

It is time to recognize that the Federal Government does not know what is best for our sons and daughters. Decisions about education should be made at the State and local level by those who are closest to the students, not by bureaucrats in Washington. Eliminating the Department of Education isn't radical. It is common sense.

I thank President Trump for standing up for all the parents and students across this Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE INSPIRATIONAL WORK OF LEAP YOUTH ALLIANCE

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inspirational work of the LEAP Youth Alliance in my district.

LEAP stands for leadership, education, advocacy, and prevention. This coalition of teens works to educate their friends and peers about how to lead healthy, happy, and substance-free lives. Today's teens confront higher rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges than previous generations, leading some to use e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other harmful substances in order to cope.

It is a disturbing trend, and we must work together, using every tool in our toolbox to reverse it. As a leader in the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, I am working to find solutions and pass legislation that will break the stigma and make healthcare more affordable and accessible for our youth, but I cannot do it alone.

That is why I was honored to meet with members of LEAP in my D.C. office where I learned more about how they lead by example and encourage their peers to take control of their lives and health. I am so proud of these young changemakers who truly make a difference in our community.

They will keep up the good work, and I look forward to partnering with them to raise awareness and connect teens with the mental health care and resources they need to thrive.

HOLDING ILLEGAL ALIENS ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, too many Americans have lost their lives due to illegal aliens engaging in high-speed chases.

This week highlights the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act led by Congressman JUAN CISCOMANI. This bill creates criminal offenses when driving a vehicle within 100 miles of the southern border, while fleeing from Border Patrol. Consequences include severe jail time with prohibition from receiving legal status.

Under the leadership of President Trump, Republicans are sending a clear message. When Americans are at risk, they will be protected.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators puts all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump is reinstating laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

The world is inspired by the patriots demonstrating in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia for fair and free elections. Legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili is tireless for the people of Georgia opposing the rigged elections for President in Georgia.

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HARMFUL ACTIONS BY ELON MUSK

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because a billionaire with unchecked power is calling the shots in our government.

I am outraged that President Trump is enabling this unelected billionaire donor Musk to wreak havoc on our Federal workers, dismantle critical Federal agencies, and even gain access to the personal data of millions of Americans without any vetting, security clearance, or congressional approval.

The richest man in the world should not have access to our payment systems for him to decide whether you should or should not receive payments such as Social Security benefits or Medicaid.

For the past few weeks, my office has been flooded with messages from concerned constituents wondering about the impact that Trump and Musk's actions will have on their lives.

While Republicans and Trump look with a blind eye, Musk exploits the system for his own benefit. I refuse to stay silent. Billionaires like him may think they can buy our democracy, but, we, the people, will fight back.

PUSH FOR TRANSPARENCY

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I come from the great State of Florida, and we believe in government and spending in the sunshine.

As a leader in the Florida Senate, we created a website that allowed for every dollar to be seen how it is spent, how every contract is spent, not just for government officials. Every Floridian, every American, can look at how their dollars are being spent. They deserve to know. They are the ones who earn the money to pay those taxes.

It is an American issue, especially considering the fact that our prices have gone up over the last 4 years by 20 and 30 percent, and they are hearing about these nefarious acts in which, let's just say, money is spent on questionable items, to be generous.

We must continue to fight for transparency to make sure every tax dollar is spent in a wise fashion. More importantly, Americans deserve to know with a website that shows everyone where those dollars are spent.

SECURING ARTICLE I AUTHORITY

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, Members of the United States House of Representatives were denied access to the Department of Education. In recent weeks, Members have also been denied access to other Federal agencies, including USAID, the Department of the Treasury, and the EPA.

Members of Congress are a branch of the Federal Government and should be allowed to legally access Federal buildings. Through Article I of the Constitution, we are a co-equal partner and have the same authority to check and balance the other branches.

I introduced the All Access Act, with 44 of my colleagues, to ensure Members of Congress have access to Federal buildings upon showing a valid Member ID. Even Republicans should agree that this separation of power should be protected.

I ask my colleagues to join me in securing our Article I authority and protecting the ability to do our jobs that we were elected to do.

HONORING GREG PARKER

(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 honor Greg Parker, a visionary leader and dedicated philanthropist, as he celebrates 50 years as CEO of Parker's Kitchen.

Mr. Parker went from operating a single store in Midway, Georgia, to running a thriving business with nearly 100 locations, embodying the spirit of hard work, innovation, and community service.

In 1975, he opened his first store, working every role from pumping gas to cooking food. He built Parker's Kitchen into a household name across Georgia and South Carolina. Even today, he remains hands on, stocking shelves and engaging with customers.

Mr. Parker pioneered a customer loyalty program that has saved customers millions in credit card fees. He also introduced an AI-powered smart kitchen to improve efficiency and reduce waste.

The Parker's Community Fund focuses on four key pillars: healthcare,

hunger, supporting heroes, and education. This foundation has donated \$30 million in the last 8 years to support these pillars.

As Greg Parker steps down as CEO, his focus shifts toward philanthropy. His aim is to grow the Parker's Community Fund to \$100 million and continue prioritizing giving back, strengthening communities, and spending time with loved ones.

Greg Parker's success is not measured by stores built or revenue earned, but by the lives he has touched and the communities he has strengthened.

SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate a victory for military families. After introducing my bipartisan Support Military Families Act, the administration has heeded our call and granted an exemption to the return to in-person work order.

This is a massive win for patriotic military families who all serve together, ensuring that they have flexibility, stability, and the support they deserve. When we strengthen military families, we strengthen our national security.

I am grateful to the bipartisan group of legislators who stood with me, and I will give a special shout-out to my colleagues from the Commonwealth, Congressman ROB WITTMAN and Congresswoman JENNIFER KIGGANS, for their support in getting this across the finish line.

When we work together, we deliver results. Today, we did just that for our military families.

FIGHTING TO SECURE OUR BORDER

(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, before President Trump was elected, there were an average of 3,430 illegal immigrant crossings per day. Today, under President Trump, that number has dropped 126 per day.

Despite this decrease, the threat from illegal immigration has not evaporated. H.R. 35, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, passed just a few minutes ago, gives law enforcement authorities the necessary tools to fully penalize criminals who intentionally evade border security agents.

Penalties include jail time and a permanent ban on obtaining legal status. This legislation does send a clear message to cartels and traffickers: If you endanger Americans lives, we will hold you accountable.

The American people have had enough. We will no longer tolerate lawlessness and policies that put criminals

ahead of citizens. We won't stop fighting to secure our border, stop illegal drugs and human trafficking, and protecting our communities.

PROTECTING EDUCATION IN AMERICA

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Oregon's children don't have access to all the tools they need to succeed, and that is unacceptable.

Now, Elon Musk is threatening to eliminate the Department of Education. That would leave millions of students without resources they rely on; end financial aid programs, making higher education more expensive; and leave rural schools behind. As the mom of a kid with disabilities, I know they aren't getting all the funding that they need in their classrooms to thrive.

I would like anybody to tell me how this is helping our kids and how it is going to make us competitive in a global economy. How is this going to make life better for anyone? I know they can't.

If Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency are trying to make the government more efficient by giving tax breaks to the rich at the expense of our schools and our children, to that we say: No thanks.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT TAYLOR

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if I were to ask you what you had for lunch last Wednesday, chances are you would struggle to remember. If I were to ask you who your favorite teacher was from 40 years ago, you would know instantly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of those unforgettable teachers, Mr. Vincent Taylor from Cedar Hills Elementary School in Jacksonville, Florida, on being named the 2025 Duval County Teacher of the Year.

For 27 years, Mr. Taylor has been a guiding force in Duval County Public Schools, inspiring students as a teacher and math coach.

His impact extends beyond the classroom. Through his mentorship, professional development work and—how about this—10 professional books published, including "If Instruction Isn't Engaging, I Quit!"

Though he once envisioned a different career, Mr. Speaker, his path to teaching is a gift to our students and our community.

Today, we celebrate Mr. Taylor's unforgettable dedication and thank him for shaping the future one student at a time.

GREAT BILLIONAIRE TAKEOVER

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it has been another week of the attempted great billionaire takeover of our Federal Government, being led by DOGE, which actually stands for destruction of government by Elon.

They have shut down the agency protecting Americans from fraud and predatory lending. They are gutting funding for medical research. They are targeting at-risk and special education programs, all without a single vote from Congress.

Where do we go from here?

I know some Republicans support these objectives. I get it, but this is not the way. Congress must act. The Constitution requires it.

Our Founders were clear, but too many in this body are looking the other way, fearing political backlash. Our system of government only works if we all do our jobs. This isn't about left or right.

To my friends across the aisle, I ask: Would they want a future Democratic President to act without guardrails, to act without any checks or balances? The situation they are allowing is dangerous. The choices we make now will shape our Nation for generations. They should do better.

HONORING BOBBY TYNER

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bobby Tyner, who passed away peacefully at his home in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, this week.

Bobby was a faithful steward of the Palmetto State and dutifully served our country as an engineer in the U.S. Army.

Following his service, Bobby became an advocate for those impacted by Agent Orange chemical exposure during the Vietnam war, helping to share the stories of veterans and their loved ones and advocate for good public policy.

Our country would not be where it is today without the sacrifices of Bobby and men and women like him serving on the front lines to ensure our Nation's freedom.

South Carolina's Seventh District will certainly miss Bobby. We will miss his grit. We will miss his passion. We will miss his humor. We will forever cherish the lives he touched as a husband, a father, and a veteran.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF DREAMERS

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