

As we mark the 161st anniversary of Juneteenth, we also recognize and celebrate the Tucson Juneteenth Committee, which has been bringing our community together in commemoration and celebration since 1970 thanks to the leadership of Larry Starks.

I am honored to join our community and the Tucson Juneteenth Committee in celebrating this important occasion. Their decades of dedication have helped preserve the history, culture, and significance of Juneteenth for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all of southern Arizona, for the last of a month full of events, to join us Saturday, June 20, at the Kino Sports Complex for an evening of freedom, culture, education, and community as we honor this important milestone for our Nation's history and recommit ourselves to the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice for all.

Happy Juneteenth.

WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the more than 2 million women across the country who have answered the call to serve our Nation in uniform.

As a former Navy helicopter pilot, I had the honor and privilege of serving alongside remarkable and capable women whose professionalism and competence strengthened our Armed Forces and helped keep our country safe.

Their service and the service of countless women that came before them deserves to be recognized. That is why I am proud to introduce legislation designating June 12 as Women Veterans Appreciation Day.

This date commemorates the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, landmark legislation that granted women the right to serve as permanent members of our military.

Today, women serve in every branch of our Armed Forces and continue to make invaluable contributions to our national security. This legislation honors their sacrifices, their achievements, and their enduring legacy of service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the women veterans who have worn our Nation's uniform for their service, their leadership, and their commitment to our great Nation.

REMEMBERING LEONARD LUCIANO, JR.

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

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, Leonard Luciano, Jr., affectionately known as

Junior, Lenny, or Mr. Lou, was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and schoolteacher in Newark, New Jersey.

For decades, he was also known throughout Livingston and West Essex for making the most delicious pizza at Junior's Pizzeria.

The 11th of 12 children, he was raised in Livingston, New Jersey, and Mr. Lou worked tirelessly to serve all those around him because he knew that through service and community, one improves the world as well as one's self.

A member of the first graduating class of Livingston High School in 1957, he excelled as a standout football linebacker, leading his team in tackles year after year, a fact he happily loved to share.

Mr. Speaker, nothing can make up for the sudden loss of this generous and kindhearted man, but it is a privilege to take this moment of remembrance. We are all so much better for having known Mr. Luciano. Job well done.

HELPING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN NEW MEXICO

(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, we must celebrate the wins because there is so much that happens here in the House that is not in service of the American people, including, this week, Republican efforts to give a blank check to ICE and to pass an education bill that would gut funding for schools and education institutions.

That is why we must celebrate the wins, and why I am so proud today to introduce my bipartisan Postsecondary Student Success Act to ensure that all students from all walks of life can succeed.

In New Mexico, we are leading the way as the first State in the country to guarantee early childhood education, free childcare, free college, and free trades schools for all. It was legislation I was proud to cosponsor and lead in the legislature and here in Congress. These are generational investments that will transform the lives of countless New Mexicans.

Today, I am introducing my Postsecondary Student Success Act that will make crucial investments to ensure that working parents, first-generation students, veterans, and students with disabilities who face real barriers, financial stress, lack of support, and systems—

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANK). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. STANSBURY.—that are not built for them can succeed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Juneteenth, marking 161 years since the full enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Juneteenth flag was created by Boston's own Ben Haith and insists that the story of our Nation is incomplete without the ongoing work of liberation.

Red, white, and blue to affirm that Black Americans are Americans. An arc to symbolize the horizon of a future where America lives up to its ideals, and a starburst in the middle representing the new era of freedom.

As we commemorate this sacred day, let us honor our ancestors not just through reflection but through action, organizing, and restorative and reparative policies that bring us closer to freedom, the freedom they dreamt of and fought so hard for.

Let everyone of all backgrounds and in all regions of this country commit to fighting for an America that oppresses no one. From Galveston to Boston, our futures are tied.

Happy Juneteenth.

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am so excited to celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week and recognize the legendary Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament in Morehead City, a treasured tradition along our beautiful Crystal Coast.

For generations, fishing and boating have brought families together, supported small businesses, strengthened our coastal economy, and connected people to breathtaking waters that make eastern North Carolina so special.

The Big Rock tournament represents the very best of our maritime heritage, drawing anglers from far and near to experience world-class competition and the unmatched hospitality of our coastal communities.

Fishing, it is not just a pastime in the East. It is our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Boating Caucus, I am so proud to support our boaters, anglers, captains, crews, and coastal businesses who keep these rich traditions alive.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF GREGGORY PEDERSON

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

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Chief Gregory Pederson for more than 51 years of extraordinary service to the Mound community and the people of Minnesota.

Chief Pederson joined the Mound Fire Department in 1975 as a volunteer firefighter and dedicated the next five decades of his life to protecting and serving others.

Over the course of his remarkable career, he served as captain, training officer, assistant fire chief, emergency management director, and ultimately fire chief.

Throughout his career, Chief Pederson answered more than 15,400 calls for fire and emergency assistance. His steady commitment helped to shape generations of firefighters and to strengthen the Mound community for decades.

Chief Pederson's career reflects the very best of public service, selflessness, professionalism, and a deep dedication to his neighbors and community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Minnesota, I thank Chief Pederson for his incredible career and lasting legacy. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

TIME TO BRING DOWN COSTS

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are making it harder for moms and kids to get the food they need.

WIC, or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, has provided mothers and babies with healthy food and a solid start in life.

Needy families use it to purchase formula, fruits, veggies, milk, and other nutritious essentials. Yet, House Republicans just slashed this vital benefit by 10 percent in their agriculture spending bill, making it 10 percent harder for 18,000 Rhode Islanders to make ends meet.

Because of Trump's latest cruelty, moms will go to sleep every night fearing their kids will go without. Without proper nutrition, kids are denied growth, learning, and opportunity.

Republicans can always find money for billionaires, but how is it they can't find money for moms and babies?

Mr. Speaker, every kid deserves enough to eat. It is time to stop the cuts, end the chaos, and bring down costs.

CUTS TO U.S. BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a few portions of the edi-

torial written by Steven Khan and his colleagues regarding the Trump administration's cuts to U.S. biomedical research.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

MISGUIDED BRUSHES OF A PEN CONTINUE TO DISMANTLE AND DESTROY BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES: WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD COMPLACENCY AND FEAR. WE MUST ALL ACT NOW!

Just a year ago, in these very pages, we highlighted the many threats the current U.S. administration posed to the health of our nation. Since then, there have been actions by the administration that have caused grave health consequences, and their current approach will continue to do so. The numerous measles outbreaks and associated avoidable deaths have resulted in part from hyping disproven theories of harm rather than publicizing the effectiveness of the measles vaccine. Plugging the concept that diabetes is curable by "changing the food source" simply ignores the large body of work that has demonstrated that it is not merely a disease of poor nutrition and the immense challenges of reinventing the food industry. Peddling conspiracy theories represents failures by officials of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), whose primary goal is to protect our health. These two examples represent just two of the broken promises made by the current HHS leadership during their confirmation hearings. And, despite promising oversight, representatives on Capitol Hill have shirked their responsibility and have allowed the country to continue along misguided paths that even they recognized as irresponsible.

We are not only naysayers; we do wish to give credit where credit is due. Both Republicans and Democrats loudly and firmly rejected the White House's proposed nearly \$18 billion reduction in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for fiscal year 2026. The result was a 1% increase in the total appropriation over that of fiscal year 2025, amounting to \$47.5 billion. This signaled that the value of biomedical research is not lost on our elected representatives. We appreciate their steadfastness and resistance to surrendering to what would have destroyed decades of American advances in biomedical discovery and translation.

While one would think that this congressional action to preserve the NIH budget was a clear repudiation, it has not stopped President Trump from requesting a 2027 budget that now seeks a \$5 billion reduction to NIH. These proposed cuts would eliminate the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, which they claim "is replete with DEI [diversity, equity, and inclusion] expenditures," the Fogarty International Center, which is responsible for funding degree programs in foreign countries that benefit the health of all, including Americans, and the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, whose charge includes supporting research and offering information about complementary health approaches in the setting of whole-person health. Other vital cores of the NIH that would be scaled back are the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Library of Medicine; the latter's charge includes providing searchable access to the worldwide medical literature for scientists, clinicians, and patients around the world.

Threats to the U.S. biomedical research infrastructure are easy to understand when they involve reductions in appropriated dol-

lars and cents. However, serious negative consequences arise when administrative changes are made without congressional approval or oversight. We have been witnessing significant changes imposed on NIH since the start of this administration. The changes seem to be accelerating and occurring across the whole of NIH, without exception, thus impacting biomedical innovation in diabetes care and across every disease. From our perspective as investigators who have received federal research funding, these changes have and will continue to have detrimental effects on the NIH research infrastructure, with significant adverse trickle-down implications for universities and investigators. These radical modifications have included a marked reduction in the NIH workforce, changes in medical advisory councils, a reduction in published notices of funding opportunities, and an ill-advised multiyear funding policy.

Early in 2025, the new administration implemented unplanned and haphazard "reductions in force" that targeted not only NIH scientific staff but also many behind-the-scenes personnel in each institute who were responsible for policy, compliance, and communications. It is very clear to many of us that this reduction in key staff has fractured the NIH infrastructure, leaving a huge void such that the NIH is failing to communicate with the general public, universities, and the investigators they serve.

At an administrative level, each NIH institute has a medical advisory council responsible for providing oversight and guidance to its staff. Each institute's advisory council represents a second level of peer review and acts as the ultimate arbiter for the agency's scientific and legal integrity. Each institute's advisory council also provides approval for "concept clearance," which is required to launch new research initiatives. Further, these medical advisory councils have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure the American public's tax dollars are properly expended by reviewing and approving each institute's grant funding pay plan, thereby ensuring funding of the most innovative and impactful basic, clinical, and translational research. Membership on these committees, which comprise subject matter experts from academia and nonprofit organizations, has finite terms, after which members are either reappointed or replaced. In the past year, neither has occurred, allowing the Trump administration to impose its political agenda with few questions asked. Since mid-2025, observations suggest the appointment process, which has included traditional nonpartisan vetting, is taking a worrisome turn and is now transitioning to more direct oversight by HHS leadership. This transition is leading to significant and likely intentional delays in appointments, resulting in some institutes' councils operating at only one-third capacity and many councils with massive backlogs in completing their responsibilities. In addition, the administration appears to be shifting membership expertise away from an academic and scientific focus to reflect broader administration priorities and including political appointees who frequently have no subject matter expertise. A consequence of these changes is that the grant cycle is significantly slower and oversight of grant funding is no longer a required administrative step; it is now a deliberate policy alignment tool to ensure new research closely mirrors specific administrative political interests. As a result, meritorious scientific projects that aim to improve the lives of all Americans are not being funded. All of this is in line with what Dr. Francis Collins recently said: "Mix politics and science, you get politics. You kind of lose everything else."

Another new tactic is starting to severely hamper the ability of the NIH's institutes to