

and the Cook Islands. Solomon Islands are a place where thousands and thousands of American Marines died and many in the Navy, as well.

What have we done? We have eliminated our aid program. These countries are very small. These islands are small. The aid programs are small. Yet, they have a tremendous impact on influence in these strategic islands. We eliminated \$21 million for the Solomon Islands. We eliminated \$95,000 for the Cook Islands.

□ 1400

Is this how we confront China, or is this how we have performative savings?

Now, we need to confront China. One way we also need to confront China is in international lending and the credit rating agencies, the bond rating agencies that rate the creditworthiness of countries. We need to tell those who rate the other countries' creditworthiness that if they don't repay a phony debt to China, a debt trap debt to China, that should not be counted against them.

What do I mean? When China makes a loan to Sri Lanka, that they know Sri Lanka is not going to be able to pay for that project. They put in there: Oh, if you don't pay, we get to control your port. Sri Lanka should be encouraged: Don't give your port to China. Give your middle finger to China, and you will be able to borrow from American banks and European banks and international lending associations.

We should never allow a credit rating agency under our control to ding a country that is subject to this kind of blackmail from China.

#### FOREIGN AID IS A GOOD THING

Mr. Speaker. This brings up the issue of foreign aid in general.

If you poll Americans, they will say we are spending too much on foreign aid. Then you ask them how much of our budget is going to foreign aid. They say 25 percent of our American budget is going to foreign aid, and it ought to be less. Then you ask them what percentage should we be spending on foreign aid, and they say 10 percent.

Well, guess what. We are spending way less than 1 percent of our budget on foreign aid. We are spending way less than the American people think we are spending. We are spending less than they want to spend, but they want it cut because they think it is over 30 times what it actually is. That is why Ronald Reagan recognized the importance of our foreign aid program.

Now, I have been in Congress for a long time, and I remember when Congress confronted the executive branch. It wasn't just Democrats against Republicans. It was all of us against the executive branch. There are times when both sides of the aisle are going to need to do that.

There are some criticisms that are valid against our foreign aid and State Department budget. The State Department is doing something that is too woke for me but is supported by Elon

Musk. That is when they have in their budget spending \$400 million to replace the perfectly good armored cars that the State Department has now, armored vehicles designed to make sure that our diplomats are safe in dangerous places. We have perfectly good armored cars, but there is a proposal that the State Department spend \$400 million on new zero-greenhouse-gas-emitting armored cars. That is pretty damn woke. You would expect DOGE to have crossed that out, but they won't because the explicit statement is that this is \$400 million for Tesla Cybertruck armored cars. You know Elon ain't cutting that.

You know what they did to fool us because they think we are stupid? They changed the document a little bit. They took out the word "Tesla." Now, the State Department is going to spend \$400 million on armored, U.S.-made Cybertrucks. Do they really think those aren't going to be Tesla? Is there somebody else who makes armored Cybertrucks in the United States? That money is going to reduce the greenhouse gases of our armored vehicles, and it is going to Elon Musk.

There are a lot of things that are said about our foreign aid budget that are completely false. Elon Musk already has admitted that his statement that \$50 million was going to condoms for Gaza was just a total mistake. Oopsy-daisy. He apologized. It is okay, he thinks, for DOGE to make a mistake, but if he can find even a single dollar of misspent money in any other agency, he says that is a reason to abolish the whole agency and fire all the employees.

Well, that \$50 million was going for anti-AIDS programs in Africa, and some of it was going for condoms. That is one of the ways you try to prevent the transmission of AIDS.

Now, why are these foreign aid programs in the interest of America? First, you might think that we have a moral responsibility as the richest country in the world to do something for the poorest countries, but let's put that aside. If we don't provide foreign aid, China steps in, our influence is declined, and China's influence increases.

If we don't provide aid to the very poorest people there, that gives them a strong incentive to try to come here. You can try to stop them with a wall, but he had 4 years to build a wall and didn't build a wall.

The best way to reduce irregular migration to America is to eliminate the reason that people are so desperate to come here.

Finally, and most importantly, our aid deals with diseases. Musk already said oopsy-daisy, he didn't mean to cut the program to fight Ebola in Africa. He tries to restore it. Of course, he has already done so much damage to it, wasted so much money, who knows what. That is more people getting Ebola in Africa, more chances for the disease to mutate and then come here.

He is fine with cutting our actions against HIV/AIDS. Same issue. That

disease mutates in every human it infects. One out of a thousand, one out of a million of those mutations make the disease more capable of surviving the drugs that we have, make it more communicable, and make it more powerful when it comes back here. A lot of Americans will be dying of AIDS next decade because of what we are not doing in Africa this decade.

Then they try to point to some other programs that are wasting money, like \$6 million to help Egypt encourage tourism. I have Republican colleagues who think that USAID is aid that must be food for people who are hungry right now and about to die of starvation. They don't know that USAID stands for U.S. Agency for International Development. The goal is not just to feed people who are hungry now, not just give a man a fish, not just give a woman a fish, but to teach them how to fish.

That is why an Agency for International Development would help Egypt develop its economy. You know what Egypt has? They have got a lot of sand. That doesn't help them too much. They have got pyramids. If they can develop their tourist industry, which is a big chunk of their economy, they won't need our food aid because they will have money of their own. It is a good program, \$6 million to help them get more tourists.

You know who started that program? Donald Trump in his first term. Yes, they made a big deal of cutting a wasteful program that Donald Trump started.

Then we are told that there is a circumcision program. There is a circumcision program, voluntary, providing this very inexpensive operation. Why? Because you reduce by 60 percent of risk of female-to-male transmission of AIDS. It is the single cheapest thing you can do to reduce AIDS. Then you make a joke out of it. Yes, you can make a joke, but it is not a joke when more people die of AIDS in Africa and more AIDS mutates in Africa because you had a funny joke.

The Ebola cut was a mistake. Musk admits it. Oopsy-daisy. The cutting efforts to deal with HIV/AIDS in Africa, also a mistake.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

#### IN MEMORY OF PE KHA LAU

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, there is one other cut they made, and that is they cut oxygen in a clinic for people who have fled the terrible deaths in Burma/Myanmar. As a result, a 71-year-old woman, Pe Kha Lau, died without her oxygen.

I ask that this House not only reflect on the other 10,000 people in that refugee camp who are without medical care, but I ask that we adjourn in silence in the memory of Pe Kha Lau

who died at the hands of Elon Musk and DOGE.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 3, 2025, at noon for morning-hour debate.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROY, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GILL of Texas):

H.R. 1643. A bill to reduce, from 21 years of age to 18 years of age, the minimum age at which a person may obtain a handgun from a Federal firearms licensee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1644. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWN, Ms. MORRISON, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1645. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the continued implementation of the Climate and Health program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 1646. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Ms. ANSARI):

H.R. 1647. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to implement the Climate Ready Tribes Initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 1648. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to amend certain regulations to clarify that livestock auction owners may have an interest in small meatpacking businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 1649. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to im-

prove mental health services for students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. PANNETTA):

H.R. 1650. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the exemption for telehealth services from certain high deductible health plan rules; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Mr. PALMER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. RULLI, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 1651. A bill to nullify the final rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1652. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify standards for UDAAP enforcement actions brought by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 1653. A bill to reform the civil investigative demand process of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 1654. A bill to rescind unobligated COVID-19 relief funds and certain infrastructure funds to offset the cost of the supplemental foreign assistance made available for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Appropriations, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BENTZ:

H.R. 1655. A bill to provide that construction, rebuilding, or hardening of communications facilities following a major disaster or an emergency related to a wildfire is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. HARRIGAN, and Mr. ALFORD):

H.R. 1656. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit certain fee agreements between claimants and agents or attorneys for the preparations, presentation, or prosecution of initial claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CALVERT,

Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. STANTON, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. AMO, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. MENG, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 1657. A bill to substantially restrict the use of animal testing for cosmetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1658. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues relating to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MRVAN, Mrs. KIM, Mr. STEEL, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MANN, Mr. GUEST, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 1659. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a competitive grant program for projects for commercial motor vehicle parking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. CHU, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. ROSS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 1660. A bill to award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy programs to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language, and early language programs; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. KIM, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BARR, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CAREY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. MENG, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. CHU, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CARSON, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. MULLIN,