

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I do not support continued funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I will vote no on H.R. 7148 because it does nothing to stop the dangerous and illegal activity of ICE and Border Patrol agents.

The Department of Homeland Security's Operation Metro Surge, under the direction of Secretary Noem, has brought 3,000 unidentified federal agents into Minnesota's communities. This surge is not about immigration enforcement. If it were, the Trump Administration would focus their efforts on states like Texas, which has 20 times as many undocumented immigrants as Minnesota, or Florida which has 12 times as many.

Instead, President Trump and Secretary Noem have brought fear and chaos to the Twin Cities and across Minnesota with this disproportionate and punitive surge. I want to state for the record what is happening on the ground in my state.

Minnesotans are experiencing a coordinated violation of our civil rights by the federal government. Journalists and protesters are being arrested in violation of their 1st amendment rights to speech. The right of protestors under the 2nd amendment to lawfully be armed in a public space is being questioned by President Trump. DHS agents are entering homes using administrative warrants that conflict with the 4th amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure. Minnesotans are being detained without cause in violation of the 5th amendment right to due process. And this entire surge is being used to attempt to coerce our state government into capitulating to federal government demands, in violation of the 10th amendment.

Minnesotans are being racially profiled on a mass scale, assaulted on our streets, and kidnapped from their homes. Two United States citizens—Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti—were killed in our streets by DHS agents.

Today, in my district and throughout the state, people are afraid to leave their homes. Children are not going to school. Families are not attending religious services. Small businesses are closed. Many of my neighbors now live in a consistent state of chaos and fear. When they do go out, many citizens and legal immigrants are now carrying their passports with them. If they do not have a valid passport, which half of Americans do not, they may resort to carrying around birth certificates or whatever other legal papers they have.

This is not the America that I learned about as a child or that I taught about as a social studies teacher. This is what we learn about when we study the behavior of dictatorships

and how they rule with fear and oppression. I ask my colleagues to believe your eyes, not the lies. This is what we are seeing and experiencing in Minnesota, and it is all being done at the direction of the President of the United States.

Right now, in Minnesota, we are standing up for our neighbors. We are defending our rights and the rights of everyone in this Nation.

To all who are volunteering their time and effort to drive their neighbors, to escort children to school, and to deliver food: I thank them for standing together. We are one Minnesota.

To the peaceful demonstrators and observers: I thank them for their voice and their commitment. They are often the only ones delivering the transparency that our federal government refuses to provide. For that, they have not only experienced frostbite, but they have also been threatened and roughed up and detained for exercising their constitutional rights. Agents have shown up to some of their homes to tell them they are watching them. But they continue to be a model for our Nation of courage, compassion, and conviction.

I could not be prouder of my state and its people.

And so that brings me to my vote this week.

I strongly oppose combining Homeland Security funding with the other important Appropriations bills in this package. I wish that it had not been tied to funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, State, and Defense. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I know the hard work and collaboration that went into producing these bipartisan funding agreements. However, I cannot in good conscience support any bill with funding for DHS while this dangerous surge in Minnesota continues and without real oversight and constraints on ICE and Border Patrol.

I understand that some of my colleagues will be voting for this package with the hope that we will make those changes. But, unfortunately, in the face of this Administration's words and actions, I cannot share that optimism. Last Thursday, White House border czar Tom Homan announced that there would be a drawdown of federal immigration agents in Minnesota. When asked by a reporter that same day whether a drawdown would occur, President Trump stated: "No, no, not at all." Considering that President Trump has rejected his own Border Czar's intentions to reduce the presence of federal agents in Minnesota, I have no reason to believe that the Trump Administration will implement the reforms necessary to protect the safety of the people of Minnesota.

I will vote no today on H.R. 7148. In the coming weeks, my vote will depend on what controls we can put in place for ICE and Border Patrol. We must see an end to the surge in Minnesota, and a guarantee of independent investigations into the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and of other abuse and mis-

conduct by DHS agents. We must institute changes for the conduct of ICE and CBP agents, including restrictions on their use of force, mandating the use of judicial warrants for searches, and an end to the use of roving patrols and racial profiling. We must improve the transparency and accountability of DHS operations by requiring that ICE and CBP agents wear functioning body cameras capturing archival footage. Proper uniforms must be worn displaying agency affiliation so that the public knows they are interacting with federal officers. Clear identification with a unique ID number must be displayed so that illegal behavior of an individual officer can be prosecuted in a court of law, as with any other public servant.

My vote against DHS funding today will stand in solidarity with Minnesotans, to honor the lives of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and to demand changes that will protect our democracy. It will be a vote to uphold the values I brought with me to Congress, which are the values of Minnesota: honesty, respect, and caring for our neighbors.

HONORING MR. CHARLES
MCLAURIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Charles McLaurin of Sunflower County, Mississippi, for his extraordinary contributions to the civil rights movement and to the advancement of democratic participation in the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. McLaurin came to Sunflower County in 1962 as a field secretary with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), at a time when African Americans in the Mississippi Delta were systematically denied the right to vote and subjected to economic retaliation and violence for challenging segregation. Working out of Indianola, he played a central role in launching SNCC's voter registration project in the county, often accompanying local residents to the Sunflower County courthouse to assert their constitutional right to register to vote.

Mr. McLaurin understood that meaningful change required trust, persistence, and respect for local leadership. He worked closely with community members who risked their livelihoods and personal safety simply by attempting to register. Among those leaders was Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, with whom Mr. McLaurin developed a close and enduring partnership. He later served as campaign manager for Mrs. Hamer's historic 1964 congressional campaign as part of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, an effort that challenged the legitimacy of Mississippi's segregated political system and brought national attention to voter suppression in the south.

Throughout the environment, Mr. McLaurin faced arrest, intimidation, and constant surveillance. Yet he remained steadfast, guided by a

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

belief that ordinary people—when organized and supported—could reshape their communities. His work extended beyond voter registration to broader efforts aimed at economic justice, political participation, and local empowerment in the Mississippi Delta.

Following the height of the civil rights movement, Mr. McLaurin made Indianola his home, continuing to serve the community through public service and civic engagement. His story, preserved through oral history by the Library of Congress Civil Rights History Project, stands as a powerful testament to the bravery of grassroots organizers whose names may not always appear in textbooks, but whose impact is woven into the fabric of American democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Charles McLaurin's legacy is one of quiet heroism, moral clarity, and unwavering dedication to equality under the law. I am honored to ensure his contributions, his work, and sacrifice are recognized for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote series on February 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 58, final passage of H.R. 1531, PROTECT Taiwan Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 57, final passage of H.R. 6644, Housing for the 21st Century Act.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RONALD O'ROURKE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a moment to honor an extraordinary public servant and pay special tribute to Ronald O'Rourke for his 42 years of service to Congress and the American people as a Specialist in Naval Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, or CRS. Mr. O'Rourke began his service with CRS on January 17, 1984, and retired on January 31, 2026.

Mr. O'Rourke is a foremost expert in naval affairs, whose writing draws admiration and attention from Congress and defense journalism alike. Throughout his career at CRS, he regularly briefed Members of Congress and their personal staff, committee staff, and testified before congressional committees on topics pertaining to naval and defense policy. The Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces most recently received Mr. O'Rourke's testimony in March 2025, where he spoke to the state of U.S. shipbuilding. His tenure at CRS provided him insight into many iterations of the U.S. Navy, from the shipbuilding slump of the Post-Cold War era to the modern reinvigoration of the U.S. maritime industrial base.

Mr. O'Rourke wrote many reports for Congress on various issues relating to the Navy, Coast Guard shipbuilding, the shipbuilding industrial base, China's naval forces and other

foreign navies, U.S.-China strategic competition in the South and East China seas, U.S. defense strategy, defense acquisition policy including block-buy contracting and multi-year procurement, the international security environment including the U.S. role in the world, and the Arctic. Mr. O'Rourke's annual publishing on Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding is a touchstone of his contributions to this institution—and is a personal favorite of mine.

He has presented at CRS's New Member Seminar, an orientation for new Members of Congress in Williamsburg, Virginia, regularly participated in CRS's annual defense budget seminar for congressional staff, and presented at various other CRS programs.

Mr. O'Rourke has been repeatedly recognized for his expertise, professionalism, and dedication to public service. In 1996, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the Library of Congress for his service to Congress on naval issues. In 2010, he was honored under the Great Federal Employees Initiative for his work on naval, strategic, and budgetary issues. In 2012, he received the CRS Director's Award for his outstanding contributions in support of the Congress and the mission of CRS.

During his tenure at CRS, he has mentored numerous colleagues on various aspects of defense policy analysis, from serving as a critical source of institutional memory on past debates to hosting brownbag lunches on ways to organize written products. In 2017, he received the Superior Public Service Award from the Navy for service in a variety of roles at CRS while providing analysis of benefit to the Navy for a period spanning decades. He is the author of several journal articles on naval issues and is a past winner of the U.S. Naval Institute's Arleigh Burke essay contest.

Mr. O'Rourke is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Johns Hopkins University, where he received his B.A. in International Studies, and a valedictorian graduate of the University's Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, where he received his M.A. in the same field.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee for 19 years, I have had the privilege of working with Ron, who was always available to answer any inquiry and share his deep historical knowledge of our Nation's sea services. On behalf of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the American people, I express deep gratitude for Mr. O'Rourke's contributions during his more than four decades at CRS. Along with his family, friends, and colleagues, I thank him and wish him and his wife Mary Fitch all the best in retirement.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH DAKOTA'S ADAM VINATIERI ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a South Dakota football legend, Adam Vinatieri. Vinatieri, wide-

ly regarded as the greatest place kicker in the history of the National Football League, has been named a 2026 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee. This recognition honors a remarkable career and brings great pride to South Dakotans across the state.

Born in Yankton and raised in Rapid City, Vinatieri graduated from Rapid City Central High School, where he was a standout multi-sport athlete. He went on to play college football at South Dakota State University, carrying with him the work ethic, discipline, and resilience that define so many South Dakotans. As a Jackrabbit, Vinatieri finished his collegiate career as South Dakota State's all-time leading scorer with 185 career points and awarded first-team all-conference honors in each of his seasons.

Vinatieri's professional career spanned 24 NFL seasons, primarily with the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts. He retired as the league's all-time leader in field goals made and points scored, and he played a decisive role in four Super Bowl championships, including a game-winning kick in Super Bowl XXXVI.

With this induction, Adam Vinatieri becomes just the second South Dakotan to enter the Pro Football Hall of Fame, joining Jim Langer of the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins. South Dakota proudly celebrates with him and the excellence with which he represented our state on and off the field.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 57, H.R. 6644; and YEA on Roll Call No. 58, H.R. 1531.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on February 9, 2026, I missed a recorded vote. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 58, the PROTECT Taiwan Act.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ELLEN O. MOYER

HON. SARAH ELFRETH

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 90th birthday of Ellen O. Moyer, one of Annapolis's most beloved and influential public servants.

A graduate of Penn State University and the first and only woman ever elected Mayor of Annapolis, Ellen set a lasting example of leadership and integrity for young women looking to serve their community. During her years of public service, both as a member of the Annapolis City Council and later as Mayor, Ellen