

to get it done. They also had the opportunity to reduce taxes on tips. They had the opportunity to reduce the taxes on overtime. They had the opportunity to reduce taxes on Social Security, all of which are earned. Those are not welfare programs. Those are programs that are earned. When they had the power, they chose to do nothing.

This year, when we were passing the big, beautiful bill back in July, we had the opportunity again to reduce costs for this broken system. The Republicans put forth in this body a CSR. What happened here? They used the Byrd rule in the United States Senate to fight what would have reduced rates by 11 percent.

Let's break away from this discussion about affordability. Let's talk about reality. This is purely politics. Their votes have been shown throughout the year. They care nothing about results. They care everything about politics.

Candidly, maybe Republicans aren't as good at politics as the Democrats, but we are pushing policies that work and are based in reality. That is what this push has been about today, laying out the facts for the American public to say this system is untenable, and it only undercuts what could be the best system in the world.

There has been so much discussion about the 22 to 24 million people on ObamaCare. We all found out today that half of them might be phantom enrollees. We found out that the future is not bright when you look at the contrast of what it is doing to the remainder of the people who are paying for their own healthcare system.

There are 165 million people who have employer-based systems that they most likely contribute to or pay out of their own pocket. They are paying \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month, and they have to subsidize a broken system on top of it and crowd out a medical system in the process.

All we are asking from the other side is to say let's start doing some commonsense things. The number one thing I would like to see us do is simply do income verification so that those people who pay full freight and subsidize the system know that the people who are being helped are actually people truly in need who qualify for a program, instead of giving it away.

It is simple identification checks, just like we have asked the Democrats to do on things like voting, just like we have asked the Democrats to do on simple ideas to make things work again, so that when you pay your taxes, which are quite exorbitant, in my opinion, people know they are actually going to help people.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence this afternoon as we get ready to celebrate the holiday season.

CALIFORNIA AUDITOR'S REPORT

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of

California was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the California State auditor, the nonpartisan official auditor for the State, has just released a report that updates its assessment of the State's high-risk agencies.

The contents of this report are truly stunning—not really that stunning, actually, for those of us who have experienced the California State government at work. Even given our very low expectations, what the auditor has just reported is truly troubling.

This comes, by the way, as our State's Governor, Gavin Newsom, has recently boasted that California is the original DOGE. Newsom held out California government as a model of efficient, responsive, and accountable government.

Let's juxtapose that very notable statement, very surprising statement, with the clear-eyed fact findings of the State auditor. In this new report, which is issued annually, the auditor identifies high-risk State agencies. What does that mean? It means they pose a substantial risk of serious detriment to the State or its residents. To be considered high risk, an agency must not only exhibit serious waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement but must also have failed to take adequate corrective action.

In this new report, the auditor has identified eight separate California agencies as high risk. Four of those eight have joined the club, this dubious distinction, during the Newsom administration, including the newly added Department of Social Services this year.

Among the findings as to why these various agencies are considered high risk are that massive payment errors in our CalFresh program could now cost the State \$2.5 billion in Federal funds.

With Medi-Cal eligibility, ongoing problems in determining who is eligible, continuing to make payments to people who don't meet the income threshold, or who have left the State entirely, is also putting billions of dollars at risk.

Continued fraud and overpayment with our unemployment insurance benefits continue to cost the State billions of dollars. This is after the massive \$32 billion fraud in unemployment benefits during the COVID years.

Incredibly, the State has missed six straight deadlines for its annual comprehensive financial report, which puts in jeopardy our credit rating, as well as Federal funding.

The auditor's report documents IT projects that languish for months, for years, as antiquated systems beleaguer our bureaucracy, this despite Silicon Valley being a stone's throw away.

You have State entities that continue to fall short of minimum standards for information security and cybersecurity, putting our State, data, and privacy at risk.

Alarming, it is more than just cybersecurity. It is also the security of our physical infrastructure. For instance, the auditor finds that there are 49 dams that pose an extremely high hazard to life and property, and it is getting worse. In just the last 2 years, the number of dams rated either poor or unsatisfactory has increased by 73 percent.

The quality of government service is also unacceptably low. With the EDD, for example, not only do we have continuing, ongoing massive fraud and overpayments, but the folks who actually deserve to get paid benefits have a heck of a time getting the benefits they are entitled to.

The auditor found that, on average, the typical claimant has to call the EDD two to five times per week just to get assistance. The EDD has consistently failed to meet Federal benchmarks for timely payments to those who are actually deserving of benefits, whereas those who are committing fraud against the system seem to have no trouble getting their hands on as much money as they would like.

There are other examples in this report that just truly boggle the mind. For example, the aforementioned EDD during the COVID-19 years decided to order thousands of mobile devices, 7,224 to be exact—this is cell phones, hotspots—so that employees who aren't going into work can continue to do their jobs. These mobile devices, even after they were no longer being used because the pandemic was over, the State continued to pay for them, for thousands of them. They continued to pay service fees, costing the State millions upon millions of dollars.

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Another illustrative example comes from CARB, the California Air Resources Board, that is responsible in many ways for the very high gas prices that the citizens of California have to pay. The report found that there was one particular CARB employee who was paid \$171,446 in salary on an annual basis, so a pretty decent salary they are getting paid. Here is the problem: It was for nearly 15 months after the employee had stopped working that they continued to get paid.

On top of all of this, the auditor found rampant nepotism at the Department of General Services and Caltrans when it came to hiring. They would hire their family members. They would hire their friends for these State jobs. They would even find instances where managers gave the candidates the questions, interview questions, in advance in order to help them get the job.

Now, all of this is in addition to the very well-known examples of just mind-boggling fraud and waste that exist in the California government.

We, of course, have the high-speed rail, now estimated to cost \$128 billion, which is several times more than initially anticipated, where after nearly 20 years we still haven't seen any track laid.

We have homelessness where there was another State audit that found that the State spent \$24 billion, lost track of the money, couldn't tell us where it went, and couldn't tell us if it did any good. Meanwhile, the homeless population in California increased substantially to the point to where half of the unsheltered homeless in this country reside in California.

More recently, we had the 911 system, where taxpayers were charged on their phone bills for years. \$650 million was spent to build out a new 911 system, and then the State had to scrap the whole project because the technology doesn't work.

Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely unacceptable. Californians sacrifice so much, paying the highest taxes in the country, and yet our citizens also get the least in return.

I will continue to call for accountability for the agencies and, more importantly, the political leaders in California who refuse to reform our State government in a manner that more appropriately and effectively serves our citizens.

I will also continue to use every tool we have here at the Federal level to insist upon the State giving our taxpayers a higher return on their investment. I will make sure that everyone is aware that when the Governor says the California government is a model of efficiency and responsiveness, nothing could be further from the truth.

RECOGNIZING FOLSOM HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, they have done it again. I rise today to recognize an extraordinary achievement by the Folsom High School Bulldogs football team, who captured their sixth California State championship with a very impressive 42-28 victory over Cathedral Catholic.

This championship run was defined by resilience, preparation, and leadership, none more evident than in the performance of junior quarterback Brody Rudnicki, who stepped into the spotlight and delivered a truly remarkable performance.

Brody accounted for six total touchdowns, throwing for two scores and rushing for four more while compiling 117 passing yards and 186 rushing yards.

This title marks the second State championship in the last 3 years under the leadership of Head Coach Paul Doherty, whose commitment to excellence has continued to elevate the Folsom football program as one of the premier high school programs in the entire State of California.

The Bulldogs' championship capped off an outstanding 14-1 season, highlighted by a 12-game winning streak that showcased consistency, teamwork, and competitive excellence throughout the year.

Equally impressive is the program's success in preparing student athletes for the future. Seven senior players have committed to continue their football careers at the next level, earning

opportunities at some of the Nation's most well-respected institutions and programs, including the United States Military Academy at West Point, Dartmouth College, Brigham Young University, the University of Southern California, Stanford University, the University of Nevada, and Oregon State University. These commitments reflect not only athletic talent but also academic achievement and character.

I had the chance to visit with the team a couple years ago when they won the State championship. When I was in the State legislature, because they won championships back then too, I actually had the chance to recognize the team during a session where they were there in attendance and the coaches were on the floor with us. The team was up in the gallery. That was a lot of fun.

I am sorry they can't be here in the U.S. House, though they are certainly welcome to visit anytime. At the very least, I look forward to seeing all of the players and hardworking coaches in person very soon and extending my congratulations, because this team means so much to the city of Folsom and to our entire community.

Congratulations, once again, to the State champions Folsom High School Bulldogs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 131. An act to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 187. An act to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 410. An act to extend the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1043. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1071.—An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 19, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2458. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expiration of Interim Final Rule: Control of Communicable Diseases; Foreign Quarantine [Docket No.: CDC-2020-0013] (RIN: 0920-AA75) December 16, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2459. A letter from the Assistant Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — SpCas9 Protein; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-0212; FRL-13100-01-OCSP] received December 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of December 17, 2025]

Mr. GRIFFITH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 953. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6703) to ensure access to affordable health insurance; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 498) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3492) to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors; and relating to consideration of the bill (H.R. 4776) to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process (Rept. 119-411). Referred to the House Calendar.

[Submitted December 18, 2025]

Mr. WALBERG: Committee on Education and Workforce. H.R. 2270. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude child and dependent care services and payments from the rate used to compute overtime compensation; with an amendment (Rept. 119-413). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WALBERG: Committee on Education and Workforce. H.R. 4054. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reform accreditation; with an amendment (Rept. 119-414). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows: