

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy retirement to so many of our House Republican colleagues who are leaving in a mass exodus, with more departures to come, according to Jake Sherman. That is despite all the accomplishments Republicans have tried to sell to the American people.

Let's recap what they have done this year alone.

They cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA, putting affordable healthcare out of reach for millions of Americans.

They passed the largest cut to SNAP in history, leaving families across the country with less access to food.

They have stayed silent while ICE terrorizes our communities, causing irreparable damage, and even detaining U.S. citizens.

So instead of running for reelection on their disastrous record, they are choosing to walk away.

And House Democrats? House Democrats are ready to take on these challenges and fight for all Americans.

We are ready to make our country more affordable, fix our broken immigration system, and deliver a government that works for the people.

That is exactly what we will do when we take back the majority next Congress, if not sooner.

#### NEW BUZZWORD IS AFFORDABILITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, here it is, the word "affordability." It has become a cute buzzword nowadays because during the last 4 years of the Biden administration and in my home State of California, so many things have caused things to become unaffordable.

So the idea is going to be to paper over with borrowed money in this place when, really, if we attack the core issues that make things unaffordable, cause inflation and an inability to start businesses in my home State and in this country, which is energy costs, electricity and fuel, especially in my home State in northern California. We have the highest electricity everywhere.

As we see in the rest of the country, due to Trump's policies coming in, fuel prices are coming down. We are getting down to about the \$2 level.

In my home State of California, they are going to shut down, I hear, three refineries now and we can't keep a pipeline full. We have a new fuel standard which means more carbon has to be taken out of the fuel. That fuel will be more expensive. We are going to see, according to a USC study, perhaps \$8.50 fuel in California.

Yes, there is affordability for you right there, driven by Democrat policies and by regulation as well; prof-ligate government spending, creating

\$2 trillion in deficits every year. It sucks all the money out of the room of other people needing to borrow and spend when the government is spending all the money handing out \$2,000 checks, \$1,200 checks, and \$600 checks, that is all borrowed money. There is no credit then.

There are also burdensome regulations weaponizing NEPA, weaponizing the Clean Air Act, and weaponizing the Endangered Species Act. These were all well-intentioned when they were passed, but they have been weaponized to stop projects and to stop people from doing things. That is what is causing affordability to be unaffordable is these regulations driven by more government.

#### CONGRESS HAS A DUTY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the duty we have to support our American communities in the face of disaster.

Mountain Maryland in my district was hit by devastating floods last May. In fact, 200 elementary students and teachers were evacuated from their classrooms by boat in heights of water which were over 12 feet.

When this disaster hit Maryland, emergency alerts and warnings were essential to a fast and safe recovery. I commend the effective and exemplary service of our first responders. However, what didn't come quickly was the Federal aid that my constituents needed most.

Today, I am introducing two bills to reinforce strong, reliable disaster response and recovery efforts.

First, the Emergency Alert Grant Fairness Act will ensure that local public broadcasters have the resources they need to reach everyone at risk during a disaster.

Second, a bipartisan Rural Recovery Act would guarantee that USDA Rural Development technical assistance is automatic in order to effectively help communities recover from a disaster.

From Mountain Maryland to every corner throughout America, we should leave no community stranded in an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of these bills.

#### CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cleveland Community College on the anniversary of its founding. Since July 1, 1965, when fewer than 40 students

gathered in two rented buildings, Cleveland Community College has grown into a cornerstone of progress and opportunity for Cleveland County and our region.

Cleveland Community College has always risen to meet the needs of our community, training returning veterans in its earliest days, and now preparing students for careers in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and others.

Thanks to strong leadership from the founding president, Dr. James Petty and the current president, Dr. Jason Hurst—and the presidents in between all those years—the college now boasts state-of-the-art centers for technology, emergency services, allied health, and workforce development, along with strong partnerships with local schools and businesses.

Today, it stands as one of North Carolina's highest performing community colleges. In fact, it is one of the highest performing community colleges in the country.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate Cleveland Community College on its 60th anniversary.

#### CONDEMNING EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE OF FEDERAL AGENTS

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the excessive violence that we are seeing from Federal immigration agents on the streets of Chicago, New York, New Orleans, and all across the country.

Donald Trump's militarized secret ICE agents are creating fear and terror around our country. Their lawless behavior has no place in our democracy, and I am proud to lead Democrats in fighting back.

That is why I introduced the No Secret Police Act to get rid of masks, to require agents to show identification, and to hold ICE accountable.

Soviet-style secret police have no place in the America I know and love.

According to ICE's own data, 70 percent of immigrants arrested have no criminal history whatsoever, and just 5 percent have violent criminal convictions.

Despite the lies that we hear coming out of the White House, ICE is meeting its quotas by targeting hardworking immigrants, many here lawfully, simply trying to pursue the American Dream.

The first and easiest step to correct this problem is to pass my No Secret Police Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do so without delay.

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#### PROTECTING MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES FROM DATA CENTERS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, 267 percent, that is how much energy prices increase in communities located near Big Tech data centers.

DTE Energy, in my State, already charges us some of the highest rates in the Nation with some of the most unreliable services.

Do you like clean water coming out of your taps at affordable prices? So do I. You better hope a data center doesn't get built near you.

Do you like breathing clean air and being outdoors? I do. Organize like hell to keep these extremely loud data centers and their emissions out of your community.

So, for more expensive utility bills, and increased air, water, light, and noise pollution, we get a lot more AI slop bullshit that nobody asked for.

The Silicon Valley billionaires don't care about our communities. Believe me when I tell you, all they care about is profit. They don't care that these data centers will absolutely make life miserable. All they care about is the money and the power.

I am so inspired by the grassroots movement in the State of Michigan right now popping up all over the State to protect our communities from data centers. I want them to know loud and clear, here in Congress, I have your back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RULLI). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the chair and to avoid profanity.

#### HONORING AFL-CIO'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with deep gratitude, I rise today to honor the AFL-CIO's 70th anniversary.

Seventy years ago, the AFL-CIO joined laborers with a bold vision: The dignity of a day's work must be matched by the dignity of a worker's life.

Their merger formed a promise: America would be stronger when working people stand together.

That promise is personal. Our mother was a proud union organizer. Her union badge, along with our father's, helped our family be more secure with union membership. It opened doors for opportunities we could only dream of as a working-class family: a living wage and the opportunity for more education, health insurance, and retirement benefits.

Today, let us honor the bold generations of workers who built our factories, powered our industries, cared for our ill, and advanced our communities.

As our Nation faces new challenges, from international outsourcing to corporate consolidation, we recommit ourselves to the fight for living-wage jobs, fair trade, and affordable health insur-

ance, and to passing the pro-worker protections in the PRO Act.

I thank the AFL-CIO for 70 years of solidarity, strength, and service to America's working families. Here is to 70 more.

#### CONGRATULATING WHITNEY POINT EAGLES AND WINDSOR BLACK KNIGHTS

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

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, New York's 19th Congressional District is home to not one but two championship field hockey teams.

The Whitney Point Eagles just won their fifth straight State title. That is 10 championships in the last 11 years.

The Eagles earned this one with a perfectly executed corner in overtime. That is the kind of composure under pressure that you only get from hard work, discipline, and a great coach like Nicole Huston.

The Windsor Black Knights just brought home their first State championship.

The thing I love about this team is how tight-knit they are. During a post-game interview, Abby Guarino said the things she will remember the most wasn't raising the trophy after the game; it was the bonds she built with her teammates.

We are so proud of these young women from Whitney Point and Windsor. They represent the very best of our rural communities, and they have set an example for the next generation of what you can accomplish when you give it your all.

Go Eagles, and go Black Knights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the names of each player on these championship teams.

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

There was no objection.

Nicole Huston  
Abby Guarino

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOTHER VIOLA FLETCHER

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mother Viola Ford Fletcher. She was a living monument to truth-telling and righteous resistance, a steward of Black history and cultural preservation.

At 111 years old, she carried within her the memories of one of our Nation's darkest chapters, the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, and she bore these memories with unmatched grace and courage.

Mother Fletcher refused to let this Nation look away. She traveled the

world demanding justice, not just for herself or her family, but for Greenwood, for the generations robbed of life and prosperity.

When she testified in this very institution, her voice shook the Halls of Congress and the conscience of our Nation.

Mother Fletcher's passing is a profound loss, but her legacy is a call to continue to fight for full reparations.

May we honor her transition to ancestor by moving in her spirit with unyielding hope, moral clarity, and faith that justice, though delayed, is not denied.

#### CONGRATULATING ECO-CLEAN SOLUTIONS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate JB Harris, JT Chevallier, and the entire team at ECO-CLEAN Solutions for reaching a record-breaking milestone late last year: 1 million square feet of Lake Tahoe shoreline cleaned by the team's beach-cleaning robot, BEBOT.

JB and JT, two longtime friends from Las Vegas, were drawn to the Sierra Nevada by the beauty and lifestyle of the mountains. As their connection to the area and the great outdoors deepened, JB and JT witnessed the toll of increased tourism on their natural surroundings.

With the motivation to give back to the home that had given them so much, ECO-CLEAN was created to respond to the need for environmental responsibility and sustainability.

With the annual number of visitors to Lake Tahoe growing to 15 million people, Tahoe's beaches experienced a surge in waste, particularly during peak travel seasons. JB and JT recognized the problem and set out to find innovative and low-impact solutions to this growing concern.

In their search, the team discovered BEBOT, the first battery- and solar-powered beach-cleaning robot on the West Coast. Through funding provided by the North Tahoe Community Alliance, the team was able to successfully deploy BEBOT to the shores of Lake Tahoe, maximizing beach cleanup efforts through advanced technology and in partnership with local volunteers.

Through this innovative solution, ECO-CLEAN Solutions and their beach-cleaning BEBOT have cleaned more than 1 million square miles of shoreline, picking up over 38,000 pieces of litter that may have become pollution in Lake Tahoe.

In comparison to visible litter items collected by volunteers, BEBOTs detect and remove up to 10 times the number of items hidden under the surface of the sand.

They also partner and collaborate with several local organizations, one of