

and an unwavering work ethic. Whether on the ice for the Avalanche or representing the Stars and Stripes, he carries the spirit of the state of hockey with him.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation, and especially the folks back home in Warroad, are rooting for him. We look forward to watching him lead Team USA to victory.

PRICES ARE TOO HIGH

(Ms. BARRAGÁN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, prices are too high. Under Trump's economy, Americans are paying more. Just the other day, Trump said he is very proud of this economy. Americans cannot afford this Trump economy.

The nonpartisan Tax Foundation has said that under the watch of Trump and Republicans, the U.S. has had the largest tax increase as a percent of GDP since 1993 because of tariffs.

These tariffs are a tax on the U.S. and Americans. They are estimating that U.S. households are paying a thousand dollars more in 2025, and it is going to go up in 2026.

Let's talk about electricity prices. Families across the country are opening their electric bills and asking: Why is my bill so high, and is anyone doing anything to bring down these prices?

The Trump administration promised Americans they would cut costs, including energy costs. They promised cheaper power. Instead, families are paying more right now. While fossil fuel companies take in record profits, families are afraid to use the air-conditioner during dangerous heat waves because their electricity costs will spike. Seniors are turning off the heat on frigid winter days. Prices jumped sharply last year, far faster than paychecks.

Last year, there were 43 different electricity rate hikes across the country, totaling over \$11 billion in new costs for ratepayers. Millions of households are saying they cannot afford this. They are already behind on their utility bills, and more and more households have had their electricity shut off by utilities.

This is not an accident. This is a choice by Trump and Republicans. Clean energy, like wind and solar paired with battery storage, is the cheapest power we can build. If we build more of it, we can lower electricity prices, which means American families will be able to turn the heat on in the winter or the AC on during dangerous heat waves, but the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress are doing everything they can to stop clean energy that will help lower costs for the American taxpayer.

They are rolling back programs that help build low-cost power. They are making it harder to build new wind, solar, and transmission projects. Projects that were already planned, fi-

nanced, and under construction to deliver cheaper electricity are now stalled or scrapped. The result: higher prices for working families.

House Democrats are fighting for affordable clean energy. We believe energy policies should make life easier, not harder.

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Mr. Speaker, we believe the way to lower prices is to build more clean, affordable power, not less.

We believe that no senior should have to choose between heat and medicine and no family should have their power shut off, while fossil fuel companies make more money than they have ever seen in the past.

Americans deserve better than broken promises and rising bills. We must deliver lower costs including lower energy costs for American families.

CELEBRATING REECE JENKIN

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beloved Colfax boys' basketball coach, Reece Jenkin.

Coach Jenkin is battling stage IV pancreatic cancer with the same courage and determination he has inspired in his players for years.

Just this week, for the first time in over a month, he returned to Colfax High School not to coach but to cheer on his son, Adrik, on Senior Night.

Despite the toll of his treatments, Coach Jenkin's trademark positivity and radiant smile lit up the gym as he hugged his seniors and encouraged his team from the sidelines.

That night, Adrik delivered an incredible 38-point performance, leading the Bulldogs to victory and completing a perfect 20-0 season. Yet, the true victory was seeing Coach Jenkin there, living proof of the strength that love, faith, and community provide.

The entire Colfax community, including the entire eastern Washington community, stands behind Coach Jenkin as he continues this fight. His perseverance, humility, and devotion remind us all of what real leadership looks like both on and off the court.

WORLD PULSES DAY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, today is World Pulses Day, and I rise to celebrate eastern Washington's pulse growers.

What is a pulse, you say? One of the reasons I am standing on the House floor is to give rise to the new branding of the hardworking farmers who produce lentils, chickpeas, dried beans, and peas that feed our Nation and the world.

Pulses are a powerhouse crop, rich in protein, packed with nutrients, and a cornerstone of healthy diets across the globe. They are also a win for our soil and our climate. By fixing nitrogen naturally, they reduce the need for fer-

tilizers that help sustain productive farmland for future generations.

In communities on the Palouse like Pullman, Colton, and Moscow, chickpeas and lentils aren't just an agricultural success story. They are a symbol of innovation, stewardship, and community pride.

As we mark World Pulses Day, let's recognize these growers and the vital role they play in strengthening both our food system and our rural economies.

CELEBRATING PAT TULLY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pat Tully, one of the few remaining D-day veterans, as he marks his 105th birthday.

Sprague's own Joseph Patrick "Pat" Tully stands as a shining example of dedication, resilience, and character through every chapter of his remarkable life.

After graduating from high school in 1940, Pat answered his country's call, enlisting in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and helping maintain vital communications during the buildup to D-day.

Serving with the 980th Signal Corps Service Company, he crossed the icy North Atlantic in convoy to Liverpool before supporting the Allied Forces during and after the Normandy invasion.

When asked for the secret to 105 years of his remarkable life and his sound mind and body, Pat replied simply: two glasses of red wine, daily exercise, and a life of service.

Eastern Washington and, indeed, our entire Nation salute him for his remarkable example. Happy 105th birthday to Pat Tully. We thank him for his incredible life of service to our Nation.

HOLDING ICE ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. DEGETTE of Colorado was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, Federal immigration agents are out of control.

President Trump and Secretary Noem have turned ICE and border patrol into masked paramilitary forces that are terrorizing our neighborhoods. They are operating outside the law, terrorizing our communities, violating court orders, and shooting and killing immigrants and American citizens alike.

I cosponsored Articles of Impeachment against Kristi Noem, and I voted against funding the Department of Homeland Security to hold this administration accountable.

ICE must be defunded and dismantled. I am working to take the \$75 billion that Republicans gave to ICE in the big, bad bill and invest the money where it belongs, which is in expanded healthcare and affordable housing. Every taxpayer dollar is better spent doing virtually anything other than funding this brutality.

Mr. Speaker, I won't stop fighting until the families in Denver and across the country are safe from these thugs.

DECODING EPSTEIN FILES

(Mr. KHANNA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Congressman MASSIE and I went to the Department of Justice to read the unredacted Epstein files. We spent about 2 hours there, and we learned that 70 to 80 percent of the files are still redacted.

In fact, there were six wealthy, powerful men that the DOJ hid for no apparent reason. When Congressman MASSIE and I pointed this out to the Department of Justice, they acknowledged their mistake. They have now revealed the identity of these six powerful men. These men are: Salvatore Nuara; Zurab Mikeladze; Leonic Leonov; Nicola Caputo; Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, CEO of Dubai Ports World; and Leslie Wexner, who was labeled as a co-conspirator by the FBI.

My question is: Why did it take myself and THOMAS MASSIE going to the Justice Department to get these six men's identities to become public? If we found six men that they were hiding in 2 hours, imagine how many men they are covering up for in those 3 million files. The story gets worse.

The reality is that Donald Trump's FBI scrubbed these files in March, long before THOMAS MASSIE and I passed the Epstein Files Transparency Act. My bill is clear. The Epstein Files Transparency Act requires them to unredact those FBI files. Yet, the Justice Department said to me and to Congressman MASSIE: We just uploaded what ever the FBI sent us.

Guess what. The FBI sent scrubbed files. That means the survivors' statements to the FBI, naming rich and powerful men who went to Epstein's island, who went to his ranch, who went to his home and raped and abused underage girls or saw underage girls being paraded, are all hidden. They are all redacted.

It is a little bit of a farce. They are inviting all the Members of Congress to go see the Department of Justice's "unredacted files," but they have got all redacted files from the FBI.

It is not the fault of the Justice Department attorneys. They were just told to upload things that Donald Trump's FBI had already scrubbed.

It is a blatant violation of the Epstein Files Transparency Act, but it also asks a fundamental question: Who are they protecting? Why are they protecting these rich and powerful men, people I call part of the Epstein class? Why are we in a country where there is no elite accountability for people who do the most heinous things?

We have in England the king now calling for an investigation and possible prosecution of his own brother. We have in Norway the princess who no longer has support to be the queen. Yet in the United States of America, we have someone in the Cabinet, Howard Lutnick, who is all over these Epstein files and who allegedly had business

with Epstein after he was convicted of pedophilia, but is still in the Cabinet.

We need to ask ourselves: Are we in America going to have the lead accountability? Are we going to call to account the rich and powerful people who broke the law or cavorted with a pedophile, a convicted pedophile?

Are we going to have prosecutions for billionaires who went to this island and either raped underage girls or saw underage girls being raped and didn't say anything? Are we going to have investigations?

I will tell you what this is about. It is not just about the 1,200 survivors. It is about two tiers of justice in America. It is about people who can accumulate wealth and power and don't have to care about the rest of America.

They have destroyed so much of this country. Income inequality is at a 60-year high. Workers' salaries are less than they have been for 75 years as a part of GDP. Somehow, this country seems to be working for the rich and powerful; but it is not working for ordinary working-class Americans.

I say enough. It is time to begin with accountability for the Epstein class. Hold in front of Congress those people who visited the island or did business with Epstein after he was a convicted pedophile. Let's investigate them, and let's prosecute them.

Let's return to democratic accountability in the United States of America. Let's return to one system of justice in the United States of America. Let's return to a place where every American has a stake in this country.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Social Security. It is a sacred trust and a solemn promise to generations of America's workers. It is a promise that includes a retirement benefit that is earned. It is a disability benefit in the event of injury. It is also a survivorship benefit, an insurance benefit for families if the earner becomes ill or is fatally hurt and dies.

This belongs to all Americans who work. Workers pay into this earned benefit system, and they do it through their FICA taxes. It comes out of a check every month. Social Security is earned.

Yet, President Trump and his administration, especially the DOGE boys—I bet you nobody in this Chamber even knows their names—have worked to weaken this 90-year-old security benefit.

The Trump administration and their approach threatens the Social Security Administration's ability to operate. They have already cut over 7,000 jobs of employees who administer this program to millions of Americans from coast to coast.

In my district alone, there was an 11 percent decrease in Social Security field office workers. That means ap-

pointments are delayed, and questions can't be answered for months. Sometimes the phone isn't answered through no fault of their own.

I want to say to every single public employee who works in a Social Security office across this country that they are patriots. We thank them for the work they do. We salute them. We salute them for their patriotism.

Meanwhile, the Social Security Administration says they are not closing any offices; but the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, DOGE, is attempting to weaken and dismantle a system which has stood tall for almost a century, created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

More than 11,000 Americans turn 65 each day. Many will graduate to access benefits and, ultimately, Medicare for their own health. Congress must ensure that our citizens have a guaranteed safe and secure retirement. They worked for it.

DOGE not only threatens Social Security by removing vital staff across our country but by mistreating and exposing beneficiaries' private and personal information.

In my entire lifetime, I have never seen strangers go into the U.S. Treasury Department and peek at other people's private beneficiary records. This is un-American. We can't even name the names of those who did this.

The private information of the American people should not be fed into AI software somewhere or made open for the entire internet, which is full of hackers to access. We must protect the assets of our people and those who trust this program.

Social Security information has always been private until now. Social Security is often the only resource that keeps our seniors out of poverty. For more than 7 million Americans over the age of 65, at least 90 percent of their income comes from Social Security, which they earned.

Of those 7 million, almost half would not be able to afford essentials such as food, housing, and clothing without Social Security benefits. Now due to tariffs and inflation caused by Trump, those costs continue to go up, up, and up for everybody including seniors. It is hardest on them.

Every county in Ohio has at least 20 percent of its population receiving some form of Social Security benefits, and this means Social Security plays a huge role economically in northwestern Ohio's economy.

□ 1100

Standing up for our region and our seniors is one of my highest priorities in Congress, and that is why last year, when Social Security celebrated its 90th birthday, I introduced a resolution to demonstrate continued support from Congress for this program. It must be strengthened to support Americans and the next generation throughout their retirement for decades to come.

Raising the retirement age would reduce benefits for millions of Americans, placing an unnecessary burden on