

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

are needed for a successful career in the hospitality and culinary industries.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, programs like this one at Clearfield County Technical School are vital for helping students be prepared for the workforce.

#### ACA SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over 130,000 eastern North Carolinians depend on ACA subsidies to afford basic health coverage.

Losing coverage would put families at real risk.

These subsidies are not a handout. They are a lifeline that keeps working people insured, healthy, and able to see a doctor before a small problem becomes a huge crisis.

Without Congress, premiums are skyrocketing, forcing too many residents to choose between healthcare, rent, and groceries.

The consequences ripple throughout our communities, raising uninsured rates and driving up costs for everyone.

ACA subsidies are about stability, dignity, and the simple belief that access to healthcare should not depend on luck.

Congress must act to ensure accountability and to prevent millions of Americans from being left behind.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP IS KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, across the country, arrests of criminal illegal aliens are successful as President Donald Trump is making good on his promise to rid communities of murderous threats to families; making sure killers, gang members, and other violent criminals are deported.

The President is ramping up pressure to cooperate with law enforcement by sending in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. This is undermined by extremist paid rioters.

The January 14 Washington Times editorial stated: "Leftists justify their . . . behavior by reciting a version of events existing only in their imaginations." Vice President J.D. VANCE is correct. Officials are promoting rioting in the streets rather than follow the law.

Knowing the President has their back, Federal officials aren't intimidated fighting insurrection. An insurrection is a real attack on democracy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. President Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mock-

ing Trump with Putin mercilessly launching rockets on civilian targets, murdering innocent Ukrainians.

#### RECOGNIZING THOMAS PELISSERO

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Thomas Pelissero for his heartfelt tribute to his hometown of Bessemer, Michigan, in his book: "Bring One Home: A Memoir of Boyhood, Basketball, and Hometown Spirit."

This book is not only a salute to Bessemer, but the tough, resilient communities across Michigan's Upper Peninsula and middle America.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago this week, the Bessemer Speedboys basketball team ended a 42-game losing streak, at the time, the longest in Upper Peninsula high school basketball history.

The people of Bessemer always showed up, cheered, and stood by their team. That loyalty and perseverance reflect the hardy spirit that defines this town and so many communities across our Upper Peninsula.

That spirit remains alive today.

Mr. Pelissero's book launch filled Bessemer City Hall to standing room only and raised more than \$5,000 for the Bessemer Public Library. Since its release in November of 2025, "Bring One Home" has earned national recognition to include inclusion in the Library of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Pelissero for capturing the character, resilience, and enduring fellowship of Bessemer and the Upper Peninsula we are all proud to call home.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### 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.

#### NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SMALL BUSINESS ACCESS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3496) to amend the Small Business Act for microloan eligibility for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3496

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Access Act".*

#### SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN THE MICROLOAN PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(m)(7)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(7)(B)) is amended—

(1) by inserting " , the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" after "Guam" each place it appears; and

(2) in clause (i)(I)(bb), by striking "1/55" and inserting "1/56".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7(m)(11)(C)(ii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(11)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking "rural" and all that follows through the end of the clause and inserting "rural; and".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3496, the Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Access Act. This bill was introduced by Delegate KING-HINDS and Representative CONAWAY.

The SBA microloan program provides entrepreneurs with access to small-dollar loans through qualified lenders. Sometimes, entrepreneurs do not need to access large sums of capital for their operations. That is where the SBA microloan program can help entrepreneurs get just enough capital to meet their exact needs.

Under current law, the SBA apportionments microloan program funding to intermediaries in 55 States and territories. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is excluded. This creates unnecessary barriers for small businesses in the Northern Mariana Islands by limiting