recognized with the Distinguished Service Cross.

As we mark the 75th anniversary of his actions, I would like to honor Sergeant Walls' legacy of courage, heroism, and unwavering devotion to our Nation's defense.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1501, PROTECTING DOMESTIC MINING ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 9436, NORTHEAST LOBSTERMAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2026; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1490, PROVIDING FOR THE CONDEMNATION AND DENOUNCEMENT OF SOCIALISM IN ALL ITS FORMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND H.R. 4795, PROTECT ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM ACT OF 2026; AND RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1499 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1499

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1501) to amend the FAST Act to include certain mineral production activities as a covered project, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 9436) to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 to extend the time period for which certain regulations concerning the North Atlantic right whale are effective. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–40 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 1490) providing for the condemnation and denouncement of socialism in all its forms, and for other purposes. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees.

SEC. 4. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4795) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution that participates in a nonexpressive commercial boycott of Israel from being eligible for certain funds under that Act, to require an institution that participates in certain programs under that Act to certify that students are not unreasonably obstructed from participating in academic programs in Israel, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–39 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Debate on motions that the House suspend the rules, under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices, shall be extended to one hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Committee on Rules met and produced the rule, House Resolution 1499, providing for the House's consideration of four measures: H.R. 1501, H.R. 9436, H. Res. 1490, and H.R. 4795.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1501, the Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025, and H.R. 9436, the Northeast Lobsterman Protection Act of 2026, under closed rules.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate on each bill, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees and provides each bill one motion to recommit.

The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 1490, providing for the condemnation and denouncement of socialism in all its forms, and for other purposes, under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 4795, the Protect Economic and Academic Freedom Act of 2026, under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees and provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we have a strong slate of bills contained under this rule here today, bills that are as substantive as they are impactful.

H. Res. 1490 makes clear the House's strong disapproval of socialism and reaffirms our ironclad support for free, fair, and secure elections that the American people can trust.

These are issues of monumental importance, Mr. Speaker. We have all seen how socialism continues to encroach upon our society, our constitutional Republic.

It is not some sort of ominous figure on the horizon. It is a threat standing directly upon America's doorstep.

Some will argue that socialism is a good thing and that it is steeped in benevolence, fairness, and righteousness. Tell that to the millions of men, women, and children throughout history who have died because of socialism. Tell that to the people who lost their freedoms under socialism, the people who lost everything.

History reminds us that socialism has always been used as a cudgel against free people, as a cudgel against individual liberty and prosperity. It must be denounced by this body in the strongest terms.

□ 1130

This resolution also makes clear that our system of elections here in America should remain secure, and participation should be limited to only American citizens. Noncitizens have no right whatsoever to cast a vote in our elections. We saw the failures uncovered in New Jersey, where thousands of noncitizens were registered to vote in that State.

Votes cast by noncitizens negate legal votes cast by Americans who exercise their civic duty at the ballot box. Why in the world would we ignore this issue?

This is an issue that the American people care deeply about. They deserve the utmost confidence that their votes count and that our system of elections remains as secure as it could possibly be.

H.R. 1501, the Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025, would work to preserve streamlined permitting eligibility for domestic mineral production right here in the United States.

We are blessed to live in a country that is teeming with resources that we can harness and use to our benefit. Energy security and the resilience of our Nation's supply chain will always be issues that we can make good progress on and build upon. We can do so by passing this legislation and adding to the progress that we have made thus far in this Congress.

H.R. 4795, the bipartisan Protect Economic and Academic Freedom Act, prohibits institutions that distribute hardworking taxpayers' dollars to students in colleges and universities from engaging in nonexpressive commercial boycotts of Israel.

To be crystal clear, this legislation does not dictate viewpoints, and it does not prohibit anyone from expressing their opinions. Individuals remain free to advocate, protest, or engage in political speech protected by the First Amendment. Students can still choose to abstain from products made in Israel if they so choose.

This legislation extends deference to the First Amendment by applying a successful model established by the State of Arkansas that has been validated by the Federal Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. What Congress cannot and should not tolerate is taxpayer money being used to marginalize Jewish people and undermine Israel's major strategic partner status enshrined in law.

This bill addresses conduct that is unacceptable to a majority of Americans and sends a simple message: American taxpayers should support institutions that foster academic opportunity and international collaboration and not institutions that erect barriers and engage in discriminatory boycotts.

I am proud to author this legislation and to have worked in a strong spirit of bipartisanship alongside my colleagues to help it come to fruition. Confronting anti-Semitism is an issue of our time, and we cannot afford to place it on the back burner for even a second.

Finally, H.R. 9436 would allow for a more thorough review of protections for one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world. It would allow scientists, fishermen, and government agencies the necessary time to study and refine protections for the North Atlantic right whale that could better protect fishing communities and the vitality of the species. I will note that this is an issue that has received bipartisan support here in the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding me the customary time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, how long should the American people have to wait for our prices to come down? Republicans promised that prices would come down on day one. That was 589 days ago, coming up on 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my Republican colleagues again: How much longer do we all have to wait? Are they going to tell us, or is it a big surprise? Is it another week, another month, another President?

Mr. Speaker, when are my Republican colleagues going to take responsibility for the fact that they are in charge of everything? Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the executive branch. Hell, Republicans even control the Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, because of Republican policies, the affordability crisis in the United States of America is getting worse. It is getting worse, so how long until they acknowledge that their stupid tariffs and their illegal war with Iran are driving up prices and making life harder for people?

Mr. Speaker, how long until the Epstein files are fully released? Some of us still haven't forgotten about that one or the fact that the files remain hidden and that Trump's involvement is being covered up despite congressional laws to the contrary.

How long does America have to wait until Republicans stop blaming everybody else and acknowledge that they have failed? I, for one, am sick of the gaslighting and the projection. I am sick of the broken promises. I am sick of the lies. I am sick of the corruption, the grift, and the greed. The people who I represent are sick of it, too.

Mr. Speaker, I do a farm tour every year. I represent a lot of rural communities and hundreds and hundreds of small- and medium-sized family farms that have been on the same land for generations. I heard a story about one farmer who is being asked to pay an extra $25,000 for a single piece of essential equipment because of Trump's tariffs. On top of that, the price of diesel is ruining their livelihood.

That is what this administration is doing to rural America, to small towns, and to the family farms that I represent. This President and this Republican Congress are destroying them. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are destroying them.

It is just as bad for consumers because Trump's tariffs, trade wars, and higher gas prices are getting passed along to us, as well. Gas is still over $4 a gallon. Ground beef is up 9 percent. Tomatoes and apples are up over 10 percent. Turkey is up 8 percent. Fish is up almost 8 percent. Cars are more expensive. Clothes are more expensive. Utility bills are more expensive. Everything is more expensive.

Inflation is killing people, and this Republican Congress has a bunch of bills today which will do nothing, nothing, nothing to lower prices.

I am going to talk about those bills in a second, but first let me say: Do you know who is not getting destroyed, Mr. Speaker? It is the rich, the powerful, and the well-connected. Those people who hang out in Mar-a-Lago are not getting destroyed. They are doing better than ever.

The multimillionaires and the billionaires are doing great, thanks to all the tax breaks that they got. Big Oil, Big Ag, and Big Tech get massive giveaways from Republicans. Some of those giveaways are in the bills we are considering today, one of which is a giveaway to the mining industry, and I am sure their lobbyists will get a nice, big bonus for getting that one across the finish line.

It is really gross. It is really gross. The rich and the powerful are doing better than ever while everyone else is seeing double-digit price increases, but don't bother trying to get Republicans to do anything about it. Let's look at their priorities so far this Congress.

Here is what they have been doing while gas is $4 a gallon. Let's see what they have been doing. They have been pretending to rename the Gulf of Mexico, pretending to rename Lake Ontario, pretending to rename The Kennedy Center, introducing a bill to put Donald Trump on Mount Rushmore, introducing a bill to make his birthday a national holiday, introducing a bill to put him on the $100 bill, introducing a bill to name Dulles International Airport after him, and introducing a bill to name the Washington Metro after him. I mean, you can't make this stuff up.

□ 1140

These are actual bills that Republicans have introduced; and let us not forget letting the President pilfer taxpayer money to build a tacky ballroom, a stupid arch, and fix the airplane that Qatar bribed—I am sorry, excuse me, donated to him.

That is the focus of this Republican Congress. That is what this Republican Congress is obsessed with: worshipping Donald Trump, while you stress out about how you are going to pay your mortgage or your kid's tuition or your parents' medical bills.

So, I mean, while they worship Donald Trump, the American people have to struggle with how they are going to make ends meet. And they are not getting any help from anything that is going on in this Chamber.

The big Republican push this week is repassing a nonbinding resolution that condemns socialism. They already passed it, and it already does nothing. So I am not sure why they need to pass it again, but that is their big, important bill this week. You just heard it from the chairwoman of the Rules Committee.

What is their definition of ''socialism,'' you ask? What exactly are they condemning? I actually asked Republicans last time around in the Rules

Committee to define what they are condemning. To define socialism if you will. You all might be shocked. Social Security? Republicans condemn that as socialism. Medicare? That is socialism. Medicaid? That is socialism. Public schools? That is socialism. Food safety inspections? That is socialism. National parks? That is socialism. Public transit? You guessed it. You guessed it.

They must really think Americans are stupid. This is the same old Red Scare bs. By their definition, anyone in the United States who supports Medicaid is a socialist sympathizer. I mean, is Joe McCarthy coming back from the dead?

This is insane. It is literally crazy that this is the garbage that we are talking about while people are seeing their costs going through the roof. People can't afford to make ends meet, and this is what this Congress is focused on right now? I mean, come on.

While we are on the topic of condemning political ideology that we disagree with, let me ask: Where is their condemnation of fascism? I mean, the Trump administration weaponizes the government to silence opposition. It attacks the free press, wants to invade our allies, shoots innocent people in the streets, dehumanizes immigrants by saying that they ''poison the blood of our country,'' calls political opponents ''the enemy from within,'' and let's not forget they tried to overturn a free and fair election in 2020. Is that not fascism? Where is their condemnation of that? Silence. Silence. Nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I don't envy the gentlewoman's task today. She has to defend a pretty lousy agenda, and I think she knows it. But I just wish we could get some acknowledgment from the other side that things are not all fine and well in America right now.

Prices are up. Inflation is up. Bills are higher. Life is harder, and it is because of this President's policies. Instead of acknowledging it, it is like Republicans are living in an alternative reality. I mean, it is like what happened to the Republican Party? It doesn't exist anymore. It is like a cult.

We do have an affordability crisis. That is just a fact. Instead of working with us to address it, Republicans are pretending like it doesn't exist. Instead, we get more culture war nonsense and more giveaways to special interests.

But November is coming soon. Mr. Speaker, November is coming very soon, and I think my Republican colleagues are getting desperate. I think they know that the jig is up. I think they know that the American people are about to hold them accountable for all of their broken promises. I think that is why you are seeing this last-ditch attempt to throw the kitchen sink of culture war issues at the wall to see what sticks.

This is a lousy, awful, rotten rule. And by the way, it is totally closed. Nobody can offer any amendments to anything in this rule. It may even fail because we had a bipartisan vote yesterday in the Rules Committee against this rule, so we will see what happens on the floor. But, come on, people are hurting.

I would say to my Republican friends: Your constituents are hurting. They want us to do something to help them. They don't want this. They don't want this. They want something real. So if you can give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and you can bail out the Mar-a-Lago class, how about helping the average person, the hardworking men and women who are trying to make ends meet. That is what they want. That is what they expect.

I urge a ''no'' vote on this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in the 119th Congress, the House has been the most aggressive, successful, and productive since the 80th Congress in 1949. Total measures passed by the House are 899. Tax relief was $82 billion across all filers this tax season with 97 percent of all tax filers receiving a tax cut last year, and the 3 percent who didn't were the highest earners in the country. Regulations lifted by Congress are 23.

When you place these three points within historical context, they reveal that this Congress is the most successful and productive since 1949.

Now, obviously, the House cannot control the actions of the Senate. The statistics demonstrated by the House of Representatives this Congress are truly historic. I would put them up against the abysmal record of sleepy Joe Biden and his enablers every day.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from North Carolina's explanation, and I know that those are the Republican talking points, but I have got news for you. Nobody is buying it.

I mean, I don't know whether my friend was home talking to her constituents over the break, but I was home talking to my constituents. I was in other States talking to voters, as well, and do you know what? Life has gotten harder for them. Prices of everything are through the roof. And to the extent that any working person got a small tax cut while the rich got these big tax cuts, millionaires and billionaires got all these big tax cuts, to the extent that they got that, any little tax break they received has been totally erased by the cost of living and by high gas prices because of this illegal, reckless war.

By the way, wouldn't you think that Congress would want to exercise its constitutional prerogatives and actually debate the war in Iran and actually vote whether to authorize it or not? We have been forced to try to bring privileged resolutions to the floor to try to get any kind of a debate on this. There should be hearings. There should be a full vote on whether to authorize this and whether or not people want to go on record as saying we are going to spend over $100 billion on this stupid, reckless war in Iran. By the way, that resulted in the Strait of Hormuz being closed, which was open before the war began. We are going to spend the money on that, but we are not going to spend it on helping alleviate the high cost of living on people in this country.

This Congress is the least productive Congress in history. This has been a total failure, a total failure.

I would just encourage my Republican colleagues, don't take my word for it. Look at every public opinion poll, including those coming out by FOX News and rightwing influencers. They will tell you: Nobody is buying it.

One of the things that I have heard over and over again during the August work period was that the American people are rightfully outraged that an out-of-control AI data center buildup is wreaking havoc on their communities. Data centers are driving up utility costs and polluting water supplies, all while Big Tech reaps record profits. Yet, now with November on the horizon, some House Republicans are acting as if they did not turbocharge the data center buildup.

□ 1150

I mean, a year ago, Republicans were bragging about giving tax breaks to Big Tech in order to build data centers across rural America. You can check it out yourselves. It is section 70421 of the big, ugly bill.

According to the Republican chairman of the tax writing committee, this provision would: significantly reduce barriers for large-scale, capital-intensive projects in rural areas, most notably, hyperscale data centers. That is the Republicans.

That provision alone cost the American taxpayers $40 billion. That is money that is going to Big Tech to build unpopular data centers instead of lowering the cost of healthcare and housing or groceries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article titled, ''Big, Beautiful Success Story: Rural America Rebound on the Horizon with New Opportunity Zone Incentives.''

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

There was no objection.

[Aug. 27, 2025]

BIG, BEAUTIFUL SUCCESS STORY: RURAL AMERICA REBOUND ON THE HORIZON WITH NEW OPPORTUNITY ZONE INCENTIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Newly created Qualified Rural Opportunity Funds (RQOFs) will target rural communities—along with various other pro-growth tax tools—and support a massive wave of private investment in the American heartland. All thanks to The One, Big, Beautiful Bill, the Opportunity Zone program, originally established under the 2017 Trump tax cuts, is renewed and revamped to better incentivize and target investment in rural areas across our country.

As Bloomberg Tax reports, the reimagined program includes an enhanced 30 percent basis step-up after five years and a lower substantial-improvement threshold, which offer strong advantages for rural communities that will help steer capital toward agriculture and water infrastructure, and incentivize on-shoring of manufacturing.

''Thanks to The One, Big, Beautiful Bill, small town America is poised for an economic rebound,'' said Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (MO–08). ''President Trump has made the American heartland a top priority of his administration, and these new tools will unlock private investment for farms, Main Street businesses, and critical infrastructure that will bring jobs home, strengthen supply chains, and modernize our agriculture sector. For the sixty million Americans who live in rural America, The One, Big, Beautiful Bill is a generational opportunity that gives workers, farmers, and families real incentives to stay, build, and thrive.''

HIGHLIGHTS

Rural Opportunity Zones: ''The new tax law also introduces qualified rural opportunity funds, or RQOFs, which offer enhanced benefits—including a 30 percent basis step-up after five years and a reduced 50 percent substantial improvement requirement, meaning fewer dollars must be spent improving assets compared with standard QOFs. These changes reflect a clear policy shift toward encouraging rural investment through the QOZ program.''

Attracting New Investment: ''The new law's enhancements for RQOFs may significantly lower barriers for large-scale, capital-intensive projects in rural areas—most notably hyperscale data centers. . .With the new 30 percent basis step-up after five years—available only to RQOFs—along with the permanent, rolling five-year deferral of capital gains, the economic case for building data centers in designated rural opportunity zones becomes far more compelling.''

Securing Domestic Supply Chains: ''These same incentives can drive the onshoring of advanced manufacturing into rural communities. Facilities such as semiconductor fabrication plants, precision-machining centers, and next-generation battery or electric vehicle component factories often require years of planning and billions of dollars in capital.''

Modernizing U.S. Agriculture Infrastructure: ''Beyond heavy industry, the revised QOZ program also opens new avenues for investment in rural agriculture and critical infrastructure.''

Improved Efficiency: ''The more favorable tax treatment may now encourage investors to fund modern irrigation systems, large-scale cold-storage distribution hubs, and on-farm renewable energy assets such as solar panels, anaerobic digesters, or small-scale wind turbines. These improvements make agricultural operations more efficient and resilient. . .''

Higher Productivity: ''The RQOF framework also supports investments in regenerative farming practices, which promote soil health and long-term sustainability. Examples include cover-crop rotation systems, no-till farming equipment, carbon sequestration protocols, and composting facilities—all of which reduce environmental impact while enhancing yields over time.''

Incentivizing Infrastructure Upgrades: ''Some rural opportunity zones also may allow for investments in water infrastructure—including irrigation canals, water reuse systems, and stormwater runoff mitigation—which have traditionally fallen outside the purview of private investment. By treating such infrastructure as investable assets under the QOZ rules, the new law could catalyze upgrades to water systems that are vital to both agriculture and rural population centers.''

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will continue to talk about the accomplishments of the 119th Congress. House Republicans, so far in the 119th Congress, have passed the Working Families Tax Cut Act, which delivered the largest middle- and working-class tax cuts in U.S. history. That cannot be refuted, Mr. Speaker. It cannot. Anyone who tries to do that is themselves living in an alternate universe.

We expanded 529 education accounts. We saved American farms by allowing farmers to spread tax payments on sales over 4 years if the land continues to be used for agriculture purposes. We doubled the small business expensing limit. We permanently extended the small business deduction. We delivered a $6,000 bonus deduction to seniors on Social Security. We eliminated the tax on auto loan interest for American-made cars. We permanently increased the child tax credit to $2,200. We eliminated the tax on overtime. We eliminated the tax on tips. We created Trump accounts to help children begin saving for their future. We permanently allowed businesses to immediately deduct domestic R&D expenses. We permanently doubled the death tax exemption. We permanently increased the standard deduction. We ended taxation of suppressors, short-barreled rifles, and short-barreled shotguns. We repealed the green corporate welfare subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have enough time in the time allotted for this rule debate today to list all of the wonderful things that this House of Representatives and this Congress have done to improve the lives of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just say to my friend, the chair of the Rules Committee: You can't fool people. You just can't. I mean, people go to the supermarket. They have to pay their utility bills. They have to pay their rent. People are trying to see where they can afford a home.

I mean, they know what the reality is. To somehow say they are being beautiful, I mean, come on. That is ludicrous. That is assuming that people don't believe their real-life experiences every day.

She talks about the most productive Congress. I mean, 104 laws were passed in this Republican Congress. When the Democrats were last in charge, we passed 365 laws.

The issue is what do these laws do. We passed bills to try to expand healthcare for people. We passed bills to try to make sure that children had access to Head Start and to daycare. We passed bills to actually protect our environment. We passed bills to try to keep the world out of war. That is a big contrast to what we are seeing in this Republican Congress.

I would just say this: What Donald Trump has done with the acquiescence of the Republican majority is they have added a new tax on average people, close to $4,000. There is a $4,000 Trump tax on almost every family in this country. The people who don't feel it are the ones who benefited from the trillions of dollars in tax cuts given to millionaires and billionaires and big corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent also to include in the RECORD an article from Politico titled, ''Amazon's tax bill plunges after GOP tax cuts.''

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

There was no objection.

[From POLITICO, Feb. 6, 2026]

AMAZON'S TAX BILL PLUNGES AFTER GOP TAX CUTS

(By Brian Faler)

Republicans' tax cuts shaved billions off Amazon's tax bill, new government filings show. The company says it ran a $1.2 billion tax bill last year, down from $9 billion the previous year, and even as its profits jumped by 45 percent to nearly $90 billion.

That's largely because of the generous new depreciation breaks GOP lawmakers included in their One Big Beautiful Bill, something that's particularly important to Amazon which—in addition to maintaining a vast infrastructure for its ubiquitous delivery business—has been spending billions to build out artificial intelligence data centers.

Also helping, though less important: The law's expanded breaks for businesses research and development expenses.

The company has long been criticized by Democrats for paying little in tax, and it appeared to be bracing for criticism in the wake of the report to the Securities Exchange Commission.

''Last year, Congress made changes to the tax code to encourage greater investment in the American economy, its innovation, and its workers—all areas where Amazon has long been a leader'' the company said Friday.

''Our tax bill this year reflects those changes by Congress.''

The company estimates it invested $340 billion in the U.S. last year.

Under financial accounting rules, the company says its effective tax rate was actually 19.6 percent in 2025, though that doesn't include the effect of increased depreciation writeoffs because those are essentially timing shifts that allow companies to take more deductions now in exchange for fewer in the future.

''Deducting our costs more quickly provides a short-run benefit but this policy ultimately doesn't change the amount of tax we pay.'' Amazon said. ''It just changes the timing of our tax payments.''

In terms of actual cash payments Amazon made to the Treasury Department last year for income taxes, which can include payments for prior year's taxes, the company says it handed over $2.75 billion, down from $7.63 billion in 2024.

The company did not pay the corporate alternative minimum tax, and has never reported paying the levy, though Democrats created it in hopes of forcing companies like Amazon to pay more.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to also urge that we defeat the previous question. If we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 738, the Universal Right To Vote By Mail Act, which would ensure that all eligible voters in America have the option to vote by mail.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump has issued an executive order to undermine the credibility of our elections and to make it harder or even impossible for millions of Americans to vote by mail. We learned today from a whistleblower that Trump officials are defying court orders and pushing ahead with these unconstitutional plans.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind you, President Trump personally loves voting by mail. He voted by mail in Florida as recently as 2 weeks ago. To everyone listening, Trump wants to vote by mail, but he doesn't want you to be able to do so.

Voting by mail has been proven to increase turnout and reduce barriers to voting, such as bad weather, illness, disability, and long lines. We should expand mail-in voting to make it easier for Americans to participate in our democracy, which is what this bill would do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS) to discuss our proposal.

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, President Trump knows that the only way Republicans can win this midterm election is to lie and cheat. Trump has failed to address the affordability crisis. Now, instead of fighting to lower costs, he is fighting to suppress votes and prevent Americans from holding him and the GOP accountable this November.

Over the past year, the American people have watched as Trump has tried to suppress votes in any way he can. He has pushed for the SAVE America Act, helped undermine the Voting Rights Act, and most recently has urged the courts to restrict mail-in voting, even though the President himself votes by mail.

We all know why. Trump can't stand the fact that he lost the 2020 election. He pushed the big lie, claimed the election was rigged, and without proof, blamed mail-in voting. President Trump can't stand that he lost in 2020. He can't stand the thought of losing again, and that is why he is trying to prevent Americans from voting by mail.

Let me be clear. Our elections are free, fair, and accurate. Take it from my home State of Oregon. We have been an entirely vote-by-mail State for nearly 30 years, and our elections have been safe and secure. Oregon consistently has some of the highest levels of voter turnout in the country, and research has shown that voters from both sides of the aisle vote by mail at similar rates.

The right to vote should not depend on your State, your marital status, your access to a passport, or whether you can make it to a polling place on election day. Every eligible American deserves a fair and accessible way to make their voices heard.

We should be removing barriers to vote, not increasing them. That is why I introduced the Universal Right To Vote by Mail Act.

My bill would give every eligible voter in America the right to vote by mail in Federal elections without requiring a specific excuse. It would also require States to give voters a chance to fix a simple mistake or discrepancy on their ballot before that vote is rejected.

This is not about helping any one party or the other. It is about making sure every eligible American has a fair opportunity to participate in our democracy. President Trump is trying to take that opportunity away. He is attacking vote-by-mail because he is afraid of the results when voters make their voices heard this November.

Congress must reject the attacks on vote-by-mail. I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and support my Universal Right To Vote by Mail Act so every eligible American can cast their ballot safely, securely, and conveniently.

The answer to Republicans' fears that they will lose the upcoming election is not to make it harder for people to vote, the answer is to earn their votes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1200

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in order not to allow Americans to be misled by statements being made here on the floor, I am going to continue to list items among the dozens that were in H.R. 1 that could have been stand-alone bills but for efficiency's sake were included in H.R. 1.

We permanently secured our Nation's borders, funded the construction of the border wall, and provided funding for additional Customs officers and Border Patrol agents. However, in addition to that, we passed the Laken Riley Act as a stand-alone to require detention of illegal aliens who commit theft.

The Working Families Tax Cuts included provisions that make illegal immigrants who are convicted of or who have admitted to sex offenses or domestic violence inadmissible and deportable. The Working Families Tax Cuts creates a new criminal offense for operating a vehicle within 100 miles of the southern border while fleeing Border Patrol agents. The Jeremy and Angel Seay and Sergeant Brandon Mendoza Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act makes driving while intoxicated or impaired grounds for deporting an illegal alien.

The Kayla Hamilton Act requires background checks for criminal history or gang affiliation before unaccompanied alien children are placed in American communities.

Not a single illegal alien has been released into the U.S. in 16 months. Four hundred thousand illegals who were charged with and convicted of a crime have been deported. Emergency rooms have reported significant reductions in illegal immigrant visits, freeing up critical resources to better serve American citizens in need of urgent medical care.

Fentanyl trafficking at the southern border has been reduced by 56 percent in FY 2025. The HALT Fentanyl Act permanently schedules fentanyl and fentanyl analogues as schedule I drugs.

More than 146 migrant children have been rescued from sex trafficking and child labor. We hear about this every week on the news.

Another act, the SUPPORT Act, reauthorizes support and treatment programs for opioid use disorders and other substance abuse disorders.

We lowered costs by cutting waste, fraud, and abuse in our country.

We protected children by passing legislation that would end gender-affirming care—gender-affirming care, what a distortion of the American language—for minors, and we banned biological males from girls' and women's sports.

Mr. Speaker, if we have done nothing else, that is a huge accomplishment, but we have done so many other things.

We passed the KIDS Act that protects children online by holding Big Tech accountable and requiring stronger safeguards to protect kids from predators, exploitation, and harmful online contents. Again, we could go on and on, and I will, to correct the record of what we have done in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD an article from the Associated Press titled: ''US consumer confidence falls to lowest level in 7 months with gas stuck above $4''.

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

There was no objection.

[From AP News, Aug. 25, 2026]

US CONSUMER CONFIDENCE FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 7 MONTHS WITH GAS STUCK ABOVE $4

(By Matt Ott)

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans' confidence in the economy declined again this month as the ongoing conflict in Iran continued to push U.S. gasoline prices above $4 per gallon.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index dipped to 89.4 in August from 90.2 in July. That was the lowest level in seven months but was essentially within the same lukewarm range it has been in since the beginning of the year. In late 2024 and early 2025, readings were consistently above 100.

Respondents' views of their present situation improved, but their short-term outlook soured.

Americans remain frustrated with the economy after five years of elevated inflation, potentially posing a risk to President Donald Trump and Republicans in the midterm elections, which are less than 70 days away.

Write-in responses to the board's survey, collected from Aug. 3 to Aug. 16, were slightly more pessimistic this month. References to prices in general—and oil and gas prices specifically—remained elevated. Comments about war and geopolitics, food prices, trade and jobs rose in August.

Trump continues to blame high prices on his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, yet inflation has risen since Trump's inauguration last year.

The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge—the personal consumption expenditures price index—was up 3.7% in June from a year earlier. That was down from May's 4.1% year-over-year increase but up from 2.8% before the Iran war began on Feb. 28. It was 2.5% when Trump was inaugurated in January 2025.

The government issues its July PCE data Wednesday.

Consumers' views of the current labor market improved in August, with 27% saying jobs were ''plentiful,'' up from 24.4% in July. However, respondents were more negative about the labor market over the next six months, with just 14.6% expecting more jobs to be available, down from 16.4% last month.

The U.S. job market stalled unexpected in July as employers cut 23,000 jobs. To make matters worse, Labor Department revisions erased 103,000 jobs from previously reported May and June payrolls.

The unemployment rate fell to 4.1%, but for the wrong reason: Thousands of people dropped out of the labor market, leaving fewer people competing for work.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD an article from NBC titled: ''How Trump's economic policies are widening America's wealth gap''.

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

There was no objection.

[From NBC News, Mar. 24, 2026]

HOW TRUMP'S ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE WIDENING AMERICA'S WEALTH GAP

(By Shannon Pettypiece)

How's the economy?

Not bad if you're rich.

Demand for luxury yachts and private jets is surging thanks to last year's tax law. Sales of $10 million-plus mansions are booming as stocks hit new highs. And the wealthy and powerful will get to enjoy a new ballroom for galas at the White House.

What if you aren't rich?

The typical American can't afford the median-priced home. A new car is out of reach for many, with the average monthly payment exceeding $700. Food banks are seeing a growing number of people skipping meals because they can't afford groceries, and more middle-class Americans are selling their plasma to make ends meet.

The divide between rich and poor in America is the widest it's been in at least a generation—and growing. The amount of wealth held by the top 1% increased at more than double the rate of the bottom 90% in the first nine months of last year, according to Federal Reserve figures. At the very top, Elon Musk's fortune is approaching that of legendary 19th-century businessman John D. Rockefeller when looked at as a share of the overall U.S. economy.

A variety of factors have shaped the struggles of everyday Americans and fueled the gains of the wealthy: The pandemic disrupted the housing market, making it harder to afford a home. Stocks have surged, driven by enthusiasm over AI. Manufacturing has waned, hiring has slipped and costs continue to rise.

President Donald Trump's policies are amplifying these trends. One year into his second term, his administration has cut programs helping lower-income households while advancing policies benefiting the wealthy and corporations. He's signed legislation to cut food stamps and Medicaid benefits and put new restrictions on low-income housing assistance and student loans. To cope with higher costs from tariffs, he has suggested Americans buy fewer dolls for their children.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has given billions of dollars in tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy and loosened regulations on banks while easing rules around cryptocurrency, which he's benefited from personally.

''Donald Trump talks a lot about the working class, his MAGA base is primarily working class, but if you look at the data, the working class is doing very badly in the second Trump administration,'' said Robert Reich, a professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, who led the Labor Department during the Clinton administration. ''The real growth in the second Trump administration has been in corporate profits and in the wealth of the people at the top.''

Trump has defended his economic record, referring to concerns over affordability as a hoax and blaming weakness in the economy on Democrats. He's dismissed numerous polls showing increasing economic anxiety, saying in his State of the Union address in February that he has ushered in a ''golden age of America.'' As evidence, he cited rising 401(k) balances, a drop in mortgage rates and lower gas prices—though gas prices have since spiked after his attacks on Iran disrupted the global flow of oil. The S&P 500, fueled by an AI boom, grew around 13% during the first year of his second term.

Trump's allies argue that, while it may take time, all Americans will benefit from last summer's tax cuts, with the average refund rising by around $1,000 this year, according to data cited by the White House. They also say that Trump's still-evolving tariffs will eventually boost U.S. manufacturing jobs, which declined last year, noting announcements by foreign governments and corporations about plans to invest in the U.S.

A White House official also pointed to signs of improvement, including a lower rate of inflation than in the past several years and wages that are rising faster than inflation.

Some economists, including those who have served in past Republican administrations, have questioned whether those improvements will be enough to offset pressures elsewhere in the economy, including from a slowing job market, which shed 92,000 jobs in February across a broad range of industries.

For ''Unaffordable America,'' a yearlong series on the causes and effects of rising economic inequality, NBC News asked readers how they were faring and heard from hundreds of people. In interviews and written responses, many described struggling to find a job and afford higher food prices and health care costs, while others said they were benefiting from gains in the stock market and lower interest rates.

In Miami, a man in financial services wrote that his business was growing. ''We had the best year ever,'' he said. In Iowa, a woman who lost her job at the end of last year wrote that she was struggling to find a new one. ''The unemployment in the state of Iowa is barely paying my bills as a mom of two,'' she said.

What's clear is that the divide between the wealthiest Americans and everyone else has been growing for decades—and shows no sign of slowing. The ramifications of Trump's policies widening this divide could go beyond Americans' bank accounts, shaping the political landscape ahead of November's midterm elections, with multiple polls showing a growing number of voters disapproving of Trump's handling of the economy.

For many people, these trends are shaking a core belief that it is possible to get ahead in America.

A widening gap

When asked, ''Are you better off than your parents'' the answer for many Americans used to be a resounding ''yes.'' Now, the answer is more often unclear.

Americans born in the 1980s were less likely to earn more than their parents, compared with those born in the 1940s, a 2016 study by Stanford University economists found. Today's households are also facing higher costs, including spiking health care premiums and deductibles, as well as child care expenses.

These struggles are not equally felt. As of last October, the top 1% held 32% of America's wealth, up from about 23% in 1990. The wealth held by white households far outstrips that of Black and Hispanic households.

Slowing wage gains have contributed to the widening gap between rich and poor. Since 1979, wages for the bottom 90% of earners have increased 44%, while wages for the top 1% of earners have risen more than 180%, a 2024 report from the Economic Policy Institute found.

That's left many Americans feeling like they are falling behind.

Reid Pinkham, a senior applied scientist working on AI-related projects, is among those doing well. After losing his job at Meta, where his income more than quadrupled over four years, he said he quickly got another job at Amazon for higher pay. The value of his Meta stock options and other investments has climbed.

Now, at 30, Pinkham owns a home in the Seattle area and is planning to build an expensive addition. When he and his wife think about having kids, he said child care costs aren't a major concern, and if he were to lose his job, he'd have enough savings to get by for years.

But he still has a negative view of the economy, based on what he's hearing from friends and family.

''There are a lot of people whose incomes don't go up when the stock market goes up,'' said Pinkham, who votes for Democrats. ''For me personally, I'm doing fine. But then you look at the macro numbers, and I don't think it's in a good place.''

The Trump administration's regulatory cuts, along with tax breaks for corporations in last year's tax law, sent stocks to record highs last year. Those heavily invested in technology companies are gaining the most—just seven tech companies, including Amazon and Meta, were responsible for 40% of the gains last year in the S&P 500.

While most Americans have some investment in the stock market, a disproportionate share of gains have gone to the wealthy, with the richest 10% of households owning around 90% of all stocks, according to Federal Reserve data.

Those same households were responsible for around half of all consumer spending in 2025, the highest rate since at least 1989, according to Moody's Analytics. Wealthy households also buoyed the housing market and new car sales over the past year. Walmart said last month that most of its growth was coming from households making more than $100,000.

Jeremy Kregar, 23, considers himself lucky among his group of college friends. He's making $21 an hour working for an optometrist in Portland, Oregon, where he has relatively affordable rent of $1,000 a month.

But his paycheck barely covers his bills, including payments on his $20,000 student loan. Some days, he said he's skipped meals because he can't afford groceries and earns too much to qualify for food stamps. The idea of owning a home, saving for retirement or building an emergency savings fund seems hopeless, he said.

''Based on my lived reality, and that of my friends, it doesn't seem like anyone's doing better. It seems like everyone's actually doing worse,'' Kregar said. ''It feels like we're being gaslit by the government.''

Among the ways Trump has affected Americans' bottom line is through his tariffs, which have driven up retail prices, said Doug Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum, who worked in the George W. Bush administration. Higher prices disproportionately affect those with less disposable income to absorb price hikes.

The tariffs ''are hurting the bottom end much more than the upper end,'' Holtz-Eakin said. ''And they have been responsible for a lot of headwinds to the labor market.''

The slowing job market is putting significant pressure on households. Wages aren't rising as quickly as in recent years, and employers have pulled back on hiring. The U.S. added just 584,000 jobs in 2025, the worst year for hiring since Covid. And most of the growth was driven by a handful of industries, like health care and education.

Economists have blamed this on factors including higher costs and uncertainty from tariffs, overhiring by companies after the pandemic, and the increasing use of robotics and AI.

''We've seen essentially no job growth. If you look outside of health and education, we lost jobs in 2025,'' Holtz-Eakin said. ''It's not a strong labor market. People are not getting hired.''

Measuring Trump's moves.

The economy was once Trump's strongest selling point: He centered his 2016 campaign on a fight for working-class voters. Once he was in office, wage growth accelerated for the lowest-paid workers and unemployment fell to the lowest level in decades, prior to the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

But in his second term, Trump's approval rating on the economy has been slipping.

A White House official said the administration aims to follow a similar playbook to Trump's first term: using tax cuts and regulatory changes to spur investment, along with a crackdown on immigration, which the administration believes will tighten the labor market and drive up wages.

''Much work remains, but this is just the beginning,'' White House spokesman Kush Desai said in an email, adding, ''Americans can rest assured that the best is yet to come.''

Trump has proposed some programs designed to help lower households' costs, such as a cap on credit card interest payments and a 50–year mortgage that would reduce monthly payments. Many of the proposals haven't been enacted.

Other moves, like price cuts on a limited number of prescription drugs, will benefit some people—but could be offset by higher health insurance costs after Congress failed to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies.

Some programs will take years to have an effect, like Trump-branded savings accounts for young children. The federal government will deposit $1,000 into the accounts, which will be invested in the stock market and converted to retirement accounts when children turn 18. Assuming the stock market continues growing at about 10% a year, that $1,000 would become about $5,500 in 18 years. The amount could grow substantially more if families are able to make the maximum contribution of $5,000 a year, which benefits wealthier households.

Trump's most direct impact on Americans' finances may come as they file their taxes; many households will see a bigger refund thanks to Trump's ''big, beautiful bill'' signed into law last summer. Middle-income households may benefit from a reduction in taxes on overtime pay, and some older adults will get a tax break on their Social Security income.

But the biggest gains in new tax cuts will go to wealthier households, including those who own businesses or expensive homes in states with high property taxes and those who receive multimillion-dollar inheritances. The law also extends tax cuts made during Trump's first term that were set to expire.

''There are things in the bill like no tax on tips, but they are much, much smaller'' compared with interventions that help the wealthy, like the estate tax, said Owen Zidar, an economics professor at Princeton University.

He pointed to an analysis by the Tax Policy Center that found households making $460,000 to $1.1 million would get an average tax cut of $21,000 in 2026. Meanwhile, middle-income households making $67,000 to $119,000 would get an average tax cut of about $1,800.

Those breaks come on top of decades of tax cuts, like those for business owners enacted during Trump's first term, that have benefited the richest households and enabled them to continue amassing more wealth, Zidar said.

Meanwhile, those like Liz Doyle in Oklahoma have continued to struggle to afford the basics.

Doyle, 67, who voted for Trump, said rising prices for everything from coffee to insulin are straining her monthly budget, nearly all of which comes from Social Security.

''The grocery prices are absolutely freaking ridiculous,'' Doyle said. ''Coffee prices, what in the world?''

Her property taxes have quadrupled over the past two years, she said. She doesn't have a 401(k) and only owns a small amount of stocks, so she hasn't benefited much from the market's surge. Occasionally, she sells some vegetables, like okra, from her garden at the local farmers market for extra income.

''President Trump has done so much better than Biden,'' said Doyle, who cited the lower rate of inflation under Trump. ''But the question is: Is Trump that good, or was Biden that bad?''

Kregar, who voted for former Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election, said his experience in the economy since graduating from college that year has shifted his views further toward Democrats.

''Every time I go to the grocery store, I'm filled with dread,'' Kregar said. ''Meanwhile, we're going to build a White House ballroom? It feels like, as an American, a slap in the face.''

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD an article from CNN titled: ''Trump's tariffs are bigger than his tax cuts for most Americans''.

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

There was no objection.

[From CNN, Sept. 15, 2025]

TRUMP'S TARIFFS ARE BIGGER THAN HIS TAX CUTS FOR MOST AMERICANS

(By Zachary B. Wolf, Tami Luhby, Soph Warnes)

Republicans and President Donald Trump want credit for what he has called ''the largest tax cut in the history of our country'' for the income tax cuts in his One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Democrats and free trade advocates have said Trump's tariff policy, which placed levies on most imported goods from around the world, is one of the largest tax hikes in history.

Both claims are debatable, but for most Americans how tariffs and tax cuts will affect their daily lives is a highly relevant question.

The answers are hard to find and nuanced. But the bottom line, according to calculations by the Yale Budget Lab, is that American households could pay $2,300 more, on average, as result of the current tariff policy, nearly three times the average roughly $800 benefit from the OBBBA's new tax provisions.

''For households as a whole, the total tax increase they'll feel from tariffs is larger than the total tax cut they'll feel from the new provisions in the Republican tax package,'' said John Ricco, the lab's associate director of policy analysis.

There are multiple variables that complicate things.

First, tariffs have not yet sparked inflation on the level that many economists have predicted—although it is ticking up. There's evidence that some of the impact from tariffs could be delayed, and much of the president's tariff policy has only recently kicked in. Plus, the US economy is massive and decentralized and there are many factors beyond tariffs and taxes at play.

Trump and Republicans have said the tax cuts are much larger than the tariffs, an argument that sidesteps the reality that the bulk of the tax cuts may not be noticed by many Americans. Rather than enact entirely new tax cuts, much of what the bill does is make permanent individual tax cuts that were passed as temporary policy during Trump's first term.

Plus, specific measures like a temporary reprieve for taxes on tips will only help slivers of the workforce. The tax bill also includes cuts to the social safety net like food assistance and Medicaid, with the expectation that millions of people will lose these benefits, affecting their quality of life and financial resources.

Even before those cuts, the cost burden of tariffs is expected to push hundreds of thousands of Americans into poverty next year, according to a separate Yale analysis.

Tariffs amount to a national sales tax on imported goods, although the rate of tariffs varies by country and continues to change. Their impact could likewise evolve if, as Trump promises, they kickstart a US manufacturing renaissance.

Here's the math

One detailed comparison of how tariffs and tax cuts will affect Americans comes from the Yale Budget Lab, which concluded in a recent analysis that only those highest on the income ladder will come out ahead over the next decade when tariffs are put alongside tax cuts.

The top 10% of households, those who on average are making $518,000 per year, will pay about $13,600 less in taxes, according to Yale's analysis. They'll have to spend nearly $5,450 more, on average, because of tariff-fueled price increases.

That combined effect of tariffs and tax increases will net out to an income boost of about $8,200, or 1.6%, according to Yale.

Every other income bracket will be worse off due to tariffs

Middle-income households, who on average are making between about $105,000 to $122,000, will see their average $1,200 tax cut more than offset by a $2,200 cumulative tariff price hike, in the Yale analysis.

Those who make the least will be hurt the most. The bottom 10% will see their average annual income drop by almost $2,600, or 6.6%, the lab found. They'll take an average $1,350 hit to their wallets from tariffs coupled with a roughly $1,200 hit, on average, from the ''big, beautiful bill,'' largely because the Republican package slashed spending on the nation's safety net to pay for part of the tax breaks. These folks have an average income of just under $39,000.

Plus, while the higher cost of goods from tariffs affects every household, it will disproportionately hurt lower-income consumers because they spend a higher share of their income than the wealthy do, Ricco said.

That impact is clear from a separate report Yale issued in early September on Trump's tariff policies. It showed that while the wealthiest Americans will lose nearly $5,250 in disposable income in 2027 because of higher prices, that only amounts to only 1% of their income.

By contrast, tariffs will cut more than $1,300 out of the income of the bottom 10%, but that accounts for 3.5% of their disposable income, Yale found.

Many Americans may not feel the tax cuts

The real-world effect of the new tax and spending cut bill will be further muted by the fact that most of the tax cuts are extensions of tax cuts that would have expired rather than new tax cuts.

Looking only at the new measures in the package, including the temporary elimination of taxes on some tips and overtime, the enhanced deduction for senior citizens and the beefed-up child tax credit, Americans will get an $800 break on their taxes in coming years, according to Yale. If extending the expiring cuts is added in, the average tax cut rises to $3,000.

Different research groups and think tanks use different calculations to gauge tax cuts compared to tariffs, but their bottom-line assessments are the same.

''Tax cuts are higher for higher-income people, whereas tariffs have the opposite effects; they are much more evenly distributed,'' said Joseph Rosenberg, a senior fellow at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. That means they will hit lower income Americans harder.

But on national debt, a wash

While the tariffs, as currently constructed, will outweigh the tax cuts for most Americans, it's also important to look at how the two contrasting tax policies will affect the country's bottom line.

The beefed-up tariffs are projected to lower the federal deficit by $3.3 trillion over the 2025 to 2035 period and to reduce interest costs by an additional roughly $700 billion, for a total impact of $4 trillion, according to the Congressional Budget Office's latest estimate, which looked at tariffs imposed as of August 19.

The GOP tax and spending cuts package is expected to increase the federal debt by an estimated $4.1 trillion or so between 2025 and 2034, more than Trump's tariffs are forecast to bring in. It is expected to increase the deficit by $3.4 trillion and add roughly $718 billion in interest costs.

Less balance in the system

Adam Michel, director of tax policy studies at the libertarian-leaning CATO Institute, said even if the tariffs end up canceling out the impacts of the tax cuts, the effects of the two policies could make the country more unequal.

The tax cuts are ''riddled with special interest carveouts that treat similarly situated Americans with vastly different tax systems.'' Consider the increased state and local tax deductions for many East Coast homeowners, new deductions for oil and gas companies, whalers in Alaska and rum producers in Louisiana, among others.

The same is true of tariffs, he said, which will hit some industries harder than others.

''Together, these two changes mean we are moving toward a far more unequal and unstable fiscal system that trades durable reform for lumpy, distortionary breaks and levies that undermine long-run stability and fairness,'' he said.

Mr. McGOVERN. I say to the gentlewoman that I appreciate her reciting the RNC's talking points, and I would encourage her to keep on reciting them and bring that message home, to go home and tell the American people that things are great, that things are unbelievably wonderful, and that you should thank the Republicans in Congress and Donald Trump for raising the prices on everything.

Go home and sell that message to the American people. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, we won't have to do anything.

The bottom line is that things aren't good for people. As I said, there is a Trump tax of $4,000 on average Americans. That is what they have to pay in additional costs for everything, from rent to healthcare to groceries to you name it. That is the Trump tax.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud my Republican colleagues for condemning President Trump's socialist actions, but they won't admit that the President is the biggest socialist in America today.

President Trump has turned the Federal Government into a shareholder in private American companies, taking ownership stakes in companies and putting Washington directly into the business of picking winners and losers.

So let's get into it, Mr. Speaker.

Democrats want to make sure American families can put food on the table. Donald Trump has taken a 10 percent stake in Intel Corporation.

Democrats want clean water. Donald Trump wants his friends to have drilling contracts on public lands.

Democrats want families to pay less for prescription drugs, while Trump wants to give his billionaire friends and family another tax break.

His socialism is about his social circle getting more while the American people get less. Denounce that, but don't lecture the American people about socialism. They are not stupid nor confused about what they are feeling in their pocketbooks. County hospitals, emergency rooms, police, fire, roads, stoplights, public schools, libraries, public pools, and parks are all funded by socialism and are getting squeezed by this administration's cuts and shenanigans.

If my Republican colleagues truly oppose government ownership of private companies and truly condemn socialism, then I invite them to join us in denouncing Trump's own policies. Until then, save the gaslighting for the convention and miss me with this nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, welcome back.

It has been a wild ride this Congress. After 5 weeks of being out for the August district work period, a war is raging in the Middle East; the economy is in shambles; working people of this country cannot afford food, housing, and healthcare; the President is raiding the Venezuelan oil reserves and lining his own pockets; and what are we doing on the House floor after 5 weeks of break?

We are hearing bills to basically gut environmental protections, including protections for one of the most endangered species on planet Earth. Just a few years ago before my mother passed away, I had the extraordinary opportunity to visit the Cape Cod National Seashore, and on that day, which was an unusually warm day, we went down to the beach, and there were literally hundreds of right whales right off the shore. Today there are 380 right whales still in existence on planet Earth. Only 70 are considered able to breed.

What is before us today is a decision about whether or not to let one of God's great creatures continue to exist on planet Earth.

With all of the things that are happening in this world and in this country, this body under this Republican majority is choosing to advance a bill on the first day we come back in the middle of global turmoil and economic chaos to decide whether or not a species that has existed on this planet longer than the United States has even been an idea should be able to continue.

It is disgraceful. The American people did not send us here to gut environmental laws. The American people sent us here to save our democracy, to defend our institutions, and to ensure that they can get a fair shake.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this bill, and I will vote it down on the floor today.

□ 1210

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire of the gentlewoman how many more speakers she has on her side? We haven't seen any other than her. I am just curious.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me, first of all, respond to something the gentlewoman from North Carolina said about Republicans trying to protect our children. I would just ask, where the hell are the Epstein files? We have forced resolutions on this floor to be passed, to demand a release of these files.

Congressman MASSIE came to the floor. Again, he has another resolution. Still, we have no compliance with the law. We know that this administration is up to their eyeballs in the Epstein files. When is that going to happen? When is that going to be released? I mean, talk about protecting children.

Mr. Speaker, you know when Republicans send us home this week, what exactly will be cheaper? Will groceries cost less? Will rent go down? Will anybody's electric bill shrink? Will health insurance premiums come down? The answer is no. Not one damn thing on the agenda this week will address the affordability crisis. Nothing.

Congress will have condemned socialism again. Mission accomplished, I guess. You know that tells you everything about the priorities of this Republican majority. Whenever the conversation gets uncomfortable, they change the subject.

Why are groceries so expensive? Socialism. Why are healthcare costs so expensive? They showed socialism. Why did Trump start another new war in the Middle East? You must be a Socialist for asking the question. When are you going to release the Epstein files? When is that going to happen? Socialism, socialism, socialism. It is literally insane. It is Trump derangement syndrome.

Meanwhile, the President's big win this week is pretending to rename Lake Ontario after getting into a trade war with our closest ally and neighbor. This is nuts. This Chamber ceases to be a serious body when we don't call this stuff out and when we don't actually bring bills to the floor that address the real needs of the American people.

The American people are not stupid. They know who is focused on listening to their problems and who is focused on playing political games.

We should be working to lower costs, period. Contrary to what Trump says, affordability is not a made-up word, and it does have a definition. People cannot afford to pay everyday expenses. They can't afford their groceries. They can't afford their rent. They can't afford to fill their gas tank up. They want lower healthcare costs. They want lower housing costs. They want lower energy costs. They want lower grocery bills.

They want an end to the corporate giveaways and tax loopholes that let big companies jack up prices and gouge consumers. You know, they want an end to giving these corporations the ability to cheat on their taxes and to avoid accountability.

That is what people want us to do, not fight absurd culture wars and debate far-right fringe garbage. If our Republican colleagues want to have another debate about socialism, fine, let's have it. Waste more time passing more nonbinding resolutions. At the end of the day, people are going to vote based on their bank accounts, pocketbooks, grocery bills, and gas prices.

People look at life through their kitchen window. They are tired of all of this bs that is being talked about in this Chamber. They are sick of a Congress that debates trivial issues passionately but important ones not at all. They want to know when we are going to care about them. They are sick and tired of a Congress that gives tax breaks to entities, that gives big donations to political parties and political candidates. They want to know when they come first.

My friends, you have failed miserably to deliver on your promise to make life more affordable for people. People are counting on us. They want us to do better. You have a chance. We will work in a bipartisan way to try to deal with some of these high costs the people are faced with right now.

No, we come back after a recess, and this is what we are dealing with. This is garbage. This is a waste of time. This is an insult to this Chamber. It is an insult to the American people. They will remember in November.

Vote ''no'' on this rule.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying we are wasting our time here when we talk about all that we have accomplished in this session of Congress. They especially don't like it when we talk about socialism.

I encourage the American people to go online and look at this manifesto from the Democratic Socialists of America. It is out there for all the world to see. This is an expanded version from the first one that I saw that looked like it was written by a seventh grader. This one really fills out what these people want to do, and it is why we are bringing one measure today, under this rule, to condemn what these people want to do.

It is abhorrent to all Americans. Its goals are repugnant to the principles that form the foundation for American constitutional liberties that benefit all Americans. There is simply no way to reconcile what the DSA envisions for America with the Constitution that protects us all.

For example, the DSA's stated long-term goals, to completely replace the Presidency and the Supreme Court, threaten the foundation of separation of powers and the stability of American democracy.

The DSA seeks to centralize State power. We all know that expanding State control crowds out civil society and individual choice. Even under a ''Democratic'' banner, hyper-centralized authority diminishes opportunities for dissenting views and personal freedoms.

The DSA seeks to abolish national boundaries. Think about that. The chaos we experienced when President Biden allowed millions of illegal immigrants to enter the U.S. will seem like child's play in comparison. We know of the security risks caused by President Biden's open borders. Murderers, child rapists, and other criminals were granted carte blanche to terrorize American communities.

Think about the implications of a permanent absence of borders. We know the financial costs caused by President Biden's open borders. In one sanctuary State alone, emergency housing for illegal immigrants surpassed $1 billion in FY 2025. Providing such services on a permanent, ongoing basis would bankrupt every State.

Let me just quote from a few pages of this manifesto. They want to have ''publicly owned energy and transit infrastructure. Phase out the use of fossil fuels. Reclaim and repair our Earth's resources for all.''

This sounds like free buses in New York that have been promised.

''Feminism for All: Socialist feminism fights for queer liberation and the freedoms for all working-class women.''

''Healthcare for All: Guarantee universal healthcare at no cost to individuals, including complete access to reproductive and gender-affirming care.''

What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? That means abortions at any point in the child's life.

They want housing for all: ''Build new, publicly owned social housing, strictly regulate investment properties, establish universal rent control, and guarantee right to counsel for all tenants.''

Mr. Speaker, this is dangerous. There are people who are going to be in this Congress in the next session who support these programs.

Again, I encourage the American people to look at this manifesto from the DSA. They are called Democratic Socialists of America. That is what they are called. That is what is asked for here, Mr. Speaker.

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As I said at the outset of the debate, we have a solid slate of bills contained under this rule. They are substantive, impactful, and address pertinent issues occurring across the Nation like this manifesto.

We can and should pass this rule and each of the underlying bills to continue our work in service to the Nation and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the previous question and ''yes'' on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Mr. McGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1499 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 6. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 738) to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) rule XIX and clause 8 of rule XX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 738.

SEC. 8. The Clerk shall transmit to the Senate a message that the House has passed H.R. 738 no later than three calendar days after passage.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

AGOA EXTENSION ACT

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 6500) to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2027

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2026 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2026, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026 (division B of Public Law 119–37).

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–74), except sections 521(c)(2) and 544.

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–75).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (division B of Public Law 119–74).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2026 (division E of Public Law 119–75), except the last proviso under the heading ''Election Assistance Commission—Election Security Grants'', and including section 143 of division A of Public Law 119–37.

(6) The Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (Public Law 119–86), except division B, and including sections 5013 through 5016 of division I of Public Law 119–75.

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (division C of Public Law 119–74), except section 444.

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (division B of Public Law 119–75), except section 528.

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026 (division C of Public Law 119–37).

(10) The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (division D of Public Law 119–37).

(11) The National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026 (division F of Public Law 119–75).

(12) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (division D of Public Law 119–75), as amended by sections 153(b) and 156(a) of this Act.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for:

(1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2026 or prior years;

(2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2026 funds; or

(3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2026.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2026.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2027, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act.

(2) The enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2027 without any provision for such project or activity.

(3) December 11, 2026.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2027 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2026, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued