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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 27, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM McCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Be thou our vision, O Lord of our hearts. Illuminate our paths. Guide us to see what You would have us see and enable us to live this day as You would have us do.

In Your light do we see the light of hope and peace. Heal our eyes, for when they are healthy, they reflect Your light. But in these times, when darkness overcomes our souls, how much greater that darkness is when Your light does not shine forth through them.

Yours is the light that shines in our darkness. Nothing else matters, naught is all else to us, except Your companionship leading us on Your path of righteousness. Show forth Your presence in our lives and on our journey of faith.

For Your presence is our light, in work or play, in waking or sleeping. On this day, be our best thought in all the things that invade our minds, and our only consideration when night fails to put our worries to rest.

In the certainty that You abide with us in the darkness and in the light,

may we find the joy You desire for us to experience in You this day.

God our light, we offer our prayers in Your loving name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CAREY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING BLAINE KELLY

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, almost 4 years ago, a determined handful of friends decided that we could help change the world. One would be the candidate, the other the wise problem-solver, and the other would bring clarity to the new forms of campaigning.

Through it all, we all agreed that one man would keep us together and make

sure that we could one day be here in our Nation's Capital, and that was our campaign manager, Blaine Kelly.

After we won, Blaine took on the monumental task of being the communications director for someone who had never served in elected office. He quickly showed how we could inform our constituents of Ohio's 15th Congressional District of the work that we were doing on their behalf.

Shortly thereafter, Blaine took on the most important role for any Member who prides themselves on being in touch with all the issues back home, the role of district director.

After working in and around each other for nearly a decade, and every day for the last 4 years, Blaine will now move to a new position. I wish him and Mollie and their three children all the best.

Blaine has given me that singular honor of being able to call him my friend, and I hope that that friendship will last for many years.

RECOGNIZING XAVIER WORTHAM

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary Oxford community and one of its most outstanding leaders, Mr. Xavier Wortham.

I had the honor of spending a day in Oxford, engaging with local nonprofits, educators, clergy, elected officials, and residents. We also visited the Masonic Home for Children and held a listening session.

Among the many remarkable people we met, Mr. Wortham's impact stands out. For 40 years, he has served as executive director of the Oxford Housing Authority, providing families with crucial education, job training, and opportunities like college tours at Duke University.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. Wortham's tireless commitment and love for those he serves in the community is indeed a beacon of hope. He embodies what makes Oxford and the First Congressional District exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Wortham for his example and unwavering dedication and passion.

RECOGNIZING LYNCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, southwest Virginia, in Congressman Morgan Griffith's district, has been hit hard by storms over and over again in the past few months, including Hurricane Helene. I visited Damascus in October, where I cooked and served food for first responders with my team for the victims of Hurricane Helene.

My thoughts and prayers have been with southwest Virginia since then and certainly remain today as they deal with the consequences of continued flooding.

I rise today to recognize and commend the nine members of the Lynchburg Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team who recently deployed to southwest Virginia in anticipation of further flooding.

The Lynchburg search and rescue team represents what it means to be a proud Virginian. No matter where you are in the Commonwealth, when you are in need, a fellow Virginian gives you a hand.

Our first responders are critical to our safety, not just in disasters but every day. To all of those on the front lines, I thank them. May God and their training keep them safe.

RECOGNIZING JOANN WILLIAMS

(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, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to recognize Joann Williams, a dedicated leader in Illinois' Fourth Congressional District and a pillar of the LeClaire-Hearst community on Chicago's southwest side.

Joann is a U.S. Army disabled veteran who has dedicated her life to service both in uniform and in her neighborhood. She has spent decades being a driving force of opportunity, making sure to uplift her community and ensure that other veterans receive the respect that they deserve.

As the founder of the Hearst Community Organization, she has fought for jobs and public spaces and to secure critical resources to help people lead better lives. Her dedication reflects the resilience we honor this month.

Mr. Speaker, Joann's unwavering service has left a lasting impact and

touched countless families. I thank her for her sacrifice to our country and her service to community.

PROVIDING SECURITY AND PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR DREAMERS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for Dreamers, young people brought to this country as children through no fault of their own.

Dreamers grew up in our schools, played with our children, pledged allegiance to our flag, and made our country, every single day, strengthened in every way. They are doctors, teachers, lawyers, essential workers, and businessowners. They pay taxes.

They keep the American Dream alive, but they still live a life in limbo.

Imagine building a life here only to be told to leave for a country you don't even remember, much less sometimes even speak the language. Even the President agrees that it is not fair.

Congress must act. More than 70 percent of Americans agree Dreamers deserve citizenship.

That is why, yesterday, I reintroduced the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act to give Dreamers the security they deserve and a real path to citizenship.

Over 200 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle joined me in doing that, along with over 100 organizations from across America representing all sectors of our economy.

Our message is clear to Dreamers: Their home is here. We will fight for them.

"Si, se puede"; "Yes, we can."

AMERICAN FAMILIES WILL PAY FOR REPUBLICAN TAX CUT

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, just 2 days ago, my Republican colleagues jammed through a budget plan that puts the 0.1 percent above hardworking Americans.

The Republican budget would give \$4.5 trillion to CEOs and big corporations.

Who pays for the tax cuts? American families just trying to make ends meet.

The Republican budget cuts at least \$880 billion from Medicaid. It doesn't matter whether someone is a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or a nonvoter. Americans across the country will either lose healthcare or see their premiums increase.

All the Federal workers that Elon Musk and DOGE decided to fire for no justifiable reason will also lose their healthcare.

Republicans represent millions and millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid and CHIP, and none of them, not a single one, voted with these constituents in mind.

MEDICAID CUTS MEAN HOSPITAL CLOSURES

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget calls for a trillion dollars in Medicaid cuts to pay for tax breaks for the very wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, 83 percent of the tax breaks go to 1 percent of Americans. What do these Medicaid cuts mean? It means the closure of hospitals and seniors denied coverage in long-term care.

Elon Musk talks about reducing deficits, but this bill would add \$2.8 trillion to the deficit, taking it to \$24.9 trillion.

Here is what is going on in the Republican family: While Musk and DOGE scrounge around for change under the couch, Speaker Johnson is running the credit card, bankrupting our Nation.

They are taking away your Medicaid to line the pockets of the wealthiest Americans who are controlling our government.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR CONSUMER GAS-FIRED INSTANTANEOUS WATER HEATERS"

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 161, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters", and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 161, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 20

Resolved e Senate and House of representatives of the ited ates America in Congress ssembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters" (89 Fed. Reg. 105188 (December 26, 2024)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.