

outdoor spaces that are such an important part of our Colorado way of life.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Outdoor Lab Foundation on 50 years of outdoors education at their Windy Peak campus and wish them continued success in the future.

COST ESTIMATE OF H.R. 4795, PROTECT ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM ACT OF 2026

HON. TIM WALBERG
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following cost estimate for H.R. 4795, Protect Economic and Academic Freedom Act of 2026, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, which was not made available to the Committee on Education and Workforce at the time of the filing of the legislative report.

H.R. 4795, PROTECT ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM ACT OF 2026 AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ON AUGUST 27, 2026

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2031	2026–2036
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	**

* = between zero and \$500,000
** = not estimated.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:
Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.
Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 4795 would require, as a condition of program participation agreements between institutions of higher education and the Department of Education, that the institutions not engage in “nonexpressive commercial boycotts” of Israel and entities organized, licensed, or regulated under Israeli law. A nonexpressive commercial boycott would include the refusal to deal or the termination of business activities intended to limit commercial relations with Israel, unless supported by a valid business reason. Institutions that violate their program participation agreements could lose eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs, including Pell grants and student loans.

The bill also would require institutions that receive funding from or plan to apply for funding from certain international education and foreign language programs at the Department of Education to certify annually that they will allow their students and faculty to participate in academic programs in Israel on the same terms as programs in other foreign countries. Additionally, insti-

tutions would have to allow students and faculty from Israeli institutions to participate in their academic programs as they would participants from any other foreign institution. Institutions that fail to make this certification would lose eligibility for those international education and foreign language programs.

CBO expects that institutions would comply with the new requirements; thus, enacting the bill would not affect institutional eligibility for funding from the Department of Education. Finally, based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost the Department of Education less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2031 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Garrett Quenneville. The estimate was reviewed by Chad Chirico, Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

CELEBRATING TERESA STRANIERI SCICCHITANO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Teresa Stranieri Scicchitano as she celebrates her 100th birthday this year. It is my pleasure to join her friends and family in marking this incredible milestone and honoring the wonderful life she has led.

On August 29, 1926, Teresa Stranieri was born to Elizabeth and Rocco Stranieri. Teresa was one of three children, growing up alongside her sister, Catherine and brother, Thomas.

On November 10, 1946, Teresa married her beloved husband, Salvatore Scicchitano at St. Rocco Church in Girifalco, Italy. The pair had their first son, Frank Scicchitano, in 1947. The couple then had their second child, Vincent Scicchitano, in 1956. Since 1949, Teresa has lived in Long Branch, New Jersey. For over seventy years, the Scicchitano family has been a beloved part of the Long Branch community.

In addition to raising a beautiful family, Teresa worked as a seamstress for decades. Following her retirement in the 1980s, Teresa continues this practice as a passion. Today, Teresa is highly regarded for making her own clothing and being a prolific cook.

Teresa is the grandmother of two beloved grandchildren, Stephanie Scicchitano Pizzo and Lauren Scicchitano Mounayer. She's also celebrating this occasion with her two great-grandchildren, Christian James Pizzo, II and Vincenzo Salvatore Pizzo.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in wishing Teresa Stranieri Scicchitano another year of good health and happiness as she celebrates the milestone of her 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING JEFF STREETER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Executive Director Jeff Streeter of the

Jefferson County Communications Center Authority (Jeffcom 911) for his service to Jefferson County, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Jeff has honorably served the Jefferson County community for 9 years, culminating in an exemplary law enforcement career of over 31 years. Jeff began his dedicated career in public service with the Broomfield Police Department, then continued on to serve as Lakewood Police Department Commander, and as Chief of Police for Lone Tree, before joining Jeffcom 911. Under Jeff's leadership, Jeffcom 911 grew from its early stages of development into a dispatch communications center recognized nationally for its stability, innovation, and success. As Executive Director, Jeff oversaw the operations and strategic direction of the center, establishing key initiatives including Advisory Planning Teams, a Peer Assistance Team, Training and Quality Assurance Teams, an Information Technology Division, and their Support Services Division.

I join the communities Jeff has served throughout his career in gratitude for his leadership and commitment to keeping our neighborhoods safe with efficient emergency response efforts. Although Jeff's outstanding leadership will be greatly missed, his efforts to build Jeffcom 911 have created a lasting service for all future generations who depend on the critical services they provide.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Jeff Streeter on his well-earned retirement from a distinguished career of service to Jefferson County.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
BISHOP DAVID COOPER

HON. MELANIE A. STANSBURY
OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished leadership and 50 years of dedicated service of Bishop David Cooper, Senior Pastor of New Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For half a century, Bishop Cooper has devoted his life to the spiritual, civic, and social wellbeing of our community. As Senior Pastor of New Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church, his leadership has enhanced the quality of life for countless individuals and families across our state, region, and Nation.

Bishop Cooper's impact reaches far beyond the pulpit. He has provided trusted advisement at the state and national levels, mobilizing faith communities across New Mexico to promote civic engagement. He has worked tirelessly to eradicate social inequities and systemic racism, and has been a steadfast advocate for public health, education, and our common humanity.

Throughout his ministry, Bishop Cooper has served as a trusted messenger, carrying and amplifying the voices of the people to key leaders and serving as a collaborator for positive change. He has been a tremendous advocate for building more inclusive, resilient communities, strengthening families and neighborhoods, and expanding economic opportunity throughout the 1st Congressional District.

Bishop Cooper has strengthened the Albuquerque community, uplifted the lives of its residents, and left a lasting impact on all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, the 1st Congressional District of New Mexico extends its deepest gratitude to Bishop David Cooper for his 50 years of faithful service. He is a source of pride and inspiration for all New Mexicans, and I am honored to recognize his contributions.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF REVEREND DR. HIRAM RATLIFF

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 60th birthday of Reverend Dr. Hiram Ratliff, an extraordinary pastor, leader, author, servant, and proud son of the Bronx.

For 30 years, Reverend Dr. Ratliff has answered the call to ministry, dedicating his life to serving God and uplifting others. For the past 15 years, he has served as the Senior Pastor of New Tabernacle Baptist Church in the Bronx, where his leadership has extended far beyond the walls of the church.

Under his ministry, New Tabernacle has provided health screenings, food and clothing giveaways, and programs for young people. Reverend Ratliff has also been a powerful advocate for social justice, partnering with community organizations to support working people, immigrants, children, and families in need.

His service extends throughout our community—from his work with young people and children with special needs to his leadership on educational and religious institutions. He is also an accomplished author whose writing reflects the struggles, hopes, and triumphs of his life and community.

Today, we celebrate not only Reverend Dr. Ratliff's 60th birthday, but also a life defined by faith, service, and purpose.

I wish him a happy 60th birthday, and I congratulate him on 30 years of ministry and 15 years of faithful leadership at New Tabernacle Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING ZYLASHA GAMBREL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zylasha Gambrel for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Rising Star Award.

The Rising Star Award recognizes High School students who live or attend school in Arvada who have exemplified extraordinary skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, community impact, and leadership. As Student Body President at Arvada High School, Zylasha exemplifies innovative problem-solving by turning ideas into action—identifying school culture gaps amid rigorous academics and leadership demands.

Her community involvement encompasses the Jeffco Student Leadership Board, National

Honor Society membership, mentoring as an Outdoor Lab Leader, and participation in wrestling, softball, and tennis. She also orchestrates successful events, including pep rallies, school dances, Trick or Treat Street, and Empty Bowls Night to benefit The Community Table. Zylasha takes initiative in everything she does, from shadowing the mayor at work to driving creative solutions at school.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Zylasha Gambrel for this award and thank her for her commitment to our community.

HONORING DR. JOHN A. PEOPLES, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr., a distinguished Mississippian, educator, veteran, and the sixth president of Jackson State University.

A native of Starkville, Mississippi, Dr. Peoples served his country with distinction as a United States Marine during World War II. He served as a Drill Instructor at Montford Point at Camp Lejeune, where Black Marines were trained during segregation. In July 2012, Dr. Peoples was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his service as one of the African-American Marines who trained at Montford Point.

After his military service, Dr. Peoples returned to Jackson State University, earning his bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1950. He later earned a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. In 1964, he returned to Jackson State as a professor of mathematics and vice president and became president in 1967.

Dr. Peoples served as president from 1967 to 1984, overseeing an extraordinary period of growth and transformation. During his tenure, enrollment increased from approximately 2,200 to 7,800 students, academic programs expanded through the doctoral level, and the University's physical facilities grew substantially. He also founded the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) unit at Jackson State University, establishing a lasting tradition of military leadership and service.

Dr. Peoples led Jackson State through some of the most challenging years of the civil rights era, including the tragic May 14, 1970, shootings at Jackson State, when Phillip Gibbs and James Green were killed and other students were wounded.

Beyond Jackson State, Dr. Peoples became a nationally recognized leader in higher education and was the first African-American to serve as Chairman of the Board of the American Council on Education. His contributions to education, civil rights, and public service have earned him numerous honors, including the Medgar Evers Award, the Mississippi Medal of Service, and induction into the Jackson State University and Southwestern Athletic Conference Halls of Fame.

Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr., has devoted his life to service, education, leadership, and the advancement of opportunity for others. From

the United States Marine Corps to the halls of Jackson State University, his legacy reflects courage, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to his community and his country.

I am proud to honor Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr., for his extraordinary contributions to Mississippi, Jackson State University, the United States Marine Corps, and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable American and Mississippi trailblazer.

HONORING THE MEDICAL CENTER OF THE AMERICAS FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation as it celebrates 20 years of advancing health care, innovation, and economic opportunity across the Paso de Norte region.

In El Paso, we know that progress is only built by people willing to see possibilities where others have seen limitations. Twenty years ago, the MCA was founded on the belief that our border community could become a center for exceptional health care, scientific discovery, and economic opportunity. What began as an ambitious idea has become a defining, indispensable part of our community.

Because of the MCA, young El Pasoans can imagine a future in medicine and science, local innovators have turned their ideas into solutions, and families can receive critical, life-saving care closer to home. The MCA's success belongs to the many visionary leaders, health care professionals, researchers, educators, and community partners who believed deeply in El Paso's potential and worked together to realize it.

I congratulate the entire MCA family on 20 remarkable years and thank them for helping build a healthier, more innovative, more prosperous future for our community.

RECOGNIZING LUJANE HANNA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lujane Hanna for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Young Professional Leadership Award.

The Young Professional Leadership Award recognizes a young professional under the age of 40 whose leadership and dedication has impacted the world around them. As a financial professional at Valorem Financial, Lujane has already achieved the CFP designation—the industry gold standard—delivering financial clarity, stability, and long-term success for individuals, families, and business owners. She also serves as a mentor at her company, helping other employees with skill-building.

Outside of work, she hosts free educational workshops around empowering women professionals through financial literacy, and participates in Old Town Arvada community events