

and is only 16 percent contained. The Cottonwood fire has taken over 131,000 acres and is just 40 percent contained. Road 203 fire has burned more than 35,000 acres and is only 36 percent contained, and the Anderson Bridge fire has burned up to 17,000 acres and is 60 percent contained.

Yet, even in the face of this disaster, Nebraskans are doing what we have always done, and that is coming together. Neighbors are helping neighbors. Unaffected communities across our State are sending their support, and a countless number of brave volunteer firefighters and first responders continue to work around the clock, putting everything on the line to protect lives, land, and livelihoods.

Governor Pillen has deployed the Nebraska National Guard, and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds has sent Iowa National Guard helicopters with Bambi Buckets and crews trained for firefighting operations to assist in these efforts. This is what it means to look out for one another.

While this fight is far from over, we must remember what is at stake. Agriculture is the backbone of Nebraska's economy and a way of life for countless families. These fires are not just burning land. They are threatening livelihoods.

Heading into the summer, it is expected that more than 35,000 head of cattle will be without grass this grazing season. Tens of millions of dollars' worth of fencing, fence lines, and other crucial infrastructure have been lost. This means for many producers that the hardship will continue long after the fires are contained.

I ask those producers to please document their losses when it is safe to do so. Federal disaster assistance programs are available, and I want to ensure that support is received for those who are eligible.

I also will take a moment to be honest about what is happening here in Washington. While Nebraska is battling the worst wildfire in our State's history, Senate Democrats are continuing to hold funding for the Department of Homeland Security hostage, putting future FEMA disaster relief funding at risk. Enough is enough. Disaster relief and other vital programs, including TSA and others, should never be used as a political pawn.

All Nebraskans should know that they have the full support of the entire Nebraska Federal delegation, and we stand ready to help in any way that we can. We have faced tough times before, and we have always come through them stronger together. We will do that again now because that is who we are as Nebraskans.

AMERICANS DESERVE A SAY IN DECISIONS TO GO TO WAR

(Ms. DEXTER of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, to the American people watching, I am here

to say clearly on the floor of the House of Representatives:

You deserve a say in whether our country goes to war.

You deserve a say in whether our children are sent into combat.

You deserve a say in whether your tax dollars are fueling a \$1 billion-a-day conflict.

You deserve a voice because the decision to go to war needs to reflect the will of the people who fight in and pay for that war. That will is exercised through the American people's elected Representatives in Congress. It is not about bureaucratic process. It is about the fact that you should have a say in whether your country goes to war.

The White House has cut the American people out of that conversation to launch a war without articulating a compelling imminent threat. They are taking our children to war with no goal, no justification, and no off-ramp. Yet, I will be clear that we still do have the power to stop this.

Public support for Trump is collapsing. If the American people stay loud, more Republicans in this body will have to decide whether they stand with their constituents or with the war. People in red States and blue States want and need the same things: good jobs, safe neighborhoods, a stable economy, affordable healthcare and housing, and the ability to thrive in their communities.

They do not want war, especially not a war being led by Pete Hegseth from day one, who has been failing to demonstrate that he can keep Americans safe. At least 13 soldiers have already died on his watch, and over 1,000 civilians have been killed. It is becoming increasingly clear that the U.S. military is responsible for bombing a school full of elementary school children, killing at least 168 people. The American people do not support this horror.

To my Republican colleagues: Do the right thing. Stand up for our constituents.

To the American people: Do not look away from the truth of what is happening. Refuse to normalize being silent and complicit. You must stay loud.

PROTECTION FOR EXPOSURE OF GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, alerting the public to government wrongdoing is not a crime. Yet, sadly, administrations of both parties are increasingly using the Espionage Act to target and prosecute whistleblowers and journalists for sharing critical information, important information, with the public. Such prosecutions undermine our government's transparency and are a clear violation of the First Amendment and fundamental right to due process.

That is why I am introducing the Daniel Ellsberg Press Freedom and

Whistleblower Protection Act, which would prevent abuses against whistleblowers, journalists, and the American public for exposing government corruption.

Ever since it became law in 1917, the Espionage Act has been used to criminalize political dissent, and that is dangerous. It has been used to target whistleblowers who alerted the American people about government lies about the Vietnam war, mass surveillance, torture, drone assassinations, and the U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In recent years, the use of this repressive tool has prosecuted whistleblowers and journalists acting in the public interest and has expanded dramatically, producing a major chilling effect on the right to dissent in our country. In our country, war has always been used as an excuse by the powerful to take away the rights of our people.

This legislation is named in honor of the late Daniel Ellsberg, the celebrated whistleblower who bravely exposed government lies about the Vietnam war with the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Today, our government is committing horrific war crimes against humanity, from Iran to Palestine to Cuba, while expanding mass surveillance and spying on Americans more than ever.

If we allow Presidential administrations to continue to abuse this power and erode our rights, we will lose our freedom of speech and so much more.

It is time to put an end to these abuses and stand up for our First Amendment rights and freedoms.

STRIFE IN LEBANON

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, the end of the holy month of Ramadan, thousands of our families in the 12th Congressional District who have strong ties to Lebanon are struggling right now.

This year's Eid feels different for us. I know many have lost loved ones. Many mosques are full of memorials, and many, many, again, are watching their grandparents' homes be bombed and seeing relatives, uprooted from their neighbors, becoming homeless. This campaign of ethnic cleansing by the Israeli Government has already killed nearly 1,000 people, including over 100 children that we know of.

Over 1 million people in Lebanon, one-fifth of Lebanon's entire population, has been forcibly displaced and told by the Israeli military that they will not be allowed to return to their homes and their villages. This has all been supported and enabled by our tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, entire families have been wiped out, and towns and city neighborhoods have been completely erased. Entire generations—grandparents, parents, and children are gone. Medical centers and universities are being targeted. Look it up. They are

just bombing medics, children, residential neighborhoods, set aflame with U.S.-produced white phosphorus, which is a war crime, Mr. Speaker, poisoning the land and poisoning the people.

We are witnessing the same genocidal playbook used against Palestinians in Gaza, and now they are doing it in Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing a House Resolution standing with the people of Lebanon against these war crimes and calling for an end to this illegal invasion. It is time for us to be able to stop this illegal invasion, enact a total arms embargo, and put an immediate end to this destructive regional war.

PUBLIC SECTOR DEVELOPMENT OF ESSENTIAL
MEDICATIONS AT COST

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, in Detroit, we say that we don't have healthcare in our country. We have sick care in our country.

Under the Trump administration, we know that this crisis is getting worse. Trump has already cut \$1 trillion from programs like Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, so I introduced a bill to be able to hone in on the pharmaceutical industry. It is called Medicines for the People Act, a plan to develop essential medicines and medications in the public sector and distribute them to all Americans at not-for-profit rates.

The National Institute for Biomedical Research and Development would drive the development of these drugs and devices to lower costs and expand access to medicines, boost innovation, and address public health concerns. It creates the real competition that we need in our healthcare system: lower the prices and save lives.

We all know that there are real consequences to these higher costs and fewer breakthroughs in the industry that prioritizes profits over public health, so I urge my colleagues to please support Medicines for the People Act. It is important because healthcare is a human right.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to build a system that ensures that lifesaving prescription drugs are affordable and accessible to everyone. When my residents tell me that we have sick care instead of healthcare, that should be a signal that we need to do more and need to be able to combat profit and corporate greed within our healthcare system.

HUMAN AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF
WAR IN IRAN

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, last week, our Nation lost six American servicemembers in a tragic aircraft crash over Iraq. They are among the 13 who have lost their lives to date after Trump waged war in Iran.

Among them are three Ohioans serving in the Ohio National Guard: Captain Seth Koval, Captain Curtis Angst,

and Technical Sergeant Tyler Simmons. These were brave men who answered the call to serve their country.

Technical Sergeant Tyler Simmons was only 28 years old. He had what his family called his dream job in the Air Force. His cousin said that he had a million-dollar smile that could light up a room and that he loved flying and serving his country.

Captain Curtis Angst, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, spent a decade serving his country as a pilot.

Captain Seth Koval, who served nearly 20 years in uniform, had dedicated much of his life to flying missions that kept other aircraft in the sky and other servicemembers safe.

These men flew one of the most demanding and dangerous missions in the Air Force: refueling other aircraft mid-air so that they could complete their missions and return home safely. Yet, these airmen never made it home.

Each of these men have families, friends, and communities that will carry this loss forever. Today, my heart breaks for them.

To those families and the families of other servicemembers who we have lost, please know that the people of Ohio are grieving with you.

Mr. Speaker, these six Americans are not the only lives that we lost. Since President Trump dragged us into this war with Iran, 13 Americans have already died. These are 13 families who have received the worst knock at the door imaginable, and more than a dozen communities across the country are now mourning someone who stepped forward to serve.

While those families are paying the ultimate price, Americans here at home are feeling the consequences of this war in other ways. Gas prices, oil prices, and the cost of nearly everything else are skyrocketing. Families feel it every time they fill up their tanks, during every trip to the grocery store, and with the cost of food at the market. Their paychecks are not stretching as far because of the President's reckless America last decisions.

In Ohio's 13th Congressional District, families were already struggling with rising transportation costs. Cars, gas, insurance, and public transit costs are becoming increasingly expensive.

According to the House Budget Committee, Ohio families saw transportation costs increase by an average of \$65 last year alone because of Republicans' careless policies.

President Trump promised that prices would go down on his first day in office, but that promise turned out to be a lie. Instead, his tariffs, which act like a national sales tax on American families, and the Republicans' big, ugly bill are driving up costs and squeezing families' budgets even more.

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Mr. Speaker, I refuse to sit back and watch working families in Ohio get squeezed like this. That is why I have been pushing for policies that actually

lower everyday costs and put more money in people's pockets.

I introduced the Lower Your Taxes Act to do such a thing. The bill would expand the earned income tax credit and child tax credit so working families can keep more of the money that they earn.

This effort and other commonsense solutions I have proposed, and my Democratic colleagues have offered, to lower costs have been blocked or opposed by Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot forget the real people caught in the middle of all of this: families who now have to decide between filling up the gas tank and buying groceries, between fixing their car, going to the doctor, or paying their rent.

Americans cannot survive Trump's dangerous actions overseas that are taking human and economic tolls. Republicans have ignored warning signs and blocked cost-cutting solutions, and they have left working families to fend for themselves. That is a failure of leadership.

We can act to restore affordability, or we can keep letting costs spiral while Republicans protect the millionaires and the billionaires. I hope that we protect American families because the people we represent deserve so much better than what they are getting right now.

May God bless our troops, and may God bless the United States of America.

WAR IN IRAN WITHOUT
CONSULTATION

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the sentiments of my constituents in the 12th Congressional District in New Jersey. They are furious.

The President's war in Iran is one of the greatest foreign policy blunders in American history. It is a war of choice, and he took this action without consulting either Congress or the American people.

The President's reasoning after the fact has been one lie after another. In briefings to Congress, the administration has admitted this isn't about regime change and that there was no imminent threat, that there was no nuclear threat.

The administration has gone before the American people and provided zero clarification of the objectives, nor have they planned for the obvious consequences of this action. There is no clear off-ramp.

The Strait of Hormuz has been closed, with several cargo ships already destroyed, choking the global supply chain. This has led to higher oil and gas prices, which President Trump has declared is a good thing. In addition, a third of the world's traded fertilizer has been blocked from the market, putting agricultural work at risk.