

Mr. Speaker, we are long overdue for a vote. We have got a plan that both expands Social Security across the board, makes sure that people who continue to work don't pay taxes on their Social Security, and make sure that we have a COLA that works.

Don't you think, Mr. Speaker, it is long overdue for us to have a vote?

If you have a better idea and plan, by all means, bring it to the floor in this great democracy and see it work. Instead, we see the President and Elon Musk with their eyes on the Social Security trust fund because he has been ordered to come up with \$2 trillion in cuts.

What a coincidence that there happens to be just over \$2 trillion in the Social Security trust fund. What a coincidence that President Trump is calling for tax cuts for Social Security recipients, but doesn't pay for them, further weakening the trust fund that is already under stress.

If Congress does not act by 2033, there will be a 20 percent cut across the board for everyone. If Trump continues down his path of not paying for benefits, it will be over a 36 percent cut. There are over 5 million Americans, fellow citizens, who have paid in all their life and got nothing back from the government because Congress has not acted.

#### DEMANDING TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM OUR GOVERNMENT IS NOT EXTREME

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight some good points made by our opinion editor at Florida Today, John Torres.

He writes: "The pushback over DOGE's cuts and the doomsdayers on social media have me perplexed.

"Don't we want our tax dollars to bring back the biggest bang for the buck? Don't we get angry when we buy something that in the end isn't worth what we paid for it?

"This shouldn't be a red or a blue issue. Everyone, on both sides of the aisle, should want our government to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible."

He adds: "Outrage over Elon Musk's email surprised me.

"I couldn't believe the outrage on social media and broadcast news because DOGE asked government employees to write down five things they did at work the previous week."

He adds, "Here's a news flash: Anyone working in the real world has to constantly justify what they are doing. From the baseball slugger mired in a hitting slump to the journalist not writing enough stories to traffic cops not writing enough tickets, we all have to prove our worth. It's real life.

"I've had friends and colleagues over the years," he adds, "working in the

private sector, who actually had to re-apply for their own jobs and then get interviewed by outside human resource professionals in order to try and keep their positions. Many didn't."

You can read the rest of that article on the Florida Today website.

I will continue by saying, we are at a turning point, a moment when we must ask ourselves: Do we want a government to serve the people efficiently, or do we want a bureaucracy for the sake of bureaucracy?

That is the question that DOGE is forcing Washington to confront, and from where I stand, it is about time.

For decades, we have watched government agencies balloon in size and cost, with little accountability and even less justification. We have seen waste. Some of it egregious, some of it so routine that people barely blink an eye.

Let me be clear: Demanding transparency, efficiency, and accountability from our government is not extreme. It is common sense. It is what every hard-working American does when they balance their budget, scrutinize their receipts, or shop around for the best deal.

Consider the recent controversy over DOGE's request that Federal Government employees account for what they did that week, as I mentioned earlier. That is it. Simple thing: What five tasks did you accomplish?

Tell me, as Mr. TORRES said, who among us doesn't have to justify our work? Why should government be any different?

DOGE understands something fundamental: Washington should work for the people, not the other way around. That means questioning contracts, finding and cutting waste, and making sure that when the government spends a dollar of your money, it delivers value.

Critics argue that some government contracts canceled by DOGE haven't led to immediate savings. Isn't canceling wasteful government spending before it can be renewed a step in the right direction?

Shouldn't we be cleaning house rather than just accepting bad deals because they are already in motion?

Let's put it in terms we can all understand: If you saw a suspicious charge on your credit card, would you just shrug it off and pay for it? I think not. You would demand answers. You would challenge it. That is exactly what DOGE is doing with your tax dollars.

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Let me remind you of something else. In November, the American people voted for change. They chose a different direction because the status quo simply wasn't working. Now, because DOGE is doing what it promised, delivering transparency and charting a better course for America's fiscal future, some people are alarmed.

The American people deserve a government that works for them, not

against them, a government that values every dollar that it spends, a government that for once is accountable to the people who actually fund it. That is what DOGE is delivering, and that is why I proudly support this effort for transparency and making sure that every dollar sent to Washington, D.C., is spent in a manner that makes us proud.

#### AMERICA IS BACK

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 2024, America endorsed the greatest political comeback in modern history by electing President Trump the 47th President of the United States. The country rejected the chaos sowed by the Biden-Harris administration for the past 4 years and voted for the candidate that could lead our country and make America strong again. On day one, President Trump, alongside the Republican majorities in the House and Senate, moved full steam ahead to deliver on the country's mandate, and we are committed to upholding the promises made to America.

Last night, I joined Members of this body to hear President Trump's first joint address in this very room to the Nation since he was sworn in for a second term. President Trump's vision and direction for the country could not be more clear, and I applaud him for keeping the promises that he made to the American people.

President Trump has worked to make America secure and competitive again. We are leading on the world stage and actually establishing peace through strength. Our border is secure again, and President Trump is making it clear to the drug cartels and bad actors that if they enter the United States illegally, they will be deported. During his first full month in office, there were only 8,326 apprehensions at our Nation's borders. Compare that to President Biden's failed leadership where 8,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended in one day. It is amazing. Deploying common sense and actually enforcing the law goes a long way.

House Republicans passed legislation like the Laken Riley Act and the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act that protect American citizens. That is what Americans overwhelmingly voted for in this past election, and the work has only just begun.

Last week, House Republicans took a crucial first step to unlock the process to advance President Trump's full legislative agenda. This Republican majority will not stop fighting until the President's agenda is in place. That means rooting out wasteful, fraudulent, and abusive spending. That means responsibly stewarding the American tax dollar and putting those dollars in places that they can see a return. That means investing in our national security and protecting the safety of our fellow Americans. It means extending

the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and preventing American families from seeing a 22 percent tax hike next year.

As the President stated last night and in his inauguration address, the golden age of America is just beginning. I have never been more thankful to have a President who isn't afraid to keep his promises to the American people and to fight tooth and nail to put American Families first. I thank President Trump for his leadership. I look forward to working with him and his administration to deliver policies that deliver for American families and usher in a new era of American greatness.

#### FAREWELL TO RILEY PAGETT

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, the Big First District of Kansas is the third largest ag-producing district in the country. Agriculture is the key component of our DNA, and it is in our blood. It is a lifeline for many of the communities I represent. When I was elected to Congress, I knew that I needed a team who understood Kansas agriculture and who would fight relentlessly for the farmers, ranchers, and ag producers in my district.

The Lord provided abundantly by introducing me and my chief of staff to Riley Pagett. Riley grew up in Woodward, Oklahoma, but he was born in the Big First District in Liberal, Kansas. Growing up on his family's farm and ranch, Riley's leadership skills developed early on. He was involved in FFA, serving as a State officer for Oklahoma and eventually as the national president of the organization.

After graduating from Oklahoma State, Riley moved to Washington, D.C., to work for then-Chairman LUCAS on the House Agriculture Committee. There he was part of the 2014 farm bill and later spent a few months with Senator LANKFORD before serving as the director of advocacy and government relations for the national FFA organization.

He would go on to serve in the first Trump administration as the chief of staff of USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement for almost 2 years before joining my team as my agriculture staffer, legislative director, and deputy chief of staff.

Riley has excelled in these roles and has been a key player in helping me establish the Congressional FFA Caucus, craft sound food and farm policy, and fight for Kansas priorities in the next farm bill. Those who know Riley know that that just scratches the surface of who he is.

Riley is an incredible friend, a loyal advocate and mentor for his teammates and colleagues, a proud son, a champion for agriculture, a caring father to his kids, Blakely and Ford, a loving husband to his wife, Lauren, and most importantly a man with a deep love for the Lord.

Next week, Riley will start a new endeavor in the second Trump administration at USDA. There are few words to describe how much he will be missed

at 344 Cannon and the Big First, but Audrey and I cannot be more proud of him or grateful for his service to our district and to the team.

Team Mann will be praying over this next chapter for him and Lauren and cheering him on every step of the way. I thank Riley for his service. Godspeed.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SCOTT KRAUSE

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Tucson Fire Department Battalion Chief Scott Krause, who dedicated over three decades of his career in service to our community.

Chief Krause joined the fire department in June of 1982, answering the call to serve with courage, commitment, and a genuine passion. Over the years, Chief Krause rose through the ranks, earning the respect of his colleagues through his leadership and the gratitude of his community.

From the moment he answered the call of duty, Chief Krause had a deep commitment to helping and protecting those who are in need. Whether he was battling a fire or mentoring the next generation of first responders, Chief Krause exemplified the very best the fire service has to offer. His dedication never wavered, and his impact extended far beyond the firehouse, uplifting the lives of countless people in the community he so faithfully served.

After 33 years of service, he retired in October of 2015, leaving behind a legacy of servant leadership that continues to echo and inspire. Sadly, on February 23 this year, Chief Krause passed away while doing something he loved—hunting.

Today, let us remember not just his service, but the incredible person he was: a leader, mentor, friend, father, and husband. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he saved and the lasting impact he had on his community. May Chief Krause rest in peace. We are all grateful for his service.

#### HONORING INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. ONITA DAVIS

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the sustained patriotism, service, and invaluable contributions Mrs. Onita Davis has made to enrich the veteran community in Oro Valley, Arizona.

Mrs. Davis has freely given her time, effort, and resources to tirelessly represent critical organizations in our district, like Wreaths Across America, the Military Officers Association, Friday Pilots, and countless other civic and veteran-focused organizations.

Earlier this year, my family and I had the privilege of participating in Wreaths Across America at the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana, a deeply moving and beautiful tribute to those who committed the ultimate sacrifice in service for their fel-

low citizens. It was a touching event, made great by volunteers like Mrs. Davis. This is only one of the many, many events and programs that she focuses on and events that she has led in the community.

Mrs. Davis and her husband, Ed, have also served as past officers in The American Legion Post 132, which has received multiple State and national awards for services to veterans during her tenure. Her unwavering dedication to our Nation's heroes has left an enduring impact, ensuring that veterans in our community receive the recognition, respect, and support that they deserve for their service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. Davis for her steadfast devotion to our veterans and to our community.

#### CONGRATULATING SALPOINTE'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salpointe women's soccer team for an amazing feat—sweeping the 4A soccer State championship.

For a school to win this many championships is impressive, but in this case we are very, very proud specifically of our women's soccer team at Salpointe.

The number two ranked women's team beat top seed Prescott 1-0 in a thrilling game to claim their fourth State title in the last 5 years. Seniors Gianna Estavillo and Emma Veliz combined for the Lancers' lone goal at the 71-minute mark, which proved to be enough for the win.

The victory is Kelly Pierce's sixth State championship as a coach, building on the impressive two titles she won as a player. The program now has 11 State championships, a truly remarkable achievement.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SALPOINTE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men's Salpointe soccer team for their impressive season and also their State championship.

In this game, there was no shortage of goals. At half time, the game was tied at 2-2, but in the second half, the Lancers jumped into action, scoring five second-half goals to secure the win. The Lancers dominated Saguaro by seven goals to two, earning their fifth title in a row and 12th State title overall, all under the legendary Coach Wolfgang Weber.

The school and community are extremely proud of the coaches, student athletes, and everyone who played a part in this special season. They should enjoy their victory. I offer my congratulations on their achievements.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.