

Throughout the negotiations, I fought to restore our Second Amendment rights, ultimately securing a measure to zero out the \$200 tax on suppressors and short-barreled firearms under the draconian National Firearms Act. This tax had been on the books since 1934, representing both an unconstitutional and financial barrier to our Second Amendment rights. Thankfully, starting January 1, 2026, American citizens will no longer be subjected to this unnecessary and unconstitutional taxation.

However, the burdensome transfer and registration requirements linked to the zero tax have so far remained. Yet, it was Congress' clear intent to repeal the NFA registration by eliminating the NFA taxation. After all, the two are inseparably linked. Without the tax, the associated registration requirements no longer have a legal standing. In fact, had it not been for the radical, partisan Senate Parliamentarian, this intent would have been explicitly written in the bill text.

Apparently, what the Senate Parliamentarian didn't understand is the history and mechanisms of the National Firearms Act. Congress enacted the NFA in 1934, imposing an excise tax of \$200, equivalent to nearly \$5,000 today, on the manufacture and transfer of certain firearms.

Congress enacted the NFA pursuant to its taxing power under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court, in *Sonzinsky v. United States*, 1937, upheld the constitutionality of the NFA's registration and transfer provisions as "supportable as in aid" of Congress' proper exercise of the taxing power. Furthermore, the Supreme Court, in *United States v. Constantine*, 1935, held that a tax that doesn't generate revenue cannot be justified as a tax.

Therefore, NFA registration serves as the mechanism by which ATF accounts for the tax paid on each firearm, identified by its serial number. The tax stamp affixed by the ATF on an NFA application reflects both the firearm's serial number and the amount of tax paid for the transfer.

Moreover, the NFA's criminal provisions pertain exclusively to the failure to pay or register the payment of the tax with the ATF. The registry is a tax registry, a registry of the tax paid on each firearm cataloged by the serial number of each firearm.

Again, NFA registration and taxation are inseparably linked. You cannot have a registration of the tax paid on a firearm when there is no tax.

Last month, on Veterans Day, I led 30 of my House Republican colleagues in sending a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi to reaffirm congressional intent behind the zeroing out of the NFA tax provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, as well as to urge that the DOJ adopt this position in all litigation concerning this matter.

Unfortunately, the DOJ's recent brief in a lawsuit involving NFA registra-

tion defends the draconian NFA firearm registration and ignores congressional intent.

First and foremost, the legal argument to defend and keep the NFA registration simply isn't there, plain and simple. When the One Big Beautiful Bill Act eliminated the tax on a broad class of firearms regulated under the NFA, the constitutional foundation for applying the NFA's transfer and registration requirements to those zero-tax firearms no longer exists. These requirements now improperly operate without any corresponding exercise of Congress' taxing power.

As the Supreme Court upheld the NFA's provisions only as "in aid" of that taxing power, and since the relevant excise taxes have been repealed, the transfer and registration requirements must likewise be understood as repealed with respect to the firearms now subject to the zero tax.

The Department's recent filing ignores this reality and instead offers a theory that would convert the NFA from a tax statute into a freestanding gun registry, an outcome Congress has never authorized and has repeatedly rejected. Even the 1986 Firearm Owners' Protection Act prohibited a Federal registration scheme: "... nor that any system of registration of firearms, firearms owners, or firearms transactions or dispositions be established."

In addition, when Congress reduced the ObamaCare penalty to zero during President Trump's first term, the Department of Justice refused to defend the underlying flawed law. Clearly, the DOJ is fully empowered to decline to defend statutory provisions that no longer rest on a valid constitutional basis. It has exercised that authority before and must do so again here, this time in defense of Americans' Second Amendment rights.

When I came to Congress, I promised my constituents that one of my top priorities would be to not only fight to protect our Second Amendment rights but to restore what we have lost. The National Firearms Act of 1934 is an unconstitutional relic that has infringed on these liberties for far too long. We must take this historic opportunity to ensure both taxation and registration on suppressors and short barrels are gone for good.

RECOGNIZING SARAH DULLY, RHODE ISLAND TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Mr. MAGAZINER of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarah Dully, Rhode Island's 2026 Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Dully began her work as an educator in 2012. She joined Narragansett High School as an English language arts teacher in 2020, where she is admired and respected by her fellow teachers, students, and administrators alike. At Narragansett, she also serves

as the National Honor Society adviser and the Class of 2025's adviser.

When asked about Ms. Dully, one of her students said: "My favorite thing about [her] is just how active and excited she is every class."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Dully on this honor. I have no doubt that she will represent our State well in the National Teacher of the Year award program.

RECOGNIZING DAVE CHENEVERT

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dave Chenevert, who is retiring after 14 years as executive director of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association and 41 years in the manufacturing industry.

Dave built RIMA into a powerful advocacy organization for the manufacturing industry, championing workforce development and education, and working with State leaders to bring more people into the profession. In his role, Dave built on Rhode Island's manufacturing legacy so that it will endure for future generations.

On his retirement, Dave said: "When I first joined RIMA, my goal was to strengthen our voice, expand our reach, and build a solid foundation for the future." He has certainly done that, stabilizing the industry after years of decline, with more than 1,500 manufacturing companies in Rhode Island now employing over 41,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dave for his many years of service to Rhode Island. His impact will long endure, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

CONCERNS OVER HIGH COST OF HEALTHCARE

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, while Donald Trump and congressional Republicans spend time building a billion-dollar ballroom, bailing out Argentina, and lavishing tax cuts on billionaires, Rhode Islanders and Americans continue to struggle with the high cost of healthcare.

□ 1030

I wish that our colleagues would spend as much time worrying about how they are going to lower healthcare costs as they seem to spend building up Donald Trump's ballroom, sending billions of dollars to Argentina, and sucking up to their billionaire donors.

All across the country, people are getting letters like this from their insurance companies telling them how much more they are going to have to pay next year because of Republican inaction in extending the Affordable Care Act tax credits, letters like this one received by Susan from South Kingstown. She, her husband, and her college-aged son are going to see an increase of \$1,700 a month, \$20,000 a year more that they are going to pay for their health insurance for three people if Republicans don't do the right thing and extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

Kim, from East Greenwich, runs a small business with her husband, an appraisal company. She has a family of four with two teenage daughters. The

letter she received from her health insurance company told her that she is going to be paying \$1,300 more a month next year, \$16,000 a year for a family of four.

People cannot afford this. We have heard all the excuses from those on the other side of the aisle who are determined to stop funding the Affordable Care Act. They say it is just a subsidy for the health insurance companies. Really?

Are you going to tell Kim that she is a health insurance company because she is going to be paying thousands of dollars more a year for her health insurance? Is she a health insurance company? Is Susan from South Kingstown a health insurance company?

No. These are real people who are going to be impacted by the lack of Republican action to lower the cost of healthcare.

We have a plan: Extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits and reverse the cuts to Medicaid so that people do not have to pay thousands of dollars more for their health insurance.

What have we heard from the other side? Nothing. They have no plan. The best they can come up with is they will give everybody a few thousand dollars. We will cut them a check.

Do they have any idea how much it costs to go to the emergency room? Does President Trump have any idea how much an emergency room bill costs? I don't think so.

It is time for our Republican colleagues to do the right thing. It is time to come together in a bipartisan way and listen to the American people. Let's extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits, reverse the Medicaid cuts, and lower costs for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, stop wasting time with ballrooms and bailouts, and instead deliver for the American people.

PROVIDING AN UPDATE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. STRONG of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide an 11-month update to the American people.

While most media outlets struggle to be honest with the American people, under the administration of President Donald Trump, a Republican House, and a Republican Senate, America is back.

It is a fact that inflation is down from 5 percent to 2.5 percent. Gas prices have hit a 4-year low, averaging \$2.95 a gallon. Advanced manufacturing and industry are returning to U.S. soil.

President Trump has secured over \$8 trillion in investments that will fuel job growth and create opportunity. The stock market continues to set new all-time highs.

It is a fact that Republicans are committed to making sure hardworking Americans keep more of what they

earn. The Working Families Tax Cut delivered the largest tax cut for middle- and working-class Americans in history, like no tax on tips and no tax on overtime.

It is a fact that the southern border is closed. Drug dealers, sexual predators, human traffickers, and those who illegally invaded our country during the Biden administration from over 160 countries are being returned to the country of their origin.

Under Biden, our emergency departments and local hospitals became the preferred free healthcare provider for illegal aliens, driving healthcare costs through the roof while the American taxpayers footed the bill.

We didn't need legislation to put America first. We needed a new President.

It is a fact that the spirit of cutting waste, fraud, and abuse is alive in Washington, D.C. Funds being sent to foreign countries that hate America have been cut off. Republicans cut \$100,000 for climate resilience in Ghana; cut \$360,000 for gender nonconforming, nonbinary, two-spirit farmers in New York; cut \$24 billion to USAID; cut \$22 billion from Health and Human Services to provide housing and cars for illegal aliens; cut \$45 million for diversity, equity, and inclusion scholarships in Burma; cut \$8 million to promote LGBTQ in Africa; cut \$10 million for male circumcision in Mozambique; cut \$20 million for the Arab "Sesame Street" in the Middle East; and we cut \$600 million from National Public Radio. Free enterprise in America is alive and well.

President Donald Trump is the President of peace, ending eight wars in 8 months. Tell me who in history has ever done this.

The war between Israel and Hamas is over. The hostages were returned home. The Iranian nuclear program has been set back for decades, and the Middle East is more stable than it has been in years.

To gain peace through strength, we have invested in America's national defense. We have increased pay for our troops. We are making generational investments in our defense industrial base. We are filling our stockpiles. We are making our soldiers the most lethal fighting force the world has ever seen.

We will never apologize for keeping America safe. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the people of America are now seeing through Biden's 4 years of smoke and mirrors here in D.C.

It is a fact that the Clinton-Steele dossier was proven a hoax.

It is a fact that the Department of Justice was weaponized against President Trump.

It is a fact that the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act raised the United States debt to more than \$38 trillion. It raised inflation to its highest level in 40 years.

It is a fact that Biden's Green New Deal was nothing more than another

scam on the U.S. taxpayers, and ObamaCare, known as the Affordable Care Act, is not affordable to anyone in America.

It is a fact that Space Command is coming to Redstone Arsenal in north Alabama and the Golden Dome is on the horizon.

It is a fact that President Trump and our Republican majority is making America better for the people. America is back.

HEALTHCARE CRISIS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, with only 10 voting days left in this year's calendar, Congress must act if we are to avert a full-blown healthcare crisis. I rise today to bring attention to the affordability and healthcare crisis that is pending upon us.

I think this is what Americans want us to do as opposed to bailing out Argentina or figuring out how to finance a \$300 million ballroom that will dwarf the size of the White House.

What Americans are concerned about is premiums that are climbing.

What Americans are concerned about is the increase in their grocery bills.

What the Americans I represent in the San Joaquin Valley are concerned about is bearing more and more of this burden and not seeing any potential light at the end of the tunnel.

Families are forced to make impossible choices between putting food on the table or whether or not they should keep their healthcare coverage.

In July, President Trump's one big—I never thought it was beautiful—bill became law. It slashed over \$1 trillion from Medicaid, from children's healthcare coverage, from Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act, adding \$4.2 trillion to our national debt.

Programs that protect children, seniors, and working families are being gutted. In my district alone, over 65,000 people risk losing their Medicaid coverage, threatening access to essential healthcare for vulnerable populations.

Now, despite the passage of the fiscal year 2026 continuing resolution, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, once again, have failed us, I think.

Republicans are threatening the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits that will expire at the end of this year in just four weeks. Open enrollment is now, and Americans are seeing the cost that they are paying for this effort, which has failed so far. But there is still time.

There is still time when families can avert the stark choice of having to pay more for their healthcare or make sacrifices elsewhere in their lives. There is still time to continue these tax credits, so that we can avoid the dramatically higher healthcare costs that our constituents are paying in copayments and deductibles, which is impacting up to