

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING THANKSGIVING
FOOD DRIVES

(Mr. CORREA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize two Thanksgiving food drives held in my district last week.

First, Santa Ana's Nicholas Academic Centers hosted a food drive for students and their families to pick up groceries and Thanksgiving meals to enjoy during the holidays.

The second is, in Anaheim, the YMCA joined forces with the legendary Frank Garcia to host the annual We Give Thanks food drive.

Thanks to hundreds of volunteers and donations, thousands of Orange County families had a Thanksgiving dinner with their families.

RECOGNIZING ANAHEIM HIGH'S FLAG FOOTBALL
TEAM

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Anaheim High School girls' flag football championship win.

Earlier this month, the Anaheim girls' flag football team brought home their first-ever division championship. Thanks to their strong defense, aggressive offense, and dedicated coaching staff, the Colonists again earned a well-fought victory.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Anaheim, which has again made us proud.

RECOGNIZING MAX MADRID'S RETIREMENT

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the retirement of my very good friend and longtime staff member, Mr. Max Madrid.

Max has worked for me as a field rep since I started in Congress and, before that, when I worked in the State senate.

Max is a Navy veteran, a Vietnam war veteran who served our country for 20 years in the Navy. Today, Max is again retiring from public service.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Max, even though I don't really think he is retiring, and I thank him for his good work.

HONORING GILBERT AVINA

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and memory of Anaheim's true son, Gilbert Avina.

A graduate of Anaheim High School, he went on to dedicate 32 years of service to the city of Anaheim. Gilbert also served as the president of the Anaheim Car Club, where he gave back to the community that meant so much to him.

Above all, Gilbert's heart belonged to his family. Married to his beloved wife, Teresa, he was a father, stepfather, and proud grandfather. His kindness, strength, humor, and work ethic touched all of us.

Mr. Speaker, Gilbert will be missed.

SHARING SONIA TALAVERA'S STORY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concerns over

how healthcare costs are rising in our communities and how they are impacting our communities back home.

Today, I want to share the story of Sonia. Sonia is an elderly and disabled individual who relies on disability retirement and Social Security to get by.

Today, she can't afford a full-time caregiver, so her son is taking over to take care of her on a full-time basis. I have to ask, how long can her son take care of Sonia? Is this how we are meant to take care of our seniors in this country?

Sonia's story is not unique. Without renewing the Affordable Care Act tax credits, millions of Americans could face the same situation that Sonia is facing today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sonia for sharing her story.

CONGRATULATING PARRY
MCCLUER BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY
TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of young athletes from Virginia's Sixth Congressional District, the Parry McCluer High School boys' cross-country team, who have achieved a rare and remarkable feat. This season, the Fighting Blues captured their third consecutive VHSL State championship, securing titles in 2023, 2024, and now 2025.

At this year's State meet, the team delivered a dominant performance. Kebryl Chandler claimed the individual State title, finishing first overall. He was followed by outstanding efforts from Caleb Cooper, who placed sixth; Josh Cooper, eighth; Logan Wheelock, ninth; and Hinckley Lovelace, who finished 12th. Their combined strength, discipline, and endurance propelled Parry McCluer to another well-earned championship. They were joined by their teammates, Sebastian George and Sam Carpenter, who helped make the team a success throughout the season.

This exceptional program thrives under the leadership of coaches Chris Poluikis and Jacob Zimmerman, whose guidance, training, and belief in these athletes have built a true championship tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate each runner, their coaches, their families, and the entire Parry McCluer community. Their three-peat victory is a testament to perseverance, teamwork, and excellence, and it continues to make the city of Buena Vista, the Sixth Congressional District, and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia proud.

CONGRATULATING BROADWAY HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exceptional group of young athletes from Virginia's Sixth Congressional District, the Broadway High School girls' softball team, who captured their school's first-ever VHSL Class 3 State championship.

The Gobblers completed a remarkable 23-4 season, earning Valley District, Region C, and State titles. Their dominant run included two perfect games and 12 shutouts, and they outscored opponents 216-48 along the way.

This championship was made possible by the outstanding efforts of the team's players: Cathryn Caffrey, Lilah Deavers, April Gingerich, Annaleah Grither, Sarah Grither, Kaleigh Harper, Courtney Hensley, Savannah Janzen, Alexia Lambert, Emma Morris, Ashlyn Spitzer, Brooklyn Spitzer, Hannah Tinnell, and Madalyn Wolfe.

Their success was guided by Head Coach Becky Cantrell and Assistant Coaches Daren Lam, John Jenkel, Emma Earhart, Morgan Landes, and Aleisha Lambert.

Special commendation goes to pitcher Lilah Deavers, a Division I commit and first-team all-State, and to catcher Madalyn Wolfe, also first-team, All-State, whose leadership anchored the team throughout the season.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these great athletes, their coaches, and the entire Broadway community on a historic and inspiring championship year.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DISMANTLING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest possible terms the illegal and unconstitutional dismantling of the Department of Education by the Trump administration.

Congress created the Department of Education. Only an act of Congress could eliminate it. The administration knows this, so they are trying to circumvent the separation of powers by chipping away at the Department until it is gone. What a sad and terrible message that sends to the country and the world.

The administration's latest attack on the Department of Education is with six interagency agreements that will move critical programs and services out of the Department of Education to other agencies without the needed expertise, funding, or staff.

The programs this administration illegally reassigned to other departments include Title I, which provides funding for schools with high populations of low-income students; the McKinney-Vento grant program for youth experiencing homelessness; grant programs for English learners, rural schools, literary initiatives; and more.

Programs like TRIO and GEAR UP help underserved students access and succeed in higher education, and they moved those, too. They moved programs that support HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions.

These are statutory responsibilities that Congress directed the Department

of Education to fulfill. Instead of fulfilling those legal responsibilities, Secretary McMahon decided to follow the Project 2025 playbook by outsourcing the work as part of the Trump agenda to abolish the Department of Education.

These actions will make it more difficult for local schools to get the funding they need. Now, they will have to navigate multiple Federal agencies instead of one. It is inefficient, unnecessary, and unpopular.

Poll after poll shows that the majority of parents support the Department of Education, and that is especially true with parents of students with disabilities. These parents know what is at stake if schools lose the Federal resources they rely on to educate every student, no matter their background or ability.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has endangered these resources by intentionally burying them behind additional layers of red tape and bureaucracy.

There is a lot we could be doing to improve public education. To prepare future students, they need a well-rounded education that inspires critical thinking, confidence, communication, creativity, and a love of learning. Students need arts and music education, hands-on project-based lessons that teach teamwork, and a wide range of career and technical education classes. We must invest in, not cut, educational research, and we need to promote, rather than politicize, family, parental, and community engagement.

To fully learn and thrive, students need to have enough food to eat, and they deserve the best physical infrastructure in which to learn. They need access to behavioral healthcare, and they need to be safe and feel safe.

Unfortunately, right now, many students across the country are terrified to go to school because ICE is in their community. In Oregon, ICE agents are stalking school parking lots and school routes and detaining parents in front of their children. In one instance, ICE agents surrounded two high school students at a coffee shop and pointed rifles at them. This is beyond unacceptable.

Students as young as 9 years old know these actions are wrong. A fourth grade student gave me a handwritten letter, saying she is worried that ICE will take her friends away and that her friends will go home and their parents won't be there because they got deported. How is a student supposed to focus on learning if they are afraid that armed, masked agents are going to take their family and friends? These are children.

Unfortunately, House Republicans are taking their cues from Donald Trump, Stephen Miller, and others who do not grasp the damage they are causing to children as they try to close the Department of Education and slash education funding, food assistance, and health insurance but somehow manage to find and give \$170 billion to the De-

partment of Homeland Security to carry out an inhumane mass deportation agenda. It is tragic, and it is pathetic.

This administration has declared war on public education, but we are not backing down. We will not stop fighting against the dismantling of the Department of Education and the weaponization of immigration enforcement.

House Democrats understand how much better our country would be if we had a mass education plan instead of a mass deportation plan.

NATIONAL GUARD SHOOTING

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Last Wednesday, the Nation witnessed a heartbreaking and senseless act of violence involving two members of our National Guard from West Virginia, Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe.

Specialist Beckstrom gave her life in service to our country. She wore our Nation's uniform with honor, stood ready to defend her neighbors, and lived out the highest ideals of duty and sacrifice. We grieve her loss deeply, and I ask God to bring comfort and peace to her family, her loved ones, and entire National Guard community.

We also pray for the full and swift recovery of Staff Sergeant Wolfe. He remains in critical condition, and Americans across Kansas and the country continue to cover him in prayer. I ask for God's healing hand on him, for strength for his family, and for protection over every man and woman who serves.

Mr. Speaker, tragedies like this remind us that the cost of our freedom is not free. None of these men and women were drafted or forced to put on the uniform they wear. They boldly answered the call to serve in defense of our freedom and safety, and we are eternally grateful for the sacrifice that they and all the Armed Forces make every day in service to our country.

Tragedies like this shake us, but they also remind us just how precious life is, how quickly it can be taken, and how much we owe to those who step forward to serve.

This violence was senseless. It was wrong. Today, we pause not to debate, but to mourn, to honor, and to pray.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember Sarah Beckstrom's courage. Let us stand with Andrew Wolfe as he fights to recover. Let us hold their families close in our hearts during these difficult days ahead.

May God bless the Beckstrom and Wolfe families. May He watch over our National Guard, and may He bring comfort and healing to all who are hurting.

Mr. Speaker, may Specialist Sarah Beckstrom's soul rest in peace.

LESS REGULATION, MORE FREEDOM

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, every year, small businesses spend nearly \$15,000

per employee to comply with Federal laws. American companies spend over \$3 trillion a year on compliance.

I am sure this is not a shock to anyone in this Chamber, but we know that some of that cost gets passed on to consumers. The Competitive Enterprise Institute estimates that U.S. households absorb \$16,000 annually in hidden regulatory fees and taxes.

For many families in the Big First District of Kansas, that money could be used much better elsewhere.

When this Republican majority was elected last year, the country trusted us to roll back burdensome regulations and lower costs. This week, we have an opportunity to do so.

The small businesses that make up the Big First are often small, family-owned and -operated mom-and-pop shops. They don't manage or run their small businesses to be billionaires or to become ultrawealthy. Their goals are to serve their communities, meet a need, and serve their neighbors well. That is what they should be empowered to do, but sadly, that is not their reality.

Everyday Americans are forced to bear the brunt of that regulatory cost. If you talk to families across my district and ask them what they could do with \$16,000, the answers would be endless. Some may say that they would purchase a car for their family or teenage child.

□ 1030

Many would love to see that money stored away in an emergency fund or a retirement fund. If their family has a loved one who is aging or facing health challenges, that money could be used to assist with caregiving or medical expenses. No matter the response, I feel confident that the vast majority of Kansans would agree that they could find a better use for those dollars than paying an additional tax to bureaucrats who want to regulate every detail of how they do business from hundreds of miles away.

This week, House Republicans will take a commonsense step forward by protecting consumers and small businesses alike from these costs. The Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act is exactly the type of legislation that this Congress was elected to enact. It ensures that any regulatory change from the SBA does not increase compliance costs for small businesses and, in turn, consumers. Regulations are meant to protect competition, not make costs unbearable for businessowners and consumers.

We are working to right that wrong, make small businesses stronger, and give American families more breathing room in their day-to-day expenses. Despite the distraction that the media and some of my colleagues across the aisle would love to see in this Chamber, this majority is still laser-focused on delivering on our promises that we made to the country last year. This is yet another small step forward to getting our country back on track and