

and Tom Homan was caught on tape accepting \$50,000 of cash in a paper bag from undercover FBI agents. The President himself has made billions selling cryptocurrencies since he took office. We don't even know who he sold it to.

Meta, X, and Paramount gave \$63 million to the President's library fund, which was then dissolved. Where did that money go? It disappeared.

Meanwhile, Members of Congress can trade stocks of companies that we vote to regulate and can go to online prediction markets to bet on whether bills that we wrote are going to pass or not.

If you want to know why big corporations are given a free pass by Washington to jack up prices and gouge people, this is why. If you want to know why the oil and gas companies make billions while people can't heat their homes or why the cost of food and healthcare is out of control, it is because of the corruption.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We need to crack down on this.

FULLY FUND TSA

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

Mr. MENEFEЕ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote to fully fund TSA.

Across our country right now, we are seeing long lines at airports because they are understaffed because TSA workers are not being paid. Look at Houston, which is home to Bush Intercontinental Airport right here in my district. I was just up there yesterday talking to folks who were in line waiting to be screened for 3 hours, 4 hours, sometimes 5 hours before they saw a single machine and were able to make it onto their flight.

We know exactly why we are here, because the President is working to tether ICE funding to TSA funding.

I was proud to join my colleagues to provide for a clean funding bill that would fully fund the Coast Guard, fully fund FEMA, and fully fund TSA. Right now what we need in this country is commonsense governance. That means ensuring that our TSA workers are paid for the work that they are doing so that nobody is having to stand in line 4 hours just to get on a flight.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. McCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject matter of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is Women's History Month.

For centuries, Black women have led our country through social evolutions, critical periods of growth, and eras of innovation.

From the civil rights movement to consistently serving as the foundation for our community success, Black women continue to push the needle.

Women's History Month offers us the opportunity to uplift these monumental achievements and highlight every pivotal moment in history in which Black women have tipped the scales toward progress and singlehandedly moved our country forward.

For the past year, the actions of the Trump administration have brought consequences to every vulnerable community but have specifically attacked the foundation of Black women's economic success and social impact.

Hundreds of thousands of Black women have lost their jobs under President Trump's leadership, and the administration remains committed to eliminating critical programs that build a strong foundation and a pathway to economic opportunities for Black women across the Nation.

During a time when Black women are under attack, the Congressional Black Caucus takes the floor tonight so that our Members can lift them up.

As we commemorate Women's History Month and look back on the achievements of Black women throughout the history of our Nation, I think back to the roots of our Nation, the birthplace of American democracy and American slavery, none other than my home, Virginia.

Established on July 30, 1619, Virginia boasts the oldest, continuous law-making body in the Western Hemisphere, the first legislative assembly in the New World, the Virginia General Assembly.

One month later, a Dutch privateer arrived on the shores of Virginia with "20 and odd" Africans captured by Portuguese slavers in west-central Africa that were traded for provisions. Among them, there was at least one woman that we know of.

Three months after that, Virginia took steps toward a permanent colony with the recruitment of English women to Jamestown to make wives to the inhabitants. Those women arrived with no right to vote, no right to hold public office, and no right to control their own property.

Since 1619, Black women in America have sat at the intersection of racism and sexism. Tonight, we will uplift their stories, how we did overcome, but we still have a long way to go to truly be equal under the law, to truly take part in the American Dream.

Tonight, you will hear our Members talk about the good, the bad, the ugly, the inspiring, and much, much more.

Mr. Speaker, to start that conversation, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), our chair.

□ 1930

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for anchoring this evening's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour and for her diligence and commitment to sending the message of the CBC throughout this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women & Girls to recognize Women's History Month and the countless contributions women have made to our Nation and to the world.

These 31 days offer a vital opportunity to honor women of every background for their achievements, which have too often been overlooked, celebrating the progress and rights secured by those who have paved the way.

Even as we celebrate, we must confront a difficult truth: many of the same barriers that our mothers and grandmothers fought to dismantle unfortunately persist today. Disparities in access to capital, education, opportunity, and power remain far too wide.

We cannot ignore the growing efforts to roll back hard-won rights. We cannot yield to forces that would usher in a future where the next generation of women has fewer freedoms than those who came before them.

This is not an exaggeration or hyperbole. Policies that undermine diversity, equity, and inclusion already having real consequences, including the displacement of over 300,000 Black women from the workforce on the basis of DEI dog whistles.

Let's be clear. These are not statistics. These are our mothers, daughters, entrepreneurs, and essential workers whose contributions are being shoved aside and whitewashed.

We know when Black women thrive, our communities thrive, our Nation thrives.

Women's History Month must also be a call to action and a moment to speak plainly about the threats to women's voting rights, bodily autonomy, and economic opportunities to support their families.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going back. We owe it to those who came before us and those who will follow to stand firm in defense of that progress.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, Representative LAMONICA McIVER.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the fine gentlewoman of Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) for anchoring tonight's Special Order hour to celebrate Women's History Month and to celebrate and speak truth tonight. I am glad to be standing here during Women's History Month right after Black History Month to celebrate specifically Black women.

Black women have always looked at this country and thought and asked: How can I make it better? They then fought for that “better.”

When we weren’t given a seat at the table, we made it our mission to bring a folding chair. We have always stood in the gaps. We have a long history of being first to take on the fights that others would not take on.

Looking at the pain and suffering among our families, neighbors, and friends, and deciding to step in to protect the vulnerable and speak out for the voiceless, especially when those in power won’t fight for us. We fight for us.

We know our liberation is tied to the liberation of others: Black, Brown, immigrant, citizens, every race, every gender, all of us. We know that truth, and that is why there is continually so much effort put toward stopping us. Even if this very body in this very Chamber, Black women are under attack.

We are currently witnessing a coordinated and vicious assault on the foundations of our freedom and history. We are seeing the effects of reckless economic policies, forcing hundreds of thousands of Black women out of the workforce. We are watching Black women stripped of our healthcare and maternal care. With every statistic, there are real human costs behind them.

There are mornings that I wake up feeling exactly how they want us to feel: powerless, hopeless, angry, and tired. It is the example of the Black women leaders that came before me that remind me that we cannot back down. There is no progress through comfort.

Now is not the time to become complacent. Yes, we are tired. We are being pushed, but now is the moment for neck-deep courage.

Just last month I was in Selma for the remembrance of Bloody Sunday. A speaker referenced how in Exodus, Moses went neck-deep into the Red Sea before it was parted. He took the first step toward a raging ocean because he knew that his prayer to be liberated would manifest.

She spoke of how Harriet Tubman went neck-deep to wade in the water, facing the threat of death, because she knew that freedom was worth fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, the toughest fights to freedom require you to go neck-deep. Every generation must step up and ask: Are we neck-deep people? And one thing I know is that is who Black women truly are. I am saying it plain: Black women are under attack, but we are not going to be silenced or scared—not now, not ever.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman (Mrs. MCIVER) for her comments, and I am proud to be in this fight with her.

As a Virginian, I am keenly cognizant of the fact that Virginia was both the birthplace of American slav-

ery and the birthplace of American democracy. That dichotomy I have always found both ironic and inspiring.

This year we celebrate 250 years of a document written by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence, which wrote that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Yet Jefferson didn’t include the men and women—he didn’t include women at all in that decree, and he certainly didn’t include the men, women, and children that he owned in bondage at Monticello, including the mother of his children. That ideal upon which our country was founded sparked the imagination of the men, women, and children in bondage across this young Nation.

When Abigail Adams’ husband was on his way to the Constitutional Convention, she said: Remember the ladies and be kinder to them than our ancestors were.

The men at that convention ignored her advice. They wrote a constitution creating a government by, of, and for we the people. They didn’t include women. They didn’t include the men, women, and children enslaved at the home of James Madison, the architect of The Virginia Plan that led to the Constitution. In fact, those men, women, and children weren’t counted as people at all. They were counted as three-fifths of a person for purposes of identifying how many Members of Congress would serve in this body.

Many of those women were viewed as broodmares. Many of them were forced to care for other people’s children while theirs were stolen. They forced to nurse other people’s children while they ached for their own.

Since the founding of our Nation, Black women at every opportunity have fought to be included in “we the people.” We have fought to expand suffrage beyond White land-owning men along with White women, even when we were the last throughout the South to benefit from that labor.

□ 1940

Virginia has found herself a leading lady in the story of expanding the franchise. Often, how far we went determined whether the Federal Government did its part to expand we the people beyond those original White, land-owning men.

I stand today on the shoulders of all of those who paved the way for me to be the first Black woman to represent Virginia in Congress, historymakers from all generations who fought for the right to fully participate in our democracy because they recognized that, in a government by, of, and for the people, government will only reflect the perspective of and, therefore, meet the needs of those who participate.

Even as Black men received expanded suffrage during Reconstruction and in the aftermath of the Civil War, the

nascent women’s rights movement, which stated at its first convention in the “Declaration of Sentiments” that all men and women were created equal—yet, with the 14th Amendment, the seeds of division were sown.

When that amendment, which guaranteed equal protection under the law, for the first time ever inserted the word “male” in the U.S. Constitution, a fissure began in the suffrage movement and the women’s rights movement that pitted some—not all, some—White women against Black women because they would not support suffrage for Black men before White women.

Yet, Black women continued to serve in these suffragette groups, oftentimes their work being ignored.

I have often tried to research some of the Black women suffragettes from Virginia. They are hard to find. They are usually seen described as community leaders, not suffragettes. Yet, when you read between the lines of their papers and their work, you see what they were really up to.

I am wearing red today in honor of the 22 founders of my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Founded 113 years ago in January 1913, in their first public act, the 22 founders marched in Washington in the Women’s Suffrage Procession down Pennsylvania Avenue. Yet, they and every other Black woman who showed up to march that day were told that they had to march in the back because the organizers of that march did not want to offend Southern allies.

Ida B. Wells famously refused to march in the back. She said that she was going to march with her delegation. The chair of her delegation, Genevieve Stone, was the only delegation member who said that she could march with her delegation.

The 22 founders of Delta Sigma Theta marched in their caps and gowns with other university women, marking their first public act as a sorority. It is fitting that I call them out today because thousands of members of Delta Sigma Theta were on the Hill today, still fighting to preserve access to the vote as the SAVE Act is being debated down the hall, a modern-day poll tax that would require everyone to produce documents to prove their citizenship.

These are documents that cost money, documents that, if they don’t show the same name as on your birth certificate, aren’t good enough. One of my soror Members of Congress, JOYCE BEATTY, told a story yesterday to those Deltas assembled about how, when she went to get her REAL ID—this is a good example of the hurdles you would have to go through to meet the requirements of the SAVE Act—she showed up with her birth certificate and was told that it was not good enough. It is a copy. You need the original.

Not living in the State where she got her original, she had to go get another copy of the original and brought that back. That is not good enough. The

name on her birth certificate is not the name on her driver's license because she was married.

She had to go back and get another original copy of her marriage certificate. That wasn't good enough because the name on the marriage certificate still didn't match the birth certificate because she had been married before.

She had to go get a copy of that marriage certificate and the divorce decree and show the chain of custody of her name just to be able to get a REAL ID to prove that she was a U.S. citizen who could fly.

Yet, that REAL ID wouldn't be good enough for her to register to vote under the SAVE Act. She would have to go through all those same hoops all over again.

The history of suffrage in this country is the history of Black women confronting obstacles, going over them, around them, through them, for that sacred right to participate in a government by, of, and for the people.

When the 19th Amendment finally gave women the right to vote in our Constitution, my grandmothers, my mother, and my great-grandmothers didn't benefit. They all lived in the South. Through poll taxes, literacy tests, and other mechanisms, they were still denied access to the ballot.

Many Black women fought against these obstacles. Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper from Mississippi, was jailed, evicted from her home, fired from her job, and severely beaten for daring to try to register to vote. Hamer cofounded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to challenge an all-White delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

Ella Baker, whose legacy is often overshadowed by Black male figures of the civil rights movement, played a crucial role in organizing the Montgomery bus boycott, which was inspired by another woman, Rosa Parks, who herself made waves when she refused to give up her seat on the bus for a White passenger and was arrested.

Baker later founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, and encouraged students to take charge of their activism and continue to make their perspectives heard. Another SNCC leader, Diane Nash, became one of the most well-known figures in Nashville and helped to organize sit-ins and sustained Freedom Rides throughout the Deep South.

Another Delta, Dorothy Height, whose birthday is today, was one of the Big Six of the civil rights movement. She was one of the leaders of the six organizations that planned the March on Washington. Yet, she was the only one of the six who didn't speak that day because the five male leaders excluded women from the speaking program.

Dorothy was there anyway and continued to fight for Black women to be able to vote and to overcome the intersection between racism and sexism.

These are just a few of the women who fought for the right to vote. There

are other rights that women were denied, particularly Black women, solely because of the color of their skin.

□ 1950

Everybody knows about the great progressive movement that expanded worker rights to many, many workers. What most people don't know is that those rights explicitly excluded so-called Jim Crow jobs, domestic workers as the main example. Those jobs were jobs that once were performed by Black men and women for free during slavery, then from very low wages because they were the only jobs available to Black people, particularly in the South.

My mother's family saw this firsthand. My mother grew up in the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, a little town called DeLisle. DeLisle had no school for Black children because the State of Mississippi didn't think them worth educating.

She was the third youngest of 14 children. She was born in 1932, her oldest sibling born in 1918. There was one school that would teach those children. It was the Catholic Church, but it only went to the eighth grade. When her brothers graduated eighth grade, the only jobs available to them were as laborers. When her sisters graduated, the only jobs available to them were as domestic workers or home care workers. Her siblings, her sisters, her mother, her grandmothers, her great-grandmothers were domestics. She wanted more.

She had to leave her hometown to go to high school. She had to leave her State to get a job, but she did it. By the time I came along in the 1970s, she was running the TRIO Programs at Virginia State University, three federally-funded programs that helped first-generation and at-risk students get to, thrive in, and graduate from college.

Those three programs are now under attack by the Trump administration as it works to dismantle the Department of Education. The Department of Education which was created to fill gaps that State and local governments refused to fill, particularly to meet the educational needs and protect the civil rights of students with disabilities.

My mother is an example of the obstacles that had to be overcome because the rights that many of us take for granted, minimum wage, overtime protections, wage theft protections, antidiscrimination laws at the Federal level and in most States, guess who is excluded. Domestic workers.

As a result, thousands, probably hundreds of thousands of mostly Black and Brown women across the country struggle to take care of themselves and their own families as they take care of the needs of others.

I was proud as a member of the State senate to pass—and make Virginia the first State in the South to do it—the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, to remove these outdated, antiquated, and racist exclusions. Those exclusions still exist in Federal law.

I am proud to be among a long line of Black women in Congress who owe our very existence here to Shirley Chisholm, who in 1968 became the first Black woman elected to Congress, representing New York's 12th Congressional District.

She didn't get a warm welcome here. She decided not to abide by long-standing expectations that first-term Members fly under the radar. "I have no intention of just sitting quietly and observing," she said. "I intend to focus . . . on the Nation's problems." So she and 12 other Members of Congress founded the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of the Congress, which 55 years later stands at 66 members strong; 32 Black women, the most in history, two for the first time ever serving in the United States Senate.

Shirley Chisholm became the first woman and Black candidate to seek a major party's nomination for President the year I was born, in 1972. While she lost the primary in that race, she continued to serve in Congress for another 11 years. She served on the Committee on Agriculture, and she used that role to expand access to nutrition to millions of poor men, women, and children through the SNAP program, which last year faced the largest cuts in American history and threatened to take food out of the mouths of 42 million Americans.

Shirley Chisholm remains a symbol of strength and profound courage in the face of the intense objections her very existence in this body inspired in some people. She famously said: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Thanks to that folding chair, I and 31 other women stand on her shoulders.

She, alongside of Carol Moseley Braun, the first Black woman elected to the United States Senate in 1992, and so many others have allowed little girls everywhere to look at this Capitol and finally say: I belong there too.

We have made a lot of progress towards the ideal upon which this country was founded. Yet, every time we have made progress, there has been a backlash that has involved violence, voter suppression, and propaganda. We are living through the mother-of-all backlashes.

I think back to what my great-grandparents saw—my great-grandparents who grew up in the first generation after the Emancipation Proclamation—men who gained the right to vote, who gained the opportunity for social and economic wealth. Black women were there every step of the way in that progress. They also were among those who were lynched for it. They were also among the ones who were beaten for it, but they persevered anyway.

Today, we are facing another backlash to progress. It has pushed 300,000 Black women out of the Federal workforce by an all-out assault by the Trump administration through DOGE. We have seen millions at risk of losing

their health insurance through devastating cuts to Medicaid and the expiration of the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits under the Affordable Care Act, which turned 16 yesterday.

That was personal to me. I was pregnant. Matter of fact, I was the first member of the Virginia House of Delegates to be pregnant while in office 16 years ago when Congress passed the Affordable Care Act. I remember how excited I was that this law could move mountains in solving the maternal healthcare crisis, which was on my mind in my first trimester of pregnancy. I was so excited that for the first time prenatal visits, postnatal visits, and breastfeeding counseling and equipment would be covered by health insurance. I was excited that for the first time pregnancy would not be a preexisting condition that could lead to the denial of health insurance for a woman.

□ 2000

I was excited that Virginia had an opportunity to expand Medicaid and create our own State-based healthcare exchange. So you can imagine my frustration when my Republican colleagues who were in control at the time said we are not doing that. But like many Black women before me, I persisted. We fought and fought until we finally convinced enough Republicans in 2018 to expand Medicaid.

In 2020, we finally created the Virginia-based healthcare exchange, and we saw health outcomes improve, particularly for pregnant and not pregnant Black women. We saw the statistic begin to turn around where no longer would a Black woman be three times more likely to die within a year of childbirth because before she was pregnant she got connected to a medical home and could get the care she needed for underlying healthcare conditions that made the pregnancy more risky. All of that is now under attack.

On Monday, I checked to see the impact that the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits had on the Virginia marketplace now that we have had our first open enrollment since they expired. Mr. Speaker, 19,000 Virginians didn't renew because they couldn't afford the premium. About 20,000 Virginians renewed but then terminated their coverage because they couldn't afford the premiums.

Families like Lester and Yolanda Johnson and their 9-year-old daughter have seen their premiums go from roughly \$600 to over \$1,000. I can understand why so many of them are struggling to decide: Can I afford that health insurance premium?

As the President's war of choice in Iran has seen gas prices spike, they are wondering: Can I afford to put gas in my tank? Can I afford that plane ticket? Can I afford that energy bill?

As the tariff policies and this trade war continues to wreak havoc on gro-

cery prices, they are wondering which of these bills is going to give, and unfortunately, they are gambling that they are not going to get sick or injured. They are still going to get sick or injured, and when they do they are going to show up at the hospital. They are going to be treated. Somebody is going to pay for that, and that is the rest of us.

Whether it is access to healthcare, access to the vote, access to worker rights, access to equal pay, access to equality under the law, we have made a lot of progress, and all of that progress is being chipped away as we speak.

But the women of the Congressional Black Caucus are persistent. Yes, we are fighting the same fights as other mothers, our grandmothers, and our great-grandmothers, and we could be angry about that. We would have every right to be. We could be despondent. We could give up, but we don't because we fight those fights from a position of more strength and power than our ancestors ever imagined. We fight those fights so that our daughters and our granddaughters and our great-granddaughters don't have to, but if they do, they will fight those fights from a position of more strength and power than we can imagine.

As for me personally—and this is why the President's assault on our history is so offensive to me personally because we are telling those stories in my family, but they weren't told in my history books. For a long time they weren't told in our public museums and our public spaces. Now, we have begun to tell the stories. Under the President's DEI executive order many of those stories are being removed.

The President seems obsessed with slavery and not wanting anybody to talk about it. He thinks we talk too much about it. But slavery is the original sin of this country. Slavery is the original wound that is still gaping in this country because it never healed. It never healed because we didn't talk about it, and we didn't address it. And just like any wound caused by a family member, if you don't talk about it and then address it, it festers. It festers until it is infected, and then comes death.

What the President misses about that history is how it inspires and how it can keep us going.

My family is coming here for spring break on Friday. My kids came last year, as well. It was a vote week. So, as we always do, we went to all of the Smithsonian museums. We went to The National Museum of African American History and Culture, and we went to the exhibit on slavery. We went to the exhibit on the middle passage. As I stood in that exhibit, I imagined what it must have been like to be stolen from your home and your family, placed on a ship, the bowels of a ship, in inhumane conditions, treated like animals. I imagined how many people

chose to jump because the alternative they feared when they arrived at these shores was worse than death. How many died because they couldn't hold on?

A year ago as I stood in that exhibit, a voice came to me and said: Somebody survived that so that you can be here in this moment in this fight in this time. That is what keeps us going. We remember the pain and the joy and the fight and the progress of our ancestors. We owe it to them to build on their success and to tell their stories even when they are uncomfortable, the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Black History Month and Women's History Month and every other history month allows us to focus in on stories that for too often in our history went untold. Yet, we have agencies at the Federal Government from the Department of Defense on down that don't even recognize those months or allow their employees to. We have an administration that threatens and bullies private companies if they try to.

We have to tell the story. We owe it to those that came before us who lived it to tell the stories because how many people do you think knew when they voted for the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights that the women who held those roles who were mostly Black and Brown didn't have the same rights that they took for granted? I can tell you very few did until they were told. They had no reason to.

We are going to continue to tell these stories. We are going to continue to fight for that progress. We are going to continue to be the conscience of the Congress even when the Congress doesn't want to hear from us. We are going to hold this President accountable, and we are going to make him listen to the stories even when he wants to shut us up because that is why we are here.

Shirley Chisholm told us that if they don't create a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. She didn't want us to just sit there and be quiet. She wanted us to speak truth to power. She wanted us to continue her work and the work of everyone that came before her. We are going to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone for their attention tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.