

In America, we do not weaponize fear. We protect our communities, and we do what is right.

□ 1730

#### CELEBRATING THE OLD CANTEN

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of a Rhode Island institution, Joe Marzilli's Old Canteen.

For nearly 75 years, the Old Canteen wasn't just any old restaurant. It was a gathering place where families came together, friendships were formed, and traditions were passed down over some of the best Italian food in the country.

Located in the historic Federal Hill neighborhood in Providence, the Old Canteen and its iconic neon sign became a symbol of Rhode Island's proud Italian community.

At the heart of it all was the Marzilli family, led by Joe and then his son Sal, who can now enjoy a well-earned retirement. Like so many entrepreneurs across Rhode Island, Madam Speaker, the Marzillis showed us that when you pour your heart into your work, you can build something incredible.

The Old Canteen may have closed its doors, but its legacy will never fade.

To the Marzilli family and to all the wait staff, chefs, and regulars who made the Old Canteen such a special place, I thank you for an incredible 75 years.

#### CONGRATULATING CAMDEN COUNTY EMS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate a momentous achievement for Camden County, North Carolina. They will soon have emergency medical services operational for the first time in history.

The county has relied on external EMS providers for emergencies, but thanks to the unwavering commitment of local officials and the community, Camden County will now deliver paramedic-level emergency medical services.

Such a transformative step means quicker response times, improved coverage, and, most critically, an enhanced capability to save lives when every second matters. In rural communities, reliable emergency medical services are not just a luxury but an absolute necessity.

Let us congratulate Camden County EMS on this significant achievement. We eagerly anticipate their first call, knowing that they will have a positive impact on the community for many years to come.

#### HONORING ROD AND SHIRLEY SAUNDERS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Rod and Shirley Saunders, who have both dedicated decades of their lives to serving the Bronx community.

Rod is a former president of the African American Association of Co-op City and the Wakefield Kiwanis Club. In 2004, Rod was appointed by the Bronx borough president to serve on the NYC Department of Education's Community Education Council. Since 2015, he has served as a member of the Riverbay Corporation's board of directors and is currently serving as president of the board.

Shirley cofounded the African American Association of Co-op City and served as board secretary and chair of the security committee for the Riverbay board of directors. Shirley volunteered for almost a decade with the Girl Scouts as a volunteer mom, helping out Daisies, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. She is currently serving our community as deputy city clerk of New York for Bronx County.

They are the Co-op City power couple. It is an honor to recognize Rod and Shirley's service to the Bronx today, and a grateful community thanks them.

#### REMEMBERING KYRE AMBROSE

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Kyre Ambrose, an incredible young man and talent who, in his far-too-short life, touched the lives and hearts of many.

Kyre was a source of joy and love to his family, his community, and the audiences he performed for, where he shared his calling, his true artistic genius, his dancing with all of us. He was strength, beauty, and poetry in motion.

Kyre was a recent graduate of Boston Arts Academy and an incredible contributor to the cultural fabric of the Boston dance community, as well as Origination, the BAA school community, and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, where he was studying and performing.

Those who knew, instructed, learned from, and, most of all, danced with Kyre described him as a remarkable spirit who exuded love and tenderness on the stage and in his relationships.

The loss of his talent, joy, and love is deeply felt by the Mattapan and Boston communities. We mourn the passing of this young man on January 18, and we continue to grieve his absence.

To his beloved mom, Rina; to his father, Kyron; to his sisters, Hope and Ky'Leah; and to his grandparents, fam-

ily, and friends, thank you for sharing the bright light and gift that Kyre was for so many of us. His memory and legacy will continue to dance in our hearts and minds forever.

Thank you, Kyre. We are honoring you here today on the House floor because I do consider your loss to be a loss for our Nation.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS DELIVERING RESULTS FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, the 119th Congress has been off to a great start with House Republicans delivering results for the American people.

This week, we are continuing our efforts to reverse the Biden administration's harmful policies and further protect our country from a dangerous, illegal border invasion.

Today, we passed Congressman BIGGS' Midnight Rules Relief Act to amend the Congressional Review Act to allow Congress to disapprove of multiple rules through one joint resolution if rules were issued during the last year of a President's term in office.

House Republicans will also vote on Congressman CISCOMAN's Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, which holds accountable illegal immigrants who break our laws and engage in dangerous high-speed chases in our border communities.

I am grateful to my colleagues for joining me this evening to discuss these necessary pieces of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

#### STOPPING REGULATORS FROM TAKING AWAY AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MOORE for yielding. I appreciate his leadership in putting the spotlight on the important issues and important legislation that will help us to better serve the American public with what they have asked for.

On the whole concept of government overreach and last-minute declarations that have really put a kink in Federal land use, which is important for people, for energy production, and for being able to utilize and enjoy them, what have you, it was very dramatic and very aggressive at the end of the Biden administration.

Madam Speaker, 674 million acres of U.S. lands and waters were cut off right at the end of the Biden administration from good uses.

The U.S. Forest Service signs at least used to say: "Land of Many Uses." Now, they seem to be restricted down to just whatever a handful in government or environmental organizations want.

We have seen Antiquities Act abuse under President Biden. The Antiquities Act was used to set aside 6 million acres of national land as national monuments. Some of the big examples include, once again, the Bears Ears National Monument at 1.63 million acres, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah at 1.9 million acres, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico at 242,000 acres.

A total of 15 national monuments were either created, expanded, or re-created after they had been rightsized in the previous Trump administration. They cover 9 million acres, including also the Chuckwalla and Sattitla Highlands National Monuments at 848,000 acres.

These are dramatic stretches of land that are basically being cut off from human use or usage of the resources, in some cases even the ability to effectively fight or prevent fire.

Madam Speaker, you have the Moab to Mojave Conservation Corridor, for example, covering 18 million acres across California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. They say they are protecting these lands. You would have to ask the question: Protecting from what?

Any type of operation you seek to do out there, whether it is going to be mineral extraction, energy, oil and gas, or timber, they all require permits. When they eventually are successful, these permits and processes can be extremely lengthy. It can take many years in some cases to get them. Still, we keep plowing on.

The 100 million acres of Federal lands that have been cut off through executive orders without approval from Congress also include, in Alaska, ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which was expanded, limiting even more energy exploration. In Arizona, the Sonoran Desert National Monument, at 496,000 acres, is restricting activities like ranching and energy development.

Other concerns for rural areas include restrictions on land use for industries, as I mentioned, logging, ranching, and energy production. They have hurt rural economies. Montana has dramatic limits on timber and grazing. Wyoming has increased regulatory hurdles for energy development.

What are the economic drivers and especially the inflation drivers of this in this country? High energy costs are a big part of that. President Trump wants to turn that back around, and I hope we can be successful soon.

Idaho, again, has diminished access to public lands for ranching and timber.

There are impacts on wildfire management as more lands are being designated as national monuments, like the new chunk up in my district that is protected, as they call it, under Federal rules. It makes it harder to manage forests and wildfires and access them with the fire equipment we need to get out there. When they take away the roads and make them roadless areas, we have that much less ability to be able to properly put people and equipment out there where they can be effective at firefighting.

It does worsen wildfire risks. In my home State of California, in my own district, a couple of years ago, we had a 1 million-acre fire. Year after year, there are six-digit fires.

Again, another 28 million acres in Alaska were limited, so it just makes energy production that much harder.

Then, the oceans, with the coastline marine conservation aspect of it, here is the big number: 625 million acres of U.S. ocean were withdrawn from future conversation about future oil and gas leasing, restricting, once again, energy development, which would help so much with our economy and lowering inflation.

Madam Speaker, 625 million acres translate into 1 million square miles—rounded off, 1 million. If you want a further illustration, that would be a 1,000- by 1,000-mile square—1,000 miles this way, this way, this way, and this way. It is a 1,000-mile square that Biden, by the whim and stroke of a pen, says no more.

The efforts we are making in Congress this week with the Midnight Rules Relief Act, and also through the ability to use the Congressional Review Act, are very important to stop out-of-control regulators from taking away the ability for us to produce in a way that is going to have America be energy independent and energy dominant and to have our economy be strong once again.

That is why we are fighting back on this. We can still do things very ecologically soundly. We want to take care of the environment, as well, but these things have been weaponized against the types of things Americans need and stand for, for the strength of our economy and for our independence.

I appreciate the opportunities and the good work my colleagues are doing on advancing this legislation.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California's persistence and willingness to be down here to help share the message.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS), who is a new Member from Florida. I have on good authority from his freshman colleagues that he isn't a huge fan of the cold we are experiencing here in Washington, D.C.

RESTORING CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF CFPB

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on a very important issue that is

facing more and more communities as they are faced with pressure from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, commonly known as the CFPB.

What was created under the guise of consumer protection has instead become a regulatory juggernaut, unaccountable and insulated from the very people it claims to serve, the consumers.

From the beginning, the CFPB was designed to operate outside the bounds of congressional oversight. It was built to be an agency that answers to no one, making sweeping financial regulations without the scrutiny that our Constitution demands.

Its most recent Director turned his bureaucratic machine into a weapon against economic growth, limiting access to credit and strangling the very small businesses and community banks that form the backbone of our economy.

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The problem is clear. First and foremost, a lack of accountability. The CFPB functions without proper congressional oversight, wielding immense power without the input of elected Representatives. No agency should have the ability to dictate financial policy without being held accountable by the people.

Second, funding without oversight. Unlike nearly every other Federal agency, the CFPB is funded directly by the Federal Reserve, rather than through the regular congressional appropriation process. This structure allows it to bypass the checks and balances system that protects taxpayers from runaway regulatory excess.

Third, a constitutional violation. The power to tax and spend belongs to Congress. That is not a tradition. That is the law. The CFPB structure is a direct affront to the principle, undermining the separation of powers that defines our democracy.

The consequences have been devastating. The CFPB's heavyhanded regulations are cutting off access to credit for those who need it most. Small businesses are struggling to secure the loans necessary to grow and create jobs. Entrepreneurs, working families, and farmers are finding it harder to get the capital that they need to succeed. The community banks that support Main Street are drowning under the weight of this unnecessary and costly compliance burden.

Madam Speaker, this is not how government by the people and for the people should function.

The solution is simple: Congress must reassert its constitutional authority. We must bring the CFPB under the regular appropriations process, ensuring that no agency operates without unchecked power.

Regulatory agencies must answer to the people, not operate as independent kingdoms making rules without congressional oversight.

Madam Speaker, we stand at a crossroads. We cannot allow an unaccountable bureaucracy to continue restricting access to capital, hindering small businesses, and suffocating economic opportunity. We must restore the balance of power and ensure transparency and put the authority back where it belongs: with the American people through its elected Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join Chairman FRENCH HILL and my colleagues on the House Financial Services Committee in finally reining in the CFPB, restoring congressional oversight, and reaffirming our commitment to the principles of accountability and economic freedom. The future of small businesses, entrepreneurs, and hardworking families depends on it.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS) for being part of our Special Order tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL).

HOLDING TRAFFICKERS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ACCOUNTABLE

Mr. LUTTRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the Biden administration's open-border policies turned our border into a gateway for cartels, human traffickers, and criminals, putting American lives at risk and endangering innocent children.

That is why I introduced legislation to hold DHS and HHS accountable for properly vetting and tracking unaccompanied migrant children.

Under the Biden administration, HHS lost contact with over 300,000 children. Under the Biden administration, 300,000 children were lost. Let that sink in. That is not just incompetence. It is an absolute tragedy.

We must hold traffickers accountable and ensure that illegal immigrants who break our laws face real consequences. Our border must be secured, and those who exploit our system, whether criminals or failed bureaucrats, must answer for their failures. The American people deserve law and order.

Thankfully, Republicans and the Trump administration are quickly cleaning up the mess that Joe Biden left us.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL) for his comments.

A lot of times, with policies and things that go on back here, there are variations moving to rightwing policies and leftwing policies. There is not a more stark difference between what President Biden was doing at the border and allowing to have happen to what we are seeing now and the changes we are making. That highlights the simplicity of our messages.

We have to protect people's lives, and we are finally starting to do it, and it feels great. I think the American people are seeing that.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL) again for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great Commonwealth of Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS), my good friend.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FELIX "MO" MAURIZIO

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to a very important resident of Hampton Roads, U.S. Navy veteran Mo Maurizio.

This American hero has experienced more of the history of our great Nation than most people can even dream of.

Born on February 21, 1925, he grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, before enlisting in the Navy in August of 1943 at the age of 18. After completing basic training in New York, he transferred to Hampton Roads, Virginia, to complete additional training at Little Creek in preparation for the invasion of Normandy.

On June 6, 1944, as Allied Forces launched the largest amphibious invasion in history, Mo was a part of the first wave of troops to hit the beaches on D-day.

After surviving this important first step on the path to liberate Europe, he then deployed to the Pacific theater.

On February 19, 1945, he was aboard a ship that took part in the battle for Iwo Jima, shelling the island ahead of American forces making their landing.

Mo didn't spend his 20th birthday celebrating. He was instead serving our Nation by landing troops and supplies during one of the worst battles of the entire war. In total, nearly 6,000 brave marines lost their lives to take this strategic island that day, and it is only 8 square miles.

In April, Mo continued his service, this time assisting with the deployment of marines on Okinawa Island. Months later, when Japan was set to surrender, Mo was among the crew of one of the first ships carrying U.S. troops to mainland Japan.

On September 2, aboard the USS *Talladega*, he was only a small distance away from history being made on the USS *Missouri* as the Japanese formally surrendered, officially marking the end of World War II.

Following the conclusion of the war, he continued serving in the Navy, both back in Massachusetts and in Virginia. Along the way, he met his late wife, Laura. Together, they had a set of twins, Bill and Stella.

One of my favorite stories of Moe's life is when, in 2014, his two children took him to his first-ever Army-Navy football game. As any good Navy fan would agree, he was hoping to watch the Navy midshipmen, and I quote, "beat the snot out of the Army." Luckily enough, Navy won that year with a score of 17-10.

Mo retired from the Navy on June 6, 1966, exactly 22 years after he participated in the invasion of Normandy, but he did not retire from public service.

After the Navy, he joined the post office in Hampton Roads, where he worked on behalf of our community for

nearly 40 years before retiring at the age of 80 on June 6, 2005, exactly 61 years to the day after D-Day.

This past June, at the age of 99, Mo had the opportunity to return to the Normandy beaches to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion with his fellow World War II veterans.

I had the honor of meeting Mo with a group of his biggest fans last June at the Norfolk International Airport as he returned home from his trip.

Our world is free today because of the heroic actions made by these members of our Greatest Generation, like Mo, on that fateful day.

Since World War II, Mo and his family have called Hampton Roads their home.

Sadly, on December 7, 2024, the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, his loving wife, Laura, passed away after 73 years of marriage. Her memory lives on through Mo and their two wonderful children.

For 100 years, Mo Maurizio has embodied what it means to be an American hero. From the beaches of Normandy, to the islands of the Pacific, to our local community in Hampton Roads, Virginia, Mo has lived through truly foundational moments in our Nation's history. We will be forever grateful for all that he has done for our great Nation, the United States of America.

Happy 100th birthday to Mo.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the great Commonwealth of Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS).

Madam Speaker, I yield to the new Member from Pennsylvania (Mr. MACKENZIE).

ECONOMIC STATE AND SAFETY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. MACKENZIE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, two of the most important issues confronting our citizens today are the state of our economy and also the safety in our local communities. My focus while serving as an elected Member of Congress will be to address those two issues and the mess that we have been handed over the past 4 years from the Biden administration.

Over those last 4 years and preceding that, there were decisions made by State and local elected officials which have made our country less safe and our communities at home in a vulnerable situation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Homeland Security Committee to speak about the safety of our Lehigh Valley community and how the actions of one local elected official, Northampton's county executive, exemplified the negative impact that radical policy decisions can have on the safety of our law enforcement officers and the safety of our entire community.

In March 2020, 5 years ago, the Northampton County executive issued an order prohibiting county law enforcement from cooperating with ICE unless

ICE acquired arrest warrants before working to capture criminal illegal immigrants.

Recently, the dangerous results of this policy were put on clear display in our local community and placed law enforcement and the general public in greater danger.

Over the last 4 years, our Nation has witnessed an unprecedented surge of illegal immigration. Under Joe Biden's administration, over 2 million illegal immigrants crossed the border each year, burdening communities nationwide. As of July 21, 2024, ICE reported that there were over 100,000 non-detained illegal immigrants with convictions, including homicide, assault, rape, and robbery.

In Pennsylvania alone, illegal immigration is costing taxpayers over \$300 million for police and corrections, but this isn't just a statistical problem.

In our community of Lehigh Valley, 2 weeks ago, ICE agents arrested Luis Gualdron-Gualdron outside of the Northampton County Prison, which is situated within the Seventh District of Pennsylvania, which I have been elected to represent.

According to ICE, the U.S. Border Patrol arrested Gualdron near Brownsville, Texas, in December of 2023 for illegally entering the United States. He was served the next day with a notice to appear before an immigration judge. He made his way all the way to our local community 5 months later, and he was arrested in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on charges of indecent assault against a minor.

In cases where individuals have entered our country illegally and then broken an additional law, the public has a right to expect that our local officials will cooperate fully with the Federal authorities. Unfortunately, that was not the case in this situation.

The county executive's order caused ICE to be forced to arrest this dangerous predator outside of the prison. There was no ability for a proper hand off to take place.

There is no need to just take my word that this was a dangerous situation. My office has spoken to ICE, and they explained that allowing this predator to leave the prison, rather than be arrested while already detained, greatly increased the possibility for escape from capture as this prisoner would have been free on the streets.

It also increases the danger to those law enforcement individuals who have to make an arrest in an uncontrolled environment, and it puts the public in greater danger as this predator has a greater chance of escaping justice.

Thankfully, ICE officers were successful in staking out the prison and arresting Gualdron, but that took them off of the streets, took away valuable law enforcement time, put them in greater jeopardy, and put our community in greater jeopardy. They shouldn't have been put in that situation but for that executive order from the Northampton County executive back in 2020.

Madam Speaker, this is simply unacceptable. At a time when our country is reeling from the consequences of 4 years of open borders, we also have to deal with these situations in our local communities.

We are making ICE jump through hoops to deport criminals who assault children, and it definitely shouldn't be happening right here in a community that is flagged as a trafficking hub. We know the problems. We are aware of the problems. We should be working with our Federal law enforcement agencies to make sure that these predators are off the streets.

The law-abiding residents of the Lehigh Valley and our entire country and community should never have to wonder whether criminal illegal immigrants will escape justice due to the challenges that have been created by our own elected officials.

The American people have made their position crystal clear on this. Madam Speaker, 80 percent of Americans oppose the concept of sanctuary cities, and 83 percent support deporting illegal immigrants who have committed violent crimes.

Let me repeat that. There are 83 percent of individuals who support deporting illegal immigrants who have committed violent crimes.

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At the same time, we have a local elected official following through on the executive order that he signed back in 2020, making it such that our Federal law enforcement agents can't do their job and deport this violent criminal who has made his way all the way to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, this is simply unacceptable, and it is time for a change. I am calling on the leaders of our local communities and this Northampton County executive to fully rescind that executive order, which is standing in the way of law enforcement doing their job.

Anything less is an admission on his part that he is going to stand with violent criminals and against our law enforcement. That is what it is. The public has spoken, and 83 percent of people want these violent criminals deported; yet, we have one person in Northampton County standing in their way.

I encourage that individual to change his mind, rescind that executive order which is inhibiting our law enforcement from doing their jobs, which is leaving them less safe and leaving our community more vulnerable, and ultimately leaving our country in a disastrous position. This is the very least that we can do to ensure the safety of our residents.

As the elected Congressman from Pennsylvania's Seventh Congressional District, I am going to continue to fight for all of our residents, every single one of them, to make sure that they are safe every single day of the week.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate and thank, again, the gentleman from Utah

for this opportunity to address the Chamber this evening.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his remarks. It is great to have a new group, and Pennsylvania is well represented.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. FEDORCHAK), the new and improved Representative.

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in saying it is past time to reduce the regulatory state in this Nation. We are crippling our businesses. We are smothering new ideas before they can even take flight. We are stifling innovation.

These regulations are coming from a runaway executive branch agencies filled with unaccountable staff who have never experienced the realities of turning a wrench, tilling a field, or turning a profit.

As a former energy regulator, I know the value of smart, efficient regulation.

For example, in North Dakota, electric utilities are required to follow least-cost planning. This ensures high reliability of our power systems at the lowest possible cost to customers. This is smart regulation.

In Washington, we have had just the opposite. We had the Biden administration setting the staffing requirements for nurses in every nursing home in North Dakota. Rather than improving care, this, like many other last-minute Biden regulations, will make it harder, if not impossible, for North Dakota organizations and businesses to do their jobs.

The rule and regulation mania of the last administration was historic.

According to a study by the National Association of Manufacturers, the total cost of Federal regulations in 2022 was more than \$3 trillion, roughly 12 percent of the U.S. GDP.

Make no mistake, businesses don't just take on these costs. Hardworking American families pay for these rules and regulations in the price of anything they buy.

What is worse, these regulations burden small businesses the most, including North Dakota farmers, ranchers, energy producers, manufacturers, and Main Street businesses. I heard this loud and clear from North Dakotans in every corner of the State.

That is why my first official action as a Member of Congress was to send a letter to President Trump and then-Governor Burgum that identified 20 burdensome energy regulations. These regulations were created by Federal agencies—not Congress, the elected Representatives of the people—and they pose a major threat to American energy producers and energy workers.

The Trump administration is already taking bold action to repeal these regulations, and they have stepped on the gas even further by requiring agencies to identify 10 regulations to repeal for every new one issued.

For North Dakota businesses, workers, and families, this is certainly welcome news.

Today, the House passed the Midnight Rules Relief Act, which I was very proud to support. This legislation will allow Congress to rescind multiple agency rules simultaneously under the Congressional Review Act authority if they have been issued during the final year of a President's term.

Why is this needed? The Biden administration issued a staggering 1,400 regulations during the 60-day CRA lookback window.

Several of these regulations have significant impacts on North Dakota. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management finalized its sweeping new resource management plan for North Dakota the very last week of the Biden administration.

This plan will shut down leasing on millions of acres of Federal land in North Dakota, including 99 percent of the Federal coal acreage and 44 percent of federally owned oil and gas mineral acres.

Due to the nature of mining, this rule would make a majority of North Dakota's coal reserves uneconomic to mine.

North Dakota isn't alone in this, however, as the BLM finalized a separate resource management plan to effectively end all future coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, affecting Montana and Wyoming.

If these two plans are equally bad, why shouldn't we be able to use the CRA process to repeal them together instead of doing it one by one.

I am working with my Senate colleagues from North Dakota in beginning the CRA process to repeal the North Dakota plan and will support efforts of other States to do the same with their midnight rules that are strangling their businesses.

As demand for energy reaches record highs, we should be unleashing American energy production, not shutting it down.

Doing so will help reduce America's debt, lower energy prices for hardworking families, reduce global emissions, and bolster our national security. We must start reining in bureaucratic overreach and putting power back where it belongs, with the American people.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress and the Trump administration to rein in the administrative state and help make life better for American workers and families.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Dakota. She has an authentic and sincere voice with actual expertise on all matters of energy. It is awesome to have the State very well represented.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), which apparently has an improved basketball team down there now. He is

also somebody that is well deserved to be the new chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from the First District of Utah for yielding.

His magnificent career before he came to Congress in business and in national security make us all proud. We are so grateful that he is our vice chair of the Conference, and that he leads us in bringing the good work of Republicans to the House floor every week so the American citizens see what we are doing and hear from us directly.

Aside from his beautiful family, the best thing about him is that he is an Eagle Scout. People are still talking about his Eagle Scout project in Utah. I thank him for letting me share some time with him.

Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to also express my deep dismay for the plethora of midnight rulemakings that we saw at the end of the Biden-Harris administration.

Last December, Senate Banking Committee Chairman TIM SCOTT and I were clear when we sent letters to outgoing Biden-Harris regulators and department heads urging them to put their pens down. Don't issue any more rulemakings or guidance. Don't sue anybody. Their time has come to an end.

What did we see in response? We saw an avalanche of relentless rulemakings, one after another after another.

Madam Speaker, the worst offender was former head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Rohit Chopra.

Madam Speaker, I think he became the poster child of midnight rule-making renegades. Chopra never put his pen down. Under his leadership, the CFPB went full steam ahead with their reckless rulemakings. They capped fees on overdraft services, which is just another form of price control that harms customers who deserve access to financial choices and financial options when it comes to managing their household budgets.

He issued a rule to hide medical debt owed from credit reports, which will drive up the costs of all Americans' access to credit and to seeking healthcare. It will have a devastating long-term impact on consumers.

Mr. Chopra initiated lawsuits one after another before he left office.

Mark my words, Madam Speaker, we are going to fight to overturn these erroneous actions. The House passed my colleague Representative ANDY BIGGS of Arizona's bill today that ensures Congress can exercise appropriate oversight of these kinds of executive rulemakings.

It would allow multiple agency rules to be considered en bloc, that is in a group, as a single Congressional Review Act resolution if the rulings took place at the end of a Presidential term. I think this is a terrific idea from our friend and colleague Representative ANDY BIGGS.

It is an important step in fighting back to rectify the misguided rulemakings at the end of the Biden-Harris administration, and I thank him for leading this effort.

As the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, I am committed to my work with Chairman TIM SCOTT across the Capitol in the Senate, as well as the Trump administration, to rightsize the regulatory burden facing America's financial providers.

When we do that, we will preserve safety and soundness absolutely, but we will also increase the access to capital to our families, to our businesses that need it. Together, we will facilitate faster and stronger economic growth in the years ahead.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Utah and I thank him for the time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas, and I appreciate his leadership.

I thank my colleagues, again, tonight for being here and for taking time to speak on these important pieces of legislation.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, Federal agencies expanded their power at an alarming rate, undermining the legislative authority granted to Congress by the Constitution.

I think if people truly understood how much of that was done during the Biden administration, there would be more appreciation—and it will take some time to understand what is going on, I know, but there will be more appreciation for trying to rightsize this, and that is a significant effort from the Trump administration.

I think it is important to see what had taken place, and I think from my perspective that you don't get anywhere else by being, you know, a Member of Congress, being involved in these issues on a day-to-day basis, you don't see the amount of rulemaking that is going on. You don't see the amount of expansion of the Federal Government.

People are lobbying that complaint or that criticism over to the Trump administration right now, and I get it because there is a lot of action and activity being done from the executive level, so the criticism can cut both ways, but the entire effort is to reduce the size of what Biden had expanded all this to. I just don't think people understand that nuance enough. That is why this process has to take place.

The Congressional Review Act of 1996 requires Congress to pass a separate joint resolution for each agency rule it seeks to disapprove, slowing Congress' ability to hold the administrative state accountable and block burdensome regulations.

That is the whole premise of why House Republicans just passed Congressman BIGGS' Midnight Rules Relief Act to empower Congress to review and potentially disapprove of several regulations that Federal agencies may attempt to implement in the last days of an administration.

Again, we passed this, this actually affects a Republican administration, as well. This becomes law to try to hold the administration, regardless of the party, accountable.

This bill will equip Congress with the tools we need to reject the Biden-Harris administration's last-minute regulations, hold our government accountable, and protect our Nation's democratic values.

This bill reins in bureaucratic overreach, protects Americans from burdensome regulations, gives power back to the legislative branch, and ensures transparency in the legislative process.

We are also continuing our efforts to secure our borders and protect our communities.

Tomorrow, House Republicans will vote on the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, introduced by Congressman JUAN CISCOMANI from Arizona. This bill will create new criminal offenses for operating a vehicle within 100 miles of the southern border while fleeing from Border Patrol agents or any law enforcement officer assisting the U.S. Border Patrol. This includes serious jail time and prohibition from ever receiving legal status in the United States.

□ 1815

This bill is in honor of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agent Raul Gonzalez, who, in 2022, died from injuries sustained in a crash while pursuing migrants who illegally crossed the Texas border.

This bill sends a message to traffickers, cartels, and other illegal immigrants that if they risk the lives of American citizens, we will hold them to the full extent of the law. House Republicans will not allow more Americans to die at the hands of illegal immigrants, and we are committed to ensuring the safety of our communities.

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

#### UNITED STATES IS A REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEGICH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight an underpublicized but important hearing that was held today.

First of all, however, I would like to make one more time the point to my colleagues—because I recently heard one of the Senators grotesquely abusing the word—what form of government we have here today.

The Senator—fortunately, it wasn't a Congressman, but sometimes they do it, too—twice, in two sentences in a row, referred to the form of government we have as a democracy. Of course, we all should know by now that we do not have a democracy. We have a Republic, and our forefathers had contempt for democracy.

Alexander Hamilton said: We are a republican form of government. Liberty is never found in the extremes of democracy.

John Adams: Democracy never lasts long.

Benjamin Franklin, upon the completion of the U.S. Constitution: We give you a Republic if you can keep it.

When we say the Pledge of Allegiance, what, again, do we say? We pledge allegiance to the flag and the Republic for which it stands.

Nevertheless, again and again around here, people misspeak and, I am afraid, miseducate the younger generation into thinking we have a democracy.

Why did our forefathers not like a democracy? Our Republic under our Constitution is designed to keep limited government and, therefore, liberty in the United States.

Democracy, or representative democracy, means a majority of people are free to take property from anybody in here or take freedoms from anybody in here. If a clear majority of people say it does not like a religion or, as is increasingly true in this country, does not like religion at all or some of the precepts of religion, they believe in a democracy that they can impose their will on other people.

One of the crises we are facing, which we are going to be talking about tomorrow night, is the huge debt we have. Why do we have such a huge debt? Under our Constitution, under our Republic, they were supposed to restrict the things that the Federal Government could spend money on. Instead, as we have gotten away from a Republic, and the arrogant people of this body think that we have a democracy—they think because they won an election or got 55 or 65 percent of the vote, they are free to either go into debt or spend other people's money until we are bankrupt.

If they had realized all along that we are just a Republic, they would be humble before our Constitution and say: We cannot spend money on such and such. Go to your State legislator.

I had a couple of groups from an educational institution in my office this week. Of course, they were asking for more Federal money. I didn't want to get angry with them or mad at them, but I just noticed that, one more time, a group of educators came before me and asked for more money. Because I won an election, they think I have the authority to give them other people's money. Well, I don't, and it is very irritating to see educators in particular say that we have a democracy when our forefathers disliked democracy and would have been terrified had they known.

Right now, we are almost 250 years down the road. I am sorry, we are 230 years down the road from the founding of our Republic under our Constitution. I am sure our forefathers would be terrified if they knew how many people were under the impression that we were a democracy.

#### AMERICA'S WELFARE SYSTEM

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, now, I am going to talk about the hearing we had earlier today and what I think is probably, next to the out-of-control immigration system, the biggest crisis that we face, and that is our welfare system and a huge marriage penalty associated with it.

When I talk about our welfare system, I talk of approximately 90 different programs that somebody who is almost broke is entitled to. Some you have to have children to be entitled to. All these programs, as you earned more money and went to work, you would lose eligibility.

There are two things we could say about these programs. I should point out the testimony in a hearing today from a guy by the name of Robert Rector from The Heritage Foundation. There are examples—and I know there are even greater examples than this—that we penalize a woman who marries the father of her children \$28,000 a year if she makes too much money or, scarier, if she marries a man to support her or to support their family.

First of all, you might say: "Well, that is hard to believe. Who wants to destroy the nuclear family?" It is not hard to find people to destroy the nuclear family.

We have Karl Marx, of course, back from the 1860s, who felt the family was the root of so many horrible things.

We have Kate Millett, who I would describe as the mother of women's studies classes. Who knows how many of our poor college students have taken that drivel. She was very definite in the fact that she wanted to get rid of the American family and, in particular, wanted men outside the family.

We also have Angela Davis, a 1960s radical who was still powerful when she spoke into the 1980s and 1990s. She was clearly opposed to the American family.

Until they scrubbed their website, Black Lives Matter was against what they referred to as the Western-prescribed traditional nuclear family.

These people all were against having a mom and dad at home with their children.

You might say these people can't be that powerful, but you have to remember, the Democratic Party has proven that they can be led around by the nose by the most extreme elements of their coalition. That is why, even though they have to know better, they will vote for abortion at 8½ months. That is why the Democratic Party will vote for a boy pretending to be a girl going into the girls' restroom, because they will be led around by the most extreme group.

Therefore, I don't think it should be considered a surprise that the Democratic Party has supported programs that overwhelmingly favor and encourage an end to the nuclear family.

What type of programs are they? Almost any so-called antipoverty program you can think of. Certainly, food