

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, 74 million Americans depend on Social Security, but because of the Trump administration's actions, customer service has completely collapsed. The agency faces 6 million backlogged cases, 12 million delayed field-office transactions, and some of the worst wait times in history.

Why is this happening? It is because the Trump administration pushed out 7,000 Social Security employees. That is 12 percent of their workforce. Offices were reorganized overnight, hiring was frozen, and thousands of workers were reassigned.

This has real-life consequences for my constituents, like a 75-year-old stroke victim who hasn't received his check for months because he can't drive or use a computer, or an immigrant who may lose his job because a name correction appointment is weeks away, or the retiree who waited hours just to schedule an appointment on the phone.

Social Security is not a political experiment. It is a promise. The American people paid into the system and earned these benefits. They shouldn't have to fight their own government to receive them.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6646

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOLDMAN) as cosponsor of H.R. 6646.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEGICH). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

HONORING SONNY MORRIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonny Morris, a dedicated public servant who is retiring after 40 years on the Winder City Council.

First elected in 1985 and taking office in January of 1986, Councilman Morris has spent four decades serving the people of Winder, Georgia, with consistency, humility, and a deep commitment to his community.

Through periods of growth and change, he has remained a steady voice for residents and a trusted leader in local government. Councilman Morris has approached public service with a clear focus on doing what is right for his city.

His long tenure reflects not only the confidence placed in him by voters but also his willingness to listen, to collaborate, and to show up year after year for the people he represents.

Serving as grand marshal of the 2025 Winder Christmas Parade was a fitting

way for the community to say thank you. I was honored to participate in that parade and to meet Mr. Morris.

Winder is stronger because of Sonny Morris, and his legacy of service will be felt for years to come.

DELAYED WILDFIRE RESPONSE EFFORTS

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, early last year, the Flat fire burned over 23,000 acres of land in central Oregon, destroying homes and forcing thousands of people to evacuate.

Our historic fire crews were eventually able to contain the fire, but they were unnecessarily delayed because someone was flying a drone in the area, and it punctured a hole in the plane.

Our historic fire crews cannot afford this delay. It is not just happening in Oregon. There has been an increase in drones interfering with fire responses across the country. We know that a quick response is critical to containing wildfire and saving homes and lives. That is why I introduced the Wildfire Aerial Response Safety Act along with Congressmen Neguse, Crane, and Ciscomani.

As Representatives from States with dangerous wildfire seasons, we understand how important it is to address this issue and that it should not be partisan. I am calling on the House to take up our bill to prevent unnecessary delays to wildfire response efforts.

CONGRATULATING MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOBCATS

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I have risen before the House several times to recognize the historic rivalry between the Montana State University Bobcats and the University of Montana Grizzlies, but today I rise with enormous pride to honor the Montana State University Bobcats for their historic FCS National Championship victory in Nashville.

The Cats left it all on the field. They played with grit, heart, and determination, carrying the weight of a State that believed in them. From blocked kicks and dramatic momentum swings to a fourth-quarter comeback and the first overtime finish in FCS title game history, this contest delivered everything that makes college football unforgettable.

This win marked Montana State's first national championship in 41 years, ending a drought that stretched back to 1984. With Montana programs reaching the championship stage in four of the last five seasons, it was only fitting that the trophy finally returned to the home of the Treasure State.

The young men in blue and gold made Montana proud. Their victory belongs not only to this university but to an entire State.

Mr. President, if you are watching, we would love to see them in the White House. Go, Cats, go.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REPORTING GANG ACTIVITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the bipartisan Gang Activity Reporting Act with the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), my fellow appropriator.

This legislation has an urgent purpose: to give law enforcement the accurate, comprehensive data they need to combat gang violence and to keep our communities safe.

From 2021 to 2024, law enforcement agencies reported more than 69,000 incidents of gang activity nationwide. Over half involved violent crime. Yet, today, Federal gang data remains fragmented, inconsistent, and incomplete.

That gap puts officers at risk and leaves communities, especially in rural America, without the tools needed to respond effectively. Our bill would require the Attorney General to submit an annual report to Congress on gang activity investigations and prosecutions.

While recent FBI data show violent crime trending downward, we know progress does not mean the work is all done. This legislation strengthens public safety, supports law enforcement, and helps protect families from Ohio to Iowa, and coast to coast.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please support this critical Gang Activity Reporting Act.

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PRAYING FOR ZARIEA PATRICK OF HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the resilience of Harrison High School senior Zariaea Patrick.

In 2023, during Zariaea's sophomore year, she and her Harrison classmates were playing basketball when Zariaea took a hard elbow to the side of her head as she went for a layup, leaving her with a concussion.

As her symptoms worsened, an MRI at the hospital confirmed a tumor lodged in the right side of Zariaea's brain. What followed were regular trips to the hospital for chemotherapy, which took a terrible toll on her physical well-being.

In the spring of 2024, they believed that the tumor showed improvement. Unfortunately, she recently learned that she would have to start chemotherapy all over again. Despite this, her perseverance and her bright smile continue to light up the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in praying for Zaria during her battle with this tumor.

DELIVERING ON COMMITMENTS TO OREGON'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, in my first year in Congress, I made a simple commitment to my district: to listen and to get things done.

This week, I am proud to share that I am delivering on that commitment. I secured over \$6 million in Community Project Funding for seven transformative community-led initiatives across the district in Portland, Gresham, Sandy, and Multnomah County.

These investments will help prevent youth violence, modernize emergency response systems, strengthen wastewater infrastructure, expand behavioral healthcare, and protect the clean water our communities depend on.

Each project came directly from local leaders working to solve urgent issues on the ground, and I fought to make sure every single one received funding.

This is what government should be: responsive, collaborative, and focused on our people delivering results for them and our families.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this progress, and I am just getting started for the people of Oregon's Third.

FRAUD IN MINNESOTA

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

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I met with a lot of angry constituents over the last 2 weeks. They are angry about how expensive America has become. They are angry, in large part, because they realize one simple truth: The Somali pirates are not in the Horn of Africa anymore. They are right here in our country, and their captain is Tim Walz.

While my constituents suffer today, 81 percent of Somali families are on welfare. Nine billion dollars was stolen from child nutrition, housing, and autism services in Minnesota, largely through Feeding Our Future, a program that theoretically opened more than 250 sites and was supposed to be feeding 91 million meals. It was not doing that.

There was a Medicaid program, the Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention program, where

the Federal Government was paying 64 percent and fake autism treatment firms were created.

Our constituents are suffering. Before we ask them to continue to suffer, we owe it to them to root out everyone who was involved in this fraud and hold everyone accountable, and that is exactly what I intend to do.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BILL HARRIS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our Nation's most effective and determined advocates for children and families: the singular Bill Harris, who dedicated his life to this cause.

From founding KidsPac, a political action group dedicated to promoting public investments for children, to enacting the legislation that created The National Child Traumatic Stress Network in 2000, funded at \$10 million that has now grown to being a nearly \$100 million initiative, Bill was a passionate leader, a persuasive advocate, and he did not suffer fools.

He was never satisfied with symbolic action or minor gestures. He pushed for systemic change and substantive legislation. Together, we were able to expand the child tax credit in 2003 to cover more low-income families.

The Wall Street Journal called these families "the lucky duckies," and in that spirit, Bill gifted me a set of rubber duckies that remain in my office today.

Our proudest achievement—and I say ours because it was a team effort—was the expanded monthly child tax credit that was signed into law in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan.

In 2021, child poverty was nearly cut in half, hunger by a quarter, and it provided economic security to middle-class and working families.

While many may never have heard of Bill Harris, it was his tenacity and his doing, and we will secure its future in his name. We have much to do. We will do it with his spirit.

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, a simple principle should guide us: where we live should not determine the quality of healthcare that we can get, but for too many Hoosiers, especially in our rural communities, this isn't the reality.

That is why the Working Families Tax Cut Act matters. Through the new Rural Health Transformation Program, Indiana is receiving \$207 million in first-year funding, the first of 5 years of support, to strengthen rural healthcare statewide.

This funding will support hospitals and strengthen emergency care for Hoosiers who can get that care close to home. For communities from Connersville to Richmond and across Rush, Shelby, and Henry Counties, this means quality care closer, shorter drives for appointments, faster response times when minutes count, especially for our seniors, veterans, and working families.

This is the right kind of investment, helping our rural communities stay healthy without raising taxes, without growing bureaucracy, and without leaving Hoosiers behind.

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: CONRAD PIERO

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Conrad Piero as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

On December 18, Conrad, a loss prevention specialist at a Walmart in Canton, Ohio, was working in the store when a man being held for allegedly shoplifting pulled a gun on a Canton police officer who was present and attempting to question and detain the suspect.

The man pointed the gun at the officer and pulled the trigger, but thankfully, the weapon malfunctioned and did not discharge. In a remarkable act of bravery, Conrad immediately stepped in to pull the gun away from the suspect as he tried to point and shoot at the officer for a second time.

Both the Canton Police Department and Walmart said that Conrad went above and beyond in his service to our community, and I could not agree more.

What could have been a terrible and tragic situation went without anyone being harmed through his remarkable act of courage. It is average citizens doing remarkable things just like this that help make our community the birthplace of champions. Conrad is certainly a champion in his own right, and he has made Canton and Ohio's 13th Congressional District proud.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere gratitude to Conrad Piero for his heroic actions and congratulate him on being named champion of the week.

CALIFORNIA IS THE MOST POPULAR STATE TO LEAVE

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, the Governor of my State, Gavin Newsom, gave his state of the State address in which he declared that California leads the Nation. Now, the Governor isn't wrong. As the residents of our State know all too well, California does lead the Nation.