

days in our state. These numbers are not theoretical abstractions. These numbers are Illinoisans who rely on Medicare and Medicaid to thrive. These numbers are the doctor's visits, nursing home beds, and prescriptions that keep our neighbors alive.

I am alarmed that, just 61 years later, the federal guarantee of health care for the elderly and needy is under greater threat than at any point since their establishment—especially for those who rely on Medicaid. Medicaid provides life-saving health insurance to low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. Yet last year, President Trump and Congressional Republicans passed the Big Ugly Bill, ripping over \$1 trillion out of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act to bankroll tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations. Nationally, 8 million Americans already have lost their health coverage, and 15 million more are projected to lose coverage by 2034. More than 1,000 hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes across the country are closing, cutting services, or at risk of doing so.

Illinoisans are suffering. An estimated 193,000 Illinoisans have already lost their coverage, including 176,000 whom the Administration kicked off Medicaid and CHIP outright. Up to 528,000 more are projected to lose their health care in the years ahead. Illinois faces a \$57 billion cut in federal Medicaid funding over the next decade, and our hospitals alone are projected to lose nearly \$31.3 billion over that same period. Twenty-three rural Illinois hospitals lost money on patient services this past year. Sixteen are at risk of closing. Eight are at immediate risk.

In my own Congressional District, 24 percent of families and 30 percent of children under 18 live below the poverty line. A resident of the Loop can expect to live to 85; a resident of Garfield Park, just seven stops away on the CTA Blue Line, can expect to live only to age 69. That 16-year gap is not an accident. It is what happens when disinvestment meets need, and it is why Medicaid and Medicare matter more in my district than in almost any other in this country. Forecasters project my own district will have 40,000 more uninsured residents by 2034 because of this Administration's cuts. I have more hospital beds in my district than any other Member of Congress, and I have spent my career working to make sure the people who fill those beds can afford and access quality health care.

When my colleagues and I fought to enact the Affordable Care Act, we did so to ensure that no American would ever be denied the care needed to live out their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. My dedication to healthcare started long before I ever came to Washington, rooted deeply in my years working on the frontlines of Chicago's community health center movement. I saw firsthand that when you give a neighborhood a reliable clinic, you give them a fighting chance at a healthy life. Yet, instead of building on that foundation, this Administration's reckless cuts are pushing our local institutions directly to the brink.

Health care is a right, not a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. Many philosophers and leaders have emphasized that we should judge a society by how it cares for its young, its elderly, and its vulnerable. I have spent my 30 years in Congress fighting to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid, and I will

not stop now—not while my constituents are losing their coverage, not while our hospitals are closing their doors, and not while this Administration chooses billionaires over the people who built this country.

As we mark 61 years of Medicare and Medicaid, I renew my commitment to defend these programs and to fight for the day when every American, regardless of zip code or income, can get the care they need.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SUMMIT COUNTY AS OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Habitat for Humanity of Summit County as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

This recognition honors its 40th anniversary of creating affordable housing in the community.

Under the longstanding leadership of CEO Rochelle Sibbio, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County has devoted four decades to advocating for affordable housing and supporting sustainable development for families across the community.

Driven by a commitment to long-term solutions, Habitat has completed nearly 250 new homes and 400 home repairs and community projects.

Habitat homes are built on 30-year, zero-interest mortgages for each partner family and require the families to complete 250 "sweat equity" hours per adult before moving into their new home.

Families partner with Habitat to achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build a better future. This anniversary is a testament to the dedicated people in our community.

Organizations like Habitat for Humanity of Summit County are what make our district the "Birthplace of Champions."

RECOGNIZING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Florida Department of Children and Families' efforts to promote healthy eating habits and increased activity for the children of Florida. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has proclaimed June 26, 2012, as "DCF-Make Healthy Happen Miami Day."

Under the leadership of its program called Communities Putting Prevention to Work, DCF is dedicated to increasing health awareness in Miami Dade County. DCF is particularly focused on the health of Miami's young people. The Department of Health of Miami-Dade County was awarded 14.7 million dollars in

order to fund the Communities Putting Prevention to Work Program (CPPW). The CPPW initiative seeks to boost our youth's health by instituting regulatory policies over certain foods and by encouraging more exercise.

DCF pursues its goals for Miami's children through a series of activities. Through its CPPW program, the Department of Children and Families formed a partnership with institutions, like Publix, Home Depot, Short Chef, and Johnson and Wales. Together with these institutions, the CPPW was able to provide children with hands-on experiences with healthy foods. These experiences provided these children with a realistic way of approaching healthy eating.

A community that encourages healthy lifestyles ultimately produces healthy and active citizens. Now more than ever, it is important that we provide our citizens with the resources they need to help increase their health. The DCF's "Make Healthy Happen Miami Dade" draws attention to initiatives taken by the CPPW and other groups to make healthy happen for Miami.

Please join me in recognizing the Department of Children and Families for its commitment to our children and increasing health in Miami Dade County.

RECOGNIZING MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH'S YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT DAY AND THE CLASS OF 2026

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Centreville as it celebrates its annual Youth and Young Adult Day and honors the graduates of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

Youth and Young Adult Day is a meaningful tradition that recognizes students who have reached important academic milestones while encouraging younger generations to pursue their own educational goals. This year's celebration honors graduates from high schools, colleges, and graduate programs across Northern Virginia and beyond.

I include in the RECORD the names of this year's graduates in recognition of their achievements:

High School Graduates: Dylan Cherry, Prince William County, Gainesville High School; Faith Afolabi, Prince William County, Battlefield High School; Laila Jones, Prince William County, Patriot High School; Wayne Henderson, III, Manassas City, Osbourn High School; Xavier Williams, Fairfax County, George C. Marshall High School; and Zachariah Teague, Loudoun County, John Champe High School.

College and Post-Graduate Graduates: Tristan Marcellus Anderson, Fairfax County, Frostburg State University, Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Exercise and Sport Science; Jaelen Elizabeth Barker, Prince William County, Temple University, Bachelor of Arts in Cinematography; Nia Michelle Bradley, Fairfax County, William & Mary, Bachelor of Arts in Government; Jarrett Dalton Carolina, Prince William County, Virginia State University, Master of Business Administration; Yuri Crenshaw, Prince William County, Spelman College, Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a Minor

in Visual Arts; Ajani Nyle Evans, Virginia Commonwealth University, Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning and Development; Marquis Cetrel Freeman, Culpeper County, University of Northwestern Ohio, Bachelor of Business Administration; Nicholas Myles Hamm, Loudoun County, Virginia Tech, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and Analytics; Darius Hill, Fairfax County, George Mason University, Bachelor of Science in Biology; Tori Hudspeth, Fairfax County, George Mason University, Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy; Malani Kathleen Johnson, Manassas Park, Virginia Commonwealth University, Bachelor of Science in Marketing with a Concentration in Product and Brand Development; Marie Johnson, Fairfax County, Regent University School of Law, Master of Arts in Law and Financial Planning; Matthew Hayden Leverette, Prince William County, Denison University, Bachelor of Arts in Journalism; Dr. Fahren Auriel Nipple, Prince William County, Oklahoma State University, Doctor of Forensic Science with a Concentration in Forensic Psychology; Alissa Northan, Prince William County, Virginia Commonwealth University, Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science with a Concentration in Physical Evidence and a Minor in Chemistry; and Jasmine Wigington, Prince William County, Virginia Tech, Bachelor of Science in Human Development.

In addition to recognizing this year's graduates, the church's Scholarship Committee continues its longstanding tradition of supporting educational advancement through scholarship assistance and recognition programs. This year's awards include the Youth Ministry Monetary Award, Men's Ministry Monetary Award, Erin Peterson Award, Fairfax Central Baptist Sunday School Union Scholarship, Lucy Cole Scholarship, Cameron Dudley Memorial Scholarship, and the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Centreville for its continued service to our community and in congratulating the graduates of the 2025 to 2026 academic year. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work, perseverance, and the support of their families, friends, and educators.

HONORING ABC30'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor ABC30 on its 70th Anniversary, a remarkable milestone celebrating seven decades of service, journalism, and steadfast commitment to the people of California's Central Valley.

Since its first broadcast on May 10, 1956, ABC30's predecessor operated out of a small, modest facility in downtown Fresno with limited staff and resources. What began as a local station with humble beginnings has grown into the region's longtime news leader, informing families and shaping the community through decades of storytelling.

In the early 1970s, the station entered a new chapter with investments in equipment, staffing, and a new facility that helped launch the Action News format. This approach, emphasizing timely reporting, compelling visuals,

and faster-paced coverage, helped ABC30 rise to the top of the ratings, a position it has proudly maintained for generations.

ABC30 has been home to journalists and anchors who become trusted voices in households across the Valley. Longtime anchors such as John Wallace and Nancy Osborne helped build a lasting connection with viewers, not only through their reporting, but through their leadership, professionalism and dedication to the community they served.

The station's legacy is also reflected in its coverage of defining moments in Central Valley history, from the 1976 Chowchilla kidnapping to the aftermath of September 11, 2001, and the 2020 Creek Fire. Throughout each story, ABC30 has remained committed to its mission: to show up for the community and tell the stories that matter.

Beyond reporting, ABC30 has become a familiar presence in the daily lives of viewers, through recognizable faces, iconic music, and community-centered programs. Although technology and the ways people receive news has changed, ABC30's mission has remained steadfast: providing reliable journalism, addressing the issues that matter most to the community, and serving Central California with honesty and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating ABC30 on 70 years of service in our Central Valley. We honor the station's history, its journalist and staff, and its lasting contributions to our community. We extend our sincere appreciation as ABC30 continues its legacy of trust, news reporting, and public service for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALVIN STEPHENS

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Alvin Stephens, a distinguished Army veteran, pioneering pharmacist, entrepreneur, mentor, and devoted family man whose remarkable 59-year career exemplified public service, leadership, and excellence.

Following his honorable service in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, Mr. Stephens earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy from Texas Southern University in 1959.

Soon after, he relocated his family to Riverside, California to establish his career—becoming the city's first African American retail pharmacist when he opened Perris Valley Medical Pharmacy in 1964. His professional leadership included service as President of the Riverside County Pharmaceutical Association, Western Zone Director of the National Pharmaceutical Association, and an active member of the Central Los Angeles Pharmaceutical Association.

Beyond his accomplishments in pharmacy, Mr. Stephens dedicated himself to mentoring young people through Career Day programs hosted by local school districts, encouraging countless students to pursue higher education and careers in healthcare.

He was also an established, lifelong member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., com-

mitting his time to various roles within their Riverside Alumni Chapter.

Above all his many achievements, Alvin Stephens was a devoted husband to Mrs. Ola Faye Stephens, his wife of 66 years, and a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. His enduring legacy of compassion, integrity, and service to our community will continue to inspire generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEARING SOCIETY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the International Hearing Society's 75th anniversary and to recognize its decades-long commitment to making our world more accessible. The organization's positive impact extends far beyond its home here in Michigan, connecting hearing professionals across the country and internationally to mentor hearing aid specialists and patients. That is why I am proud to have introduced H. Res. 1214, which would recognize its years of significant efforts to promote better hearing care and visibility.

The predecessor organization to the International Hearing Society was founded in Chicago in 1951, later moving its headquarters to Michigan, where it established longstanding community ties to the Detroit area. There, it promoted the interests of hearing aid dispensers, now known as hearing aid specialists, and their patients. The International Hearing Society is responsible for connecting thousands of professionals, organizations, and partners in hearing care, and has consistently improved the quality of hearing healthcare by promoting dialogue across the field.

The International Hearing Society also made strides in hearing aid specialist education and training over the past 75 years. Alongside this work, it has consistently and meaningfully advocated for increased hearing health care access for veterans at the state and federal levels. In addition, the organization has produced numerous annual reports and editions of *The Hearing Professional* (THP) magazine, advancing the public understanding of hearing health care.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the International Hearing Society on its 75th anniversary. Michiganders, Americans, and thousands of impacted specialists and patients from across the world are so grateful for the contributions its staff and volunteers have made to patient care, visibility, and accessibility.

HONORING SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT ALVIN N. ROLLINS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor one of