



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

No. 4

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 7, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2026, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

FACING TAX CREDIT EXPIRATION AND HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, with just 24 days left before open enrollment closes in New York State and with millions of New Yorkers facing massive premium hikes, I rise today in outrage.

As an occupational therapist, I spent more than a decade working on the front lines of our healthcare system,

helping patients and their families when an unexpected illness, injury, or disability turned their world upside down.

I have seen the devastation that happens when people delay care because they can't afford it. Patients ration medications, skip follow-up visits, delay essential care, and choose between putting food on the table or seeing a doctor.

When healthcare is out of reach, outcomes get worse, costs go up, and working families pay the price. That is exactly what is happening right now because Republicans have allowed the enhanced Affordable Care Act premium tax credits to expire.

When the Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2014, it made health insurance more affordable and expanded access to care, putting healthcare within reach for millions of Americans.

In 2021, Democrats built on that progress by expanding those credits through the American Rescue Plan, closing coverage gaps that left middle-class families paying far too much for far too long.

In 2022, Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act to extend these essential enhancements through 2025.

As Democrats, our priorities are clear. When we lead, we fight for working people. We fight to expand access to care. We fight to make sure every American can afford the care that they need. It is a very different story under failed Republican leadership.

After years of trying to undermine the Affordable Care Act, congressional Republicans chose on December 31 to let these lifesaving premium tax credits expire, even over the objections from Members of their own party.

For families already struggling to make ends meet, the consequences are immediate and devastating. Marketplace premiums have skyrocketed by an average of 114 percent, and these plans cost more and cover less. Enroll-

ment will plummet, and millions of Americans will lose or forego coverage entirely.

In New York, thousands will lose their health insurance purchased through the marketplace, with hundreds of thousands more facing staggeringly high costs. Young people in communities of color will be hardest hit, reversing years of progress and 4 consecutive years of Affordable Care Act enrollment, a record high.

As this is happening at a moment when the cost-of-living crisis is already crushing working families, the people of this country are saying enough is enough.

This crisis did not happen by accident. Donald Trump and congressional Republicans chose tax breaks for the wealthy over affordable healthcare for everyday Americans. They pushed through the largest healthcare cuts in U.S. history, gutting Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act by more than \$1 trillion.

Now, instead of fixing the damage, Republican leadership is once again choosing to turn its back on families by letting these premium tax credits expire, a lifeline millions of Americans rely on to stay insured.

When people lose coverage, they don't stop getting sick. They just stop getting care. We all pay the price through worse outcomes, higher costs, and deeper inequities.

Over the past year, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle reminded us that elections have consequences. I am here to remind them that this fight transcends politics.

Ripping away healthcare from hard-working Americans has life-or-death consequences. That is why Democrats have forced a vote to extend these credits this week, and that is why I intend to vote "yes."

Healthcare should not depend on your ZIP Code, your job title, or the size of your paycheck. This fight is

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

H103

about priorities. It is about choosing care, dignity, and security for families, instead of policies that push healthcare out of reach.

Mr. Speaker, let's get this done. Let's take care of the American people.

HONORING CLINTON COUNTY RECORD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the end of an era. The oldest newspaper in Clinton County, Pennsylvania, ceased operations on December 31.

After 154 years of delivering the news, the weekly Clinton County Record, formerly known as the Renovo Record, has stopped publishing due to escalating costs, a declining subscription base, and a lack of advertisers.

Despite these challenges, it has a long and storied history that began in 1871 when Renovo businessman John Upton Shaffer founded the Renovo Daily Record and published its first edition.

The first issue of The Record noted that the letters for the printing press had not been delivered in their entirety until the previous day. The first half of the alphabet, from A through M, had arrived in the previous week. The first issue nearly had to go to press without the second half of the alphabet. Fortunately, the rest of the letters were delivered in time for publication.

Back then, it was a daily paper, except Sunday, bringing the news to those who lived in the railroad town.

In 1887, Shaffer was elected to the Pennsylvania State legislature. His son, John Shaffer, Jr., took over the management of the newspaper. The elder Shaffer died in 1902, and his sons continued publishing.

Since 1871, The Record has been 100 percent independently owned and operated with notable local names publishing the paper after the Shaffers, including Ron Dremel, John Lipez, and, most recently, Michael Frank.

The newspaper covered local news, education, government, sports, and more. This is a devastating loss to the community that has relied on this paper since 1871.

In 2021, on its 150th anniversary, The Record had a special print edition. This year, on its final publication, I was pleased and honored to have it reported that Bucktail Medical Center in Renovo would receive more than \$260,000 in Federal funding to bring important upgrades to the facility. I was honored to secure that funding.

Mr. Speaker, it is never easy when we see our local institutions close, especially those that have played such an important role in our communities like The Record has over the past 154 years.

My heartfelt thanks go out to the staff who have worked diligently over the years to deliver the news to the people of Clinton County. For 154

years, through generations of change, The Record has been there. We are all grateful for that.

HONORING DOUG LAMALFA

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for those who are in the Chamber or perhaps viewing online, this morning they will see we are missing an individual who has always been here at morning session, at noon for 1 minutes, and maybe after votes for 1 minutes. I am speaking of DOUG LAMALFA, a dear friend from California.

DOUG passed away yesterday. In honor of him, as is tradition, we have reserved a memorial seat in the first speaking position on the Republican side.

DOUG was a great friend and a great agricultural leader. He was a champion for forestry and rural communities. We traveled the country, preparing for the farm bill that we had been working on. Half of it has been accomplished with the other half still to go.

Mr. Speaker, he was a rice farmer. I have been on his farm in northern California. I can tell you he was kind of a crazy muscle car driver. I hung on tight riding with DOUG.

DOUG has left his mark. Our prayers go out to Jill and his family. Later this week, we will have other opportunities for Members on both sides of the aisle to offer their tributes and memories to DOUG.

Mr. Speaker, we want to let DOUG know that he can rest easy in the arms of God. We have got this.

CELEBRATING PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR FAMILIES

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate that paid family and medical leave officially began in Delaware on January 1.

There is nothing that I am prouder of during my time in the Delaware State Senate than leading the successful effort to pass paid family and medical leave for workers and families across our State.

After years of work and preparation, Delaware's Paid Family and Medical Leave program is finally a reality across our State. Paid family and medical leave is about dignity, plain and simple. It means a parent can be there for their newborn child, a worker can recover from severe illness, and a caregiver can support an aging parent, all without falling behind on groceries or rent.

Paid leave will strengthen families, support small businesses, and make our State more affordable for the people who live and work in it.

I was proud to work with my colleagues in the State legislature to pass this bipartisan achievement. It is proof that when we listen to one another and focus on solutions, we can deliver for our constituents. That is something

this Chamber would do well to remember.

I am incredibly proud of the work that we have accomplished in Delaware. I am grateful to all of the advocates who made this progress possible, including the Delaware Cares Coalition led by Liz Richards.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue working to ensure paid family and medical leave is not just the law of the land in Delaware but nationwide. Good policy that is grounded in dignity and supported by a supermajority of Americans is precisely the sort of work that we should be doing together.

HONORING CORPORAL GRADE ONE MATTHEW TYLER "TY" SNOOK

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Corporal Grade One Matthew Tyler "Ty" Snook.

On December 23, just 2 days before Christmas, Ty Snook was shot and killed while working an overtime assignment at the DMV just outside of Wilmington.

Corporal Snook served the State of Delaware as a trooper for a decade. He was known by his peers and his community as dependable, professional, and a committed neighbor. His death is a tragic reminder of the sacrifice that our law enforcement officers risk every single day to protect and defend us.

At his memorial earlier this week, his loved ones painted a picture of Ty as a spectacular father, husband, son, and brother. He was a thoughtful friend and an empowering colleague.

Every speaker struck a similar chord. Ty was selfless, compassionate, and deeply invested in the well-being of others. That is a commitment to community that can be seen throughout his service.

A native Delawarean, he was a graduate of St. Mark's High School. He returned after college to serve in the Delaware State Police, where he was soon joined in that service by his brother, Josh. Ty was rising through the ranks and training the next generation of law enforcement.

The selflessness that defined his service was tragically on full display on December 23 when, in his final moments, Ty saved others, even as he lost his own life.

Let us never become numb to senseless acts of violence like the one which took Ty Snook's life. Crimes like this one leave an indelible mark of pain and loss felt by so many. These include his friends and family; his wife, Lauren; and their 1-year-old daughter, Letty.

Kassi Snook Dunphy, Tyler's sister, said it best on Monday. "Tyler did not just pass on as a hero. He lived every day as one."

Mr. Speaker, every day I am thankful to the men and women of law enforcement, like Tyler, who risk everything in defense of all of us. Today, I speak in this hallowed Chamber in honor of that hero so that the name and service of Matthew Tyler "Ty" Snook will be enshrined in the history and RECORD of the United States Congress forever.