

From last year to 2032, Medicare doubles in spending. It goes from 1 trillion to 2 trillion. The Medicare Part A trust fund, if you are a hospital, you take a 12-percent cut. That is the law.

How many of you on Medicare are going to be able to see your doctor in that hospital?

Start to take a look at this. In 2025, people 0 to 18, we had 76 million people but 63 million over 65. In 9 years, we will have 70 million, so we will actually have fewer people under 18, and we will have 76 million, 65 and up. I am one of them. I am 64—yes, I am 64 with a 4-year-old. Yes, I am really optimistic about the future. I am just cranky about the math.

All right. Let's continue on this. Workers per Social Security beneficiary. We have got a problem. In 2011 we had 2.9. In 2025, last year, we had 2.7. It continues to do this. It is a little hard to do as a pay-as-you-go program.

That is why every month when Social Security checks go out the door, the Social Security administrator reaches over to their special Treasury bills and say, Treasury, we are short because the payroll taxes don't cover all the checks going out the door. Give us some of our money back. That goes on and on for about another 6 years and 3 months, and then they don't have any more to cash in.

Seniors per 100 working-age adults. 2011, we had 21.9 seniors per 100 people in the labor force. Last year, it is now 32. I am just trying to pound this point in. We prefer it to be: Oh, it is horrible Democrat policy. And they say: Oh, it is a tax policy. I have already shown you the percentage of the economy that we take in in taxes has stayed remarkably stable. The economy grows so you may have a lower tax rate but, because the economy is bigger, you are still taking in the same percentages of the GDP.

U.S. population age 65 and up. 2011, we had 41 million. 2026—this is a projection for this year—we have 63 million.

Estimated share of outlays by group. I know there are a lot of bars on this chart. The punch line here is actually very simple. In about 25, maybe 26 months, over half of the Federal Government spending will go to those 65 and up.

Now, why is this important? Now, remember, think of baby boomers as large demographic quartiles. When I was a kid in the 1970s, for every dollar for seniors, there was \$7 spent for those functioning under 18. That is almost reverse now. It is not really about a change in policy. It is actually a change in demographic populations.

This is really important. National defense in 9 years will take 12 percent of our spending. Seniors over 65 will take 52 percent in 9 budget years. It is just math. We know it. Hell, we knew people were going to turn 65—we knew we had a baby boom 65 years ago—actually 70-some years ago.

Why are we so terrified to go in front of our voters and tell the truth about

math? Why are we afraid to tell them that often the crap that they see on this thing is fake? It is meant for you to click, get a nice dopamine hit, but it is not budget policy.

I had a woman the other day at an event—beautiful event, wonderful people—I think it was up in Prescott, talking about this. She was absolutely positive, if we just cut this one benefit off, we could balance the budget.

We spent a couple moments. We walked on the internet using our phones, and she saw it was like \$9 billion was the total value of the benefit over a year. It did cover about a day and a quarter of borrowing—not spending, borrowing. She was devastated. It was as if I said something horrible to her.

Is that why politicians are terrified? Is that why we are terrified to actually tell the truth to our brothers and sisters? Remember, you have a country that is borrowing about \$6 billion to \$7 billion every day.

I started to talk about DOGE before. My economists, we helped them. I am a believer we have to have a revolution in how we provide government services: the adoption of technology, the elimination of excess positions, those things. All that has passed so far is about \$7 billion in actual spending cuts that have made it through Congress, Senate, and to the President's desk for his signature.

Functionally, it barely covers one day of borrowing. How many of our folks back home get a text message every other week saying: Are you ready for your DOGE check? Just send us a couple thousand dollars, and we will send you a DOGE check. Those text messages are fraud.

The point of this is: It is just demographics. I am one of them. I am at the tail end, but I am a baby boomer. It basically means, in 9 budget years, 21.4 percent of our population will be 65 and up. We will have moved into our earned benefit years: Medicare, Social Security, military or public service retirement, whatever it is. Then you take other calculations that I am not going to geek out too much on: labor force participation, the number of our population that is actually in the labor force, and then we have a math problem.

□ 1940

What is the moral obligation of those of us who are elected to actually know what—sorry, I can't curse on the floor—know what the hell we are talking about, know the math, stop trying to sell shiny objects and things that basically are enraging but don't take down the republic?

I will argue this debt, unless we find a way to start stabilizing it, we are not going to make it another 250 years.

Is this miracle of a self-governing republic worth saving? Then it is worth telling our voters and the public the truth about our demographics, the cost of financing it, and how much trouble we are actually in.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will go back and look at all of the angry comments I am going to get because, once again, telling the truth means you get the crap kicked out of you around here. I am perfectly happy to do it.

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

DEFENSE INNOVATION WITH UKRAINE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to spotlight the urgent need for deepened cooperation between the United States and Ukraine in defense innovation. This follows yesterday's important announcement of \$18.4 million of investment through our Department of Defense in our Northwest Ohio region.

After over 10 years of Russia's brutal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, Ukraine has given the world a master class in the future of warfare. Ukraine has pioneered drone tactics and technology. It has developed cost-effective air defense systems, all under the most difficult of circumstances.

Imagine Russia, a nation of 11 time zones. Ukraine has but one. Russia has 3.5 times as many people as Ukraine, but Ukraine fights on nobly.

Ukraine's ecosystem of innovation is a model that the free world can't afford to ignore.

No matter where I travel as a member of our Defense Subcommittee and meet with U.S. troops who are close or in theater, do you know what they say to me? Congresswoman, please help us advance drone technology.

I have heard many things from troops, but that has been one of their most constant clarion calls to Members of Congress, and we intend to deliver to them.

That is why today, I introduced the bipartisan Strategic Unmanned Systems Partnership Act—I underline bipartisan—along with Representatives FITZPATRICK, QUIGLEY, McCAUL, COSTA, and BACON. These are Members with experience, both military and civilian.

This companion legislation to its Senate counterpart introduced by Senators ROSEN and ROUNDS would establish a landmark strategic defense innovation working group with Ukraine and NATO. This working group would accelerate joint production of innovative systems to defend our nations at a time when liberty needs it most and it is being challenged in many, many ways globally.

Remember, Iran just killed American troops with the same weapons it tested with Russia. Iran and Russia have a relationship, and then they used the technologies against Ukraine. But it was Ukraine that came to our defense with its innovation in the Middle East. It was Ukraine. That is the mark of a true ally and friend under very difficult circumstances.

UDD ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, when I visit U.S. troops defending liberty, I ask them: What else can we do? They say: Just get us better drones faster.

Thus, today, I rise in celebration of the announcement of \$18.4 million in F-Drone manufacturing to be anchored in Ohio; both Central Ohio, which has already received Anduril's investment, and now in Northwestern Ohio, \$18.4 million to begin to manufacture F-Drones on our soil.

An all-hands-on-deck local, State, and Federal approach won the day for Northwestern Ohio. Our sustained engagement now has attracted one of the leading manufacturers of unmanned systems: Ukrainian defense drones, the U.S. arm of Ukraine's F-Drones, to stand up assembly in Northwestern Ohio.

It will complement an equally significant investment by Anduril in Central Ohio. Already, our State of Ohio is well recognized as the home of aviation, of space exploration, and defense industrial base manufacturing. We are the home of the best fighter wing in the United States of America, F-16s, and they are a guard unit. We are so proud of them.

This UDD drone firm will operate on the cutting edge of drone technology and defense innovation. Its systems have been battle-tested on the frontlines of liberty, defending the free people of Ukraine from Dictator Vladimir Putin's merciless and unprovoked invasion.

UDD is now one of the leaders in the Pentagon's Drone Dominance Program, ensuring that American troops can defend themselves with the best technology available.

I have been honored to work with the innovative UDD team to spotlight the benefits of investing in Northwestern Ohio.

Working closely alongside the Regional Growth Partnership and JobsOhio, and with Governor Mike DeWine, together we achieved a strategic partnership with the potential to grow into a substantial and sustained presence across our Great Lakes region.

We have it all: land, air, sea. Our region has a talented workforce, proven manufacturing infrastructure, research and testing, phenomenal assets with our space agencies, as well as a community that honors and celebrates the shared benefits of working with our freedom-loving allies abroad.

We are confident in our potential to be a global leader in U.S. drone manufacturing, and Northwestern Ohio's manufacturing genius has formed the backbone of the arsenal of democracy. We understand steel. We understand forging. We understand propulsion. We understand tooling. We make things. We form things. We helped defeat fascism in World War II, Soviet communism in the last century, and remain committed to liberty and to sustaining our NATO alliance against all

enemies. Building our Nation's defense also builds our middle class, and we keep them free.

Our region stands ready to stay vigilant at creating a future to ensure jobs and industry leadership for Northwest Ohio's manufacturing workforce and making sure that China and other countries like Iran do not have the most sophisticated technology that is known to the world.

The urgent national security imperative of dominating the drone space and the economic benefits for our communities are why I am honored to lead on these issues here on Capitol Hill. These include introducing today, my bipartisan Strategic Unmanned Systems Partnership Act to ensure American continues working with our Ukrainian allies on these vital issues.

Together, we will submit Northwestern Ohio as a critical drone manufacturing capital of America, and with Anduril's investment in Central Ohio, together we will meet our U.S. military's new needs at home and abroad.

□ 1950

Mr. Speaker, in helping to close today, as we return home for Fourth of July commemorations, I rise especially to commemorate and celebrate our Nation's 250th anniversary.

We are still strong. We are still free. We have lots of work to do, but it was this week in 1776 that our Founders, our Framers, our forefathers and foremothers, in Philadelphia, came together to make the courageous declaration that we chose liberty over tyranny.

How that must have felt at that time.

A year before, Delegate Patrick Henry of Virginia, just a little south of where I am standing, proclaimed: "Give me liberty or give me death." A year later, he became Virginia's popularly elected first Governor.

Imagine the courage and the vision.

Our Founders were farmers, printers, and merchants—hardworking, ordinary people who did the extraordinary and envisioned the extraordinary. They gave rise to the idea that freedom is a right, not a privilege granted by a king.

For 250 years, that Declaration of Independence and choice of liberty has carried our Nation through wars and expansive economic recessions, through innovation and growth, and through division and unity.

It was stronger than the weakest among us.

It is important that we don't just look back with pride. We must look to the future with purpose to what the next 50 years, 100 years, and even 250 years of the American experiment might require of us.

First of all, it should require duty—duty to country—duty to country before self, because liberty is not free. It requires citizens who rise to duty for our Republic.

In this era, each citizen must make a vital decision to ensure our Nation and

people can flourish not just today but for the decades to come. That requires some wisdom, and we could do a little better at that.

Let Americans be proud of our progress when celebrating the next milestone anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless America and give us all the courage to fight for a good and prosperous and free people, a productive future for all the generations of Americans to come, and gratitude, gratitude, gratitude for where this 250 years has moved America.

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

PEOPLE OF TEXAS STEPPING UP

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. ROY of Texas was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan nature of remarks tonight in remembrance of the importance of this week and Independence Day and our great Nation's history and this particular one, celebrating the 250th.

I am going to first, though, focus a little bit on my home State of Texas. It was 1 year ago this week that we were in the throes of negotiating what was called at the time the big, beautiful bill, an important piece of legislation that I am very honored to have been a part of working through. It was difficult in working through all the complexities of the tax policy, dealing with the complexities of the reforms to Medicaid, to welfare programs, saving \$1.7 trillion, pulling back some of the subsidies and unreliable power that was so critically important.

But all of that was going on—and my son, Charlie, who is here with me now, we were here. We were in the throes of the debates. We were at the White House on the 2nd, debating it. We were here on the 3rd, late night. We vote on this thing.

And then I was supposed to be in Kerrville, Texas, which is where I go every summer for the Fourth of July. There was a big concert down on the river, and I was supposed to be there, where my family has gone for, now, at least a decade.

I talked to the President about being here for the bill signing because of all the work we had gone through, and I ultimately told the President that I would stay here for the bill signing.

So I stick around, visited with some friends on the night of the 3rd, and I am watching the weather forecast. I wake up on the morning of the Fourth of July. My son and I were getting ready to go see some friends, and I see the news reports.

All of a sudden, it starts to sink in what had happened in Kerrville. We have had a number of moments here on the floor of the House, one in particular almost a year ago, in which we remembered those lives who were lost and what occurred there in Kerrville.

But now, 1 year since this coming Saturday on the Fourth of July, I do