

South Vietnam in 1975, he was imprisoned in a political reeducation camp in Vietnam, but eventually escaped and later settled in Orange County, California, where he and his family built a new life and made southern California their home for almost 50 years.

As a pharmacist, Mr. TRAN dedicated his life to serving others through healthcare. He was actively involved with the Vietnamese-American community, advocating for democracy, freedom, and human rights for Vietnam.

Augustino's legacy will live through his family. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this time.

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST HAS IT ALL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight National Forest Week celebrated earlier this month. This week is an opportunity for us to celebrate the beauty of our national forests.

I am proud to represent the Allegheny National Forest, the only national forest in Pennsylvania.

Whether it is forestry, energy production, timber harvesting, or an abundance of outdoor activities, the Allegheny National Forest has it all.

For generations, the Allegheny National Forest has brought economic prosperity to the region.

This month I was proud to introduce the Mass Timber Federal Buildings Act with Representative ANDREA SALINAS of Oregon. This bipartisan legislation provides incentives for the use of mass timber building materials in Federal contracting, giving timber and other forest products companies the ability to compete for construction, renovation, or acquisition of public buildings, and for military construction.

The Mass Timber Federal Buildings Act is a clear step in the right step. It ensures we continue to support the Allegheny National Forest, rural communities, and businessowners.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and support our Nation's timber industry and forests.

□ 0910

PERMANENT PROTECTIONS FOR DREAMERS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this coming Monday, June 15, we mark 14 years since DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The keywords here are "deferred action." That means you defer action and do not go into deportation. It gave Dreamers a chance to breathe. Yet,

President Trump is trying to suffocate DACA one delayed renewal at a time.

He is detaining and deporting Dreamers, slow-walking renewals, and creating gaps that are costing them their livelihoods. Dreamers were brought here as children. They grew up here and are American in every way—in their hearts, their souls, and their minds—except on paper.

They should not have to keep proving they belong in the only country they call home. This is why I am leading the American Dream and Promise Act, to give Dreamers permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship. The House must vote on this bill and finally keep the promise that this country has made.

RECOGNIZING CHELSEA BEUTLER

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an inspiring small business owner from Utah, Chelsea Beutler, whose work reminds us of the beauty that can bring people together, even in divided times.

Chelsea, the founder of Sunnyside Urban Flower Farm, has been selected as a floral designer for the 113th annual First Lady's Luncheon in Washington, D.C., a century-old bipartisan tradition hosted by the Congressional Club Museum and Foundation that supports charitable causes and celebrates community service.

Chelsea's journey is one of resilience and creativity. During the COVID pandemic, as her family faced personal challenges, Chelsea transformed her approach to farming, turning from vegetables to flowers and, in doing so, cultivated not just crops but connection. Through workshops and community events, she has helped people to reconnect, heal, and find joy.

In a world that often feels divided, her work is a reminder that something as simple as a flower can bridge gaps, uplift spirits, and bring us closer together.

I am proud to recognize Chelsea Beutler for her achievement and for representing Utah on the national stage.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IS NOT FOR SALE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with an important message for the Trump administration: The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not for sale.

For the third time, they have tried to sell off the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Big Oil, and for the third time, it has flopped.

Last Friday's lease sale brought in less than 1 percent of projected rev-

enue. Not one major oil company even showed up, and for good reason.

Last summer, I traveled to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I fished its rivers, walked its Coastal Plain, and watched musk ox roam one of the last truly wild places on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, I can speak with firsthand experience when I say that this place is simply too special to drill, too important for the animal ecosystem and global bird migrations, and too critical for indigenous cultural preservation.

Our public lands belong to the American people, not to the highest bidder. When the highest bidder doesn't even show up, maybe it is time this administration got the message.

PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS DISASTER DECLARATION

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the past 27 years, the Bipartisan Women's Caucus has held an annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington's Military Women's Memorial. It is a solemn event, a time when Republicans and Democrats come together to honor the immense service of women in the United States Armed Forces—until this year.

Several military branches declined to participate in what would have been the 28th annual ceremony, leading to the event being canceled. They cited Trump's executive order and Department of Defense guidance that bans the celebration of identity months and diversity events.

DEI? America is home to more than 2 million living women veterans. For 200 years, women have fought and sacrificed for our Nation.

DEI? Instead of honoring their service, the Trump administration is trying to erase women's contributions to our Nation and our history.

DEI? They want to deny and diminish the sacrifice of women veterans. Can you imagine anything more un-American?

Mr. Speaker, DEI. This administration will not ever erase their devotion, excellence, and integrity.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an institution that is purely California, the California Conservation Corps, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

It started in 1976 with Jerry Brown in his first iteration as Governor. When wildfires come, when floods rise, when the Earth shakes, and when pandemics descend, you can count on the California Conservation Corps answering the call.

Every year, corps members have protected our forests and built and maintained trails so that many of us can enjoy the outdoors.

When the Nation calls, the California Conservation Corps answers far beyond the borders. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, the California Conservation Corps answered the call for mutual aid by sending crews to support post-disaster recovery. If there is a flood, if there is a fire, look to the levees, look to the forest, and you will find the California Conservation Corps. It has a rich and well-deserved history.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back in honoring the California Conservation Corps's 50th anniversary.

CONDEMNING ACTORS SEEKING TO DEFRAUD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT GOVERNMENTWIDE FRAUD AND IMPROPER PAYMENT PREVENTION REFORMS WILL MEANINGFULLY IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT FEDERAL PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SHOULD BE VERIFIED BEFORE PAYMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1345, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1335) condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1345, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1335

Whereas fraud and improper payments in Federal agency programs is an unsustainable national fiscal emergency;

Whereas the Comptroller General of the United States documented in 2025 that the Federal Government has improperly paid about \$3,000,000,000,000 since 2003 where payments should not have been made or were made incorrectly;

Whereas the measured governmentwide improper payment rate has increased from the prior year, with the Comptroller General of the United States recently reporting that in fiscal year 2025 Federal agencies reported approximately \$186,000,000,000 in estimated improper payments, an increase of about \$24,000,000,000 from fiscal year 2024 documented improper payments;

Whereas the Comptroller General of the United States also estimates that, based on data from 2018 to 2022 the Federal Government loses between \$233,000,000,000 and \$521,000,000,000 annually to fraud across all Federal programs and operations;

Whereas each one of these fraudulently spent tax dollars is taken at the expense of a hard-working American;

Whereas, based on the Comptroller General's estimate of the average annual amount of fraud losses, between \$1,000 to \$3,000 a year represents the average American tax filer's share of the Federal Government's total fraudulent spending;

Whereas fraud and improper payments have long been a concern for Congress, pandemic-era spending programs exposed the vulnerability of Federal agencies to criminals and malicious actors who had not previously targeted United States Government programs;

Whereas, between March 2020 and March 2021, Congress enacted a series of six laws providing over \$4,600,000,000,000 in Federal funds to mitigate the economic and public health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Congress appropriating over \$2,700,000,000,000 for these purposes in the first four months of the pandemic alone;

Whereas the unprecedented expansion of government programs, changes to program eligibility requirements, an influx of government spending, and lack of commensurate and adequate fraud prevention and financial management capabilities, created a perfect scenario for existing program and payment integrity weaknesses to be exploited;

Whereas, in total, while the true extent of pandemic relief fraud may never be known, the Comptroller General of the United States observes that "hundreds of billions of dollars in potentially fraudulent payments were disbursed";

Whereas fraud in Federal programs delays and prevents individuals who legitimately need services, as Congress intended in establishing such programs, from receiving them;

Whereas fraud in Federal programs severely undermines the public's trust in the government causing unquantifiable additional damage to the United States;

Whereas trust has further been eroded as specific fraud schemes have been uncovered through recent congressional, Federal, and local investigations;

Whereas significant fraud risks exist in programs that are federally funded and administered by State, territorial, and local agencies;

Whereas the ongoing investigation by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives of fraud in Minnesota's social services programs has highlighted real examples of fraud schemes that stole billions of dollars from federally funded programs, taking advantage of severely lacking State level program integrity and agency oversight functions;

Whereas the ongoing investigation by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives of fraud in California's federally funded hospice programs, including providers potentially overbilling Medicare and enrolling beneficiaries without their knowledge, raises valid concerns that California lacks sufficient internal controls to detect and prevent fraud and is not conducting proper oversight of these hospice programs;

Whereas the ongoing investigation by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives of fraud in Medicaid personal care services authorized by Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers, including providers potentially improperly billing Medicaid or billing for services that were never provided, raises valid concerns of significant fraud in HCBS Medicaid waiver programs in Ohio and other States across the country;

Whereas a March 4, 2026, interim report by the Majority staff of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House

of Representatives found that Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison "were aware of widespread fraud in federally funded social services programs for years, possessed the legal and procedural authority to stop payments, but repeatedly failed to act";

Whereas the same March 4, 2026, report found that senior officials in the Governor Walz's office and Attorney General Ellison's office were "aware of credible fraud concerns in Minnesota's social services programs as early as 2019 within the Department of Human Services (DHS) and by April 2020 within the Department of Education (MDE), despite later public statements by Governor Walz suggesting otherwise";

Whereas, based on these investigations, the House of Representatives has observed that State agencies have little incentive to ensure that Federal funds are spent efficiently, or appropriately, and frequently prioritize program access over payment integrity;

Whereas, based on these investigations, the House of Representatives has observed that State agencies overly rely on the self-attested compliance and reimbursement claims of providers and service enrollees, leaving these programs highly susceptible to fraud;

Whereas the Comptroller General of the United States has also documented how mechanisms of misrepresentation by criminals and malicious actors, such as document manipulation, false declarations, and creating fictitious entities, leave Federal programs open to significant fraud risk when they rely on recipient self-attestation to determine award eligibility and payment verification;

Whereas, in response to the rampant fraud identified in several States, the Trump administration established the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud through Executive Order 14395 (91 Fed. Reg. 13485; relating to establishing the Task Force to eliminate fraud), issued on March 16, 2026;

Whereas the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud is empowered to coordinate a national strategy to stop fraud, waste, and abuse, as rooted in a proper focus on fraud prevention rather than recovery, a critical shift in approach identified through the ongoing investigations by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, subcommittee hearings, and legislation favorably reported to the House of Representatives;

Whereas, in March 2026, Federal prosecutors charged eleven individuals, including two foreign nationals, in a major real estate and loan ringtons preying on elderly victims in California;

Whereas, between March 25, 2026, and April 15, 2026, the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud suspended nearly 450 California-based hospice and home health providers due to suspected fraud, with estimated fraud exceeding \$600,000,000;

Whereas, in April 2026, the Department of Justice secured a guilty plea from a California-based provider who submitted nearly \$270,000,000 in fraudulent Medicaid claims;

Whereas the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud suspended \$1,400,000,000 in home health and hospice funding nationwide, with 90 percent of the suspended providers failing to contact the Federal Government since payments were suspended;

Whereas the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud uncovered \$6,300,000,000 in suspected fraudulent government contracts, resulting in an immediate investigation into nearly 400 businesses;

Whereas, on April 17, 2026, the Department of Justice announced that in the first week since its establishment, the National Fraud Enforcement Division exposed over \$340,000,000 in fraudulent schemes;