

Drug Act of 1983, which has produced more than 800 treatments for rare diseases over the past 40 years.

More than 30 million Americans are affected by nearly 10,000 rare diseases. Unfortunately 95 percent of these diseases have no treatment. We cannot abandon the American patients who suffer from diseases like Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Huntington's disease, ALS, cystic fibrosis, and scleroderma, which I treated during my time in active medical practice.

By protecting critical research and developing incentives, we can give millions of Americans hope for the future. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to foster innovative cures for patients throughout this great land.

#### ELON MUSK GOVERNMENT ACCESS

(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, an unelected, self-dealing multibillionaire who has made his vast fortune off huge government contracts should not be able to buy access to the U.S. Treasury, but he has done just that.

For the princely sum of \$250 million, Elon Musk bankrolled President Trump's reelection campaign. For that, he has been given the keys to the Treasury kingdom.

Let's follow his footprints. Musk is now deploying unsecured private servers with his merry band of men aged 19 to 26, none with security clearances nor experience working in government agencies, to tap into the U.S. records of every single citizen and business.

What is his mission? To track private records for more self-dealing and more contracts, looking up what his competitors are invested in and tax cuts for the billionaire class. As has been reported, one of these men with access to our Nation's sensitive data is a green card holder and apparently not even a citizen.

Article I of our Constitution rests the power of the purse with Congress. I challenge every Member, follow the footprints of Elon Musk across this government and ask yourself why he should have access to the private tax records of the people of this country.

#### VOTE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting Energy Production Act.

This bill is simple. It ensures that no President can unilaterally ban hydraulic fracturing by natural gas and oil, protecting one of America's most vital energy resources from being shut down by ideological policies.

I represent the Marcellus shale, one of the largest natural gas-producing re-

gions in the world. Pennsylvania is leading the way in clean, affordable, and reliable energy production.

Mr. Speaker, natural gas and oil are essential to our way of life, powering our grid, our homes, our cars, our manufacturing facilities, and serving as raw materials for countless American-made goods.

Mr. Speaker, the entire world is fracking, but we do it best and cleanest here in the USA. The more natural gas we produce here at home, the cleaner the world will become. This bill is a serious economic, national security, and environmental vote. I urge my colleagues to vote for clean energy and for American economic and national security strength by supporting this legislation which we are voting on tomorrow.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN REBECCA LOBACH

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

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life and service of Captain Rebecca Lobach, an accomplished U.S. Army aviation officer who was aboard the Black Hawk helicopter during the tragic accident at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

A native of Durham, North Carolina, and a distinguished military graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Captain Lobach excelled in every aspect of her military career.

From her rigorous flight training to her role as a White House social aide, her dedication to excellence, coupled with her remarkable leadership skills, earned her the respect and admiration of her peers and superiors alike.

During her service, Captain Lobach was awarded several honors, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon.

She was a dedicated officer with a bright future, and her service to our country will not be forgotten. I offer my deepest condolences to Captain Lobach's family and loved ones and to all those affected by this devastating national tragedy.

□ 1700

#### REMEMBERING CHARLES TAMLIN HALL, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Charles Tamlin Hall, Jr., who unfortunately passed away this week at the age of 74.

Mr. Hall attended the University of Georgia and proudly served as the

president of the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association Board of Directors. He touched the lives of countless individuals as a leader in the State of Georgia and throughout his 52 years of marriage to his beloved wife, Jan.

Mr. Hall founded his company, Association Services Group, in 1995, which was recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in Georgia, a testament to his reliability and leadership.

His faith was the cornerstone of his life, spending time as a deacon and greeter for the First Baptist Church on the Square. He enjoyed his Friday morning Bible study, which has been meeting for over 45 years.

Mr. Hall is survived by his lovely wife, Jan; their children, Emily Brewton and Tamlin Hall; five grandchildren; his brother, and five nieces and nephews.

#### UNELECTED BILLIONAIRE AGENDA

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, today, I stood with the House Democratic leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, the House Democratic Whip, KATHERINE CLARK, our House Democratic Chair, PETE AGUILAR, and Congressman SEAN CASTEN to introduce the Taxpayer Data Protection Act because what is going on in the Treasury Department is lawless and wrong and frightening for the American people.

Elon Musk should not have access to your data and to the payment systems. What is going on? Mr. Speaker, I deliver this statement and this bill to this Chamber calling on all of my colleagues to join because I was a Treasury employee.

I served in the Treasury during the Barack Obama administration. In fact, I worked in a time of crisis, the Great Recession, when General Motors and Chrysler were staring bankruptcy in the face. Millions of jobs were on the line. We were doing the work for the American people, not threatening their payments and their data.

#### RECOGNIZING PETER ANKNEY

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Ankney in honor of his promotion in the United States Marine Corps to colonel. I had the distinct privilege of being able to attend Colonel Ankney's promotion last weekend in his hometown of Colstrip, Montana.

I could go on and on about the values of leadership, honor, or service when describing Peter, but the word that came to my mind at Colonel Ankney's promotion was "community."

The city hall in Colstrip was packed as the people of Rosebud County came together to honor one of their own. Montana is among the top States in veterans per capita of people with patriotism and service coursing through our veins.

I know that I speak for all of us when I say that I am proud to have a man like Colonel Ankney representing our State in uniform. I thank him for his service to our great Nation. He made us proud, bringing honor to himself, his family, his community, our State, and to our country.

#### PROTECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Mr. NEGUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, recent reports suggest that President Trump may attempt to dismantle the Department of Education unilaterally. An executive order of this nature would be catastrophic for the tens of millions of students and teachers in schools across our Nation, including in the great State of Colorado.

It would undercut support for children learning to read and write. It would, in my view, scrap key programs for high school students looking to get their college degree and abandon hardworking educators, schools, and students in rural and low-income communities.

Mr. Speaker, any effort to unilaterally dismantle this department would be clearly unconstitutional and unlawful. House Democrats will use every tool available to us to stop it.

#### RECOGNIZING DAVE ALEXANDER AND SERVE THE BORDER

(Mr. LUTTRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Alexander, the founding director of Serve the Border, a man and organization that has made it their mission to care for those who protect us along the southern border.

Serve the Border has provided meals, entertainment, and better living conditions for thousands of Border Patrol agents, Texas State troopers, and National Guardsmen stationed in some of the most challenging environments in our Nation.

This work is not glorious. It requires countless hours of preparation, logistical planning, and often personal financial sacrifice. Yet, Mr. Alexander has done it all with joy motivated by a belief in the importance of honoring those who serve.

For example, 2 weeks ago while many Texans faced an unusually cold winter, Mr. Alexander and his team on Serve the Border drove over 6 hours to Eagle Pass, Texas, from the Texas Eighth Congressional District to support the agents, the troopers, the soldiers, and

the marines stationed in the Del Rio and Laredo sectors to make sure they had hot meals and a place to refocus for their next mission.

On behalf of the district, I thank Mr. Alexander and all those who serve in Serve the Border for their extraordinary contributions. Fair winds and following seas.

#### RECOGNIZING SAKA NAKODAR DAY

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize February 4 as Saka Nakodar Day. On that day in 1986, in the Punjab region of India, four unarmed Sikh students were shot and killed while peacefully protesting the desecration of the sacred scripture of the Sikhs.

The killing was abhorrent, but the investigation was deplorable. The victims' bodies were disposed of in secret. No perpetrator was ever brought to justice, and reports, commissions, and other inquiries into the massacre received absolutely no action.

February 4 remains a dark day for the Sikhs in Punjab, but also for Sikhs here in America. For 39 years, they have fought for truth, justice, and accountability. As United States Representatives, it is our responsibility to fight for our values at home and abroad and call out these tragedies for our partners around the globe.

That is why I recognize Saka Nakodar Day and that justice is still waiting to be served for Ravinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Jhilman Singh, and Harminder Singh.

#### AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

(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, for years, America led the world in energy production, thanks in large part to the miracle of hydraulic fracturing. This innovation not only created jobs and boosted our economy but also made the U.S. the top producer of oil and gas.

The last administration has given us dangerous policies that drive up these costs, threaten the jobs, and make us much more dependent on foreign adversaries for our energy.

Instead of supporting domestic production, those policies have prioritized extreme climate agendas that weaken our energy security and raise costs for American families, which is one of the main drivers of inflation.

I am pleased to see the Protecting Energy Production Act come to the House floor this week. This bill ensures no President can unilaterally ban fracking and keep States in control of their own energy production.

Democratic administrations and radical activists have long pushed policies

that would cripple domestic production, send our jobs overseas, and make life much more expensive for Americans and our allies. We cannot afford to let that happen.

Protecting domestic energy production means lower costs, stronger national security, and a future where America remains an energy powerhouse. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation later and stand for energy American independence.

#### MINNEAPOLIS JAMES BEARD AWARD FINALISTS

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate three downtown Minneapolis restaurants on their achievement of being named semifinalists for the 2025 James Beard Award. Minneapolis has one of the best food scenes in the country, and that is exemplified by these recognitions from the James Beard Foundation.

Spoon and Stable is nominated for outstanding restaurant. They have a been a hallmark of the North Loop for over a decade, extending a fusion of French and local cultures through cuisine.

Vinai and Bucheron, both established in 2024, are nominated for the best new restaurant. Vinai features Hmong culture, stories, and ritual through food. Bucheron presents French-American fusion, while pulling inspiration from rural Minnesotan culture.

All of these restaurants are doing incredible work expanding Minneapolis' culture and food scene, and we are very proud of the work they have done to achieve this honor.

#### A STRONGER AMERICA

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, across this Nation, men and women rise before dawn, lace up their boots, and power America forward. They drill, refine, transport, and innovate, fueling homes, factories, and cities.

Yet, time and again, Democrats in Washington try to strangle their livelihoods with bans, red tape, and radical restrictions.

Just last month, Democrats pushed policies to lock away 670 million acres of land and water from energy production. While they push their anti-energy agenda, hardworking Americans pay the price at the pump, on their utility bills, and on their paychecks.

Congressman AUGUST PFLUGER's Protecting Energy Production Act stops this sabotage. It blocks any President from banning fracking, unlocks leasing on public lands, slashes red tape, and restores energy independence. More energy means lower costs, better jobs, and a stronger America.