

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

Delaware and around the country into chaos, and that is their goal.

The attacks we have seen in recent days on public servants and lifesaving programs administered by USAID don't just put our security and health globally at risk, they lay the foundation here at home to gut Federal support for education, for healthcare, for housing, for childcare, and for workers. If they can do what they are doing at USAID, then they can do it anywhere in the Federal Government. That means no place and no program is safe from unilateral evisceration.

This week it is USAID. Tomorrow it may be the Departments of Education and Labor. We shouldn't pretend that this path doesn't ultimately lead to Social Security and Medicare.

Piece by piece, department by department, the Trump administration is defunding critical Federal services, purging employees, consolidating power, and cutting and gutting programs that Delawareans rely on. They are trying to decimate the Federal Government and sell it for parts to line the pockets of donors at the expense of working people.

It is clear. They do not want to solve the problems facing American people. They do not want to make government more efficient. They want to prove that government can't work by making it not work.

In 1941, Franklin Roosevelt was in this very Chamber and declared that necessitous men are not free men and that democracies can't survive if people are hungry or out of a job. They want Americans hungry. They want Americans scared for their future. They want Americans to stay angry because that is the fuel of Trumpism. That is how Donald Trump keeps his power.

My constituents reject this administration's cycle of chaos, corruption, and cynicism. Delawareans sent me here to make government work better for people, not to make it worse. Delawareans want a government that respects everyone by delivering for them. By helping them learn, live, and thrive.

That is what I am here to do.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE COMPLICIT IN PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm for the American people about the abuse of power that House Republicans are allowing and that puts the American people in danger.

House Republicans have allowed billionaire Elon Musk and his gang of thieves to enter the U.S. Treasury Department, fire the people entrusted with secret, private information about Americans, and give them that access.

Madam Speaker, this billionaire, his interns, and his young workers have

complete access to your Social Security number, your bank account number, your name, your address, your Medicare payments, your tax refunds, and your veterans benefits.

This privacy violation endangers the personal information of the American people. Yet, where are House Republicans? They are totally silent, doing nothing, and saying nothing. They are just allowing it to happen because they are okay with it.

What is the worst that could happen? Madam Speaker, your data could be accessed in a way that makes it vulnerable to hackers or identity theft. SNAP benefits could be cut, Head Start shut down, and your Medicare payments delayed or frozen, all without a paper trail. Elon Musk and his DOGE friends have the ability to choose what government bills to pay and what not to pay.

I have heard from the American people. They do not want a Federal contractor who receives billions of dollars in government payments to decide which contracts to pay or to punish Americans who disagree.

These individuals with no government accountability are now inside the very heart of our Federal systems, and Republicans are nowhere to be found. Elon Musk has bragged on social media that he has been able to cancel contracts and programs he doesn't like. This is reckless and illegal.

Why would he want access to the information? It is to look for programs to cut, programs the American families and people rely on every day. It is to have more money to make sure House Republicans can give to their billionaire friends, and tax cuts.

This is the Republican rip-off. Just last week we saw the consequences of this Republican rip-off in action. The administration issued an illegal shutdown order, a freeze that threw nonprofits, schools, health clinics, and entire communities into chaos. Critical grants and programs were frozen without warning. Just yesterday, we learned that some community health centers in rural America are shutting down because of it.

Where are House Republicans? They are certainly not speaking out, and they are not standing up for our community health centers.

Madam Speaker, imagine going to your doctor and you are told you cannot be seen because Elon Musk has cut off Medicaid payments to your State. Imagine your child's school closing because the money to fund it was frozen.

That was the fear that went through our communities last week. Domestic violence shelters and health clinics worried about whether they would have to shut their doors. Meals on Wheels and the seniors who rely on it didn't know where their next meal would come from.

While a judge has temporarily blocked the government-wide freeze, many grant recipients still cannot access funding. The administration has said that they are still going to implement the funding shutdown.

The administration is also targeting programs such as the EPA's clean ports program which affects millions of dollars going to ports across the country to help clean up air pollution. In my district alone, that is over \$400 million in funding to reduce pollution at the Port of Los Angeles.

Madam Speaker, what could be next? How will it affect your family? There are reports that the Department of Education and our public schools' funding is next on their target list.

Let me be clear. This is unconstitutional. Congress controls the purse strings, not the President and not Elon Musk. This money was legally appropriated by the people's Representatives. Elon Musk and House Republicans want to steal it from the American people to give tax breaks to billionaires and to get investments in our communities.

House Republicans continue to remain silent. Their silence makes them complicit. Americans will pay the price. Democrats will stand up, speak out, and fight back. Just one of those things Democrats are doing to fight back is we are demanding that Republicans quickly bring up legislation to protect your private information. Let's all support that.

□ 1100

BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, good morning and happy Black History Month.

Black history is American history, so I rise today to give a history lesson.

I think, at moments of inflection for our country, history provides a critical contextualizing. In order to go forward, we need to look back, especially when the White House is working overtime, as laid out in their playbook, Project 2025, to ban our history and to dismantle our Department of Education.

Let's start at the beginning.

Why did we establish a Federal Department of Education? In the early days of this Nation, education was left entirely to the States, and schools were run by a patchwork of religious schools and one-room schoolhouses, leaving many children excluded based on their race, gender, or poverty.

Madam Speaker, there is much I disagree with our Founding Fathers on, but they knew that preserving democracy required an educated population, one that could participate in civic issues, understand social and political issues, vote, and resist tyrants.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the concept of free public education began to take hold, but not for everyone. Enslavement ruled the day. Black and Native American families faced State-sponsored violence and systemic exclusion from education.