

Its author, Thomas Jefferson, laid out a vision of an independent America built around the individual's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which still inspire not only our own people but people all over the world.

Unfortunately, it is also the 1-year anniversary of arguably one of the worst pieces of legislation in the modern era, the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which President Trump signed into law on July Fourth, 2025.

As the Congressional Budget Office documented, this bill will add 3.4 trillion new dollars to our national debt, provide permanent \$1 trillion tax breaks to the top 1 percent of income earners, cut nutrition programs by at least \$187 billion, and, worst of all, cut \$1 trillion from America's largest healthcare program, Medicaid, starting on January 1.

At the time the bill was debated, an overwhelming coalition of hospitals, nursing homes, physician groups, nurses, and patient groups tried to warn the Republican majority and the White House that millions of Americans will be denied healthcare from this draconian butchery of the healthcare system. To be exact, 10 million Americans will lose their coverage, according to CBO.

The majority dismissed those concerns and jammed this measure through, accusing Democrats of scare-mongering. According to them, the new work requirements in the law for vulnerable populations would have exemptions for the "medically frail," and there was nothing to worry about.

A couple of weeks ago, however, these warnings sadly came true when RFK Jr.'s health department released the actual rule that State Medicaid directors will have to follow starting in January.

The hope was that a medical diagnosis for cancer, HIV, or other serious, chronic conditions would qualify for protection. Instead, the rule makes clear that a cancer diagnosis will not automatically qualify for an exemption. Instead, the patient will have to document that the disease actually impairs the ability to work.

A patient suffering from pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, breast cancer, or lymphoma will have to demonstrate, with job searches and employer paperwork, that the disease and the debilitating therapies are an impairment, a hopelessly vague standard that will rob desperately ill patients of care.

To put it in a nutshell, the definition of "medical frailty" is no longer a medical diagnosis by a doctor but a subjective employability standard that makes no sense.

There is a word for this, Mr. Speaker. It is "inhumane."

Don't take my word for it. On this poster is a list of 48 patient groups vehemently denouncing this vicious rule, which Secretary Kennedy and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services should withdraw immediately.

As you can see, the most credible patient groups—American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, National MS Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Lupus Foundation of America, March of Dimes, The ALS Association, and The AIDS Institute, to name just a few—have all warned Kennedy and his followers in Congress that this rule will create chaos and dramatically increase the number of desperately ill people who will lose their health coverage.

There is no better way to honor the principles of our treasured Declaration of Independence—to guarantee the right to life and the pursuit of happiness—than to block this grotesque rule, which will condemn the sickest and most vulnerable of our society to degradation and pain.

STOPPING SHARIA INFLUENCE IN TEXAS

(Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a growing threat to the rule of law in my State of Texas.

The rise of sharia, the law of Islam, has reached a tipping point in the Lone Star State, especially in north Texas, which I represent. Opaque sharia-compliant actions are advancing across our State and our Nation. We must be clear that America recognizes only one legal system: the Constitution and laws of the United States.

I commend Texas Governor Greg Abbott for his strong leadership in recently confronting this challenge. His actions regarding the proposed Texas American Muslim University and the planned Muslim-only event at a taxpayer-funded water park demonstrate the continuing vigilance required to protect our uniform system of justice.

Last year, nearly 95 percent of Texas voters supported Proposition 10 to ban sharia. That was not a symbolic gesture. It was an overwhelming mandate. Texans declared decisively that no foreign legal framework shall influence, operate alongside, or supplant our State's judicial system. They expect their elected representatives to honor that vote.

Recent events in the United Kingdom offer a stark and tragic warning. A new independent report on grooming gangs has exposed decades of systematic child sexual exploitation, predominantly of young, White, British girls by groups of Pakistani Muslim men, with authorities repeatedly failing to act out of fear of being labeled racist.

Thousands upon thousands of victims were betrayed by the very institutions meant to protect them. We must not allow such horrors to take root here in America.

While Congress is acting—my bill, H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act, passed the House and is now pending in the Senate—Federal efforts alone are not enough. The pri-

mary responsibility for protecting our legal system from parallel frameworks rests on the shoulders of an informed citizenry, along with those of State and local leaders. Texans are leading the way, and others are beginning to follow.

In Kaufman County, Texas, Federal, State, and local officials worked in unison to stop a sharia city project backed by a Dubai-based development company.

Several of my constituents confronted the Wiley School Board after one of their high school principals granted a group called Why Islam access to the campus to hand out Korans.

One of my constituents, Jessica Hulcy, grabbed her walker, got a ride to Josephine City Hall, and stood in front of a crowded room to share her concerns about the proposed East Plano Islamic Center.

Across the Red River, citizens in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, successfully put a stop to a sharia enclave after imploring their local leaders to just say no.

Even across the pond, citizens in the U.K. are beginning to push back against the cultural shift wreaking havoc in their community because of sharia's influence.

In America, belief is protected. Conduct under the law is not. Let me be clear: Sharia is a political-legal ideology, not a religion. Therefore, it should not fall under the First Amendment protection for faith and worship. The First Amendment safeguards an individual's right to believe and practice their religion, but it has never granted immunity to political systems, especially those that claim authority above the Constitution, which sharia does.

When presented as a governing framework that dictates civil law, family law, criminal penalties, and public policy, sharia functions as an ideological legal code rather than a religious belief.

Under this view, the Constitution must remain the supreme law of the land. No ideological system, particularly sharia, religious in origin or otherwise, can override the liberties, equal protections, and democratic processes guaranteed to every American.

I thank the Texas Public Policy Foundation and the Texas legislators advancing commonsense measures, such as House Bill 495, which prohibits public institutions from accepting funds from foreign adversaries.

I also encourage States to expand tools for local officials, including county commissioners, in order to safeguard our laws.

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Thomas Jefferson declared: "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." This eternal hostility must extend to any religious or foreign legal code, particularly sharia, that seeks to supplant American liberty and self-government.

As Sir Winston Churchill warned: Sometimes it is not enough that we do our best; we must do what is required.

OLMSTEAD DECISION MEMO

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, as the Senate looks to confirm or not confirm Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, I want to point to the body a recent DOJ memo on the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision which threatens to turn back the clock decades to a time when Americans with disabilities were offered less choice, less freedom, and less care.

This memo means that DOJ will not require States to serve people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. That means people with disabilities would be isolated from their families and from their communities.

Families with a disabled loved one now fear that their only option is institutionalization. That is what Olmstead did. It prevented institutionalization of people with disabilities, and the DOJ is trying to turn back the clock now.

They must reconsider this opinion. This is not just about where people with disabilities live. It is about dignity, equality, and the belief that every person deserves an opportunity to belong.

It is on all of us in this body to push back against this discriminatory policy.

CIVIL WAR IN SUDAN

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing civil war in Sudan has displaced millions of people, and 400,000 people have died. That is over half the population of Washington, D.C. On top of that, 19 million people are facing acute food insecurity there.

The war in Iran and its disruption to the supply chain has made it even harder for assistance to reach Sudan. I offered an amendment to the State Department funding bill to evaluate our current funding levels to Sudan, get them the help they need, and craft a plan to increase funding levels to meet these gaps.

Unfortunately, those amendments were rejected. We need to do more to support the people suffering in Sudan. I urge my colleagues to come together and provide lifesaving assistance to them. We cannot stand on the sidelines as lives continue to be lost.

RECOGNIZING ACADEMY APPOINTEES

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of young leaders from our community who have earned my nomination as well as appointments to our Nation's service academies.

Earning an appointment is no small feat. These students have shown excellence in the classroom, leadership in their communities, and dedication to everything they do. However, what

stands out most is their willingness to serve.

Last week and early this week, all 19 are reporting for their first days at the academies, beginning with basic cadet training, induction day, and more as they take the first steps in a lifetime of service.

At a time when they could choose many different paths, they have chosen to build one instead that is built on sacrifice, discipline, and responsibility. Wherever their path takes them, our country will be better off because they chose to serve.

On behalf of our community, congratulations to the 19 who are reporting for their first day. We are proud of them, grateful for them, and we are excited to see their accomplishments.

HONORING STUDENT-ATHLETES

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the student-athletes in our community who have won State championships in the spring 2026 season.

A total of nine varsity spring sports teams in our community achieved this goal. There were so many that I couldn't do nine different speeches. I wanted to do one for all of them.

The teams include: Freedom High School boys' tennis, Independence High School boys' lacrosse team, and Independence High School girls' soccer. Riverside High School boys' lacrosse and girls' lacrosse both won the State championship this year. Other State championship teams include: Rock Ridge boys' tennis and Tuscarora High School softball. Woodgrove and Battlefield baseball teams both won. They could really help our baseball team on the Democratic side.

It is not easy to compete at such a high level while also balancing classes and personal lives. I commend these student-athletes for their commitment to excellence. Many of them are going to go to college and continue to play.

It is safe to say that Northern Virginia is the home of stars both in the classroom as well as on the field.

VOTING WITH OUR FEET

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that maybe isn't the most exciting subject, but it is something I used to teach in the classroom. It is called federalism.

The map to my left here shows exactly what is happening in America today, and it is a great thing. People have the power to vote with their feet and leave failed States. There is a reason States like Texas and Florida are attracting more and more people. It is because the system works.

People are recognizing that when we have high taxes and high crime, it is time to leave that State. That is what is happening today: the idea where people are voting with their feet.

Federalism is that opportunity, and it is the reason why I want to talk about what has happened in the last few years.

One of the issues I want to talk about is what I would call amnesia or maybe memory loss.

During the Biden years, food prices went up dramatically. You will see that what you used to spend \$200 for at the grocery store, you now spend \$250. If you spend \$1,000 a month at the grocery store, you are now spending over \$1,200, almost \$1,300.

That is a significant amount of money. It is fundamental. Especially as we move toward the MAHA movement, people are making better choices but with great challenges.

With the idea of amnesia, what is the Democratic plan? Their plan has been: Let's go back to those failed policies.

It wasn't just on groceries. In early 2021, the monthly rent was between \$1,550 and \$1,600. When we took over in early 2025, it had gotten as high as over \$2,000. Again, that is a radical increase.

Their plan is to go back to this plan. This is why I want to make sure people recognize where we are. The affordability issue is a challenge, no doubt, but to return to failure is not an option. That is why I am pleased to see that we are moving in a direction that should matter because not only are we reducing some of these costs, but, more importantly, we are putting more money back in people's pockets.

The Democrats had the opportunity in 2021 and 2022 to pass all types of things to actually reduce taxes for the working class. They could have cut taxes on Social Security, overtime, and tips, yet they failed to do so. They could have reduced taxes on the middle class, who are so hard hit by the inflationary numbers I just talked about. They did nothing.

We gave them a second chance. We said: We are actually going to reduce taxes on overtime, tips, and Social Security. Join us in that effort to help people hard hit by higher food costs and higher rent costs. To a Member, they said no.

They wanted to actually let the tax rate regress back to the old Obama rates, which would have been, on average, a 23 percent increase. Is that giving relief to people? Absolutely not.

That is why I think, as I have mentioned before in this map, that people have the power to vote with their feet. They know when they go to my home State of Florida that taxes are lower.

I will give you one simple example. I am a former New Yorker. Do you know that Florida actually has more people than New York, and yet their State budget is twice as high? That means people are paying twice as much in taxes than you are in Florida.

I will ask the other logical question: Would you feel safer today in New York City or in Florida?

These are the choices that people get to make in America. It is a great thing. It is the reason why we don't think one