deliver every day. The best resistance is to keep showing up and to keep doing what you do best. This country runs because of you.

Here in Congress, we are going to fight to oppose Donald Trump and Elon Musk's baseless and cruel attacks against those who have devoted their lives to service.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity and with much aloha for our Nation's Federal workers. As a member of the Labor Caucus, I am proud to stand with these essential employees who keep our government running every single day.

Federal workers care for our veterans, keep us safe when we travel, and make sure our seniors get the Social Security payments that they need to put food on the table and to survive.

Our Federal workers were also the ones who were first on the scene when fires ravaged Maui. They saved lives. They provided food and shelter and replaced documents. They gave our people hope.

Day in and day out, Federal workers are the unseen hands and hearts that guide our Nation through complex challenges and maintain the infra-

structure and services that underpin daily life. They give our people hope and help.

When we attack Federal workers, we not only discredit their work, Mr. Speaker, but we cut off the very hands that are holding us up.

Since taking office, President Trump has made it his number one priority to undermine and dismantle our Federal workforce. Over the past 2 weeks, the Trump administration has been bullying Federal workers to resign while making a hollow promise of paying benefits through the end of the year. Now, President Trump is threatening mass layoffs to those who refuse to accept this bogus and deceptive offer.

We have 43,000 hardworking Federal employees in Hawaii. Many of these civil servants have contacted me to express their anger, frustration, and fear.

One constituent who spent his entire career with the Department of Health and Human Services said he had experienced several Presidential transitions but none as demeaning and demoralizing as this one. Once committed to a full career in public service, he now wakes up daily dreading the new abuses and attacks he and his colleagues will face.

Let us be clear: Federal workers are not the problem. They are part of the solution. They don't make decisions based on political whim. They don't serve a single master and his billionaire friends. They serve the people of this country.

The American people deserve a government that works for them, not against them.

To all the Federal employees in Hawaii and across this country: We see you. We hear you. We will fight to protect you. Thank you for your dedication and for your service. You are the quiet force that keeps our Nation strong. You have always had our backs. Now it is time we have yours.

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Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman from Maryland for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud member of the Congressional Labor Caucus in support of our Federal workers today.

I introduced new legislation earlier today to protect Federal workers who stand up against Elon Musk's grotesque seizure of critical government agencies.

My bill, the Stop Musk Act, would prevent retaliation against any Federal employee who resists illegal or unconstitutional efforts led by Elon Musk.

In the last week alone, Musk has seized control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's payment system, exposing Oregonians' personal financial information; has shuttered the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, putting the lives of millions of



people at risk; and threatened the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, otherwise known as NOAA, undermining our work to combat the climate crisis.

This is just the beginning.

Under this legislation, Federal employees who resist, circumvent, or prevent Musk's illegal and unconstitutional takeover would be protected against retaliation for their efforts to fight back.

The world's richest man should not have the power to unilaterally dismantle the Federal Government and the critical services it provides Oregonians.

Federal employees are at the forefront of fighting Elon Musk's power grab, and we must protect them. All week, I, like all my colleagues, have been hearing from constituents who are demanding action.

Let me be clear: We will use every legislative, judicial, and public pressure tactic to stop Musk's takeover and protect our workers. This multifront battle will be fought in the courts, the Halls of Congress, and in the public sphere. We must stay loud. We must stand tight. We must press on.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, a few hours ago, I stood with members of unions, employees at the Department of Labor, and people walking down the street who saw what we were doing and wanted to join in and support the cause.

As I stood out there and spoke in favor of the efforts they were making to be heard, to protect their jobs and protect their ability to work for the American people, it reminded me of my father who had worked in that same building four decades ago until he was forced out during the Reagan administration.

To my colleagues who were there today, I thank them for joining. To the employees who were out there, I say this: I lived through what you are going through right now and I understand. For that reason, I recommit myself to working hard to protect your rights, to make sure that you don't get forced out of government, even though you haven't done anything wrong.

You have the experience and the expertise to do the work that the American people need, and we want to make sure that you have a chance to continue to do that.

I thank the Congressional Labor Caucus as well for standing up and making sure that we continue to fight here in Congress to protect their rights.

Lastly, I thank all of those people out there, whether they are union members or attorneys or employees, who are fighting every day to get their point across and make sure that we are heard by the Trump administration. Thank you for what you are doing. I

urge you to continue to do the work that you are doing because it is making a difference.

The Trump administration has made many moves. Many of them have been, in my view, unlawful and unconstitutional, especially the ones that are impacting the employee rights that these government employees have earned over the decades, like my father who joined the Department of Labor after his service in the Air Force. They deserve to be treated fairly, with respect, and with recognition of the legal rights that they deserve to have.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### ISSUES RELATING TO REBUILDING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time and the opportunity to shed light on several subjects that we will cover here tonight. Indeed, there is much going on and much to be excited about, as well.

In my home State of California, we have several issues I will touch upon that have to deal with water, water supply, fire and forestry, and some rebuilding that will need to be done around our State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my colleague and good friend, who is also here tonight. He has been a strong leader on immigration and, more specifically, controlling our border. He has also been sticking up for our families in this country and the values it is going to take to have strong families and maintain the founding values that will make our country strong. I appreciate his work and articulation on that.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, there has been so much in the news in the last 2 weeks, it is hard to know where to start.

I will cover a couple issues that the mainstream media has picked up on, though not done the best job uncovering, and one issue that made a huge difference in the lives of the most vulnerable of us that Donald Trump weighed in on not by doing something but by allowing an administrative rule to die.

The first great victory for Donald Trump, which hasn't been reported out there, concerns the effort by the Biden administration, which ran out of time, to get rid of what they call 14(c) certificates.

Everybody may be familiar with light manufacturing or packaging done

in their district by people who are handicapped. Maybe they have spina bifida, maybe they have Down syndrome. In any event, for this reason, they are not able to be profitably employed for above minimum wage or minimum wage dollars.

Each State does it a little bit differently, but the States make an estimate of what that employee is worth, and maybe they are paid \$5 an hour for, like I said, light manufacturing or packaging.

If you tour these facilities—and I think every Congressman ought to tour them at least once—it is one of the most enjoyable things you can do, because you will find the people who have been dealt a difficult lot on life so happy to see you, so happy to see what they are doing with you, so happy to make friends with the other employees there who have different abilities and other employees who are usually in a supervisory capacity.

These are also a godsend to the parents or guardians of these folks. Under normal circumstances, they have to worry when the guardians or parents die off what type of friends and what type of social life they will have, but because they frequently stay in these facilities or work in these facilities for 20 or 30 or 40 years, they develop lifelong friendships which are so important for these folks to have.

Now, had Donald Trump not won the election, it would have continued to work through the administrative rule process, and it is entirely possible that these sort of facilities would have been shut down by a Biden or Harris administration. They were working toward that. You might say, why would anybody take away the right for these people to have these jobs.

The reason is, they will say, because if we are paying somebody \$5 an hour, we are taking advantage of them. We can't take advantage of them, so we would rather have them shut down.

How horrible is that? To the most vulnerable members of our society, Joe Biden was prepared to say, if you want to work here for \$5 an hour, tough. We are going to close that facility, or we will leave the facility open, but you will no longer be able to work. You will no longer have the pride of being able to get a paycheck and spend it on clothes for yourself or gifts for your parents, what have you.

Mr. Speaker, I thank President Trump for not continuing with that administrative rule. At least, probably for the next 4 years, we know the jobs of these folks, which mean so much to them—more to them than I would say the average citizen in our society—I thank President Trump for allowing the most vulnerable members of our society to have the choice to continue to work for, in some cases, subminimum wage, but have the enjoyment of that independence.

I should point out that almost all the people I am talking about have some SSI payment in addition to that, so it