

States in the 1700s, Alexander Hamilton, helped to write that Constitution under which we stand.

However, through hard work, we have worked together over the years to overturn the Insular Cases, advance equality, and challenge the status quo. In both the 116th and 117th Congress, I am grateful that under Democratic leadership the For the People Act of 2019 and the For the People Act of 2021 included a path for voting rights and self-determination for U.S. territories. Both pieces of legislation included a congressional task force to review the issues and make recommendations on providing equitable voting representation in Congress, voting rights in the Presidential election, and fair inclusion in Federal voter protection and election integrity laws.

In this 119th Congress, I will continue to advocate for the equitable treatment of all Americans, including my fellow brothers and sisters in the territories. Self-determination, voting rights, and equitable treatment under Federal assistance programs must be the cornerstone of our work. If we work together, we can all achieve meaningful change.

THANKING PRESIDENT TRUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Trump for his efforts to reverse the harmful immigration policies of the last administration.

On his first day in office, President Trump declared a national emergency at the southern border and reinstated policies to stop the flood of illegal immigrants into the United States.

Under the Biden administration, migrant encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border reached an all-time high. Open-border policies made it easier for military-aged men to enter our country and allow drug and human traffickers to take control of our borders.

In 2024 alone, Customs and Border Protection seized over 21,000 pounds of fentanyl at the U.S.-Mexico border. Fentanyl overdoses during this time remained to be the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45.

I applaud President Trump for taking border security seriously, including his threat to impose tariffs on Mexico, which led their President to deploy 10,000 members of the Mexican National Guard to strengthen border security.

It is time the rest of the world sees again we have a President willing to put America first.

PROTECTING SENSITIVE LOCATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, recently an Oregonian told me that his young daughter and her friends, especially her Hispanic friends, are scared at school. They are kids that are at school to learn. Then I learned why they are scared.

I rise today to strongly condemn the Trump administration's unconscionable decision to rescind guidance that restricted immigration arrests near sensitive locations, including hospitals, places of worship, and schools.

For several years, ICE operated under a policy that designated certain areas as safe from immigration enforcement raids. Now, Donald Trump has reversed that. This decision to no longer protect schools from immigration enforcement is harmful, and it makes our schools less safe.

We should all be working together to keep students safe at school. Instead of criminalizing undocumented children and children who look like they might be undocumented, we should be protecting all children from the horrors of mass shootings, which unfortunately, are far too frequent in this country.

I want to be clear. Immigrant children are not hiding in American schools as the current administration wants you to believe. They are there to learn, and taking them from their schools will cause immense suffering and chaos for families and communities. These are children who may go on some day to find the next cure for cancer or write a great American novel. They have tremendous potential.

Now, I ask my colleagues to show some humanity. Please join Representative ADRIANO ESPAILLAT from New York and me in supporting the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.

Show some humanity for children. Help keep our schools and other sensitive locations to be safe from harmful immigration enforcement actions.

PARSLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, if you have ever had a steak dinner, you have likely seen a little sprig of parsley on the plate. Yes, it is food, but clearly it is meaningless to your dinner. It is simply a splash of color, likely left on your plate when you are done that will get washed off or thrown away in the garbage because ultimately it is meaningless, which is how the Republican majority in Congress is acting during this moment in our Nation.

As Donald Trump bends and breaks the Constitution and congressional authority, almost every Republican lawmaker is sitting back and playing the part of parsley. They are silent, maybe a little colorful, but ultimately useless. That is too bad.

As a coequal branch of government to the executive branch, Congress has

an obligation to steer our country's direction. The current majority doesn't even have a steering wheel, much less a car. They are sitting on the sidelines cheering on the takeover of our constitutionally given powers acting like pieces of parsley.

Well, House Democrats won't stand by. We may not be in the majority but we are going to call out every illegal action and improper use of power that the executive branch is taking that is hurting our country. We are going to encourage, and where we can, participate in lawsuits, and we are going to expose those who sit quietly by and allow a want-to-be authoritarian and his billionaire benefactor to attempt to destroy our democracy.

We will fight Republicans' enabling agenda in Congress. We won't be washed off the plate. Too much is at stake.

ELON MUSK

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, Elon Musk is the 47th President's financial benefactor. He has invested \$277 million of his own money into electing Donald Trump and other Republicans, and now apparently, he thinks he owns them.

Elon Musk is destroying our Federal Government. He doesn't understand how things work, and he is breaking it agency by agency every single day while Republicans sit idly by.

I think the worst part is that Elon Musk profits mightily from contracts with the Federal Government. His company's contracts total over \$20 billion, more than \$3 billion in the last year alone. Now, he has the new title of special government employee, for all practical purposes, a Federal employee himself.

Now, if you follow the law, Federal employees can't also profit from the Federal Government via a Federal contract because they can use their position to swing contracts their way. USAID doesn't offer much profit for Musk, so he wants it dismantled, but NASA does, and his contract likely won't get touched. Maybe it will even grow.

That is why we have laws that prevent Federal employees or other officials, including Members of Congress, from profiting off the Federal Government. It is gifting from the taxpayers, and it is against the law, except apparently, if you are Elon Musk.

Enough is enough. I am introducing legislation to ensure that special government employees like Musk cannot profit off of government contracts. Elon Musk can't be both the beneficiary and decider of where Federal funds are spent simply because he feels he bought himself a President.

It is unconscionable that Elon can collect \$20 billion from American taxpayers with one hand while slashing funds for childcare and healthcare, nutrition assistance, and public education with the other.

The Eliminating Looting of Our Nation by Mitigating Unethical State

Kleptocracy Act, or the ELON MUSK Act, would put a stop to this grift on the taxpayers. Let's pass it.

POLITICS SHOULD NOT BE A SPECTATOR SPORT

Mr. POCAN. Last week, Donald Trump tried to do what many authoritarian leaders and dictators in other countries have done. He tried to steal money that Congress appropriated for the American people so that he could provide a tax break to Elon Musk and other billionaires and multimillionaires across the country.

His main focus has been to raise the \$4 trillion that he needs to fund his tax break for the wealthiest for the next 10 years.

That theft will ultimately take away funds from education and housing, healthcare, veterans benefits, and funds for working people so that we can give billionaires an extra home in the Cayman Islands or membership to Mar-a-Lago.

Social Security and Medicare should beware. A privatized post office is possible. Programs like Medicaid, healthcare and long-term care for people with disabilities and those in need, for sure beware.

Everything we warned you about in Project 2025 is coming true and more. Shutting down Federal agencies won't lower the costs of groceries one dime, but it sets up a gigantic tax break for Elon Musk and Donald Trump.

Now is the time to ensure you don't treat politics as a spectator sport. It is about our survival.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1045

HONORING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ANDRA BUCCI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andra Bucci, a Holocaust survivor whose remarkable story of resilience, survival, and education continues to inspire generations.

Andra and her sister, Tatiana, were just 4 and 6 years old when they were taken from their home in Italy and sent to Auschwitz. A tragic case of mistaken identity saved their lives. Josef Mengele, the so-called Angel of Death, believed they were twins and spared them for his inhumane experiments.

Their father, a prisoner of war in South Africa, had no idea if his family had survived. Their mother, in an act of extraordinary courage, risked her life to visit them inside the camp, reminding them never to forget their names and never to let their identity be reduced to a tattooed number.

After the war, the sisters were placed in an orphanage run by Anna Freud, daughter of Sigmund Freud. They believed they were alone in the world until a picture, the same picture they had kissed every night in Auschwitz, arrived with a letter. Their parents had

survived. They were among the rarest of Holocaust survivors: children whose entire family made it through.

Today, Andra Bucci calls Sacramento County home, but she and her sister have never stopped telling their story. Since 1995, they have returned to Auschwitz bringing hundreds of students with them to ensure the world never forgets. Just recently, Andra spoke in my district where she shared her harrowing testimony.

Madam Speaker, as the years pass, the voices of Holocaust survivors grow fewer, but their stories never fade. Never Again is not just a phrase. It is a command. It is our responsibility to remember, to educate, and to stand against hatred in all forms.

May Andra's story and the stories of all survivors live on.

CONGRATULATING RIO AMERICANO HIGH SCHOOL
AM JAZZ BAND

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the exceptional students of Rio Americano High School AM Jazz Band for outstanding achievement.

This talented group has been selected to compete at the prestigious Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival at Lincoln Center in New York City. This is one of the most distinguished honors in high school jazz, and Rio Americano has now earned this recognition for the 12th time, the most of any high school in California.

Sacramento has long been known for its vibrant arts and music community. Rio Americano High School is helping put our city on the map as one of the best music programs in the country.

This year's festival is particularly special as it celebrates its 30th anniversary, bringing together 30 high school bands, including three from international schools.

Hosted by Jazz at Lincoln Center, this competition not only showcases talent but also promotes jazz education and appreciation, carrying forward the legacy of the legendary Duke Ellington.

This is a moment of pride not only for Rio Americano but our entire Sacramento community.

Madam Speaker, let us recognize and celebrate this extraordinary accomplishment.

Congratulations to Rio Americano High School AM Jazz Band. Let's go win.

ELIMINATING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise with grave concern about reports that President Trump is scheming to eliminate the Department of Education and similar concerns about legislation that has been introduced to do just that.

This move would be detrimental for Wake County students and public school students around the country. Our community is home to world-class

K-12 schools, community colleges, universities, and HBCUs that are shaping the bright minds of tomorrow.

Our schools rely on resources from the Department of Education to support teachers, assist students with disabilities, and ensure that young people get healthy meals. In addition, thousands of North Carolina students depend on grants and loans managed by the Department to pay for college. Their future is our country's future.

Let's be clear. The President does not have the authority to unilaterally abolish agencies that were created by Congress. Under this plan, Donald Trump and Elon Musk are attacking our kids and their teachers. We will fight this every single way that we can.

DELIVERING FOR DELAWAREANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. MCBRIDE, for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCBRIDE. Madam Speaker, when I was elected, I promised to work with anyone who would help deliver for Delawareans and to stand up to anyone who seeks to harm my State.

Instead of seeking common ground, the Trump administration from day one has waged an unrelenting attack on working people in Delaware and across the country, seeking to freeze funding for first responders, domestic violence shelters, schools, and healthcare facilities that my constituents rely on.

Last week, as I traveled up and down our State meeting with seniors, military families, students, mayors, doctors and nurses, the fear and outrage was palpable. People were terrified by the administration's funding freeze.

A senior center in the heart of my State was worried that they wouldn't be able to provide meals to the Delawareans they serve. Critical services like opioid prevention programs could grind to a halt.

Research programs fostering innovation in Delaware already received stop work orders, putting Delaware jobs at risk. Mayors were fearful they wouldn't be able to pay first responders or continue pivotal water and transportation infrastructure projects.

Perhaps most disturbing, some of our hospitals, community healthcare centers, and clinics that serve rural and urban communities facing desperate health deserts, don't know if they will be able to continue serving some of our State's most vulnerable.

In all of these instances, the Federal funds my State relies on were appropriated by Congress and signed into law by the executive, but the current administration is threatening to illegally freeze funding for these lifesaving services and to gut the Federal workforce tasked with helping my neighbors. It has thrown communities across