

FUND THESE GRANTS

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, places of worship and nonprofit centers have always been sanctuaries of hope, spirituality, and community in our country, but violence and hate continue to be on the rise. Places of worship are increasingly becoming targets.

Between 2021 and 2023, attacks on churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques increased by nearly 100 percent. Overall, hate crimes in the U.S. are up more than 80 percent since 2015, and 2025 was ranked as the fifth highest year for hate crimes in the FBI's 34-year history of tracking this data.

We need to do more, and that is why I am calling on my colleagues to continue to support nonprofit security grants and other hate prevention programs. We need to help nonprofit organizations, especially houses of worship and religious community centers, enhance physical security against terrorist attacks and threats to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to call out the rise we are seeing in hateful rhetoric. It has no place in our communities, and it certainly has no place in the Halls of Congress.

Let's fund this effort. Let's continue to support and protect our places of worship.

STOP THE MOVE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service is critical to keeping our food safe and protecting us from foodborne illnesses. This administration is trying to undermine this office and our country's ability to prevent foodborne illness.

Just last week, the USDA announced that it is moving its food safety headquarters from D.C. to another part of the country. Now, 200 food safety experts will have to choose between uprooting their lives or staying in their jobs.

We have seen this before. The last time the administration moved a USDA office across the country, it was two research-focused offices, and moving them was a complete disaster for the work of those offices. They lost over a third of their full-time staff, particularly the most experienced people, and they saw steep declines in agency productivity. It completely disrupted the grants and research that they do.

This administration claims that the food safety office continues operating without interruption during this move, but we know from experience that is just not true. In every other case, the people who resigned were the people who had the most experience, the people we needed the most.

Mr. Speaker, the American people can't afford to have an inexperienced, understaffed, and unproductive food safety office, so the USDA needs to stop this move and stop jeopardizing our Nation's food safety.

TSA AGENT CUTS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing for weeks now about how the DHS shutdown needs to end because TSA workers need to get paid, and I agree.

TSA workers have now been working with sporadic pay for 10 weeks. They may even get furloughed again until we decide to end this shutdown by putting the Senate Bill on the floor.

I want to draw your attention to the President's budget. While the President and his administration talk about the importance of TSA workers and keeping lines short at the airport, the President's own budget suggests cutting almost 10,000 TSA agents.

This is all part of a larger plan to get rid of the TSA altogether. For those keeping score at home like me, this is chapter 5 of Project 2025.

Cutting these TSA jobs would mean a lot of things, like worse quality service, cuts to employee pay and benefits, customer dissatisfaction, and a higher risk of errors at places like our airports, where there is no room for error.

Mr. Speaker, I could keep going. The next time the President or any administration official talks about how we need to end this shutdown to support TSA workers, just look at the President's budget.

PROTECTING DATA CENTERS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, data centers hold critical information we use every day and keep the internet running.

Whether it is AI, blockchain, or any other innovations in technology, data centers are going to be a key part of this.

Because data centers are so critical, they are becoming targets during wars. Look at the Russian-Ukrainian war. Russia is attacking Ukrainian data centers. Iran has struck commercial data centers in the UAE and has said that data centers are military targets now.

My district is home to hundreds of data centers, and families, schools, parks, and places of worship are all close to data centers in my district. People living around these data centers shouldn't have to worry about being a target anymore.

That is why I am introducing the Data Infrastructure Risk Reduction Act. This bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to protect data centers and the communities around them from being targeted during attacks.

The government needs to do everything possible to protect these communities because Americans deserve to know that if a data center is going to be built next to them, we will protect that community, and they won't be a target at that point.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and pass this bill.

FINANCIAL FRAUD IS A PLAGUE

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, financial fraud is a plague. Financial fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in this country, harming families and seniors across the Nation.

Last year alone, Americans lost more than \$12.5 billion to scams. These crimes steal hard-earned savings and retirement funds. They destroy lives, and they undermine confidence in our financial system.

That is why it is critical for every American to take simple steps to protect themselves. Never share banking or personal information unless you have verified the source. Be cautious of unsolicited calls and emails. Review bank statements regularly, and use and develop strong passwords and multi-factor authentication to secure your accounts. If you suspect fraud, report it immediately to law enforcement or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, I have a mission to protect both Arkansans and all Americans from financial crime. It remains a top priority.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO FIRST SERVICE BANK OF ARKANSAS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation to First Service Bank of Arkansas for their contributions to our beloved, respected Arkansas military community through their annual Operation Red, White, and Brave.

This program has raised both awareness and funds that provide resources for home modifications and financial assistance efforts for both veterans and current Active-Duty members and their families throughout our central Arkansas area.

This program raises money through donations, events, and an annual charity golf clinic.

Mr. Speaker, every day, I love representing the amazing volunteers and generous citizens across our Second District. Local community businesses like First Service Bank that dedicate time and effort to help our veterans and the people of Arkansas are a real feature and strength of central Arkansas.

CONGRATULATING RANDY MASSANELLI

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Randy Massanelli on his retirement as vice chancellor of the Government and Community Relations unit at the University of Arkansas and to thank him for his dedicated service to his community and our proud State.

As a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and a proud graduate of the University of Fayetteville, Mr. Massanelli served in the United States Army for 15 years, rising to the rank of major before moving to higher education.

While in the Army, Randy served in numerous assignments as the officer in charge of ground convoy movements for the Pershing II missiles in Europe and a combat tour in the Persian Gulf

war, earning countless honors, including the Bronze Star for service and sacrifice.

In 2014, Mr. Massanelli joined the University of Arkansas and has been bringing his keen judgment and personal experience, working tireless hours to help obtain important research grants and funding for the University of Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Randy Massanelli, for his years of service and commitment to Arkansas. His work is a model for future generations of public servants, and his devotion to our State is truly commendable.

□ 1215

PENN STATE WRESTLING TEAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penn State wrestling team for winning the NCAA Division I wrestling tournament last month. This historic achievement marks the Nittany Lions' fifth consecutive title and Penn State's 13th team title over the last 15 seasons.

The NCAA wrestling tournament, hosted in Cleveland, Ohio, saw the Lions qualify all 10 wrestlers for the 3-day event, with 7 wrestlers placing as top seeds.

The team scored 181.5 points, breaking their own record of 177 points, which they set last year.

To conclude championship weekend, four Nittany Lions earned individual national titles. In addition, Mitchell Mesenbrink was named the 2026 NCAA Championship Outstanding Wrestler.

Much of this success is a testament to the leadership of Head Coach Cael Sanderson, who has been with the team since 2010. Cael, a former collegiate wrestler and Olympic athlete, knows exactly what it takes to deliver a championship-level team. As the university's head coach for more than 10 years, Cael has delivered the team from strength to strength. Another accolade that the team can tout is winning the Big Ten championship for the fourth consecutive year.

As a former high school wrestler myself and a Penn State alum, I love seeing the success that the Nittany Lions have had each year. Penn State wrestling brings together the student body, Penn State alum, and State College residents to watch an exciting evening of matches. There is nothing quite like a packed Bryce Jordan Center on a Saturday evening.

I was a former wrestler at Bald Eagle Area High School under the leadership of Coach Dick Rhoades, and in 2015 I was honored to be recognized by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. The leadership and discipline that I learned during practice have stuck with me throughout my life.

I know that all young men at Penn State will be able to take the lessons

that they learn through wrestling and apply them to other aspects of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, the athletes, the coaches, and the staff should all be proud of this amazing accomplishment, and I wish the team the best as they continue working towards their goals next season.

GERRYMANDERING: A PLAGUE ON DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, last week yet another State returned to the era of gerrymandering, marking a further regression for democracy in America.

This entire redistricting war has been a total disaster for our country. What is more, it has been utterly pointless. As was predicted, neither side is really going to come out ahead. Every side has lost.

Meanwhile, the whole conflict that has spread from State to State to State has caused partisanship in this country to truly bubble over. It has destabilized representation across the country. It has further eroded trust in the fairness of our political process. It has further eroded the idea of representation and government by the people.

It is past time for Congress to take responsibility for the fairness of our own elections throughout this country. We can do that in two ways.

Number one is by passing my bill to end mid-decade redistricting. I introduced this last year, and it passed last year. We could have avoided this whole thing, but we can still pass it now to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again.

Number two is by the time of the next Census when we are supposed to do redistricting, we can pass legislation to end gerrymandering in this country once and for all. The way I am proposing we do this is by setting up a truly independent commission in every State, much like California had before it was sidelined last year.

Mr. Speaker, gerrymandering is a plague on democracy, and it is well past time that the United States moves past it and ensures fair elections and fair representation for every citizen in our country.

CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2025

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, a new report titled: "California's Economic Performance Review 2025" paints an absolutely alarming picture of our State's current economic performance.

Just to give you a few of the highlights, or really lowlights, Mr. Speaker, California right now has the highest unemployment rate in the Nation at 5.5 percent with over 1 million unemployed workers.

There were 181,700 private-sector jobs lost in 2025 and 432,900 private-sector

jobs lost in the last 3 years. Meanwhile, almost all of the actual job growth has come from government. There are now 1.9 unemployed workers per job opening in California. That is the worst ratio in the country, with layoffs and separations up by 57 percent in 2025.

Net business establishments in 2025 were down almost 90 percent since before Governor Newsom took office, and almost all of the new firms that were rated were sole proprietorships with almost no employees.

California, meanwhile, has the highest cost of living of any State, with 6 of the 10 most expensive metropolitan areas in the country. Electricity rates in our State are nearly double the rest of the country for homes and almost triple for industry. We also, of course, have the highest gas prices by far in the country.

California has the highest poverty rate in the Nation at 16.4 percent. California had 1.9 million residents lost to other States over the last 7 years, and that includes 409,000 workers lost in job-to-job migration over the last 5 years.

All this time, the budget grew by 68.2 percent since 2019, with a structural deficit that is now \$20 billion to \$35 billion annually.

By the way, there has been nearly a 50 percent drop in the number of high earners filing tax returns over \$10 million just in the last 5 years, and that number is going to go up a lot with this entire wealth tax scheme that is being proposed right now.

Mr. Speaker, California is the greatest State in the country. We have more to offer than any State in the country. With our State's abundance of natural resources, its amazing companies, people, and culture, there is absolutely no reason we should not be outperforming every other State. Instead, we are underperforming every other State by a lot, to the detriment of our own citizens.

So I am, once again, calling upon leaders in Sacramento to chart a different course, one that is proworker, pro-opportunity, and progrowth. I am also encouraging those of us here in the House to look at what California has done wrong because it provides us a good roadmap of what we should be doing in order to get the economy and the cost of living right.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.