

□ 2140

That is astronomical. Tens of thousands more veterans and their families are at risk if Secretary Collins does not reverse course.

While my Republican colleagues created an unnecessary veteran housing crisis, they have simultaneously turned a blind eye to the plight of the most vulnerable veterans.

At the beginning of this Congress, both Chairman BOST and Economic Subcommittee Chairman VAN ORDEN announced ending veteran homelessness as one of their top priorities. Yet, there has not been a single piece of legislation related to veteran homelessness brought to the House floor, nor a subcommittee hearing on the topic. In fact, the policies that Chairman BOST and Congressman VAN ORDEN advocated actually produced more housing insecurity among veterans by ending VA home loan foreclosure protections.

I have asked repeatedly how VA has helped these families who are facing foreclosure, but the Trump VA has refused to provide that information. I have gleaned what I can from available VA data, which shows a massive increase in the number of veterans using VA homelessness prevention services.

Nearly 10,000 more veterans and their families were served this year through the VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families program of 2022. The VA has refused to tell me how many of these families became at risk of homelessness due to their home foreclosure.

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

Mr. TAKANO. I wish I could tell you more, but I think I have told you quite a bit.

But my Democratic colleagues and I will not quit asking the hard questions and pushing VA to use its resources to help vulnerable families.

There are still an estimated 32,000 veterans experiencing homelessness on any given night. One veteran sleeping on the streets is too many—32,000 should be treated by both sides of the aisle as an emergency.

I remain committed to leading the fight to end veteran homelessness and creating a housing ecosystem that serves the needs of everyone, instead of prioritizing profits and the bottom line of billionaires. I will continue to push back on needless policies that create housing insecurity for veteran families. If Chairman BOST and Congressman VAN ORDEN were truly committed to ending veteran homelessness, they would be fighting next to me, but sadly they are sitting on the sidelines while veterans sleep on the streets.

Madam Speaker, I've spent this past half hour walking through what this Majority has done—and hasn't done—for our veterans over the past two years. And I want to be clear about something: my Republican colleagues do not lack for words on this floor. They will tell you, and they will tell veterans, that they care. That veterans come first. That this Congress honors their service.

But talk is cheap, and veterans know the difference between a press statement and real action.

So, let's test it. Last night, the discharge petition for the Major Richard Star Act hit 218

signatures. A majority of this House, Democrats and Republicans together, said enough waiting. That petition is no longer a message. It's a mandate. Combat-injured veterans have earned the right to keep both their retirement pay and their disability compensation, and the House has now spoken.

The only person standing between 59,000 veterans and that vote is the Speaker. But the Speaker has cancelled session until November 9th. Don't make these veterans wait another two months, for a vote on this bill. There is no procedural excuse left, no committee to wait on, no more signatures to chase. Mr. Speaker, schedule the vote. Not next month. Not when it's convenient. This week. Every day this vote sits on a calendar instead of the floor is another day combat-injured veterans go without benefits this House just told the world they deserve.

To the veterans watching tonight: last night you won something. Not because Washington finally decided to do right by you—but because of you and the organizations who fight for you refused to let this go quietly. That's how every real gain for veterans in this country has happened—not from a Congress that moved first, but from veterans who MADE it move.

You've watched this body take 18 months to fix what VASP's termination broke, while families lost their homes. You've watched a VA Secretary spend more energy attacking the VFW than answering for a contract increase he tried to hide. You've waited on hold, waited on a claim, waited in a clinic that still isn't staffed. Tonight is proof that waiting isn't the only option. Democrats will keep pushing this House to prove, with votes and measurable actions, not just words—that this time is different.

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

AMERICANS ARE ASKING QUESTIONS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. ROY of Texas was recognized for 19 minutes.)

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, yet again, I am sitting here in an empty Chamber late at night. People have gone home to campaign. I understand that it is campaign season.

But while some are preparing for elections, American families are preparing for another trip to the grocery store, are filling up their cars, are paying their mortgages and their rent, and are looking at their utility bills.

A lot of Americans are asking a simple question: Why are things so expensive? Why is life so hard to afford? Inflation, lower than it was 2 years ago, is still built on the back of the massive inflation after COVID.

Today, the Federal Reserve raised rates another .25 percent, raising rates for the first time since 2023. Gasoline prices and diesel prices continue to go up and rise as the war in Iran rages on. Americans have difficulty affording their homes.

All of these things are true. Now, why is that the case? Let me pause for a second and say that until a little over 18 months ago, 19 months ago,

President Trump comes in, and this Republican Congress got to work. I am deeply proud of the work that we have done to take on the biggest challenges that our Nation faces.

I also want to say that I am deeply proud of the United States House Freedom Caucus, conservatives who stood up in defense of the things Americans sent us here to do. But for conservatives and but for the Freedom Caucus, we would not have reduced spending on welfare, Medicaid, and the various programs ripe with fraud that are racking up mountains of debt and causing the American people to have to spend much more in inflation.

But for the Freedom Caucus, we would not have saved \$1.7 trillion. But for conservatives and the Freedom Caucus, we would not have repealed \$500 billion in inflation-causing subsidies put on by green new scam companies trying to make money off of the back of taxpayers.

But for the Freedom Caucus, we would not have eliminated a tax on guns that infringe on our Second Amendment right. But for the House Freedom Caucus, we would not have made the tax cuts permanent all the way through. But for the House Freedom Caucus, we would not have passed the Laken Riley Act, with the SUE Act in it, giving power to States to sue the Federal Government if they fail to secure the border. But for the House Freedom Caucus, we would not have gotten a 5-year ban on a central bank digital currency, to protect you from surveillance.

But for the House Freedom Caucus, we would not have held off on just an automatic renewal of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, carrying out surveillance on the American people.

I can go on and on and on. But the people that are in here trying to fight every single day for the hardworking American feeling screwed by their government and screwed by corporate America, those men and women, those patriots in the House Freedom Caucus and conservatives, are going to bat for you.

I can tell you, a lot of people in this town are not. A lot of people in this town want the easy road. A lot of lobbyists and a lot of people who are more interested in their election certificate or climbing the ladder of being a committee chairman or in some leadership post, they don't dare care about what that means for you. That is true on both sides of the aisle, and we need to recognize that.

Even as we speak, there are candidates who are in an R plus 20 or R plus 15 district who are already jockeying for committee positions. Even as we speak, there are current Members of this body spending money to try to raise money for their colleagues in large amounts to try to buy a committee chair, to try to buy a seat in leadership.

I think we ought to be here right now. I think we ought to be finishing

the job, because I am proud of the job that we have done because of those of us who have stayed through the night until 2 a.m.—regardless of what phone call we get from the White House or when we get it—to demand that we deliver for the people of the United States.

Some folks in the White House have a moniker for some of us: “the 2 a.m. caucus.” I am a proud member. You think you need to call me at 2 a.m. to get my vote? Yes, you do, because this is Article I, this is Congress, and we are the first branch of government. This is the people’s House. We ought to be here, and we ought to be delivering for the people of the United States. When we do, we are at our best. When we do, we deliver results for the American people.

But when we try to politicize or self-serve or climb the ladder of committee chairmanships and leadership, then we walk away from what our core responsibility and our job actually is.

Going back to the American people who are still struggling to afford life, I don’t care what billionaire I piss off when I tell them that the American people are suffering right now because they can’t afford a home or because they can’t afford their food or they can’t afford a car because we want to have another safety device in the car or another regulation in the car or a surveillance apparatus, like a kill switch, in the car. Then we wonder why the car can’t be afforded.

Maybe it is another protection device in the housing. Maybe we need to import a whole lot of cheap labor that are going to be increasing the demand on the housing so American citizens can’t afford a house.

Both the supply and demand of housing is causing the increase of prices. When you import half the world demanding housing, you wonder why housing is going up. When you regulate the hell out of homebuilding, you wonder why the price of housing is going up.

When you import half the world, you wonder why the entirety of the culture of this country changes in a nanosecond and you suddenly have mosques on every corner in Dallas/Fort Worth and you have people spreading sharia law and you have people that are standing in values that are directly opposed to what we believe in our Judeo-Christian society. When we say, “In God We Trust,” we mean it. When we have Moses looking down on our Chamber, we mean it because we know what this country was founded upon.

Yet, when we are importing half the world with people who do not share our values, you wonder why there are imams in Texas today that are literally plotting jihad against Western civilization. Then you wonder why the American people are mad, because the chamber of commerce and big business said they valued cheap labor more than protecting the people of the United States, more than protecting our cul-

ture, our heritage, and who we are as people. That is what the American people are mad about.

You want to know why they are mad about data centers? I will tell you why they are mad about data centers. It is not electricity or water necessarily. That is part of it. It is not necessarily noise pollution or light pollution. If they are out in a farming community, that is part of it. You know what it is? They are sitting in their town, and they are being told: You must do this because of China; you must do this because it is really important.

To do what? Some esoteric defense against the arms race against China, so I can have a concrete box outside of my small town in west Texas that is filled with computers that are being operated by people on H-1B visas from India, that are chock-full of all sorts of searches for child pornography and hooking kids on porn or betting on college sports, while we turn college sports upside down and make it basically professional.

Then we have TikTok targeting our kids. Then even the most important and the smartest people in the world tell our people: You are not going to have a job in 10 years because robots and AI are going to take your jobs away.

Why do you think the American people are in revolt to data centers popping up at every corner in America? All because the powers that be in this town and in tech oligarch rooms across the country say: You got to do it because of China.

How about the people of this body meet the people where they are.

□ 2150

People who want to be able to afford food and housing and cars. People who want to have their communities. They want to be able to maintain the culture of their country. They want their kids and their grandkids to have a job. They want to have the dignity of work. They want to pass that down because they know that is what made this country great.

They don’t give a rip about the earnings per share announcements that are coming out of Wall Street. They want their country back. That is what they want.

If we want to go out and earn votes between now and November, let’s talk to them about taking their country back for them. Let’s make sure that we stand up in defense of what they want.

I can promise you that as secure as the border is, because of the great work of the Trump administration, we have not codified a darn thing in this Chamber. I had to threaten votes sitting in that aisle right over there. I had to threaten votes in July. Remember the 2 a.m. caucus that everybody gets mad about? That is too damn bad. I am happy to do it because someone has to do it.

They were going to just gloss over a bill that we have to codify the Presi-

dent’s policies of securing the border, stopping the abuse of asylum, stopping the abuse of parole, stopping catch and release, stopping the abuse of unaccompanied children, all of these things that led directly to the deaths of Americans like Laken Riley, like Jocelyn Nungaray, and countless others. We said we were going to do something about it and we didn’t.

I want every Republican to hear me. We didn’t. Some of us stood up there and said we were going to threaten bills. We were going to get this done, and we finally move the bill through the Judiciary Committee because we threatened to stop the floor.

By the way, that is the only thing that works around here. You have to go up to leadership and say, you are not getting whatever nonsense you want unless we get the things that the American people said they wanted.

That is the truth. We still haven’t codified on the floor. We should, and when we come back here to lameduck, we should. We should pass the legislation the American people wanted us to pass. We should protect the people that we said we were going to protect. We should stop the flow of the 1 million people coming in here on green cards every year from all over the world when we still have a glut in this country with housing that is unaffordable and Americans who can’t find jobs. We have a massive assault on our culture with 50-something million foreign-born people in the United States, a massive percentage.

We haven’t addressed birthright citizenship after the United States Supreme Court made up out of whole cloth nonsense that the 14th Amendment says that if you are born here, literally of a mother pregnant who comes here across the Rio Grande River or flies into Miami and has a baby, you are a citizen.

Under no circumstances did the 14th Amendment when it was ratified in 1868 mean that that is the law. It is a fiction, and we shouldn’t let the United States Supreme Court make up a fiction and then follow it and dismantle our country in the process.

The fact of the matter is that decision enables one of the most pervasive illegal immigration magnets that is destroying our country. We should not entertain importing one more person until we secure our border for good. We can’t leave it to the next Democratic President to do it. You saw what happened in the last one.

They destroyed our country, flooding people in who were dangerous and killing Americans. If we aren’t serious about securing the border, then what are we doing? We will never have a secure border if we don’t pass the bills we said we would pass.

If we aren’t serious about cutting spending, with a national debt of \$40 trillion, we will never solve the inflation crisis that pervades us today. If we are not serious about codifying President Trump’s border policies, we can’t

expect our border to be secure rather than descending into chaos as soon as the Democrats take power.

If we are not serious about passing the SAVE America Act, which we passed three times in this body and the Senate refused to pass, how can you stand up and say that you believe that only American citizens should vote in American elections and we should have voter ID federally? If we are not serious about the rise of Sharia law and the massive expansion of mosques and Islamic centers across the United States, how will we maintain a Judeo-Christian nation that built the Western world, that has stood for a beacon of hope for the entirety of the world, built on those principles, those principles of western civilization that are under direct assault right now by people who want to Islamify this country?

If we are not serious about those things, we will lose the country. Now is the time not for fist bumping about some bills that we passed or whatever we did over a year ago in the big, beautiful bill. Go out and campaign to the American people about where we want to take this country, build on what we have done, and tell them where we want to go.

I want to live in a free country. I want to live in a country that respects our Judeo-Christian principles. I want to live in a country where you don't have to worry about walking down the street. I want my daughter, my wife, my son to be safe walking on our streets. I want a country where I know that we can afford the American Dream and afford a house, food, automobiles, and not one that is so regulated that you can't.

I do not want a world in which people are addicted to these godforsaken devices and where our children are addicted to porn and gambling. I don't want a world in which your life depends on the digital transmission of the world.

I want a world where you look somebody in the eye, where you have a relationship, where you have a community, where you go to church, where you raise the flag, where you celebrate God and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and you are able to do so because people fought, bled, and died for this country.

Start speaking about things that rise above the political rhetoric each year of one party versus the other. Rise up for something that is worth fighting for. That is why those boys sat in those foxholes in Bastogne in the freezing cold in 1944 getting shelled and shot at, why they walked into a wall of bullets at Normandy. Those men took the field on both sides of the war in Gettysburg and fought it out, hand to hand, brother against brother, for something bigger, for something better, for something that you could pass down to your children and something that was more than whatever is contained in one of these godforsaken devices.

We have the obligation to stand up for something more important as this

whole debate of AI, this whole debate of data centers. It is about putting God first. It is about putting family first. It is about putting communities first. It is about restoring what is right and good about this thing that God gave to us to have dominion over.

We can choose how to live. We can choose to live the lives that we know will be fulfilling for our families and our communities and our kids and grandkids.

It is a great honor to serve in the people's House. The people's House has to reflect the people. When people question me because they say, Chip, you are a free market guy. You are a free enterprise guy. Why are you talking about AI in the negative? I am not a doomer. I am a cancer survivor. I want AI to solve cancer for everybody alive. I want all of the great things we can have to come out of technology in advancements, but what I don't want are a handful of people in board rooms and Big Tech companies in collusion with government to tell me how I have to live.

I don't want those people to tell me I have to have some sort of data center or have to have some sort of way of living that isn't consistent with what I think God gave to us to have dominion and control over.

Madam Speaker, winding down here with about a minute to go in the empty Chamber that is the House of Representatives, we have this great blessing of being Americans and we have the opportunity to do something with it. I am calling on this body as they go out and campaign, when they come back in November, when they come back in January, stand up for something bigger. Stand up in defense of who we are as a people. Stand up for this country. Stand up for our grandparents and our great-grandparents who fought and bled and died to give it to us. Stand up for your children. Don't just turn a blind eye to what is happening. Make this place affordable and livable and enjoyable.

That is what the pursuit of happiness meant. Those unalienable rights that Jefferson wrote about: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That is the calling of the people in this Chamber.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4729. A letter from the Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs, Marketing Assistance Loans, and Sugar Provisions [Docket ID: FSA-2026-0067] (RIN: 0560-AI84) received August 14, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4730. A letter from the Attorney, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Unsafe or Unsound Practices, Matters Requiring Attention [Docket ID: OCC-2026-0174] (RIN: 1557-AF35) received September 1, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4731. A letter from the Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defining and Delimiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales, and Computer Employees; Implementation of Federal Court Judgments [Docket No.: WHD-2026-0100] (RIN: 1235-AA57) received September 1, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-4732. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Open Fires in Marine Terminals [Docket No.: OSHA-2025-0007] (RIN: 1218-AD51) received August 25, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-4733. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — House Falls in Marine Terminals [Docket No.: OSHA-2025-0008] (RIN: 1218-AD52) received August 25, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-4734. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled "The Rural Maternal and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program September 2026", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 254c-1b(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 330A-2 (as added by Public Law 117-103, div. P, title I, Sec. 142); (136 Stat. 799); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4735. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicaid Program; Prohibition on Federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Funding for Sex-Rejecting Procedures Furnished to Children [CMS-2451-F] (RIN: 0938-AV73) received August 13, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4736. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — NRC Modernization: Rulemaking Procedure, Federal Advisory Committee Act Alignment, Access, and Security [NRC-2025-1139] (RIN: 3150-AL46) received August 12, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.