

and our well-being are at risk. I humbly respect our Federal workforce.

FIRED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of a Federal scientist in his own words who was fired by President Trump and Elon Musk:

I have a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. I was hired by the National Cancer Institute and was performing 4- to 5-month rotations to provide my scientific expertise and skill sets to numerous offices. I assessed the scientific progress of grants that fund cancer research. Please protect these agencies.

This scientist overseeing scientific progress of grants that fund cancer research was fired, and the very grants have been frozen.

The University of Houston in my district has had countless grants frozen leading to uncertainty and confusion about the future of the research.

According to the National Cancer Institute, over 40 percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Firing cancer scientists and freezing cancer research is shortsighted and irresponsible.

FIRED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of a Federal scientist who, in his own words, was fired by President Trump and Elon Musk.

Here are his words:

I worked for the U.S. Geological Survey. I was a small aircraft operator and captain of a research vessel. As the only captain at my science center, my termination effectively shuts down a vessel that is required for a number of ongoing projects. I am also the engineer on the boat and I am not sure my vessel will survive termination.

That is Federal money and Federal research that is being lost.

□ 1730

DEMOCRATIC PROPOSALS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. 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 in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to say where to start, but perhaps I will simply augment what we just heard from my Democratic colleagues, who gave example after example of the crazy, uncoordinated attack on Americans that we are now seeing from the current administration.

As we hear those stories of the reality of the programs that are not moving forward, the reversal of critical programs to protect individuals and their healthcare, to protect individuals in their daily lives as they travel, to protect Americans now and in the future as we address the issues of climate change and the enormous challenges, much more will be said about that in the days ahead. It definitely should be.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deal with a positive message. It is a positive message that compares how Democrats would address the challenges of our time versus what our President and his DOGE minions are doing and what our Republican colleagues here in the House are attempting to do with their budget reconciliation proposal and soon their individual tax and other policies.

I rise today as House Republicans are moving forward with their budget scheme that literally betrays the working men and women of America, all because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to put forward and carry forward the 2017 tax program that the majority rammed through this House without a single hearing. It was a program that created trillions and trillions of dollars of deficit and did little to enhance the American economy.

We see the Trump trifecta in action. Trump and Musk, with the backing of timid Republicans, have traumatized Federal employees. Republicans have purged the military of competent, experienced leaders and have usurped congressional, constitutional power of the purse and power of the law by dissolving programs, such as USAID, which is authorized by law; the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau; and many, many other government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, instead of reclaiming the constitutional power of Congress, our Republican colleagues are now pushing forward their budget that will make working families sicker, less healthy, and hungry, all the while giving \$3.5 trillion in lower taxes and tax breaks to their billionaire donor friends and corporations. In the process, it will skyrocket the national deficit and apparently betray their own long-held view that deficit financing was bad.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have a different version. It is based on what Franklin Roosevelt said many years ago: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

It is our intention to create a level playing field upon which every Amer-

ican can advance and prosper. Republicans are doing neither of these. Worse yet, the majority will provide nothing for those who have little and give everything to those who already have so very, very much.

The Roosevelt test is once again before us, and Republicans are failing at that test. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle intend to cut Medicare while making healthcare for the Americans more expensive.

My Republican colleagues intend to cut student loan relief programs. They intend to cut Pell grants that are crucial for keeping not only students in schools but schools open all across communities of America, particularly low-income communities.

Republicans will make our children go hungry by slashing school lunch programs and even school breakfast programs. The majority will cut SNAP programs, a lifesaving program that feeds millions of Americans and provides support to farmers.

My colleagues will make our roads less safe by cutting critical infrastructure. Republicans will cut services that maintain our national forests and our national parks, as we heard. Firefighters are being laid off or not even being hired for the summer fire season.

In our national parks, who will be there? Apparently my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't care much for those people who are necessary for providing the summer programs in our national parks.

My Republican colleagues will give \$3.5 trillion in tax breaks to the super-wealthy and to very large corporations, who often pay no taxes at all. In all of this, the majority will add trillions to our national debt.

Democrats have a different vision. It is a vision rooted in fairness and rooted in the words of Franklin Roosevelt. We believe that every American deserves a good quality of life, a shot at success, a vision of a level playing field on which they can prosper and have the support to rise as far as they could and as far as they would want.

We are here today to highlight our vision and to show the American people that there is a disconnect between what the Republicans want and are actually doing and what American families really need.

Here are some of those policies that the congressional Democrats would bring to the floor if we had four more Members in our Caucus:

Democrats will support working families. The first thing we will do to support working families is to expand the child tax credit.

Ranking Member ROSA DELAURO's American Family Act will cut child poverty in half and provide critical relief for middle-class and low-income families by providing a \$6,000 refundable tax credit to help families with the high cost of a child's first year of life.

Democrats will lower the cost of goods and services for Americans. If we

had those four additional Democrats, we would include provisions in our budget to protect American families from price gouging. It is unacceptable that American corporations continue to exploit the crisis and leave working families with the bill. Democrats will establish a Federal ban on price gouging, and we will hold those corporations accountable.

Democrats will build and expand on the \$35 insulin cap, which incidentally is a price cap that Trump removed. The skyrocketing price of this lifesaving drug for every American must be re-instituted, and it must be expanded.

Democrats will expand the \$2,000 out-of-pocket prescription drug cap for all Americans, and Democrats will lower housing costs by expanding the affordable housing programs, the low-income housing tax credit, and strengthening access to housing using a bill that I have introduced called the HOME Act, which will increase housing availability. Democrats will raise workers' salaries and wages.

The third provision that we would include in our budget is the PRO Act. The PRO Act protects the right for working men and women to organize, ensuring that workers have the power to negotiate for fair wages and benefits.

As a Member of the Labor Caucus, I know the importance of collective bargaining and protecting unions. Collective bargaining is the fairest possible way for workers to earn the money that they deserve for the work that they have performed.

We will also push forward the Raise the Wage Act to gradually bring the Federal minimum wage in line with the economic reality of American workers.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats will also defend Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We will do this with legislation such as Representative JOHN LARSON's Social Security 2100 Act, which will increase benefits while ensuring that the superwealthy pay their fair share and secure this critical program for future generations.

The House Republican budget scheme, endorsed by our President and designed to help the superwealthy and their billionaire buddies like Elon Musk, will cut Social Security benefits and Medicare and Medicaid benefits.

In my district alone, the Republican proposal will gut Medicaid for 250,000 of my constituents. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will also go after Social Security benefits for those in need. In my district, 89,163 children will lose their healthcare based upon the budget proposal that the Republicans are pursuing.

Republicans will also cut \$1 trillion out of Medicaid, and that will gut healthcare services for millions of seniors, for pregnant women, and for children with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats will defend our borders, and we will do this with wise legislation and comprehensive reform.

Unfortunately, last year, a congressional bipartisan proposal in the Senate to pass historic immigration reform was killed by the current President, who was not then in office. He called upon the Republicans to stop, not to proceed, and my Republican colleagues didn't. That left us with the current crisis.

We have a proposal. Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ' U.S. Citizenship Act will modernize our immigration laws, strengthen our economy, and provide for a responsible approach to border management, family reunification, and for the necessary workers that we need.

We will do better, and we will deliver actual results that solve problems, not create additional problems.

Democrats will pay for all of this by making sure that we have a fair, equitable tax system in which the superwealthy and the billionaires will pay their fair share. We will not go down the path that our Republican friends intend to go, and that is to extend the 2017 tax cut law that actually provided more than 85 percent of the trillions of dollars of benefits of lower taxes that go to the superwealthy and the billionaire class.

□ 1745

We are not going to go that direction. The superwealthy and the billionaires should not have a continuation of that tax cut.

We will also take a look at the cut to corporate taxes that was in that legislation. A tax rate of 28 percent was on the docket for many years until 2017. Even today, if we were to go back to that, it is much lower than it was prior to that time.

We will not raise taxes on any family earning less than \$400,000. We will restore the long-term capital gains rate to 28 percent, which is actually lower than the previous rates.

We have much work ahead of us, and we intend to see that it gets done.

Let me be clear, as you heard from my colleagues here earlier, the work that the DOGE boys and women are doing is a break-it policy that Elon Musk has brought to the government. He has no business being in government. He has no authority, or does he?

In the morning, we hear from the White House that he has no authority. In the afternoon, we hear that he does. Either way, what he is doing is dead wrong.

We know from the past that there is waste, fraud, and abuse out there, and we know how to do it. It has been done in a wise, thoughtful way. We tried understanding what that organization's purpose was and then looked for ways to make it more efficient and effective.

I did this myself when I was Deputy Secretary in the Clinton administration at the Department of the Interior. We were told by the President and the Vice President that it was time for reform, and we set about to do it.

In the Department of the Interior alone, we had just over 100,000 employ-

ees at the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and others. We looked at those programs and said that it can be done better.

The end result was that we reduced employment by 10,000, a 10 percent reduction. We made the Department more efficient and more effective. That is the way it can be done. That is the way it should be done. Wholesale reductions and firings, as you heard from my colleagues early on, make no sense at all.

The contrast between what we Democrats have done and will do is clear. We know the Republicans are set off on a course to further enrich those who have much and to go exactly the opposite direction of what Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, that it is not our goal to enrich those who have much, but rather to provide for those who have little.

We will create a level playing field upon which every American will have an opportunity to rise and thrive to whatever level they want with a solid education program, a solid economy, and an opportunity to join with others to raise their future.

It is our moment to push back and to stand up for working families. We will put people over politics, and this is our moment to build an economy that works for everyone, not just for a few.

Mr. Speaker, joining me today in this discussion are several members of our Democratic Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TRAN), a new member of our Caucus from Orange County who understands these issues and will now share with us his thoughts.

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to announce that the first bill I will introduce as a Member of Congress is the Protect Veteran Jobs Act. The men and women who serve our country deserve our unwavering support, not broken promises.

The indiscriminate firing of veterans by the Trump administration and Elon Musk's DOGE dishonors the unwavering commitment that these public servants have dedicated to our country. These heroes stepped up for us, and now, we must stand up for them.

This issue is deeply personal to me. I am the son of Vietnamese refugees who fled war and persecution in search of safety and a better life in America. This country welcomed them and gave me the chance to succeed.

I joined the Army out of sense of duty to my country because I wanted to give back to the country that gave me so much. I wanted to protect the very principles of freedom, justice, and decency that we hold dear.

I don't see those values in the actions by the Trump administration. I see only division, fear, and cruelty.

I have a duty as a Congressman, as a veteran, and as a proud American to stand up for those who made the highest commitment to us. It is my honor

to introduce the Protect Veteran Jobs Act to reinstate veterans who were recklessly terminated under the Trump administration's dishonorable purge of the Federal workplace and hold the executive branch accountable for any future terminations that may occur.

This isn't about politics. This is about basic decency.

Veterans make up 30 percent of the Federal workplace, and when they are unjustly removed, it impacts all of us. From delays in healthcare and disability claims to staffing shortages at the VA, the consequences are dire.

Mr. Speaker, veterans have our backs, and we must have theirs. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important bill. Veterans gave everything for us. It is time we give back to them.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TRAN very much for bringing the message to the House about what the current administration is doing to harm veterans. I also thank him for his service, both in the military and in his work in Orange County. I also appreciate him for bringing to this floor and to this House his experience and this legislation. Hopefully, the majority will see the wisdom of it and make it law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON), and I am looking forward to her thoughts.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for hosting this Special Order hour on this very important topic.

Last night, 217 Republicans voted to gut Texas Medicaid, raise costs, and take away healthcare from over 100,000 of my constituents, including over 80,000 children and over 12,000 seniors just in my district.

I love my State. There are so many great things about Texas, but unfortunately, we are number one in some of the worst ways.

Texas leads the Nation in the number of people without health insurance—for children and adults. We lead the Nation in maternal mortality, having the highest number of mothers die during childbirth. We lead the Nation in infant mortality.

Over 4.8 million Texans currently rely on Medicaid, over 16 percent of our State. These are not just statistics to gloss over, but they are children, moms, seniors, and our loved ones in nursing homes.

The Republican-endorsed cuts will exacerbate Texas' healthcare crisis, creating irresponsible, political-based policy instead of collaborating for real solutions.

In addition to the loss of healthcare access, many of those still with coverage will see their costs skyrocket.

Under the Republican budget they voted for just last night, the average premium for 103,000 people who receive coverage under the Affordable Care Act in my district will increase by 69 percent. Let me say that again. Their pre-

miums will increase by 69 percent because of what the Republicans have done in this budget.

Many families would face even steeper consequences. In Texas-32, a 60-year-old couple with a household income of \$85,000 would see their health insurance premiums increase by \$13,000 a year. That is a 181 percent increase in just 1 year. Families cannot afford that.

Mr. Speaker, I am all for cutting waste and finding fraud and abuse, but taking away healthcare and making it unaffordable for the people of Texas is not the way to do it.

Texas Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security programs must be protected. They represent our commitment to the American people that their government will be there to help them when they are at their most vulnerable.

The fact is that these cuts will mean life-altering changes for families across America and will lead to nursing homes being closed, doctors refusing to care for patients, healthcare claims being denied, and more debt and increased costs on the backs of families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

I will ask this question to my Republican colleagues: Are you ready to take in your aging parents to care for them when your local nursing homes close? Are you ready to move your dining room table out and bring in a hospital bed because there is not a long-term care facility to take care of them?

We have already lost 27 rural hospitals in Texas because of a lack of adequate Medicaid funding. It takes some people in our State 3 to 4 hours just to get to a cardiologist after they have a heart attack—and do you know what? They are dead.

This has real consequences for people when we don't have adequate healthcare. This should not be a partisan issue. It doesn't matter if you are a Republican or Democrat. When your mom is sick, you want them to have healthcare. When your baby breaks their arm, you want them to have healthcare. This is a universal human issue, and it is irresponsible what the Republicans have done in this budget.

I am proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues as we fight against these devastating cuts, and I encourage my Republican colleagues to join us because their constituents want healthcare, too. Everyone does.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to finding ways to improve healthcare and make it more reliable and affordable. That is what Texas families want. That is what the American people want.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a colloquy with the gentlewoman from Texas if I might.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Talk a little bit about where your district is.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Sure. I am JULIE JOHNSON. I represent Texas-32. I am from Dallas, Texas.

It is an urban district with a lot of suburban areas. We have access to great hospital care there. However, we still have healthcare deserts. We have people who can't afford health insurance at the current skyrocketing prices that they are. We have very high housing costs. We have people with very high student loan debt.

If you are a 32-year-old trying to live the American Dream and trying to buy your first house or afford your student loan, you can't do it all.

Do you know what the minimum wage is in Texas? \$7.75 an hour. You are trying to do the best you can. You are working at the grocery store, doing things that make our economy run, working in retail, but you are making \$7.75 an hour.

You can't afford health insurance that costs you \$24,000 a year when you don't even make that, and that is the problem with where we are.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly pleased that I gave Ms. JOHNSON an opportunity to expand. I thank her so very much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER), a new Representative.

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be here. I appreciate the opportunity from my colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

I rise today to join my Democratic colleagues in voicing our unwavering commitment to protecting the vital programs that Americans rely on, prioritizing the working families that I represent over millionaires and billionaires.

Last night, I stood with every single Democrat in this House to vote against a devastating budget advanced by House Republicans to enrich the ultrawealthy at the expense of our working families.

□ 1800

I grew up in a working-class family. I am the first and only person still to have gone to college and graduated in my family. A union job offered me the opportunity at 16 to pay my way with rent and food costs in the city of Seattle, and then to go to college. There is absolutely no way that anyone in my district can do that with a part-time job at an entry-level grocery store position.

House Republicans' plan is to pay for \$4.5 trillion, with a t, in tax giveaways for the Elon Musks of the world to gut the programs that allow Oregonians to afford healthcare, put food on the table, and keep a roof over their heads.

As a physician, I know that access to healthcare is literally a matter of life and death. I am terrified about what it means for my district, where 200,000 people are at risk of losing their healthcare. Many of them are children, disabled members of our community, and our seniors. They will have to go without Medicaid services.

Now, don't get me wrong, it does not say anywhere in that budget resolution

that healthcare and Medicaid are going to get cut, but make no mistake, \$880 billion in tax cuts cannot be done any other way.

In the days leading up to this vote, I received heart-wrenching call after heart-wrenching call from constituents desperate for an answer as to why the Trump-Musk administration is pursuing this agenda of cruel chaos and how they will survive it.

To each of those Oregonians who called, please know that no matter the odds, I will use every tool at my disposal, with my colleagues, to expose this great betrayal for what it is. I will stop at nothing to safeguard the programs that my constituents rely on, and I will call on my Republican colleagues to have courage in this moment of great need for their communities as well.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might, I would like to yield to the gentlewoman for a little colloquy.

Your experience before you came here, you were a physician?

Ms. DEXTER. Yes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. What was your practice?

Ms. DEXTER. I am a pulmonologist, meaning I take care of people with lung disease, and a critical care physician, caring for people who are on life support in our intensive care units.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You did this in the district which you now represent, which is what, part of Oregon?

Ms. DEXTER. It is Oregon's Third Congressional District, which is Portland to the beautiful mountain, Mount Hood, which is emblematic of our State.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Your experience is going to be invaluable as we work through this very difficult period of time. I thank you for bringing the message to the floor and to the American people. It is very, very important that they understand the depth and the trauma that the proposed budget will create and the alternative that you put forward. Thank you very much for joining us.

I now welcome to the floor the gentlewoman from California, LAURA FRIEDMAN. I happen to know where she is from, so I won't ask her, although she should certainly tell all of us about her district and her vision. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. FRIEDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GARAMENDI for organizing this Special Order this evening.

I am LAURA FRIEDMAN, and I represent the 30th Congressional District in Los Angeles, a district that has really undergone a terrible tragedy with fires, for which we are very much hoping for the kind of support from the Federal Government that so many other regions have received unconditionally after natural disasters.

Last night, I stood on this House floor, united with every single House Democrat, to stand in opposition to the Republicans' slash-and-burn budget

scheme that will take critical programs away from hardworking Americans that so many of us rely on, particularly in these difficult times.

Now, was this done by the Republicans out of a sense of fiscal responsibility?

Well, I have got to say no. It is not fiscally responsible to take money away from Americans just to provide a \$4.5 trillion tax break to the richest 1 percent of this country and to large corporations who weren't even asking for a tax break.

Let's be clear: This slash-and-burn budget is an attack on families, seniors, veterans, and children. It is a direct attack on Medicaid, meaning that fewer families will have access to affordable healthcare at a time when healthcare access is so out of reach for Americans.

It is an attack on SNAP food benefits, leaving millions struggling to put food on the table.

It is an attack on Head Start, robbing children of the most critical early education opportunities, opportunities that will lift young people out of poverty.

It is even an attack on the tax credit and on many other programs that help our young people afford a higher education. That will make it harder for the next generation to afford college. It will also have the effect of stifling innovation, weakening Americans' ability to lead by staying on the cutting edge of technology.

Now, in California we very much value our public education system. We have Silicon Valley, the entertainment industry, and huge biotech industries. Those are all fueled by the education that our UC system and our private colleges provide. However, because of this budget, so many young people who today are able to achieve that education and power our economy in California, which powers the United States' economy, just leaves us with a brain drain that will keep us from being competitive with other nations.

Why is this happening?

It is just to pad the pockets of the wealthiest Americans, the same people who don't need another handout. Trump's tax proposals will give the richest 1 percent an average tax break of more than \$300,000. Think about that, \$300,000.

What do Californians and Americans across the Nation get in return? What do ordinary people get?

They get higher costs. They get worse services as we lay off public employees. Those are the same people who answer the phone if you need to help a veteran get services or help yourself get Social Security or need to access Medicaid. The people who answer those phones are being laid off. That will make lives harder for our families.

In fact, on average, families making less than \$157,000 a year are going to see their taxes increase by more than \$1,500. That is higher taxes on more than 265 million Americans. Instead of

making life more affordable, this is going to make it harder for people to get by.

For all the talking that Republicans do about cutting the deficit, with more than \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks for the ultrawealthy, this is an upside-down approach that will still manage to increase and blow up the debt by almost \$3 trillion. That is not responsible governing. That is not fiscal responsibility. It is slashing critical programs, raising taxes on the majority of Americans, and handing out checks to the top 1 percent. It is a betrayal of the American people.

I am now, and I will always be, a big fat "hell no" on this slash-and-burn Republican budget. Democrats stand united against raising costs on American families, and I will continue to fight for an economy that puts hard-working families first and that will invest in the kind of educational opportunities that will truly make our Nation great.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. FRIEDMAN. I would like to yield to the gentlewoman for a short colloquy.

You raised the issue of education. If our goal is, as I said earlier with the Roosevelt quote, that our task is to do for those who have little, it really begins with education. If we have a good, solid education program, then people will have the ability to get on a level playing field and to move to wherever they may want to go in terms of their quality of life, as well as whatever income they might achieve.

You were talking earlier about the education cuts. If you would like to expand on that, perhaps the two of us or you alone can bring to this floor the devastating cuts that are being discussed with the termination of the Department of Education.

Ms. FRIEDMAN. Absolutely. I am a mom, and I have an 11-year-old. One of the most important things to me is to make sure that my daughter has access to the highest quality education possible so that she can achieve as much as she is capable of.

That starts right at kindergarten and goes all the way up to wherever she wants to go, whether that is through high school, into a trade school or to higher education. All of us want to know that if our child can get into a college that we can afford to send them there.

So many Americans worry, can I pay for my child's education? So many people in my district and other districts worry whether or not their child is getting a quality education at their public schools.

I was at a school this week that has Head Start, where a majority of their children are taking advantage of Head Start because they are low income. In fact, at the particular school in my district that I toured, they also educate children with disabilities, children who are blind or have autism. Head Start is what supports a lot of that.

The Department of Education is tasked with making sure that we have an equitable distribution of resources around the country, and if a child is facing any kind of discrimination in their school, if they are not able to access Head Start, if they are not able to access programs because of their disability, the Department of Education is there to make sure that they get what they deserve, what their taxpaying parents are paying for. Without that, there is no guarantee that this money gets to these young children.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There are also very important programs at the higher education level.

Ms. FRIEDMAN. That is right. I have spoken to a lot of our universities that have seen either the programs that they use to deliver scholarships to children who couldn't otherwise go to college be frozen and certainly threatened by this budget.

In addition, one of the great benefits of our universities is the research that they do. This is research that powers our economy, that gives us the next generation of inventors, and gives us the inventions which have led to the internet, which have led to a lot of what we do with the space program, which leads to advancements in clean energy. All of those are being piloted through our universities. They have seen their funding frozen, absolutely frozen.

Even though a Federal judge told the Trump administration that that was illegal and those payments have started again, they are unsure whether that money is going to continue. Clearly, the administration's goal is to end the funding for that kind of R&D that is done at every university, which is part of our kids' education and part of the production of the United States of America. These are the things that we are proud of coming out of our national labs and coming out of our universities.

The benefits are for education, but they are also to power our economy through the inventions that the American mind has been able to create.

Why would we stop that? Why would we stop the very engine of our advancement in the world, the thing that makes us the number one Nation on Earth? Why would we want to cut the funding off for that? It doesn't make any sense.

People who are undergoing programs right now that have seen some funding coming back can't even reach the NIH, who administers these grants, because of a gag order from this administration. There are so many threats through this budget and through this administration, to college, to your kids' ability to access higher education, and to the very institutions that make up our collegiate system in the United States.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you so much for bringing that to all of our attention.

Earlier today, I met with the chancellor of the University of California,

Berkeley, and we discussed much of what you just brought to our attention.

The research that has been undertaken at UC Berkeley has in the previous year, 2024, created 1,618 new small businesses directly as a result of the research and the effort that the university is making to nurture these startup businesses. These are the businesses of the future that are using the research, which you very correctly brought to our attention, that is being cut.

That research has led to innovation, new technologies, and new solutions. Perhaps you would like to expand on that.

Ms. FRIEDMAN. Yes. Besides being a mom, I am a breast cancer survivor. After I was diagnosed, I found out that one of the treatments that has been a revolution in terms of saving the lives of women suffering from breast cancer was developed, I believe, at UCLA.

So many of our medical advancements come through the R&D that is done at our universities. That is funding that right now is frozen and funding that is under direct threat.

For those of us who care about the health and well-being of our families, it is not just about Medicaid, even though that is important. It is also about the treatments of the future that have already shown so much progress not only for the United States to be able to sell treatments around the world, but to cure diseases like cancer, to treat heart disease, to help with longevity.

Those come through our universities as well, through partnerships that they have with private industry. We are talking a huge section of our economy that not only drives us in terms of jobs and making life more affordable, but literally keeps us alive. That is all right now on the chopping block in the Republican budget.

□ 1815

Mr. Speaker, it is very—when you get down into the details here, the research programs, some are stopped. Some will not be refunded and will not go forward. It appears as though the proposal that the administration or the policy that they are pursuing is to limit the money that the university uses to build the facilities and to provide the equipment.

I believe 15 percent—it is about a 50 percent cut from the current funding. The result of that would seem to be, well, certainly that isn't direct; but it is. It is the foundation upon which that research is being used by multiple researchers. It is the hospitals and it is the laboratories.

I would draw the attention of the House to beware of this proposal that is actually being implemented now to reduce the total research money that is available for the foundation upon which the individual researchers carry out their research.

The bottom line of this is that America's progress really comes in five dif-

ferent ways. This has been something I have been working on for many years.

First, it is the best education system in the world, as the gentlewoman put forward in her comments, it is absolutely fundamental. If you get a good education, you have a chance. If our society has well-educated children, then there will be advancements.

Secondly, research is tomorrow's economy. We have seen this through the years. It has certainly been one of the critical elements of California's success in building the fourth or fifth biggest economy in the world.

Thirdly, infrastructure—infrastructure comes in many ways. It is the facilities that the researchers use at the universities. It is the roads, the streets, the sewer systems, and the like.

I suspect that in the Republican budget proposal there will be reductions in critical research, particularly in the research but also in the infrastructure. It is particularly in that portion of the infrastructure that allows us to deal with the critical issue of climate change which brings me to that issue and the infrastructure needed to address that. That is electrical systems, grid systems, and the like.

We also need to make sure that in this process we not only pay attention to those elements but we also pay attention to the international situation that is out there. We compete internationally.

The solution that the President is proposing is that we are going to protect ourselves with tariffs. If we are interested in keeping the cost to individuals down, then don't go to tariffs. There is a need for balance here, and tariffs have a role. No doubt about it. The use of tariffs being proposed by the President will raise costs and will not enhance because the other elements that we need—a well-educated society, infrastructure, and access to research—will not be available.

We have a complex situation out in front of us. I thank the gentlewoman so very much for joining us today and for bringing to all of us the issues that she is concerned with in her district and with her family. I thank my colleague so much for joining us.

We are now near the end of this Special Order hour. I notice that my Republican colleagues have hopefully been listening carefully and have learned and would not continue to pursue policies that are detrimental to the progress of our Nation. I would also hope that they would keep in mind Franklin Delano Roosevelt's words: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

I would add to that, that we create a level playing field and that we pursue policies that create that level playing field, that provide access to education, and that provide the necessary support for families who are in need. We can do better.

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

PROMOTING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). 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. Mr. 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 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. Mr. Speaker, last Monday marked a somber milestone. It was 500 days since the horrific attacks on October 7, 2022, when Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists launched the most harrowing assault on Israel and the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

We witnessed an unprecedented act of violence that shocked the world 500 days ago. We will never forget the 1,200 innocent lives Hamas murdered and the 240 civilians they took hostage that day, as well as those affected in the months following the October 7 attacks.

My House Republican colleagues and I are grateful to President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu for securing the recent ceasefire agreement which has led to Hamas releasing American and Israeli hostages. As we remember this day, we are more motivated than ever to stand with Israel and the Jewish people. I am grateful to my colleagues for joining me this evening to discuss this solemn anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank and very much appreciate Republican Vice Chairman BLAKE MOORE of Utah for holding this Special Order hour.

Last Monday, February 17 marked 500 days since the heinous attack in Israel where drug-induced Iranian puppet Hamas launched the most cowardly, murderous assault against Israel and the Jewish community since the Holocaust. The world will not forget the mass slaughter of 1,200 innocent lives by Hamas and the 240 civilians taken hostage, including Americans.

It is a remarkable achievement that under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that a ceasefire agreement was reached and led to the release of many hostages, though many remain.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has been successful in eliminating the leadership of Hamas and Hezbollah. He will face the nuclear threat of Tehran.

Americans will continue to reaffirm our unwavering support for Israel and the right of its citizens and Jewish people to live in peace. With the leadership of President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Ambassador Mike Huckabee, Americans will not stop until we bring home every hostage and achieve victory over the Iranian regime and its puppets.

The people of Iran can be inspired by the courageous patriots of Syria who liberated Damascus on December 8. Additionally, the new government in Beirut is positive for the people of Lebanon.

With the courageous patriots such as Ahmed Albasheer in Iraq, the people of Iraq will free themselves from Iranian domination for independence, achieving stability with prosperity.

Dictators around the world are losing in the war of dictators with rule of gun invading democracies with rule of law. War criminal Putin is failing in Ukraine with Ukrainians inspired by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In Georgia, the legitimate president, Salome Zourabichvili, is respected worldwide.

In Belarus, the legitimate president of Belarus, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, has been warmly welcomed at the Munich Security Conference, supporting freedom for the people of Belarus.

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON). I always appreciate his perspective on these foreign policy issues.

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

SUPPORTING OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOORE for leading this opportunity to cover important subjects that we are working on in the House in D.C. and in tandem with the excellent effort coming out of the Trump administration. It is a more positive outlook we have had lately. With the economy moving in the right direction, it gives people more freedom.

The foreign relations are going to improve. I think it is important that we have strong relations. I think NATO is extremely important and that we support and remain part of NATO. I am encouraged to see that NATO countries under President Trump are moving to step up a little bit more and take some more of their own responsibility for their defense. It shouldn't all be on the burden of taxpayers of America, but indeed with more and more of that self-starting, I would say. We are seeing that talked about in Germany a little bit more right now.

It is always important that we maintain the NATO alliance and that the

United States remain part of that, as well as our relationship with Israel. It is such an excellent partnership that we have with them; how we are able to work together in tandem as two different nations with the technology that has been developed.

They do amazing things in concert with our knowledge and our technology in this country, for example, on agriculture water-saving technology. They have to irrigate in a desert. In my home State of California, we have a rather arid climate, but we do have a very plentiful water supply. It comes from the Sierras in the north and the east. Israel has shown the way on how to make water go much farther with their drip irrigation systems. It comes from working together on these technologies, as well as defense systems.

That is important. Israel puts so much effort into defending itself, and America has worked in tandem with that to develop missile defense systems that are helpful for us. They are helpful with our other allies around the world and Israel, as well; them with the Iron Dome, ours with the Patriot, and newer technology that has come since then.

When we consider Israel, they have really been under the gun ever since they were reconstituted back in the late 1940s. No sooner were they were put in place and set up shop than the neighboring countries immediately attacked them. For the Israeli people, it is really an existential situation. They are constantly under threat.

To hear what they are trying to do and the way they advocate for constant peace and coexistence—I mentioned that a little bit earlier today—Israel would like to get along, and they have many folks of Arab descent that live within their country.

When I have been able to listen to different seminars on that, those folks are asked would they like to move out of Israel if they feel like they are an Arab in Israel and may or may not be having a good go of it. They said that, no, they like it there. They want to stay there. We see that cooperation within on people that have that understanding.

Marking recently the 500 days since the horrific attack by Hamas on October 7, when an Iranian-backed group inflicted an incredible amount of damage, death, destruction, and terror on a group of people that were just peacefully enjoying the day, for the next 500 days we have hardly gotten much cooperation. More recently, we have been able to negotiate hostage releases; but they still have more.

Hamas, that terror regime in Gaza that has been there and set up shop not long after the whole Gaza Strip was deeded over basically—and Israel withdrew in good faith, land for peace back then. What is the reward for that? Before the ink is even dry on agreements, the mortar rounds are being set up and launched indiscriminately into Israel.

What are they supposed to do? Are they supposed to just let that happen?