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No. 13

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 20, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER WILLIAMS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2026, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

ONGOING PROTESTS IN IRAN

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the ongoing protests in Iran.

For decades, the Iranian people have faced human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, and economic turmoil.

Protests have been going on for almost a month. The military is cracking down, and at least thousands have died. The Iranian people are not back-

ing down, and they deserve the right to protest for changes. They deserve the right to decide whether they want a freer, secular future.

That is why I have joined my colleagues on the bipartisan FREEDOM Act to expand internet freedom in Iran. I also sent a letter to the administration urging immediate action to maximize resources to protect internet freedom.

I have also written directly to Secretary Rubio in support of the Iranian people, while highlighting the worsening human rights abuses, which are also affecting people back here who have Iranian family there.

We support the Iranian people and their efforts to determine their own futures, and we will continue to support them.

BANNING IMMIGRANT VISA PROCESSING

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, the administration has decided that, starting tomorrow, January 21, they are going to implement an indefinite ban on immigrant visa processing for more than 75 countries.

This sweeping action has created a crisis for so many Virginia families who have followed the law to see or reunite with their loved ones. Some of these stories that my office has seen of people who have been affected are really heartbreaking. These are spouses still waiting to reunite, engaged couples who have had to pause or cancel their wedding plans, children waiting for parents, and parents waiting to care for their families.

We even had a couple reach out who were in the final stages of adopting a child from Thailand, which is on the list. Because of the pause on what is going on, the adoption is now frozen indefinitely.

It seems there are no exceptions to this ban. It is just a straight-up ban, and the reason seems kind of flimsy, to be honest. It is apparently because they are a drain on our social system.

I will just say that the only drain on our social system has been Congress, with cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.

In any case, I would love to see the math on how these particular countries were chosen and why this administration thinks banning visas from Fiji is going to help out social services or pay down the debt.

This blanket ban, with no exceptions, does nothing more than separate families and create hardship. Our constituents deserve better.

MEDICARE TELEHEALTH COVERAGE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we have been talking a lot in this Chamber about rising healthcare costs.

One of the things that we are doing really well as a country to lower costs is telehealth, which allows people to see their providers faster and more often, and even see specialized providers from out of State. It saves time and money, and it is great for doctors, nurses, and seniors.

Unfortunately, we are heading toward a telehealth coverage cliff because, on January 30, Medicare telehealth coverage will end, and many patients will have to see their doctors in person only.

That is why I am urging my colleagues to pass the CONNECT for Health Act and make telehealth coverage permanent. This is common sense. It lowers costs, and it means less emergency room visits. Everyone wins.

We must save telehealth coverage and pass this bill before the end of the month.

STREAMLINING REVIEW PROCESS FOR FEDERAL PROJECTS

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of my bill, the RED Tape Act, which will be marked up by the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Committee on Energy and Commerce tomorrow.

The RED Tape Act amends the Clean Air Act to streamline the review process for Federal projects. The U.S. is facing a rapidly growing demand for energy production and domestic manufacturing. Meeting these escalating needs requires efficiency in deploying new infrastructure.

The RED Tape Act would eliminate duplicative reviews that serve only to delay the permitting and construction of these needed projects. This reform will provide timely and predictable outcomes for new projects, helping to ensure that America remains competitive in the global economy.

As we work to fulfill President Trump's goal of energy dominance, I look forward to seeing this bill advance through the full committee and proceed to the floor for a vote.

RIISING HEALTHCARE COSTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of rising healthcare costs. As no surprise, data released from the final full year of the Biden administration reflected that healthcare spending has grown at an unsustainable pace, far outpacing inflation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, healthcare costs across all markets have spiked for patients, while large insurance companies continue to profit. Under excessive ACA regulations, we entered an era of unprecedented mergers of insurers, providers, and pharmacies.

This imbalance has contributed to a dire crisis for small community-based pharmacies, particularly in rural areas like Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, leading to closures and leaving many communities to be pharmacy deserts.

This week, Congress will begin to deliver on producing meaningful transparency for the American patient as we consider comprehensive legislation that curbs PBM abuses and includes legislation that I authored to expand telehealth access to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation and requires unique provider numbers at every hospital outpatient department.

This package forms a key downpayment on delivering meaningful health cost reduction for all Americans.

Last week, President Trump announced the Great Healthcare Plan, which focuses on lowering costs by increasing price transparency and holding big insurance companies accountable.

These proposed reforms by President Trump, coupled with action by Republicans in Congress, will bring much-needed reform to our broken healthcare system and reduce healthcare costs for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING GARY PAUL

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Paul, who has concluded three decades of public service as a Richland Township supervisor in Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

Gary Paul, throughout his 30-year tenure, has worked tirelessly as a Geistown borough road foreman while maintaining his family farm, where he also raises beef cattle.

Recently, Gary was recognized for his dedication by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and by the Richland Township Board of Supervisors.

With pride for Gary, I join the citizens of Richland Township and of all of Cambria County in thanking him for his unwavering commitment and his unwavering public service.

CONGRATULATING JACK FIELDS ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jack Fields for more than 50 years of service to the borough of McConnellsburg in Fulton County, Pennsylvania.

Jack recently retired as secretary and treasurer of the borough council, acting as borough manager and head of maintenance and permitting.

Just 2 years after graduating from McConnellsburg High School, Jack was drafted in 1953 and served our country in the Korean war.

When Jack was asked about his military service, he shared that he learned to depend on others and not to take anything for granted. Jack continued by encouraging others that "you must go after it yourself." What great advice.

I express best wishes to Jack for a deserved retirement, and I thank him for his devotion to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District and especially to beautiful Fulton County, Pennsylvania.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 (a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of love and compassion, what a privilege it is to come before You on this day. You see us, You receive us just as we are. No matter how different we may be from one another, You care for us with the same depth of love with no prejudicial regard for our differences.

Take us then just as we are, whether we come from the East or West, North or South, left or right; whether we

bring with us differing convictions or have needs that may seem in conflict with the desires of others. In You there is no distinction for You, O God, are the Lord over all.

Bestow on each of us the riches of Your grace as we call upon You throughout the day. Pour out on us the overflowing fountain of Your kindness, that each of us would know that all of us stand equal in our need of Your redeeming grace.

Then may we, transformed by the unity found in Your love, look upon all those with whom we interact this day with Your eyes, seeing in them what You see; those whom You have deemed worthy of dignity and respect.

In the name of the one who is Lord of all, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HIGHLIGHTING STUDENT-RUN CAFE AT CLEARFIELD COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the student-run cafe at Clearfield County Career & Technology Center. The cafe opened last week and gives students the opportunity to serve food to their peers.

The program allows 18 students to participate in morning class and an additional 15 students to participate in the afternoon. High school students from Clearfield, Curwensville, West Branch, Philipsburg-Osceola, and Moshannon Valley are eligible to enroll in the program.

The cafe operates as a training lab, giving students the opportunity to apply skills they have learned in the classroom to real-life scenarios.

Students help prepare ingredients, set up workstations, and create menus. Those who work the afternoon shift are responsible for making and serving food.

The students develop leadership skills and professionalism, assets that