

NO FUNDING FOR DHS

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I voted today not to continue funding for the Department of Homeland Security without real oversight and constraints on ICE and Border Patrol.

Minnesotans are being racially profiled on a mass scale, assaulted on their streets, and kidnapped from their homes. Peaceful demonstrators are being threatened and detained for exercising their First Amendment rights. Two American citizens were killed on our streets by Department of Homeland Security agents.

This is not the America that we learned about in civics class. This is the behavior of a dictatorship. We live in a democracy, where even the President must follow the rule of law and the Constitution.

My vote against the funding today for DHS was to stand in solidarity with Minnesotans to demand changes that will protect our democracy. We are one Minnesota. We will continue to care for our neighbors and to stand up for our rights because they are your rights, too.

RECOGNIZING ALEX HONNOLD

(Ms. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Alex Honnold, on his remarkable climb of one of the world's tallest skyscrapers, Taipei 101, without a rope.

Alex is a world-class athlete and perhaps one of the best athletes of our time. He is also known for being the first person to ever free solo El Capitan in Yosemite.

I am proud to say that Alex and I have worked together to promote outdoor recreation with my PARC Act, which helps protect climbers on our beautiful public lands. Alex also founded the Honnold Foundation, which partners with marginalized communities to expand equitable solar access around the world.

Nevada's Third District is honored to have such an accomplished athlete with a passion for outdoor recreation and making the world a better place. We are all looking forward to seeing what Alex will accomplish next.

I congratulate Alex.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, food costs are sky high, and millions of people across the country are losing their SNAP benefits due to Trump's big,

ugly bill, which made the largest cut to food assistance and healthcare in American history.

Amazing organizations, like Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry in Chicopee, Massachusetts, are working to bridge the gap so that families don't go hungry amid these reckless Republican cuts.

Lorraine's, named after the first executive director of the soup kitchen, has been providing nutritious food and hope to families in western Massachusetts for 30 years. Under the incredible leadership of Kim Caisse, Lorraine's serves hot meals and provides nutritious pantry staples and produce to hungry families.

As part of my statewide End Hunger Now tour, I visited the pantry with my friend, Richie Neal, ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. We learned about an increase in need due to Republican cuts and talked directly with pantry workers and people experiencing hunger.

As Congress prepares to consider the next farm bill, we must repeal the SNAP cuts enacted as part of the big, ugly bill and fully restore food assistance programs as we work to end hunger now.

UNFREEZE FUNDS FOR GATEWAY TUNNEL

(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, during the government shutdown last fall, OMB Director Russell Vought announced that the Trump administration would be pausing billions of dollars in funding for the Hudson River Gateway Tunnel project.

This critical project creates a much-needed passenger rail tunnel under the Hudson River, supplementing existing tunnels that were built over 100 years ago, and will deliver thousands of commuters in and out of New York every day in the busiest Amtrak corridor in the United States.

For several months, the White House has held these funds captive over misleading claims that the project's contracting policies violate administration policies on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Last week, the Gateway Development Commission announced that construction will have to cease if President Trump does not swiftly restore the project's funding. If construction is delayed, thousands of union construction workers will lose their jobs, and timely completion of this project will be in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the President to end this vindictive quest to hurt people in the Northeast and immediately unfreeze project funds to allow for the construction to resume.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STEPHEN F. BOTSFORD

(Ms. RIVAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, the San Fernando Valley mourns the loss of Stephen Botsford.

Steve passed away on January 11 at the age of 75 after living a life filled with love, generosity, and impact. Steve was a successful businessman and philanthropist, who supported small businesses across the country, including in Los Angeles.

Steve deeply understood the importance of making sure that communities have what they need to thrive, which is why he set up a scholarship fund that allowed first-generation students across the San Fernando Valley to attend college. Steve's legacy lives on through the first-generation students who benefited from his scholarships and the dreams that were made possible through his support.

I send my condolences to his wife, Kathleen, and his children, Alexandra, Stephen Jr., and Victoria.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in honor of Steve.

RESTORING RETIREMENT PROCESSING FOR FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, this past year, more than 112,000 Federal employees retired, far more than last year. A lot of them retired because they took the DOGE buyout deal, the Deferred Resignation Program, where people were given a buyout if they resigned by October. Others had simply put in their time and were ready to leave and receive their earned retirement benefits.

We are here months later, and many of these Federal employees who have served our country well are still waiting for their benefits and the money that they are owed.

Our office has seen a huge spike in constituents experiencing delayed retirement processing at OPM, at Federal agencies, and at payroll providers across the government. These delays are not isolated. They are systemic.

The administration knew these retirements were coming. It was part of the DOGE plan, but once again, the administration was not prepared for what came next. As a result, Federal retirees faced delayed annuity payments, gaps in benefits, and real financial hardship.

These are families who are trying to pay mortgages, cover healthcare, and plan their next chapter. This backlog is completely unacceptable. We must fix it and restore trust in a retirement system that enables us to recruit the great people who we have in government.

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CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Mr. SUOZZI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, religious leaders from across the world are coming to Washington, D.C., this week to celebrate religious freedom.

It is hard to imagine that something we take for granted, like the right to worship, is denied to much of humankind across the globe.

Muslim Uyghurs are put in forced labor camps by the Chinese Communist Party. Hindu and Buddhist religious minorities are being persecuted in Bangladesh. Christians are being tormented in Syria, India, Egypt, Nigeria, and elsewhere. Jews worldwide are facing anti-Semitism. Sikh turbans are banned, and Muslim headscarves are not permitted.

Have you heard about the Ahmadis, the Rohingyas, the Druze? What about the Tibetan Buddhists in China and the Baha'is in Iran?

There must be a worldwide effort to celebrate our diversity, promote religious freedom, and stop the evil forces that try and divide us instead of seeking the common ground that we all share.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Nation, let us promote the religious freedom that we enjoy in our country, and let us serve as a beacon to the world once again.

HONORING BRAVE FIRST RESPONDERS IN KENTUCKY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all the brave first responder men and women who braved the dangerous terrain and frigid temperatures to help provide food and shelter, as well as to restore power and water to my constituents in Monroe and Allen Counties.

Last week, south central Kentucky experienced a catastrophic snow and ice storm that left many thousands without power and water, some for as long as 5 days, all while temperatures remained below freezing.

I especially want to recognize the workers at Tri-County Electric Membership Cooperative who worked all day and night, often during temperatures in the single digits, to restore power which was lost from the hundreds of power lines that completely broke from the freezing rain. These workers, along with our water utilities, law enforcement, and volunteer fire departments, deserve a huge thanks for stepping up and delivering in our time of need.

MOURNING THE LOST LIVES IN MINNESOTA

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Still I rise, Mr. Speaker, in mourning for the lives that have been lost at the hands and the color of law.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pretti and Ms. Good should not have lost their lives as they did. Yes, I stand for impeachment of Ms. Noem, the Secretary, but that is not enough. I believe that under these circumstances more is required than a simple impeachment. I think it is a good thing to do, and I support it. However, there is some question of criminality involved with this. In such cases of criminality, we must do more than impeach. We must convict. She should do time.

It is time for us to send a message to others that you cannot cover up and you cannot condone this kind of behavior when you hold public trust.

Mr. Speaker, still I rise, and I stand where I stand.

STOP THE REPUBLICAN AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on the subject of my Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACK). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago, I was part of a talented and diverse group of 33 freshmen Members of Congress. We were veterans, doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers, small business owners, and State legislators who were sent by our constituents to make their lives better. They sent us to Congress to protect their healthcare, lower the costs of their groceries, and make life more affordable.

Democrats are working on bills that would meaningfully help families deal with the affordability crisis. There are bills that have been introduced that stop price gouging at the grocery store, make housing more affordable, and make healthcare accessible for all, but Republicans have yet to take up any of these proposals.

We are in midst of an affordability crisis, and Republicans are refusing to work with us to address it. We are 13 months into our first term in Congress, and my colleagues and I have yet to see a meaningful piece of legislation from

Republicans that makes life less expensive for our constituents.

Over the past year, Republicans chose to rename the Gulf of Mexico, redefine what a showerhead is, rename the Kennedy Center, look into annexing Greenland, regulate fridges and gas stoves, and perhaps the most egregious one is to make the largest cuts to healthcare in our country's history in order to give billionaires more tax breaks.

The fact that Trump and Republicans are prioritizing these bills over lowering the cost of living is insulting to our constituents. I fail to see how renaming the Gulf of Mexico, redefining the definition of a showerhead, or annexing Greenland will help families in our districts afford groceries or pay their rent.

Because of Donald Trump and Republicans' policies, families across the country paid an average of over \$1,600 more due in everyday expenses. Californians are paying over \$2,300. However, do you know who is benefiting from the Trump administration? Billionaires.

With the big, ugly bill, Trump and Republicans have implemented the largest cuts to healthcare in the history of our country and worsen the affordability crisis just to line the pockets of their billionaire donors.

The big, ugly bill is also the largest cut to food assistance in American history. The bill cuts SNAP benefits by 20 percent for all participants, or roughly \$200 billion, jeopardizing SNAP benefits for more than 40 million people, including 16 million children and 8 million seniors who rely on this for nutritional assistance.

Republicans turn their backs on making life affordable for our most vulnerable in order to help billionaires afford another yacht.

My House Democratic Caucus freshmen colleagues and I are focused on making life better for the American people and driving down grocery prices, utility bills, rent and mortgage payments, and childcare and elder care costs so that hardworking people can breathe easier.

To help working families, especially multigenerational households, deal with the rising costs of living, I am introducing the Multigenerational Family Tax Credit Act. My bill gives multigenerational families a tax credit for expenses that they incur when they upgrade their houses to make them more accessible for their aging parents who live with them. This includes upgrades like grab rails in the shower, an additional bathroom or bedroom, or even assistance to go up and down stairs. This tax credit will help multigenerational families afford to make the upgrades necessary for seniors to age gracefully in one place.

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Tonight, we will hear from some of the freshmen of the Democratic Caucus and the work that they are doing to