

disfigured our political landscape, re-orienting power away from voters and toward corporate and wealthy special interests.

In Citizens United, a 5-4 conservative Court majority endorsed almost unlimited political spending by corporations and wealthy individuals, and alongside several subsequent Federal Court rulings, demolished longstanding limits designed to prevent undue influence in our politics.

It is well beyond time for Congress to pass a comprehensive campaign finance reform package to protect our constituents from the widespread political corruption that Citizens United unleashed.

Since 2010, more than \$10 billion in corporate and dark money has saturated every aspect of our politics. Super-PACs and dark money groups now spend vast sums to influence, and sometimes determine, election outcomes while shielding their donors from public scrutiny. Compounding the problem, the Federal Election Commission has too often failed to enforce the law, leaving voters vulnerable and unable to discern who is trying to influence them and why.

We know that transparency is a baseline requirement for a functioning democracy. We know, too, that its absence erodes public trust in politics and fuels the belief that the system is rigged for wealthy elites and insiders. Most troubling, however, is that Citizens United threatens to compromise the incentives of those of us who serve in public office.

House campaigns now require previously unimaginable sums of money. Members spend far too much time courting wealth or corporate donors rather than engaging with constituents.

Americans reasonably question whether this imbalance helps explain why policies related to taxes, healthcare, corporate regulation, and environmental protection so often favor powerful interests over working families, families who are struggling with an affordability crisis that this administration has exacerbated.

While Citizens United greatly harmed our body politic, we will not let it prove fatal. In a 1938 address to Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a stark warning: “. . . the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than the democratic state itself.”

House Democrats recognize the fierce urgency of this warning. At the request of Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES, I am coordinating a comprehensive anticorruption legislative agenda to restore fairness, transparency, and a requisite principle of our Republic, that government must serve the people, not the highest bidder.

This sweeping agenda will address corruption across all three branches of government as well as, critically, un-

fettered corporate influence in our broken campaign finance system.

The package will include pieces of legislation that House Democrats have long championed, like the DISCLOSE Act, that will shine a light on the dark money donors that seek to purchase the outcomes of our elections. It will fundamentally reform the FEC, so our Federal campaign finance laws no longer go unenforced.

Indeed, at present, the FEC has no quorum and cannot function in a law enforcement capacity at all. House Democrats will put a cop back on the beat.

Vitaly, House Democrats will move to ratify a constitutional amendment to overturn the horrific Citizens United decision.

House Democrats will ensure this package reflects the pressing reform interests of Americans from coast to coast, Americans who demand an end to the culture of corruption endemic in Washington.

While Citizens United did not create every problem in our politics, it has undeniably enhanced the power of the wealthiest few at the expense of the many. When a single billionaire spends more on an election than countless thousands of voters combined, the principle that every voice counts equally in our political system withers. We must, and we can, remedy the rot at the deeply misguided Citizens United decision introduced into American politics.

As ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, the committee with jurisdiction over campaign finance legislation, I look forward to continuing to work to restore trust and honesty to American governance.

RECOGNIZING THE SCARSDALE FORUM

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the civic commitment of an organization of active and concerned citizens in Scarsdale who labor to involve everyday residents in the important issues of the day, the Scarsdale Forum.

The organization traces its roots back over 120 years to 1904, with a charitable and educational mission at its core. The forum sponsors events and seminars addressing the issues, choices, and solutions that directly impact the community. The floor committees study substantive issues, produce reports for discussion, and interact directly with elected officials.

The leadership team, President Jill Spielberg, Vice President Karen Brew, along with Elaine Weir, Madelaine Eppenstein, and a large cadre of talented neighbors in key roles, provide a strong base of abilities all committed to the benefit of Scarsdale.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the men and

women of the Scarsdale Forum who have made the level of voluntary, active citizenship envisioned by our Founding Fathers come to life in the village of Scarsdale.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ATTACKS ON FAMILIES

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Trump administration's recent attack on childcare and family assistance. This administration has decided to freeze funding for three critical programs in New York and four other Democratic States. As usual, they are putting their politically motivated agenda on full display.

The targeted programs include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Child Care and Development Fund, and the Social Services Block Grant program. This move threatens over \$3.4 billion in annual funds that New York depends upon to provide critical resources, including childcare, public assistance, domestic violence services, homeless shelters, and emergency payments for families and children.

This action only serves to intensify the massive affordability crisis that New York and the rest of the country continue to face. Playing politics with people's lives, let alone vulnerable children and families, is unacceptable.

While this administration continues its cruel and vengeful behavior, my Democratic colleagues and I remain committed to protecting vulnerable children and families.

POLIO RESURGENCE AND ROTARY

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I address this Chamber today as a longtime member of Rotary International. Rotary's top priority is eradication of the deadly disease, polio. Its members have invested billions of dollars and countless volunteer hours in polio vaccination campaigns in countries around the world.

In 1988, Rotary helped to create the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and the vaccine alliance, Gavi, with additional critical funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, which no longer exists. Yet the entire effort is threatened by the administration's plan to defund key GPEI partners.

Just at the time when this disease is closer than ever to being eradicated, the risk of outbreaks is greatly increased. We must do all in our power to protect the gains already made, and finish the job, including appropriating the funds required.

People from my generation remember the terrible consequences of polio, often paralysis and even death for those with this highly contagious disease. Many Americans still live with long-term post-polio syndrome.

Still, outbreaks continue around the world and other countries that are just a plane ride away. Complete eradication depends on continued vaccination of children everywhere and constant surveillance.

Founded in Chicago in 1905 with the motto of Service Above Self, Rotary International is the headquarters organization for a vast number of Rotary Clubs. It is one of the largest nonreligious and nonpolitical civil society membership organizations. It provides people-to-people assistance reaching the community level with vital programs.

Rotarians have a wide range of political and partisan leanings, but they are united in their commitment to serve their communities and they share a common determination to end polio. We must hear their voices, and we must not let them down.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Deliver us, O Lord. We call on Your name. Answer us. Remind us again that You are with us in times of trouble. You are our refuge and our strength. You will rescue us because You love us.

And who can separate us from Your love? In the face of hardship and hatred, famine and fear, with You alongside us, what can stand against us? Dare we say that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor anything in the present, nor in the future, can stand in the way of your redeeming love?

May we live this day convinced that trusting in You we will find safety and security. In the shadow of your outstretched arms, we need not be afraid.

Guard us then wherever we go. If we stumble, bear us up. Keep us from falling. When we walk into harm's way or when we find ourselves surrounded by that which would hurt us, keep us safe from all evil.

In You, O Lord most high, do we trust. And in Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS OF WARREN AREA HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the success of the Warren Area High School robotics team, who have earned numerous awards this season.

Earlier this month, the team competed in the Pennsylvania State qualifier and were undefeated. The team earned three top awards: Tournament Champions, Skills Champions, and the Excellence Award.

This season, the team won three awards at their first three competitions, a historic achievement for the group.

The students have qualified for the State tournament in March and have been invited to an additional national tournament, which will be held in Iowa.

The team is working towards qualifying for the VEX Robotics World Championship, which is hosted in St. Louis this year. The team has qualified for the world championships for two consecutive years. At the world championship, participants are given the same materials to build a robot and must answer questions from a panel of judges.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the team on this historic achievement, and I wish them the best as they prepare for more tournaments this year.

FAREWELL RAY SALAZAR

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to my floor director, the incomparable Ray Salazar.

If you have had the privilege of serving in this Chamber, you know what a gem, what a patriot, and what an indispensable pillar of this institution Ray is. You also know what a reliable friend and adviser he is, and you know what a loss his departure will be for the House of Representatives.

From his time with Leader HOYER to his years on my team, every time he stepped onto this floor he has strengthened our institution, always leading with values and integrity, bringing a steady hand to his work along with his encyclopedic knowledge of parliamentary procedure.

I thank Ray for his 13 years of extraordinary service. He is the model of what it means to be a public servant, waking up every day to work for the American people. We wish him all the best in his next chapter.

ONE YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President.

Taking over a weakened country with a crumbling Biden economy, Republicans have delivered lower costs, bigger paychecks, creating jobs.

President Donald Trump signed the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, which limits government, expands freedom, and provides for peace through strength.

The law allows Americans to keep their own money. Promises made, promises kept.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump. On the day that war criminal Putin invited envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Moscow, Putin launched 33 missiles and 339 drones on civilian infrastructure to freeze Ukrainian families to death, repeating the Stalin famine of mass murder. Sadly, war criminal Putin continues aggression, violating all agreements as he tries to resurrect the failed Soviet Union.

IN OPPOSITION TO ICE FACILITY IN HUDSON VALLEY

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record standing beside my colleague, Congressman PAT RYAN, opposing plans by ICE to establish a facility in New York's Hudson Valley in the town of Chester, Orange County.

The proposed site, currently an empty warehouse formerly used by Pep Boys, is opposed by Republicans and Democrats of that area, including Republican County Executive Steve Neuhaus, a U.S. Naval Reserve officer, and State and local officials on both sides of the aisle.

The mission to warehouse large numbers of humans is the exact opposite of what the President and DHS Secretary