

about the economy. His answer: “Well in their heart of hearts they feel good.”

Let him tell that to the families in Pawtucket who are paying more at the grocery store and at the doctor’s office, or seniors in Smithfield choosing between prescriptions and rent, or drivers paying over \$4 a gallon to fill up for their commute from the East Bay or Aquidneck Island.

Working families don’t feel Trump’s economy in their hearts. They feel it in their wallets. This administration needs to stop the gaslighting. Trump’s tariffs illegally took billions from American consumers for everyday goods, and he won’t give a dime back.

Instead of fighting an unlawful war in Iran, they should be focused on lowering costs here at home. If they want people to feel good, then do good.

Mr. Speaker, stop the war, end the chaos, and make life affordable for Americans.

□ 1610

RECOGNIZING SCOTT BLADES

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott Blades of Tucson, Arizona, for more than three decades of leadership and service to individuals living with HIV in Pima County.

At the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis, when stigma and fear left many isolated, Scott responded with compassion and resolve, bringing community members together to provide care, dignity, and connection.

In 1994, he founded the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, building a powerful model that united faith communities, volunteers, and service providers to support those in need. Under his leadership, he recruited thousands of volunteers and, together, TIHAN served more than 1,600 people living with HIV, improving health outcomes, reducing stigma, and strengthening the community.

Scott Blades’ career reflects the very best of public service, a lasting commitment to dignity, equity, and care for others.

I ask the people of the Seventh Congressional District to join me in honoring his extraordinary contributions to southern Arizona.

I thank my friend Scott for his service.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Ms. FRIEDMAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire. For more than a century, that truth was denied.

I represent California’s 30th District, home to the largest Armenian-American community outside of Armenia. For my constituents, this anniversary is not history. It is living memory. It is their friends and family.

Unfortunately, aggression against Armenians is happening again. More than 120,000 Armenians have been ethnically cleansed from Artsakh, their ancestral homeland, and 23 prisoners remain unjustly detained in Azerbaijan. Sacred cultural and religious sites are being destroyed. These are sites that I had the honor of visiting several years ago.

Today, I recommit to fighting to demand the release of every Armenian prisoner of war, the end of military aid to Azerbaijan, and the right of displaced Artsakh families to return home to their lands. I will fight to protect Armenia from ongoing threats from Turkiye and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to mark this solemn occasion.

RECOGNIZING DARREN CRONKITE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Darren Cronkite on an extraordinary milestone of 30 years of dedicated business leadership in Riverside, California.

In 1996, Darren opened Back to the Grind, which quickly became more than a coffeehouse. Through open mikes, art showcases, and community events, it has become a cornerstone of downtown Riverside’s cultural life.

Darren’s commitment to inclusion and community building has made a lasting impact across the Inland Empire. By ensuring that all people, including members of the LGBTQ+ community, have a place to feel seen and connected, he has strengthened the social fabric of Riverside.

I congratulate Darren on 30 years of service, leadership, and community impact. His work will continue to make a meaningful mark, and I look forward to celebrating this milestone with him.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, how bad does it have to get for the GOP in this Chamber to do something?

Unhinged posts threatening war crimes; an illegal war in the Middle East that has killed thousands and thousands of civilians; 13 U.S. soldiers dead; an illegal invasion in Venezuela; illegal killing of civilians in the Caribbean; billions of dollars in grift, including insider trading and oil shorts, shady crypto deals, selling pardons, and his son-in-law making billion-dollar

business deals while negotiating a war; and the biggest coverup in American history in the Epstein case, where the President is not only implicated but named as accused.

My question, Mr. Speaker: When is enough enough to impeach, to invoke the 25th Amendment, to stop these wars, to rein in this insanity, and to remove this President now?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

2027 PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUEST WILL MAKE LIFE HARDER

(Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Assistant Democratic Leader JOE NEGUSE to call out the many ways that Donald Trump’s 2027 budget request will make life harder for our neighbors and constituents.

I will start with the fact that families across the country are already hurting because of Republican policies. Last year, Trump’s budget bill made drastic cuts to healthcare and food assistance, and 17 million people will lose healthcare coverage as a result. Yet, that wasn’t enough for Trump because his 2027 budget proposal cuts even more.

For example, the President’s budget request eliminates \$4 billion of affordable housing investments, wiping out programs that help families find housing, stay in their homes, and get back on their feet.

My district has suffered from severe floods over the last 2 years, and some of my constituents were displaced from their homes. As rents rise, Trump wants to cut programs that are designed to help keep a roof over their heads.

The President’s budget also eliminates LIHEAP, a program that helps 5 million families afford their utility bills, leaving them unable to cool their homes in the summer or pay heating bills in the winter. When you combine that with surging prices at the gas pump because of Trump’s illegal war with Iran, Trump is making the American people suffer twice.

As if this wasn’t bad enough, Trump’s budget proposal also calls for deep cuts to food assistance like SNAP and WIC.

These are programs that help mothers and young children afford fruits and vegetables.

With all of these cuts, what is Trump increasing the budget for? One word: war.

As he proposes to cut \$73 billion for housing, food, education, and health, he is asking for \$1.5 trillion for the Pentagon, a record-shattering amount that demonstrates just how detached Trump is from our constituents' needs and priorities.

Trump started a cruel, illegal, deeply unpopular war that costs billions of dollars every day, sent gas prices skyrocketing, and triggered a global fuel crisis.

This budget request would enable him to do more destruction with more money, while lining the pockets of his defense contractor friends. This makes us all less safe.

□ 1620

Just last week, Trump said: "It is not possible" to help Americans afford healthcare or childcare because "we are fighting wars."

Through this budget request, Trump isn't just waging illegal wars abroad. He is waging war on working families here at home.

I thank my colleagues for joining me to talk about how Trump's proposed budget request would make a tough situation even worse for working families.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the Assistant Democratic Leader.

Mr. NEGUSE. First, Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Chicago, Illinois, for his friendship, for his partnership, and for articulating so well today the stakes.

Since returning to office, as my colleague from Illinois referenced, President Trump has made life harder for everyday Americans. He has made life less affordable for everyday Americans, certainly for the working families that I represent in northern and western Colorado.

Let me give you a sense, my colleague from Illinois, about what the last 16 months have been like for my constituents, the folks that I have the privilege of serving in Colorado.

President Trump has denied not just one, but two major disaster relief requests for massive fires that took place last year in Western Colorado, the Lee and Elk fires, and devastating flooding in Southwest Colorado. These are communities that are conservative, rural communities that President Trump denied disaster relief to them all the same.

He has gutted childcare support for Colorado families. Childcare centers across Colorado—Larimer County, Adams County, Western Slope, Southern Colorado—are closing because of this President's policies.

He slashed Medicaid, the largest cut to SNAP in the history of that program, families going hungry across our

State and across our country, chaos for our farmers and our ranchers, record-high bankruptcies for America's farmers, including in Colorado.

He fired thousands of workers at our Federal laboratories, in our national parks, and in our national forests.

He has—again, the gentleman said it so well—increased costs on everything. Everything is more expensive. Groceries, medicine, car insurance, health insurance, you name it, it has all gone up.

Now, given all that I just described, the President has the audacity, the gall to propose a \$2.2 trillion—trillion with a t—wish list in the form of his budget request that would implement historic cuts to education, to housing, to health programs, all while creating a \$1.5 trillion slush fund for the war that he has unconstitutionally declared.

In my view, it is reprehensible, and it is not consistent with the needs of the American people.

We need this administration to get serious about helping everyday Coloradans and Americans afford healthcare and afford the basic needs that they have. We need them to get serious about an economic agenda that actually makes life better for working people.

Unfortunately, this budget proposal is anything but that—quite the opposite.

Now, the good news is that Republicans here in Congress don't have to follow the President's budget. It is not a requirement. I know that may come as a surprise to some folks who are observing the proceedings here in Washington, D.C., because, for the last 16 months, House Republicans have capitulated to virtually every whim, every request, and every demand that this President has made. But they don't have to do that. In fact, they are expected by our Framers and our Founders not to, to instead jealously guard the powers of our branch of government under Article I.

Democrats and Republicans can work together through the appropriations process to advance a proposal that would actually lower costs for everyday Americans. That to me ought to be our North Star.

I hope our colleagues are listening today.

I thank the gentleman from Chicago and so many of my House Democratic colleagues who I know will be speaking this evening for making the case in such an impassioned way. Let's hope it doesn't take my colleagues too long to ultimately do what is right.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I now yield the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GARCÍA and Mr. NEGUSE for organizing this Special Order hour about President Trump's budget request for next year.

The one saving grace of the President's budget is how clearly it dem-

onstrates the failed policies and misplaced priorities of the White House and the Republican Congress. While proposing a massive increase in defense spending to support a reckless war of choice in Iran and supporting numerous policies to protect the billionaire class, the Trump budget would slash programs that provide healthcare, education, and housing to working Americans and would do nothing to lower gas prices or make groceries more affordable.

While there are too many outrages contained in this budget to mention all of them, I want to focus on one program in particular that highlights the senseless cruelty represented by this budget: the President would completely eliminate support for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, or HOPWA, program.

HOPWA provides critical housing support to hundreds of thousands of individuals and their families across the country. Housing is one of the greatest needs for those living with HIV/AIDS, and it is among the strongest predictors of access to treatment and health outcomes. Unstable housing or homelessness is linked to late or limited access to care, higher viral loads, increased hospitalizations, and premature death.

HOPWA was created in 1990 to respond to the HIV crisis, and it has enjoyed bipartisan support for decades. It has led to dramatic improvements in healthcare and reduced mortality for people living with HIV and AIDS. Yet, this President wants to cut HOPWA to the bone, leaving people with HIV and AIDS vulnerable to more HIV transmissions and a spike in homelessness.

Congress established HOPWA—under a Republican President, I might add—because of illegal discrimination in the private housing market against people with HIV and AIDS. As for public housing, many individuals with HIV and AIDS on the waiting list for housing tragically died while waiting for an open unit. HOPWA changed that.

A study from 2010 found that HOPWA has been tremendously effective in improving the physical health and housing status of enrollees. These gains did not come overnight. They came from funding this program year by year for over 30 years, and Donald Trump wants to gut all of it.

I was proud to lead 107 of my colleagues in supporting HOPWA funding for fiscal year 2027 appropriations, and I am outraged at the President's disregard for vulnerable Americans. We must protect HOPWA and stand up for all Americans in need.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I now yield the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

□ 1630

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, a budget for our country is a moral document. It shows our

priorities. It shows what kind of future we are laying the groundwork for.

A budget should reflect investments in Americans by funding education and housing while also lowering costs. But Donald Trump's budget request sends a clear message about the kind of country Republicans want; one that invests in war, not Americans.

What happened to the so-called America First project by this President? What happened to the so-called America First project?

The President's budget slashes \$8.5 billion from K-12 programs, cuts 52 percent of the budget for the agency charged with protecting our air and water, and reduces housing programs by \$11 billion—all of that to pay for the largest percentage increase to the Department of Defense since World War II. Let me say that again. All of that is to pay for the largest percentage increase to the Department of Defense since World War II.

The American people are tired of seeing their tax dollars fund more endless wars in the Middle East. They are tired of seeing a President who sends our sons and daughters to war while apparently being increasingly unstable both mentally and emotionally. They are tired of seeing his top aide say nothing, nothing, and do nothing to intervene when the President clearly needs help.

How much longer does this have to go on before this Republican majority steps in? How many more AI-generated Jesus images does the President have to post before you, my Republican colleagues, are alarmed like the majority of Americans?

History will remember this Republican-controlled Congress as complicit in this President's behavior and his ill-informed proposals.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too late for Republicans to join Democrats in fighting for a budget that actually puts Americans first, one that seeks to fund and build schools at home and not fund bombs abroad, a budget that reflects the values of a government and its President, and that fact rings true here.

The President is asking Congress to steal from our children's future to prop up a war that no one wants. I urge my Republican colleagues to stand opposed to this cruel budget.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to President Trump's 2027 budget. Let me be clear. This budget is completely and totally morally bankrupt to its core—rotten to its core.

While we debate numbers and line items here in Washington, the reality is being felt at home in our communities. In New Mexico, people are worried about how they are going to put food on the table, a roof over their head, how they are going to keep the lights on, how they are going to make their rent. They are looking to us, the

leaders in this body, to do something to help the American people.

Yet, this budget does the exact opposite. It is a betrayal to the American people. It guts fundamental programs that support the working people of this country. At a time when utilities are at an all-time high, this budget eliminates LIHEAP, which is vital to helping low-income families heat and cool their homes, including millions of seniors.

At a time when we have a housing crisis in every community across this country, this bill guts block grants and housing programs that provide affordable housing in our communities.

At a time when millions of Americans can't afford healthcare after the GOP in this body decided to not extend healthcare subsidies, they are proposing to slash \$5 billion from the National Institutes of Health. They are proposing to gut and consolidate and eliminate billions of programs from the CDC, from SAMHSA, and from HRSA.

In a time when Americans are struggling with an opioid epidemic and an addiction crisis that is literally claiming lives every week in communities across this country, they are gutting the programs that keep Americans alive.

In a time when New Mexicans are facing one of the most difficult water years we have probably ever seen in the history of our State in modern times, they are threatening to cut funding for water infrastructure.

This is a morally bankrupt budget, and it will bankrupt the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here tonight to reject the moral bankruptcy of this administration, to reject the moral bankruptcy of this body that refuses to act, and to call on all of us to put forward a vision for our people that invest in the working people of this country who wake up every day and go to work in order to put food on the table and care for their families.

Now, people will say we can't afford it. How could we afford to invest in our people? Let me just say this: In New Mexico, we are one of the poorest States in the United States, but we have made the moral choice to invest in our people. We have made the moral choice to become the first in the Nation to guarantee free childcare and early childhood education for every single family. We are the first in the Nation to guarantee free higher education and trade school to every New Mexican.

When the GOP shut down the Federal Government and Donald Trump threatened to gut healthcare and food assistance, New Mexico stood up and acted. We extended healthcare to thousands of New Mexicans and made sure that not a single family would go without food on their table.

We reject the cruelty and moral bankruptcy of politics that says we can't invest in our people, and we reject a budget that would steal from

them so that an out-of-control madman in the White House could take the American people's hard-earned taxpayer dollars and buy more bombs.

That is why we are here tonight, because we reject that America.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say this: We are the wealthiest Nation in the world. We can invest in our people. We can lower costs. We can build an economy for every single person. We can value our communities. We can care for our communities. We are here tonight to stand up, to speak out, and to reject the moral bankruptcy of a budget that would bankrupt our people.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, the convicted felon in the White House is not an honest man, but when he rebranded the Department of Defense as the Department of War, for once, for once, he told the truth because war is what we have. War is what he wants, and war is what he is asking the American people to pay for.

President Trump's budget requests \$1.5 trillion in taxpayer money for the Department of War—\$1.5 trillion, a \$440 billion increase. Who pays the extra \$440 billion? Not the billionaires who just got tax cuts, not Elon, not the Trump family, not White House insiders cashing in on trades ahead of market-moving announcements, no. Trump's war machine will be paid for by working people, just like his tax cuts for billionaires were paid for by working people.

In the last year, Trump has made the largest cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act in history and the largest cut to food assistance in history, all to make the richest Americans richer and the biggest corporations bigger.

□ 1640

This time, it is not tax cuts but war he wants.

What ATM is the President tapping again to pay for it?

It is the working men and women of this country.

How does the President propose paying for more war?

I am glad you asked, Mr. Speaker. It is with cuts to heating assistance, with cuts to housing, with cuts to education and job training, and even cuts to programs that provide food for women, infants, and children, all to pay for wars that the American people don't want.

What is the agenda?

It is to cut healthcare to fund war, cut food to fund war, cut housing and heating programs to fund war, and cut maternal health to fund war. He wants to cut more, take more, and sacrifice more.

And for what?

It is for war. Wars the American people do not want. That is not just grossly irresponsible, it is gross and immoral.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know who is winning Trump's war with Iran, but I

can tell you who is losing the war: Everyday people in America. It is hard-working people seeing prices rise even more, people trying to afford healthcare, to buy a home, and to make ends meet. Working people can't afford Trump's reckless wars, and they can't afford this horrendous budget.

We owe it to them to reject this abomination.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RIVAS).

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GARCÍA and assistant Democratic leader NEGUSE for holding this important conversation on Trump's budget request for 2027.

We are here because Trump and Republicans led us to a cost-of-living crisis that is making life more unaffordable for working families. Trump's budget proposal will make this crisis worse. I have heard from people across my district that life is too expensive, from food to gas to rent.

Budgets are a reflection of our values, and Trump made his values heard loud and clear: Leave working families behind.

Trump's budget cuts \$73 billion in programs that support working families. One of the programs that will be facing serious cuts is the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP. LIHEAP is a key program that helps families with reducing the costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and minor energy-related home repairs. LIHEAP helps environmental justice communities like mine deal with the effect of extreme heat and climate change, and Trump wants to gut \$4 billion in funding for LIHEAP.

Southern California is no stranger to heat, especially in the summer. However, due to climate change, periods of extreme heat in southern California, especially in the San Fernando Valley, are becoming more common, more intense, and more harmful. Eliminating critical funding for LIHEAP means my constituents will be less prepared to deal with periods of extreme heat while also paying more to keep their homes cool. Extreme levels of heat with no support or financial assistance to keep homes cool will be dangerous and even deadly.

Additionally, Trump is proposing a 52 percent cut in EPA funding. EPA has helped environmental justice communities like mine breathe cleaner air and drink cleaner water. By cutting EPA funding by over one-half, Trump will make our communities sicker.

Trump's budget proposal does not make life healthier or more affordable for working families in my district and across the country. In fact, prices will skyrocket. Since Trump's war in Iran started, gas prices in Los Angeles County have shot up to an average of nearly \$6 per gallon with some gas stations seeing prices as high as \$8 per gallon. Trump's budget request does not bring gas prices down for working

families in the San Fernando Valley or across the country.

Trump's budget will also harm pregnant women, mothers, and children. WIC programs across my district help many of my constituents access the resources that they need for a healthier life, including food vouchers, nutrition education, and healthcare referrals. Trump's budget proposal slashes funding for WIC programs and will force millions of Americans to go hungry.

At a time when Americans are struggling to afford to put food on their table, Trump and Republicans are offering no life raft for those who need it the most. Trump wants to continue spending over \$1 billion per day to continue his war in Iran while working families in my district and across the country continue to struggle with the rising cost of gas.

As Donald Trump turns his back on working Americans, my Congressional Progressive Caucus colleagues and I are fighting for them and the resources they need to succeed.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GARCÍA for his leadership on this.

Americans are struggling. They are struggling with the high cost of living because of Republican policies that are doing nothing to bring down prices.

The cost of gas is too high. Americans are paying more for gasoline this year because of Trump's war of choice against Iran. Americans have seen the price spike in the last month, and the average household is expected to spend an extra \$740 on gas this year because of Trump's war of choice against Iran.

Groceries cost more. The average family paid over \$300 more for groceries last year. They are paying more this year, whether it is for bananas, coffee, and other basic goods. We can thank Republicans and Trump's tariff war for that along with the war on Iran. Trump's tariffs cost families more than \$2,500 extra this year.

Utilities bills are also soaring through the roof. Since Trump took office, electric bills have gone up as much as 13 percent nationally while residential natural gas prices have increased by 12 percent.

Mr. Speaker, do you remember when Donald Trump and Republicans promised to lower costs on day one?

That was a lie. The cost of everything is going up, squeezing every penny from American families. As costs continue to rise, this administration is doubling down on the wrong priorities. The President's latest proposed budget not only does nothing to lower the cost, it puts Americans last. At a time when energy bills are rising, they want to eliminate energy assistance programs to help keep the lights on for many families. At a time when food prices are high, Trump and Republicans want to cut programs that would put food on the table for mothers and

children. At a time when housing is unaffordable, they are cutting programs to help keep a roof over people's heads. At a time when families are struggling to get by, they are proposing massive increases in defense spending and pouring billions of dollars more into wars of choice overseas.

Americans were forced to pay an extra \$1,600 on everyday expenses last year because of Trump's and Republicans' policies, and Trump's budget will force many of them to pay even more.

I have heard from people in my district. Erica from my district is a single mother of two. She worries about how to plan meals for her children because she can't buy as many groceries. She takes them to free parks and pools because she can't afford extracurricular activities.

A restaurant owner, Ralph, in South Gate, had decided between making payroll or paying the electricity bill. He paid his staff. His electricity was cut off, and it cost him thousands of dollars more to have it turned back on.

A nonprofit in my district told us that families are calling for help because they are forced to choose between paying for food or paying for basic expenses like electricity and water. Working people can't keep up with rising costs, and many are falling behind.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve a budget that works for them, not one that burdens Americans with higher prices while taking resources away to keep families afloat.

□ 1650

Americans deserve better. They deserve to be put first. Democrats are using every available tool to fight back against Republicans' dangerous agenda and fight for the American people.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA).

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GARCÍA for his leadership and for giving us the opportunity to weigh in on this budget.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on this administration's budget request, a proposal that makes one thing painfully clear: Trump's budget isn't America First; it is America last.

While working families struggle to get by, this budget spends \$350 billion on another endless and illegal war abroad. To fund this, his budget cuts the very programs people rely on here at home.

In Arizona, we are already seeing the devastating consequences of cuts from the big, ugly law. More than 400,000 Arizonans, including 180,000 children, have lost SNAP access just this last year. That is nearly half of all recipients in my State, the largest drop in the country. That means parents skipping meals so their kids can eat. This means seniors choosing between groceries and medication. It means food banks stretched beyond capacity, trying to fill the gap that the Federal Government has created.

Instead of reversing course, Trump's budget doubles down. It eliminates financial assistance for families that are facing rising utility bills. It slashes affordable housing programs like CDBG. It cuts nutrition and health assistance for women, infants, and children, WIC. It guts cancer research and public health funding, even as rural hospitals struggle to stay open.

This budget is a statement of values, and it shows clearly that the priority is not our people. It tells us exactly who this administration is willing to fight for and who it is willing to leave behind, with a 42-percent increase in funding for the Pentagon while cutting programs that support the American people here at home by 10 percent.

I will not support a budget that asks working families to sacrifice more just to bankroll endless wars abroad and hand out tax breaks to the wealthy.

"Our people deserve better"; "nuestra gente merece mejor."

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MENEFE), and I thank him for his patience. He was here at the beginning of this Special Order hour, waiting patiently to make the case for his district and the people he was sent to fight for here in Washington.

Mr. MENEFE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose President Trump's budget. A budget is a statement of values, and this one shows what President Trump cares about: his senseless war first and American families last.

Across the country and in my home in Houston, Americans are fed up with a government that seems more focused on endless wars than on whether people can afford groceries or gas.

President Trump's proposed budget cuts many of the programs that would offer even a little bit of relief to the economic pain he has caused. It would even cut childcare, ignoring the realities families face. As a father of two, I know how costly childcare is, and I am troubled by leaders who would make it harder, not easier, for parents to work and raise their children.

We are feeling these cuts uniquely in my city of Houston. Despite having some of the most food-insecure neighborhoods in the entire country, we have seen massive cuts to food banks, including tens of millions of dollars from the Houston Food Bank.

Despite having the largest medical research hub in the entire country in the Texas Medical Center, which relies on a routine basis on NIH grants, we have seen \$5 billion cut from the NIH.

Despite having some of the most environmental injustice-ridden communities in the entire United States of America, we have seen more than 50 percent in funding cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency. We know that those cuts are coming mostly from the environmental justice divisions.

This budget is immoral. It is an attack on Americans. It is going to severely harm people in Houston.

The President's policies have raised costs, worsened the affordability crisis, undermined access to healthcare, and delivered tax breaks for billionaires while working families fall further behind. Millions of people risk losing vital care and financial security while a small number of billionaires see their wealth grow. Think about that: Families are going without care so that the rich can get richer.

We are the wealthiest nation on Earth. Our budget can and must afford investments in childcare and healthcare and support for our seniors while managing our finances responsibly. What we cannot afford are priorities that put the richest first and leave working families behind.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump's budget represents not America First, but America last.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his continued effort to protect and fight for working families.

For the last 7 years that I have been here, I have been pushing for us to fund and acknowledge that safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water is a human right. Right now, in our United States, we have programs for electricity and gas shut-offs, but nothing for water. Water is life. It is sometimes literally a barrier to a public health crisis.

Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL and I are changing that. In 2021, we established the first-ever low-income housing water assistance program, a financial assistance program to pay off bills and debts and keep people's water connected during the pandemic. It was a total of \$1.1 billion.

The program saved countless lives, but the money has run out. Millions of Americans right now are struggling to keep up with the affordability crisis and having their water shut off.

It is not just an issue in Detroit, but also in communities like the city of Inkster, Redford Township, and other areas in the 12th Congressional District. This is a nationwide issue. Every Congressional district right now has a water crisis.

That is why Congresswoman DINGELL and I are introducing the Water Access and Affordability Act to establish a permanent low-income drinking water assistance program within the Environmental Protection Agency.

Our bill would dedicate \$20 billion every year to keep people's water flowing. This program would include direct financial assistance and bill payments, debt relief, reconnection assistance, and water efficiency upgrades.

It will set up community advisory committees to help advise the EPA on how to implement these programs to make the biggest difference possible.

This bill would ban water shutoffs as a punishment for not being able to afford their water bills. This is the rich-

est country in the world. We say it all the time, but it is important. Many families see the money flowing but not to essentials.

The President just requested a \$1.5 trillion military budget, but they want to tell us they don't have money to make sure that every family in our country has access to clean drinking water. This bill is an important first step in our movement to recognize, again, that water is life. It is a human right.

This has become an issue for me and something very important because there was an African-American couple in my community in their seventies. Their story was published in one of our local outlets. One of the homeowners had put snow in a bucket to melt so he had water to be able to flush the toilet.

Their story talked about the fact that they worked all their lives. They paid for their home. They have to pay their taxes every year on their home. They have a little bit of bills here and there, but the water costs went so high that they just couldn't afford it. They literally, in their seventies, in their retirement, couldn't afford water.

I say this lovingly to my colleagues: It is about time we find money for our families here at home. If our country has money for endless wars, we have money to make sure that people aren't melting snow to flush their toilets or living in fear of getting their children taken away because water has been shut off.

We will literally take children away from homes that don't have access to water and spend money on putting them in foster care, but not make sure that, again, we have programs like this one to make sure that they are protected and have access to something that is lifesaving.

Mr. Speaker, water is a human right, and I hope my colleagues will try to support, again, the funding of this program. Trust me, all across the country, you will find a family that is struggling to pay their water bill.

□ 1700

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who joined us on the floor today, as well as Assistant Democratic Leader NEGUSE for cohosting this Special Order hour.

We are all elected to bring our constituents' voices here to Congress and to pass policies that help them live better lives. I urge my colleagues to protect housing, education, and healthcare especially; in other words, to prioritize the needs of all of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CELEBRATING THE FREEDOM CAUCUS AND TIMOTHY REITZ

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. ROY of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I come here this evening as someone proud to be a