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6 MARKUP OF

7 AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

8 AND COMMERCE, 119TH CONGRESS

9 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

10 House of Representatives,

11 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

12 Washington, D.C.

13

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16 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:37 a.m. in
17 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie
18 [chair of the committee] presiding.

19

20

21

22 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Latta, Griffith,
23 Bilirakis, Hudson, Carter, Palmer, Dunn, Joyce, Weber, Allen,
24 Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger, Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks,
25 Cammack, Obernolte, James, Bentz, Houchin, Fry, Lee,
26 Langworthy, Kean, Rulli, Evans, Goldman, Fedorchak; Pallone,
27 DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor, Tonko, Clarke, Ruiz,

28 Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kelly, Barragan, Soto, Schrier,
29 Trahan, Fletcher, Ocasio-Cortez, Auchincloss, Carter,
30 Menendez, Landsman, and McClellan.
31

32 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
33 Clara Cargile, Professional Staff Member; Jessica Donlon,
34 General Counsel; Brian Fahey, Professional Staff Member;
35 Andrew Furman, Professional Staff Member; Seth Gold,
36 Professional Staff Member; Sydney Greene, Director of Finance
37 and Logistics; Jay Gulshen, Chief Counsel; Emily Hale, Staff
38 Assistant; Kate Harper (O'Connor), Chief Counsel; Brittany
39 Havens, Chief Counsel; Calvin Huggins, Clerk; Megan Jackson,
40 Staff Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk; Adam Joseph, Digital
41 Director; Daniel Kelly; Press Secretary; Sophie Khanahmadi,
42 Deputy Staff Director; Alex Khlopin, Clerk; Chris Krepich,
43 Senior Communication Advisor; Brayden Lacefield, Special
44 Assistant; Giulia Leganski, Chief Counsel; Mary Martin, Chief
45 Counsel; Joel Miller, Chief Counsel; Elaina Murphy,
46 Professional Staff Member; Kaitlyn Peterson, Policy Analyst;
47 Brannon Rains, Professional Staff Member; Seth Ricketts,
48 Special Assistant; Jackson Rudden, Staff Assistant; Chris
49 Sarley, Member Services/Stakeholder Director; Emma
50 Schultheis, Clerk; Peter Spencer, Senior Professional Staff
51 Member; Kaley Stidham, Press Assistant; Jake Tyner, Chief
52 Counsel; Matt VanHyfte, Communications Director; Lydia Abma,
53 Minority Policy Analyst; Hannah Anton, Minority Policy
54 Analyst; Rasheedah Blackwood, Minority Intern; Keegan
55 Cardman, Minority Staff Assistant; Waverly Gordon, Minority
56 Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio,

57 Minority Staff Director; Caitlin Haberman, Minority Staff
58 Director, ENV; Perry Hamilton, Minority Member Services and
59 Outreach Manager; Lisa Hone, Minority Chief Counsel, CMT;
60 Katie Kraska, Minority Law Clerk; Mackenzie Kuhl, Minority
61 Digital Manager; Una Lee, Minority Chief Counsel, HE; Gayle
62 Mauser, Minority Health Advisor; Will McAuliffe, Minority
63 Chief Counsel, OI; Dan Miller, Minority Professional Staff
64 Member; Elysa Montfort, Minority Press Secretary; Constance
65 O'Connor, Minority Senior Counsel; Christina Parisi, Minority
66 Professional Staff Member; Emma Roehrig, Minority Staff
67 Assistant; Kylea Rogers, Minority Policy Analyst; Harry
68 Samuels, Minority Counsel; Andrew Souvall, Minority Director
69 of Communications, Outreach, and Member Services; Hannah
70 Treger, Minority Intern; Caroline Wood, Minority Research
71 Analyst; Tuley Wright, Minority Staff Director, ENG; and C.J.
72 Young, Minority Deputy Communications Director.

73

74 *The Chair. The Committee on Energy and Commerce will
75 come to order.

76 And the rules of the House of Representatives for the
77 119th Congress require each committee in a meeting open to
78 the public to consider and adopt an authorization and
79 oversight plan. This is why we are meeting today to consider
80 the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Authorization and
81 Oversight Plan.

82 And before I recognize myself for an opening statement,
83 I just want to remind members of both sides. I know we are
84 going to have robust debate today. That is what our system
85 produces is robust debate, and we certainly appreciate that.
86 But I also remind members on both sides of the aisle of
87 decorum and our rules. Members are advised they must observe
88 the House standards of decorum in debate and conduct, and
89 speak and act respectfully and not use disorderly words or
90 unparliamentary language. So I know we will have a good,
91 robust debate today and stick to those rules. Thank you.

92 So I will now recognize myself for an opening statement.

93 Today's markup to consider the Authorization and
94 Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress is an opportunity to
95 reflect on our committee's broad jurisdiction and our
96 oversight and policy priorities. As I emphasized in an
97 organizational meeting, the Committee on Energy and Commerce
98 plays a pivotal role in restoring the American Dream by

99 unleashing American energy, lowering the cost of health care,
100 and ensuring that America remains the world leader in
101 technological innovation. This plan helps provide our road
102 map for the 119th Congress to achieve these goals.

103 We have already begun this effort in the beginning weeks
104 of the Congress. By the end of the week, every subcommittee
105 will have held its first hearing. These hearings have
106 covered a range of priorities, including energy independence,
107 domestic manufacturing, artificial intelligence, spectrum
108 management, combating illicit drugs, and easing regulatory
109 burdens on industry.

110 Tomorrow the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
111 will hold its first hearing in the Congress examining loans
112 and grants made in the Department of Energy and the
113 Environmental Protection Agency, many of which were pushed
114 out the door in the waning days of the Biden-Harris
115 Administration.

116 The Health Subcommittee will also hold a hearing
117 tomorrow, its second one examining the prescription drug
118 supply chain, especially the role of pharmacy benefit
119 managers.

120 It is already clear we have many critical issues to
121 tackle this Congress on behalf of the American people. That
122 is why the committee's oversight plan is wide-ranging and
123 well-balanced. To be clear, this plan is not exhaustive, and

124 there is plenty of work to do that may not be expressly
125 stated here. That said, the plan covers a lot of ground,
126 again demonstrating the breadth of the committee's
127 jurisdiction.

128 As is the tradition for House Republicans, we appreciate
129 not only the opportunity for all our committee members to
130 review the authorization and oversight plan, but also to vote
131 on it. Therefore, I look forward to our discussion today,
132 and I will urge a yes vote on the oversight plan.

133 And now I will recognize Ranking Member Pallone for his
134 opening statement.

135 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Chairman Guthrie. Today's
136 markup of the committee's oversight plan comes at an
137 important moment for our country and for Congress.

138 With both today's vote on the budget resolution and this
139 markup of the committee's oversight plan, we have an
140 opportunity to show what we stand for and who we are willing
141 to fight for. House Republicans are planning to vote later
142 today on a cruel budget resolution that directs this
143 committee to cut at least \$880 billion. These cuts are
144 expected to come from the Medicaid program, the program that
145 provides health coverage to one in three Americans. If
146 Republicans move ahead with this budget proposal, millions of
147 Americans will lose their health care coverage also _ all so
148 that Republicans can give billionaires and big corporations

149 giant tax breaks. Imagine that, stripping health care away
150 from children, parents, and seniors, all so they can give
151 Elon Musk and his buddies a giant tax break.

152 Now, Democrats stand united against the House Republican
153 budget scheme. We will never support cutting Medicaid to
154 give handouts to billionaires. And if just three Republicans
155 join us today, we can protect American families and stop this
156 budget betrayal.

157 Committee Republicans also have a choice to make today
158 about whether or not they are going to finally do their jobs
159 and stand up to President Trump's actions to consolidate
160 power in the White House to the detriment of the American
161 people. Oversight requires asking tough questions and
162 demanding answers from the President and the Federal agencies
163 in order to hold them accountable on behalf of the American
164 people for their actions.

165 Committee Republicans have silently watched as President
166 Trump and Elon Musk have stolen from the American people by
167 illegally withholding funds approved by Congress. To date,
168 Republicans have refused to ask any questions as crucial
169 investments in our districts to bolster domestic
170 manufacturing, protect public health and the cures of
171 tomorrow, and keep our drinking water safe and cleaner being
172 withheld by the Trump Administration.

173 Committee Republicans have silently watched as Elon Musk

174 and his minions are seeking the personal, financial, and
175 health care information of every American. This is a serious
176 invasion of the American people's privacy. We have no idea
177 what they are doing with this information. For all we know,
178 Musk could be using it to benefit his own companies. But
179 instead of demanding answers, House Republicans are siding
180 with Musk and refusing to do anything to protect this
181 sensitive data.

182 And committee Republicans have silently watched as Musk
183 and his minions indiscriminately terminate hundreds of
184 thousands of Federal workers throughout the nation who are
185 working to serve the public good and to address the needs of
186 the American people. Public servants across the board were
187 terminated. That includes Federal workers involved in
188 nuclear safety, monitoring the growing threat of the bird
189 flu, fighting wildfires, ensuring that our food is safe to
190 eat and that air travel is safe, too.

191 And these terminations have been chaotic. Some
192 employees receive a message they are fired one day, only to
193 learn the next that it was a mistake. Musk is comfortable
194 moving fast and breaking things, but when American lives are
195 on the line, that is a recipe for disaster. They are also
196 moving ahead with these mass firings without any review of a
197 worker's work history or any analysis of the impact the job
198 losses will have on the government's ability to help

199 Americans. It has been a total fiasco and has shown how
200 incompetent the Musk team is.

201 Now, committee Democrats will not remain silent. We
202 have been demanding answers from the administration since day
203 one, and we are not going to stop. But it is time for
204 committee Republicans to do their job. As it stands, the
205 committee Republicans' oversight plan does not address these
206 serious issues. In fact, it is nearly identical to the plan
207 put forward two years ago, despite the dramatically different
208 reality that we are now facing. And this is not an
209 acceptable oversight plan for this Congress and the extreme
210 challenges we face with President Trump in the White House.
211 That is why committee Democrats will be offering amendments
212 to strengthen the plan so that we are not only holding this
213 administration accountable, but also fighting to ensure that
214 government works for everyone.

215 I am hopeful that Republicans will recognize the need to
216 strengthen this plan and join us in supporting these
217 amendments. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I will yield back
218 the balance of my time.

219 *The Chair. Thank you. The ranking member yields back,
220 and the chairman reminds members that, pursuant to committee
221 rules, all members' opening statements will be made part of
222 the record.

223 Are there any further opening statements? Any on the

224 Republican side? On the Democrat side?

225 *Ms. DeGette. I want to strike the last word whenever
226 you are ready.

227 *The Chair. Your opening statement or _ when we bring
228 an amendment up _

229 *Ms. DeGette. Well, I want to strike the last word.

230 *The Chair. Okay, you want an opening statement. So _

231 *Ms. DeGette. No, I _

232 *The Chair. We will strike the last word when there is
233 an amendment before us. You want to wait until the amendment
234 process?

235 *Ms. DeGette. I want to strike the last word before the
236 amendments.

237 *Mr. Pallone. You want to speak now?

238 *Ms. DeGette. No, no, no.

239 *The Chair. Okay, when I call up the plan.

240 The gentlelady from Florida, you are recognized for
241 three minutes.

242 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make
243 sure that right at the get-go of this hearing we call out the
244 hypocrisy in trying to get by and say this is all business as
245 usual right now. Look, in Energy and Commerce we are going
246 to adopt an oversight plan while everything happening outside
247 of these walls is completely outrageous.

248 How about the first week of the Congress the new

249 President fires 17 inspectors general who are responsible for
250 rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse? That law has been on
251 the books since 1978, where we rely on inspectors general and
252 in this committee for HHS, for the Department of Energy, for
253 EPA to root out waste, fraud, and abuse and give us non-
254 partisan recommendations. I haven't heard one peep from
255 Republicans to say that that is outrageous to fire these non-
256 partisan IGs.

257 How about the firing and gutting of the FBI and the
258 Department of Justice? The public integrity section here in
259 D.C. resigned after the Trump Administration tried to use DoJ
260 in a coercive, corrupt way regarding the mayor of New York
261 City.

262 How about what the President has done to suspend the
263 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the law that says that
264 American companies can't bribe foreign countries? He has
265 taken that law off the books. I haven't heard one peep. How
266 about some oversight on that?

267 How about _ I haven't heard any Republicans talk about
268 the firing of the head of the agency that protects
269 whistleblowers. I haven't heard one suggestion that we
270 should do oversight when it comes to the firing of the head
271 of government ethics, the office that is responsible for
272 policing conflicts of interest and financial disclosure. I
273 haven't heard anything.

274 Your silence has been deafening when the new President
275 and Elon Musk came in and said we are just going to stop all
276 the funds flowing per our congressionally-mandated
277 responsibility to make sure that people are healthy and well
278 in America. That was illegal to do. How about oversight on
279 that?

280 This is not business as usual, and I don't want us to
281 start off this hearing today on the oversight plan to say
282 this is just fine, nothing to look at here, because this is
283 irresponsible, it is reckless, it is corrupt. You are you
284 are sanctioning taking all the cops off the beat that make
285 government work for people. Do you just want to blow it all
286 up? Apparently so.

287 So you are going to hear some debate today because you
288 have _ you bear responsibility for this. If you are not
289 going to speak up in the face of illegality and corruption
290 and this mass firing and purge of government officials that
291 are responsible for ethics and oversight, then we are going
292 to make sure that the American people understand what is
293 happening here. You are _ I know you are hearing it at home,
294 just like we are. And they are not _ the American people are
295 not going to stand for this kind of corruption.

296 *The Chair. You are out of time.

297 *Ms. Castor. And that is just the beginning. I am
298 sorry I am out of time, but I _ you will hear from us all day

299 today on this. Thank you.

300 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Any opening
301 statement on the Republican side? Any further opening
302 statements on the Democrat side?

303 Seeing none, the chairman now calls up the Committee on
304 Energy and Commerce's Authorization and Oversight Plan for
305 the 119th Congress, and asks the clerk to report.

306 *The Clerk. Authorization and Oversight Plan of the
307 Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of
308 Representatives 119th Congress.

309 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
310 Authorization and Oversight Plan is dispensed with, and the
311 resolution will be open for amendment at any point.

312 [The resolution follows:]

313

314 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

315

316 *The Chair. The gentlelady from Colorado, for what
317 purpose do you seek recognition?

318 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
319 word.

320 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

321 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
322 Chairman, this plan seems generally like the plan from the
323 118th Congress. But of course, since that Congress the
324 administration has changed. And now we have an unelected
325 billionaire, Elon Musk, and his illegal agency, DOGE, which
326 are undertaking certain functions, it seems to me, that this
327 committee would normally perform _ or that would be normally
328 performed by agencies under this committee's jurisdiction.

329 And so, if I may, I have a few questions about this plan
330 to clarify that I would like to ask counsel.

331 First of all, page two of the oversight plan includes
332 the following: "The committee will conduct oversight of the
333 National Institutes of Health and the role of Federal
334 agencies in research and grant-making policies and
335 procedures, including how the Federal agencies approve and
336 monitor grants and sub-grantees and the use of indirect costs
337 to ensure the safe, appropriate, and efficient use of Federal
338 tax dollars.'" I would like to ask counsel if this includes
339 oversight of the Trump Administration's illegal attempt to
340 cap finance and administration costs for NIH grantees. Would

341 the investigations include that?

342 *The Chair. We have our counsel _ you can answer from
343 here. Our counsel is going down to the bench.

344 [Pause.]

345 *Counsel. Ma'am, could you repeat the last part of the
346 question?

347 *Ms. DeGette. Yes. Would the oversight of the NIH and
348 the role of Federal agencies in research include oversight of
349 the Trump Administration's illegal attempt to cap finance and
350 administration costs for grantees at the NIH?

351 *Counsel. I am going to echo what the chairman said in
352 his opening statement. This oversight plan is inclusive, not
353 exclusive. It _

354 *Ms. DeGette. But I will look forward to that _

355 *Counsel. I am not in a position to lay out what the _
356 what every single priority is. That is up to the chairman
357 and the members of the committee.

358 *Ms. DeGette. Okay, so I will ask the chairman later,
359 then.

360 Does this include oversight of the delays in grant-
361 making in the early days of the Trump Administration,
362 including prohibiting NIH employees from announcing meetings
363 on the Federal Register, and thus preventing grant-making
364 panels from meeting in what appears to be an attempt to
365 circumvent the court-ordered unfreezing NIH grant-making?

366 *Counsel. The oversight plan, the Authorization and
367 Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress for this committee is
368 not exhaustive. It is inclusive. If these topics are
369 covered in hearings over the course of this Congress, those
370 would be questions that the members on the dais will be able
371 to ask to the appropriate officials.

372 *Ms. DeGette. I am going to take that to be a yes.

373 Under the heading "Health Care Costs," page three of
374 the oversight plan, it states that E&C will "examine issues
375 related to the affordability of health care, including areas
376 where the Federal Government intervention has contributed to
377 increased costs for patients and families." Now, vaccines,
378 as we know, are a cost-effective and proven tool for
379 preventing communicable disease and the costs associated.

380 So here is my question, counsel. Will this oversight
381 extend to examining how Secretary Kennedy has and continues
382 to spread disinformation about vaccines which would lead to
383 unnecessary illnesses, deaths, and health care expenditures?

384 *The Chair. That is a policy question. It should be
385 directed to _

386 *Ms. DeGette. No, sir. I am just asking if it would
387 include those issues around Secretary Kennedy's views on
388 vaccines.

389 *Counsel. Ma'am, again, this oversight plan, as the
390 chairman said at the outset, is not exhaustive, and there

391 will be plenty of opportunities to examine issues through the
392 course of the Congress at our hearings and ask the questions.

393 *Ms. DeGette. Great, so I am going to also take that as
394 a yes.

395 Now, on page two of the oversight plan there is an
396 intention to examine authorities related to preparing for and
397 responding to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear
398 threats, and to reauthorize the _ "reauthorize those
399 necessary with appropriate changes to reflect the abuse of
400 power and lack of transparency in scientific recommendations
401 witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic.'`

402 So I am just going to ask you, would this include
403 oversight of President Trump saying COVID-19 would simply
404 vanish, or him encouraging injected disinfectant as a
405 solution for COVID-19?

406 *Counsel. Again, this is a policy question. This is a
407 markup of the oversight plan, considering _ and it is very
408 reflective of past congresses for the Republican majority.
409 And so, again, I think, you know, you will be able to ask
410 these questions in the appropriate time and manner, but
411 asking here during the markup of the oversight plan.

412 *Ms. DeGette. So what I am hearing counsel say, Mr.
413 Chairman, is that all of these issues _

414 *The Chair. Your time has expired.

415 *Ms. DeGette. _ would be included within the plan. And

416 you can bet we intend to ask those questions as the hearing
417 proceeds.

418 *The Chair. Thank you.

419 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

420 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Are there any
421 bipartisan amendments to the work plan?

422 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the work plan?

423 The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized. For what
424 purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek recognition?

425 *Mr. Pallone. To speak on amendment 014, which I have
426 sponsored. Oh, I am sorry, OI, OI4. Like Oversight, I
427 guess.

428 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

429 *The Clerk. Amendment to Draft Oversight Plan OI No. 4.
430 On page 14 _

431 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
432 amendment is dispensed with, and the gentleman is recognized
433 for five minutes in support of the amendment.

434 [The amendment of Mr. Pallone follows:]

435

436 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

437

438 *The Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment
439 would add to the committee's oversight plan a commitment to
440 examine the Trump Administration's funding freeze, whether
441 that funding freeze violates the Constitution, and whether
442 the Administration is complying with court orders that
443 require the funding freeze to stop. Conducting this
444 oversight is essential to ensuring that the balance of powers
445 is respected in this Congress, the voice of the people in our
446 democracy is not silenced.

447 On his very first day in office, President Trump
448 violated the Constitution by issuing an executive order that
449 stopped congressionally-obligated funds from being dispersed.
450 These were funds that Congress promised the American people.
451 And on day one Trump essentially _ or Trump decided to steal
452 this money from the American people, from businesses in our
453 communities.

454 Since then, the Administration has issued other orders,
455 including guidance by OMB that was eventually withdrawn that
456 put a stop to virtually all Federal funding. They have also
457 taken other steps to block money from going out through
458 programs that this committee has jurisdiction over at HHS,
459 DoE, and EPA.

460 Now, these loans, grants, and other types of funding
461 improve the quality of American lives. Substance abuse
462 treatment clinics rely on Federal grant funding. Cancer

463 research does, as well. The Low-Income Home Energy
464 Assistance Program, which helps ensure Americans do not
465 freeze in their homes, is funded by the Federal Government,
466 as are numerous projects aimed at growing renewable energy
467 sources and lowering energy costs. And so are efforts to
468 remove the lead pipes from drinking water systems. Federal
469 funds also ensure that Americans can manufacture
470 semiconductors and microchips domestically to compete with
471 our adversaries and fuel innovation. Other Federal programs
472 work to provide all Americans with reliable, high-speed
473 Internet.

474 Now, the courts have issued restraining orders against
475 this funding freeze, requiring that the Administration
476 release these promised funds. But it does not appear _ and I
477 can tell you from my own experience in New Jersey, it does
478 not appear _ that agencies are complying with court orders,
479 and some appear to be manufacturing excuses and procedural
480 hurdles as an excuse to not comply with the courts.

481 This is a constitutional crisis, in my opinion. When
482 the executive branch ignores Congress by refusing to spend
483 appropriated funds and then ignores court orders requiring
484 that they do so, our system of checks and balances falls
485 apart.

486 Now, committee Democrats have already begun oversight by
487 sending letters to HHS, DoE, EPA, and Commerce asking for

488 information from each agency about effective programs and
489 compliance with court orders. To date, only EPA has
490 responded, and it did not meaningfully answer the questions
491 that we asked.

492 And I would remind the chairman, which he knows, that
493 oversight is not just hearings, it is also investigations.
494 It is also questions that you ask of agencies.

495 The bottom line is that the Trump Administration's
496 freeze on funding was unconstitutional to begin with. It is
497 our job here in Congress to decide what money is spent and
498 how it is spent, not the President and certainly not Elon
499 Musk. And to protect the role of Congress and to protect our
500 constituents from a president who is stealing this money from
501 the American people, the committee must stand up to the
502 President and conduct oversight on what the executive branch
503 has done here and why it believes it can continue to ignore
504 Congress and the courts.

505 And that is why, Mr. Chairman, I am offering this
506 amendment. I yield back.

507 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and I would like
508 to recognize myself to speak in opposition to the amendment.

509 The proposed oversight plan contemplates oversight and
510 accountability of spending at the departments and agencies
511 under our jurisdiction. And moreover, the oversight plan is
512 inclusive, it is not exhaustive. And lastly, related to the

513 Article III, courts in the Constitution, it is left to the
514 judiciary. Article III, the judiciary authority is vested in
515 the Supreme Court and other courts, as Congress may see fit
516 to establish. And Congress's role is to legislate, and so we
517 should deal with this through the legislative process, not
518 through the judicial process.

519 And this amendment is unnecessary, and I would encourage
520 my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

521 And I will yield to the gentleman from Alabama, Mr.
522 Palmer.

523 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. Chairman, I think you accurately
524 articulated the reasons why this amendment should be voted
525 down. We have responsibility in Congress to handle the
526 legislative functions, and I think we will do that in due
527 time.

528 And I yield back.

529 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. I yield back my
530 time. Is there anyone else seeking recognition to speak?

531 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized for five
532 minutes to speak on the amendment.

533 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
534 the last word.

535 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized _ gentlelady is
536 recognized, sorry.

537 *Ms. McClellan. These funding freezes have had real

538 consequences in our communities right now. After the funding
539 freeze, community health centers in Virginia had to close
540 their doors because they couldn't access funding from the
541 Federal Government to pay their staff and stay in business.
542 These community health centers provide essential services
543 such as preventing and treating substance abuse disorders,
544 delivering primary care and dental care, and offering low-
545 cost prescription drugs. And for many families, especially
546 in rural areas, they already have to travel far, they already
547 live in health care deserts and pharmacy deserts. And the
548 President's funding freeze made that situation even worse.

549 Just yesterday there was an article that came out in one
550 of my local papers that talked about the increase in the
551 number of pharmacy deserts. In Virginia there are 51
552 pharmacy deserts, and these have all been identified in areas
553 that have higher proportions of Black residents, uninsured
554 individuals, or individuals only covered by Medicare and
555 Medicaid, low-income households, and areas of poverty. And
556 it identified two pharmacy deserts in the Manchester and
557 Fulton neighborhoods in the city of Richmond, which I
558 represent.

559 And earlier this month, directly in response to the
560 President's funding freeze, the Capital Area Health Network
561 had to close its doors in both its Manchester and Fulton
562 locations. And those patients who had appointments were

563 told, "Your appointments have been canceled, you need to go
564 to a different health center," and the pharmacies that are
565 in those health centers are now not available to those
566 patients, getting rid of one of the few pharmacies that exist
567 in those pharmacy deserts.

568 I also spent some time in the southern part of my
569 district, which is very rural, during the break. These are
570 people who _ many of whom work in Newport News for the
571 shipyard, many of whom have to drive either to Richmond or
572 Newport News for health care. And when the Southside
573 Community Health Center closed, which is about halfway
574 between the southern part of my district and the city of
575 Richmond, those folks now have to drive an extra 30 minutes
576 to get access to essential health care.

577 And so the reason I support this amendment is because
578 these funding _ this is just one example of many, how an
579 illegal funding freeze that the courts have said reverse are
580 still having an impact on vulnerable communities for people
581 who just want to be able to get their prescriptions filled
582 for lifesaving medicines or get access to preventative care
583 or emergency care. And these funding freezes have made it
584 even harder.

585 These are our neighbors. These are our friends. These
586 are our veterans. These are caregivers for many of our other
587 families. And we cannot sit by while the Administration

588 ignores court orders when those court orders could literally
589 be life and death for many of our constituents.

590 Thank you, and I yield back.

591 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Thank you. I
592 would just remind that we have got several amendments, so I
593 am going to stick to the five minutes. So thank you for
594 yielding back.

595 And so next I have the gentlelady from California and
596 then the gentleman from Ohio.

597 Well, any Republicans?

598 The gentlelady from California, you are recognized for
599 five minutes.

600 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to
601 make sure that everybody at home knows what is happening
602 today.

603 What we are hearing _ what we are doing here today in
604 this committee is we are adopting an oversight plan. This is
605 the plan of what this committee will conduct oversight in
606 this Congress. In the short time since we have had a new
607 president, there has been chaos and a slew of executive
608 orders that have caused impacts on our constituents across
609 the country.

610 This particular amendment is about funding freeze. It
611 is about basically what I call the Trump shutdown, the
612 shutdown of dollars that Congress has allocated, and the need

613 for this committee to provide oversight on those impacts.

614 Now, the oversight plan _ I am going to read from the
615 actual document _ says this is supposed to include where the
616 committee expects to conduct oversight of the 119th Congress.
617 Later on it says the Committee on Energy and Commerce will
618 hold hearings and conduct rigorous oversight over matters
619 within its jurisdiction. Well, impacts on community health
620 clinics are within our jurisdiction. Funding for the
621 National Institutes of Health are in our jurisdiction.

622 My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, you can't
623 see them on camera, but they are laughing. This is no
624 laughing matter. This is a serious matter about what is
625 happening to the American people and the impacts and the
626 concern about access to health care.

627 I have heard from constituents and non-constituents
628 across the country. And why does this need to be put in
629 writing? Frankly, because we cannot trust that the other
630 side is going to actually provide oversight. Why do I think
631 that? Well, because Republicans have been totally silent.
632 Where have they been standing up for their constituents?
633 Where have they been standing up for their community clinics?
634 Nowhere. Total silence. Why? Because they are deathly
635 afraid of Donald Trump. They are deathly afraid of this
636 President.

637 So why are amendments needed to this very general

638 oversight plan? Because there is not a single mention of
639 providing that oversight. And we have specific instances
640 right now of things that have actually happened like the
641 funding freeze.

642 So yes, it needs to be added to this oversight plan.
643 This is the time to do it. Why? Because if it is not done,
644 our House Republicans who set the agenda can decide not even
645 to hold an investigation or a hearing on the matter. And
646 that is why this amendment is needed, and that is why the
647 rest of the amendments that we are proposing on the
648 Democratic side need to be put into this oversight plan.

649 And with that I yield back.

650 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
651 Anyone on the Republican side?

652 Seeing none, the gentleman from Ohio, you are recognized
653 for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

654 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
655 the last word and speak on the amendment.

656 The purpose, as my colleague just mentioned, of this
657 hearing is around our oversight responsibilities. And the
658 amendment gets at our responsibility, our duty to ask
659 questions and to hold people accountable for, in this case,
660 adhering to court orders around unlawful withholding of
661 Federal funds.

662 And obviously _ and this has huge implications for our

663 communities. People have been _ they have lost their jobs,
664 whether they work for the Federal Government or not. The
665 Federal freezes have eliminated roles. People are _ I mean,
666 unemployment is going up because of this, and health care is
667 being diminished.

668 I guess my question _ and I hope this is in order _ is
669 the chair said _ and maybe I just misheard it _ was that the
670 objection to the amendment is that the Constitution grants
671 the Congress the responsibility to legislate. But it is not
672 just to legislate. Our role is to provide oversight, too,
673 oversight to Federal rulemaking, how funds are spent, waste,
674 fraud, and abuse. I think the American people are very
675 frustrated with the fact that this Congress has not asked any
676 questions, any questions whatsoever about what is happening
677 with the President and with Musk, the data breaches, the
678 withholding of funds, the indiscriminate firing of people.

679 And as we sit here and look at a budget that is being
680 proposed that will slash health care from tens of millions of
681 people, where is the understanding coming from that we are
682 not responsible for oversight, that we aren't responsible to
683 bring these people in and ask questions, at least ask
684 questions as to where this money is, why it is being
685 withheld, the impact it is going to have on people's lives?
686 Isn't that in the Constitution of the United States?

687 I mean, this is Article I, section 8. It says that we

688 are responsible for oversight. At what point do we do that?
689 At what point does the majority say we are going to take this
690 seriously, and we are going to at least ask questions? We
691 are going to bring in folks from the Administration and say,
692 how is this possibly legal?

693 I yield back.

694 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Anyone else
695 seeking recognition to speak on the amendment?

696 The gentleman from Alabama.

697 *Mr. Palmer. Thanks, Mr. _

698 *The Chair. The gentleman from Alabama _ oh, you _ that
699 is right, I yielded to you. So you are recognized. You have
700 your five minutes to speak on the amendment.

701 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I won't need it.
702 I will just remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle
703 that the Biden Administration refused to spend the money that
704 was allocated by Congress for building a border wall and, in
705 fact, tried to redirect it, and it took a court order to stop
706 that action.

707 I yield back.

708 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
709 other discussion?

710 Seeing none _

711 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call _

712 *The Chair. Okay. If there is no further discussion,

713 the vote occurs on the amendment. A roll call has been
714 requested.

715 Mr. _ the gentleman from New Jersey requested a roll
716 call vote, and the clerk will call the roll.

717 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

718 *Mr. Latta. No.

719 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

720 Mr. Griffith?

721 *Mr. Griffith. No.

722 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

723 Mr. Bilirakis?

724 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

725 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

726 Mr. Hudson?

727 *Mr. Hudson. No.

728 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

729 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

730 [No response.]

731 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

732 *Mr. Palmer. No.

733 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

734 Mr. Dunn?

735 *Mr. Dunn. No.

736 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

737 Mr. Crenshaw?

738 [No response.]
739 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
740 *Mr. Joyce. No.
741 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
742 Mr. Weber?
743 *Mr. Weber. No.
744 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
745 Mr. Allen?
746 *Mr. Allen. No.
747 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
748 Mr. Balderson?
749 *Mr. Balderson. No.
750 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
751 Mr. Fulcher?
752 *Mr. Fulcher. No.
753 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
754 Mr. Pfluger?
755 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
756 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
757 Mrs. Harshbarger?
758 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
759 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
760 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
761 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
762 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.

763 Mrs. Cammack?
764 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
765 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
766 Mr. Obernolte?
767 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
768 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
769 Mr. James?
770 *Mr. James. No.
771 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
772 Mr. Bentz?
773 *Mr. Bentz. No.
774 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
775 Mrs. Houchin?
776 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
777 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
778 Mr. Fry?
779 [No response.]
780 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
781 [No response.]
782 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
783 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
784 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
785 Mr. Kean?
786 [No response.]
787 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?

788 *Mr. Rulli. No.
789 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
790 Mr. Evans?
791 *Mr. Evans. No.
792 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
793 Mr. Goldman?
794 *Mr. Goldman. No.
795 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
796 Mrs. Fedorchak?
797 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
798 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
799 Mr. Pallone?
800 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
801 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
802 Ms. DeGette?
803 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
804 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
805 Ms. Schakowsky?
806 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
807 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
808 Ms. Matsui?
809 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
810 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
811 Ms. Castor?
812 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

813 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
814 Mr. Tonko?
815 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
816 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
817 Ms. Clarke?
818 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
819 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
820 Mr. Ruiz?
821 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
822 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
823 Mr. Peters?
824 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
825 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
826 Mrs. Dingell?
827 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
828 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
829 Mr. Veasey?
830 [No response.]
831 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
832 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
833 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
834 Ms. Barragan?
835 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
836 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
837 Mr. Soto?

838 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
839 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
840 Ms. Schrier?
841 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
842 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
843 Mrs. Trahan?
844 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
845 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
846 Mrs. Fletcher?
847 [No response.]
848 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
849 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
850 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
851 Mr. Auchincloss?
852 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
853 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
854 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
855 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
856 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
857 Mr. Menendez?
858 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
859 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
860 Mr. Mullin?
861 [No response.]
862 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

863 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.

864 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

865 Ms. McClellan?

866 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

867 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

868 Chairman Guthrie?

869 *The Chair. I vote no.

870 How is Mrs. Fletcher _

871 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

872 Mrs. Fletcher?

873 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

874 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

875 *The Chair. Anyone on _ Mr. Kean?

876 *Mr. Kean. No.

877 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

878 *Mr. Kean. No.

879 *The Chair. No, he voted no.

880 *The Clerk. Sorry, Mr. Kean votes no.

881 *The Chair. Anyone else seeking recognition to call the

882 roll?

883 Okay, Mr. _ how is Mr. Fry recorded?

884 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry is not recorded.

885 *Mr. Fry. No.

886 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

887 [Pause.]

888 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter recorded?

889 *The Chair. Mr. Carter _

890 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

891 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Carter votes no.

892 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.

893 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

894 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
895 22 ayes and 28 noes.

896 *The Chair. With 22 ayes and 28 noes, the amendment is
897 not agreed to. Are there further amendments?

898 The gentlelady from Colorado, for what purpose do you
899 seek recognition?

900 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
901 amendment at the desk, HE6.

902 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

903 State the amendment again, I am sorry.

904 *Ms. DeGette. HE6.

905 *The Chair. HE6.

906 *The Clerk. Amendment to Draft Oversight Plan HE6. On
907 page four, under the section _

908 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
909 amendment is dispensed with.

910

911

912 [The amendment of Ms. DeGette follows:]

913

914 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

915

916 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Colorado is
917 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

918 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

919 My amendment is relatively simple. It says the
920 committee will examine the impact of the Administration's
921 termination of employees on the ability of HHS to effectively
922 protect the public health.

923 Now, Mr. Chairman, I was appreciative that you and
924 counsel, when I was asking my questions, said that this plan
925 is inclusive but not exhaustive. But as I know from my many
926 years in Congress, it is inclusive to what the chairman and
927 the majority party want to have hearings about in oversight
928 and investigations and also investigations.

929 I think that it is really critical that we have specific
930 instruction in our oversight plan that we need to look at the
931 impact of termination of employees of HHS. In the past
932 couple of weeks Donald Trump and Elon Musk have moved to lay
933 off thousands of HHS employees. How many have been laid off?
934 Well, the exact number is unclear, but news reports suggest
935 at least 2,500, and maybe many more.

936 My staff and I have been asking HHS for an accounting of
937 layoffs since February 14. But in a stunning lack of
938 transparency, HHS has not provided any of these basic facts.
939 Elon Musk and his DOGE minions are firing Federal workers
940 indiscriminately, and seemingly without regard to workers'

941 performance or function. The firings are aimed at the
942 easiest people to fire, people on probationary status, and
943 they are not being carried out in a way that bears any
944 semblance to protecting public health and serving the
945 American people.

946 No plan has been articulated, and so one has to ask,
947 what is the goal here? Because to me and my constituents,
948 Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and DOGE's actions frankly appear
949 childish and chaotic.

950 The United States is _ should be a bastion of
951 consistency and reliability, especially in the area of public
952 health. At FDA 89 people in the human foods program have
953 been laid off, per former program director Jim Jones.
954 Eighty-nine people in the human foods program, the people who
955 make sure our food is safe, have been laid off. This
956 includes nine people who study chemical food additives and
957 keep dangerous chemicals from the food supply, a goal the new
958 Administration has paid lip service to sharing, and I am sure
959 that you, Mr. Chairman, and the Republicans on this committee
960 also say that you share.

961 At NIH, workers researching to understand and eventually
962 cure cancer were fired. These cuts will slow down cures and
963 cost lives. Each day new breakthroughs are delayed for any
964 reason, political or otherwise, is a day that a family cannot
965 fight a disease of one of their loved ones.

966 And now NIH directors have been told that they must cut
967 back personnel by 10 percent at the NIH. Many of my
968 colleagues on the other side of the aisle have worked with me
969 for decades to increase NIH research to help find cures more
970 quickly for everybody. How does just laying off 10 percent
971 of those workers help us, number one, with American supremacy
972 in biomedical research; and number two, in finding these
973 cures that we need?

974 Even the new Administration seems to have recognized at
975 times that the chaos has been harmful to public health.
976 Apparently, the Administration is now scrambling to hire back
977 Center for Devices and Radiological Health employees who were
978 fired as this _ part of this politically-motivated and ill-
979 conceived purge.

980 Look, Congress is the people's house. Elon Musk and
981 DOGE are ignoring Congress's directives in slashing the
982 Federal workforce, and preventing the executive branch from
983 carrying out our instructions. In the meantime I have seen
984 no effort by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to
985 help us resolve these chaos _ this chaos, this chaos that
986 impacts the very basic health care research we are trying to
987 do in this country that we all work together on every day.
988 We have got to examine how these firings impact HHS missions
989 and diminish American competitiveness.

990 My amendment is simple. It is a simple one, and I think

991 we should have a hearing maybe next week, if we can. I would
992 seek to examine the impact of DOGE firings on HHS's mission
993 and ability to protect public health. This should be a no-
994 brainer. And honestly, I am baffled if anybody would not
995 vote for this amendment.

996 I ask for your support and I yield back.

997 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
998 recognizes the gentleman from Georgia for five minutes on the
999 amendment.

1000 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
1001 Chairman, Republicans have always been strong stalwarts of
1002 innovation and research with the goal of ensuring our
1003 patients are healthier and our health systems are stronger
1004 and more efficient. However, as we witnessed during the
1005 COVID-19 pandemic, our public health agencies _ at a fully-
1006 staffed level, I would like to point out _ failed in a lot of
1007 ways. Gaps were exposed, fault lines were discovered, and
1008 people's trust has been broken.

1009 Before jumping to conclusions about the decisions that
1010 were made, let us remind you it has been barely a week since
1011 these notices went out. The American people clearly support
1012 the President's goals of eliminating government waste and
1013 bloat, and they want us to streamline our regulatory bodies.
1014 So before jumping to unsubstantiated claims that these cuts
1015 will hinder such innovation and research or negatively impact

1016 our preparedness and response infrastructure, let us take a
1017 moment to look and see what further action the Administration
1018 takes to improve the efficiency, the transparency, and
1019 overall effectiveness of our public health system. Let us
1020 all reflect on how we can work to improve the infrastructure
1021 that failed us during COVID-19, and it did fail us.

1022 We all want our public health system to work to ensure
1023 our patients to get healthier, so let's give the
1024 Administration the opportunity to do so. After all, the
1025 mandate they were given in November, what 77 million people
1026 voted for, what 77 million people said was yes, we want a
1027 change. Yes, we want to see what this President can do.

1028 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1029 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

1030 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I yield.

1031 *Ms. DeGette. So I would just say to my chairman, all
1032 these things you were saying, we need to see how this is
1033 going to work, that is exactly what this amendment says.
1034 Let's have a hearing on it and see if it is working. That is
1035 all I am saying. Let's have a hearing and see if these labor
1036 cuts to HHS are actually achieving these goals.

1037 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Reclaiming my time _

1038 *Ms. DeGette. I yield back.

1039 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I believe the
1040 gentlelady said earlier she wanted to have the hearing next

1041 week.

1042 *Ms. DeGette. That would be great.

1043 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. So we are going to make these
1044 kind of determinations in only a two-week period? I think it
1045 is going to take a little bit longer than that for us to
1046 understand exactly how this works.

1047 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
1048 recognizes the gentleman from California.

1049 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1050 First of all, let's be clear. There is no mandate.
1051 President Trump did not win more than 50 percent of the
1052 American population's vote. Let's stop this nonsense. It is
1053 only a ploy to try to make it seem as if these policies are
1054 extremely popular with the American people. And I can tell
1055 you that they are not popular right now when you talk about
1056 illegally freezing or illegally making sure that the programs
1057 and the funding that Congress directs to the Administration
1058 are not carried out as intended.

1059 I also need to make _ argue under the premise that the
1060 men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us
1061 during COVID-19, that they failed. That is absolutely wrong.
1062 It is demoralizing. And it is also manufacturing distrust
1063 against the institutions that got us out of the pandemic.

1064 I mean, let's look at where the Biden Administration was
1065 when they inherited the problems that the Trump

1066 Administration left behind. There was over 1,000 people a
1067 day dying from COVID-19. Because of the men and women from
1068 the FDA and the CDC and HHS that got together and helped us
1069 develop the vaccine and the massive, record-breaking
1070 distribution of that vaccine in collaboration with states, we
1071 were able to put kids back in schools, people back into jobs.
1072 We were able to reduce the transmission of the vaccine. We
1073 were able to save lives.

1074 And look, we are here now without a mask, we are here
1075 now being able to do our daily functions without having to be
1076 careful or concerned about a deadly airborne virus coming
1077 around to put you in the ICU or to take your life. So I
1078 strongly disagree with that premise, Mr. Chairman, that the
1079 fine men and women who protected us and carried through the
1080 implementation of the public's health programs that got us
1081 out of that pandemic, that somehow they failed us.

1082 What did fail was the manufacturing of distrust that the
1083 Republicans on the other side repeatedly _ over and over
1084 again, saying that somehow vaccines were going to cause more
1085 risk of acquiring COVID-19, quote-unquote, in some of our
1086 committee hearings in the Select Subcommittee on the
1087 Coronavirus Pandemic, or that somehow wearing a mask to
1088 prevent aerosolized droplets in the air to protect others
1089 from breathing that in, that somehow that was child abuse or
1090 that was going to cause you to get sick even more.

1091 I mean, all of these complete, scientifically provenly
1092 [sic] false claims that somehow these conspiracies get into
1093 the psyche of the American people, that there was some kind
1094 of deep state collaboration between our public health leaders
1095 who collaborated with China and others, that somehow, you
1096 know, knew this was happening and covered it up, that is _
1097 continues to be the conspiracy theory narrative regarding the
1098 pandemic. And all of that manufacturers distrust.

1099 So no, you are not going to get away with it. No, the
1100 fine people that work at CDC, HHS, NIH are still working
1101 tirelessly to keep us safe. And you cut those jobs, they are
1102 not going to be able to help us rapidly develop that vaccine.
1103 You cut those jobs, we are not going to be able to monitor a
1104 new pandemic virus emerging in another country or even here
1105 in our own country. You cut those jobs, we won't be able to
1106 communicate with the American people about the safest way to
1107 keep our country and our public healthy.

1108 So with that, I agree with this amendment, I urge
1109 everybody to vote yes.

1110 *Mr. Peters. Will the gentleman yield?

1111 *Mr. Ruiz. And I yield to Representative Peters.

1112 *Mr. Peters. I only need 20 seconds. I just _ I want
1113 to say I agree with Mr. Carter.

1114 The sum total of this amendment is this. The committee
1115 will examine the impact of the Administration's termination

1116 of employees on the ability of HHS to effectively protect the
1117 public health. Is there anyone in here who doesn't want to
1118 do that? We don't _ we are not going to do it today, and we
1119 don't have to do it next week. This doesn't say next week.
1120 All it says is we will examine the effect of these
1121 terminations on the ability to protect public health. This
1122 seems like something we shouldn't be fighting over.

1123 And with that I yield back.

1124 *Mr. Ruiz. And so, in other words, you agree with this
1125 amendment and vote yes to ensure that these cuts don't affect
1126 their ability to implement what they are assigned to do.

1127 I yield back. Thank you.

1128 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
1129 seeking recognition on the amendment?

1130 I will recognize myself for five minutes and yield to
1131 the gentleman from Georgia.

1132 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for
1133 yielding.

1134 Mr. Chairman, as you have stated at the beginning of
1135 this hearing _ and it has been stated all along _ this plan
1136 is not exclusive. It is inclusive. And we know, as we move
1137 on, that we are going to have to address a number of
1138 different things. This is the most _ this committee has the
1139 most jurisdiction, the broadest jurisdiction of any committee
1140 in Congress. We should keep that in mind. It would be

1141 virtually impossible for us to include in this plan
1142 everything that we are going to be looking at.

1143 So I will remind my colleagues on the other side of the
1144 aisle that we are going to be looking at things as we go
1145 along. It is going to be inclusive. But this is not
1146 exclusive. We can't possibly list everything. And that is
1147 why this amendment is not necessary and I encourage my fellow
1148 colleagues to vote against this amendment.

1149 And I yield back.

1150 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back to me. Is there
1151 anybody requesting time on my side?

1152 Seeing none, I will yield back and I will recognize the
1153 gentlelady from Washington, then New York next.

1154 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1155 strike the last word and support Ms. DeGette's amendment.

1156 You know, a lot _ what we have been seeing is taking a
1157 hatchet to the Federal Government, at least 10 percent cuts
1158 across the board. I actually just took a moment to jot down
1159 10 things off the top of my head that the FDA does, and I
1160 wanted to just see which of these 10 things anybody would
1161 like to do away with.

1162 So let's start with this. The FDA keeps our food safe.
1163 I thought I would mention that as we think about going to the
1164 supermarket and how much we are paying.

1165 It investigates outbreaks. You know, I took care of

1166 some kids as a pediatrician, and their mom was one of the
1167 kids who got sick in that Jack in the Box outbreak, almost
1168 died from it. FDA got to the bottom of that. Remember the
1169 baby formula issue just about a year or two ago? That is the
1170 FDA's job. Okay, so that is two.

1171 Number three, keeps the drugs we take safe and makes
1172 sure that they are safe and effective. And as we all hunger
1173 for drugs to treat Alzheimer's, for example, we are counting
1174 on the FDA to speed those to market.

1175 Medical devices, they regulate those as well. I use an
1176 insulin pump. Probably somebody in this room _ and if they
1177 are not, they probably will be soon _ uses a pacemaker. And
1178 I think we all want to know that those are safe.

1179 All right, here is number five. Approves medical tests.
1180 We saw the benefit of home testing during the pandemic.

1181 Number six, medications for animals. Think about our
1182 food supply chain and wanting to make sure those animals are
1183 healthy not just for their own sake, but for our human health
1184 sake.

1185 What about immunizations, a hot topic these days? You
1186 will probably hear from me, the pediatrician, again about
1187 this today. Approving them, making sure they are safe and
1188 effective.

1189 You know, they also inspect and regulate blood banks. I
1190 don't know if anybody in this room has required a blood

1191 transfusion. Probably somebody out there listening has. But
1192 boy, I want to make sure that that blood is not tainted and
1193 is safe for me in an emergency.

1194 Number nine, oversight of clinical trials. That is part
1195 of making sure that our drugs work, our immunizations work,
1196 and we have good data behind it.

1197 And then I thought I would circle back to number 10,
1198 vaccinations for animals. You know, I have Wilcox Eggs in my
1199 district. If you go to Costco in Washington State you are
1200 getting Wilcox eggs. They are a massive producer. I am very
1201 afraid of what would happen, as all of us are, if their
1202 chickens were infected with bird flu. They can't wait to get
1203 a vaccine to protect their birds, and the FDA would be the
1204 organization to approve that.

1205 So I want to know, like, if we are talking about a 10
1206 percent cut, which of those 10 do you want to cut? Have my
1207 colleagues thought about that in the work that they do, and
1208 how important it is to all of us?

1209 I also just also wanted to remark on the term "the
1210 people want," because we have been hearing a lot of that in
1211 the news, in my colleagues' talking points. The people want.
1212 And I just want to tell you that, first of all, there is no
1213 mandate here. Second of all, the people in my district, they
1214 want safe food, safe medical systems, safe medicines, safe
1215 devices, and safe blood when they are in an emergency.

1216 I yield back.

1217 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back.

1218 Bob, would you give me _ do you want to take five
1219 minutes?

1220 The gentleman from Ohio.

1221 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, to strike the last
1222 word.

1223 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

1224 *Mr. Latta. And I yield my time to the chair of the
1225 full committee.

1226 *The Chair. Thanks. I appreciate what my friend from
1227 Washington, the doctor from Washington, has said. And in the
1228 committee work plan it says the committee will work to ensure
1229 the FDA is fulfilling its mission to ensure that regulated
1230 drugs, medical devices are safe _ your list _ effective, and
1231 available to American patients in an expeditious fashion.

1232 And I will tell you that we will monitor it and we will
1233 make sure _ we also want it to be efficient, we don't want to
1234 waste taxpayer dollars. We _ and all the things that DOGE is
1235 trying to do. But we also want to _ we will ensure that FDA
1236 is operating to make sure our citizens, as my friend from
1237 Colorado talked about and you have talked about, have safe,
1238 effective drugs in an expeditious fashion, and we will have
1239 oversight to make sure that happens.

1240 And I will yield back to the gentleman from Ohio who

1241 yields back?

1242 *Mr. Latta. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1243 *The Chair. Thank you, Mr. _ and so we have the
1244 gentlelady from New York needs _ seeking recognition. The
1245 gentlelady is recognized.

1246 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. I move to strike the
1247 last word.

1248 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

1249 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1250 You know, I think it is important to _ one of the
1251 comments that was made earlier is this idea that our concerns
1252 around our medical systems and research is unsubstantiated,
1253 that it has "been just a week.'" But as someone who
1254 represents a large hospital network that receives a lot of
1255 research funds, telling people to wait, that it has just been
1256 a week, that we don't need to be so concerned, I think you
1257 should tell that to someone with an experimental pacemaker
1258 that is inserted in their body right now whose research is
1259 now imperiled.

1260 We have got folks in these systems, researchers, people
1261 who support this research that have just been laid off,
1262 people with medical devices, experimental medical devices
1263 implanted in their body that have been abandoned due to this
1264 reckless idea that we can just come in and lay off dozens of
1265 public servants as though their work does not matter, as

1266 though it has no impact on everyday people, as though these
1267 breakthroughs are not in peril.

1268 The way that scientific research works, you can't just
1269 blip things and turn things off. Cancer research, medical
1270 research, short-term research, cell cultures, these are not
1271 things that you can just take out of a fridge, dump it, and
1272 put it back in again.

1273 Companies, when we talk about innovation in our
1274 treatments, companies are working to try to get these
1275 treatments approved. And these kinds of blips and delays and
1276 disruptions in sensitive, scientific processes may force
1277 these experiments to start all over again, delaying approvals
1278 by months, if not even years.

1279 This amendment is very simple. It is not asking for
1280 extra dollars. It is not asking for large changes. It is
1281 not asking for structural shifts. It is saying that we need
1282 to examine these disruptions and the impacts that they have
1283 been having on everyday people to make sure that people are
1284 still safe.

1285 And respectfully, as it pertains to the FDA already
1286 being mentioned in oversight plans, in previous oversight
1287 plans, one thing that is not included in previous oversight
1288 plans that is different from today is DOGE. DOGE did not
1289 exist two years ago, 19-year-olds were not raiding the
1290 treasury 2 years ago. People who have no idea with medical

1291 background have not been hauling in and creating kangaroo
1292 courts for scientists to dismiss them two years ago. That
1293 started happening now.

1294 Elon Musk is not a scientist. He is not an engineer.
1295 He is a billionaire con man with a lot of money. He does not
1296 have this kind of good background. And in fact, if we _
1297 while there is some disruption over that, I sincerely ask you
1298 all, I sincerely ask you all to examine what expertise he has
1299 in approving medical devices, in biomedical engineering
1300 devices. And if you all think that he is an expert in that,
1301 I have got a bridge to nowhere to sell you.

1302 These are people's lives that are on the line, and we
1303 cannot laugh them away. Genuinely, please, I am asking you
1304 to please support this amendment for the people who have
1305 medical devices stuck in their body.

1306 Thank you, and I yield back.

1307 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
1308 anyone on the Republican side?

1309 Seeing none, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for
1310 five minutes.

1311 *Mr. Landsman. Yes, thank you. I move to strike the
1312 last sentence in support of the amendment.

1313 I am legitimately confused. People are being
1314 indiscriminately fired. And while this committee has
1315 jurisdiction over a lot, it doesn't have jurisdiction over

1316 everything. But it certainly has jurisdiction over health
1317 and human services and the FDA and everything that is going
1318 to impact people's health care. Tens of thousands of public
1319 servants have been fired.

1320 All the amendment says is that we should care, that this
1321 committee should provide some oversight to push and prod and
1322 ask questions. What is the impact of these firings on the
1323 people that we serve? Why are people so afraid of this guy?
1324 And if not him, why not bring in these kids that are in our
1325 data system, that are in the payment systems, that are doing
1326 the indiscriminate firings of people that are doing
1327 critically important jobs? Why not bring the kids in and
1328 say, like, what are you doing? How is this going to impact
1329 people's health care?

1330 That is all the amendment does. It is not adding, to my
1331 colleague's point, adding anything other than language that
1332 says we are going to care, we are going to bring folks in and
1333 ask questions. It is a few dozen sentences. Not this
1334 amendment, all of the amendments. All of the amendments, it
1335 is a combination of _ if you add it all up, it is a few
1336 pages. Why is this not all bipartisan?

1337 I wish people would reconsider and say, you know what?
1338 We are going to support these because we agree that this is a
1339 hostile takeover of our Federal Government and, at the very
1340 least, this Congress is going to ask questions.

1341 I yield back.

1342 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Anyone on the
1343 Republican side?

1344 Seeing none, Mrs. Trahan, you are recognized for five
1345 minutes for _ to support the amendment.

1346 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1347 You know, one thing that is interesting to me on this
1348 particular amendment is that the overwhelming response from
1349 the other side is, look, this oversight plan is inclusive,
1350 not exclusive, where, you know, we are going to build upon
1351 this. Of course, if we see changes, we will adjust the plan.

1352 But, I mean, you understand that we are not going to be
1353 comforted by your faith-based arguments, right? Like, there
1354 is not a huge level of trust that you are all going to
1355 suddenly step up and do the right thing when you have all
1356 remained super silent on these mass firings across our health
1357 organizations. So it is just that is, like, not assuaging
1358 the concerns of the American people. It certainly isn't
1359 assuaging ours.

1360 If I was writing this plan for the 119th Congress, the
1361 oversight plan, I wouldn't have a copy-and-paste of the 118th
1362 Congress because so much has changed just in the first five
1363 weeks of this Congress, things that should be reflected in
1364 this plan. Why wouldn't we want to understand the impact of
1365 layoffs on the CDC, on the FDA, on HHS, on NIH? That seems

1366 like something we would normally agree on if we weren't
1367 prioritizing loyalty over oversight and over checks and
1368 balances, which is our primary role here.

1369 So, I don't know, I think one of the things that has
1370 become abundantly clear is that we would like it in black and
1371 white, because the cuts are happening now, the layoffs are
1372 happening right now. People are being affected right now,
1373 and you all don't seem to take it seriously or to hold it in
1374 any sort of priority to put it in the plan of how we are
1375 going to conduct oversight in these next two years.

1376 I yield back.

1377 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Anyone on the
1378 Republican side?

1379 Seeing none, the gentleman from New Jersey is recognized
1380 for five minutes on the amendment.

1381 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. I move to strike
1382 the last word.

1383 *The Chair. You are recognized.

1384 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you. The new HHS Secretary has
1385 promised an agenda of make America healthy again. Let's take
1386 him at his word. If we want to make America wealthy again,
1387 we can safeguard against future pandemics. We can increase
1388 public education about the most common chronic illnesses that
1389 exist in this country. We can spread the word about the
1390 safety and efficiency of vaccines. We can invest in future

1391 research for deadly diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's.
1392 But we can't do that if this Administration, the Republican
1393 Party, fire public health workers across the country who, for
1394 the record, are public servants because my colleagues across
1395 the aisle are so focused on cost savings, even at the expense
1396 of the health and well-being of the American people.

1397 Let's put cuts to public health in perspective. For
1398 every dollar spent on public health interventions, the median
1399 ROI is more than 14 to 1. So as you make these cuts and fire
1400 these public servants, you are costing a lot more money than
1401 you are actually saving. So if you truly believe in making
1402 America healthy again, by all means, we are with you. Let's
1403 stand together, fund public health, and ensure that we
1404 provide lifesaving coverage and treatment for everyone who
1405 needs it. Let's make sure that we have the public employees
1406 that we need, the Federal employees, the public servants that
1407 we need to make sure that we are keeping America healthy.

1408 We all know that this plan is a two-year plan. So over
1409 the next two years we need to be able to do what this
1410 amendment calls for, which is to examine the impact of the
1411 Administration's termination of employees on the ability of
1412 HHS to effectively protect the public health.

1413 And I join my colleague, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, in
1414 asking when will you be ready to do so? If a week isn't soon
1415 enough, is two weeks too soon? When will you be ready to

1416 ensure that we are properly conducting oversight of HHS and
1417 the number of employees that they need to effectively protect
1418 the public health?

1419 I just remind all of our colleagues that on page one of
1420 the plan it says that we should conduct oversight by reaching
1421 conclusions based on an objective review of the facts. And
1422 I, for one, do not trust this Administration to deal in
1423 facts. So it is our obligation to do so here.

1424 Thank you, and I yield back.

1425 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.
1426 Anyone on the Republican side? Anyone on the Democrat side
1427 seeking recognition?

1428 The gentleman from New York, Mr. Tonko.

1429 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1430 Over the last several years I have been meeting with
1431 families concerned about rare diseases and families impacted
1432 by the addiction crisis. Their hope is driven by efforts at
1433 the FDA that can discover new opportunities to address those
1434 health concerns to combat them. The hope is being
1435 suffocated, and it is unacceptable.

1436 I know that my good friend and subcommittee Chair Carter
1437 has said, well, give it time. I don't think the people like
1438 what they have seen in the first 30-some days. This is
1439 totally unacceptable. They want to know that there is
1440 science-based, evidence-based discussion. They want to know

1441 there is thoughtfulness and academics applied to how we
1442 reinvent these efforts. They don't want pell mell cuts.
1443 They don't want an on-again, off-again stop-and-start, delay,
1444 court-stay atmosphere that is not providing stability and is
1445 threatening the very existence of research that is being
1446 conducted and performance at FDA that is providing that hope.
1447 They don't want us to suffocate that hope.

1448 Now, many of us in the last several days have had town
1449 halls. And I can tell you at my town hall 1,100 people
1450 wanted to know what am I doing? What tools am I utilizing?
1451 What am I doing to make a difference? And I said, "Well, I
1452 will show you one. I am going to go as a member of this
1453 committee, Energy and Commerce, and address the markup of our
1454 oversight plan.'' That is the tool we have available in the
1455 minority. And so I ask that you be sensitive, that you be
1456 smart about this because they don't appreciate the
1457 atmosphere, which is a clown-show-type atmosphere. They
1458 deserve more.

1459 The respect is not shown to our American families,
1460 especially those who are struggling, and we are allowing this
1461 clown show to be conducted by a team that is not well versed
1462 in the issues, that is not utilizing inspectors general to
1463 guide them with fraud and inefficiencies and waste. We are
1464 allowing this to be left to a person who wields a chainsaw in
1465 the middle of activities, speaking callously and

1466 insensitively to the hurt and the harm that is being done by
1467 these cuts. They don't like what they are seeing in the
1468 first 30 days. They want better.

1469 And we are saying, as a team here on Energy and
1470 Commerce, please say yes to some of these opportunities that
1471 enable us to advance the cause and concerns of so many people
1472 out there who are watching this, and they are not happy. You
1473 can see the polls precipitously dropping for the leadership
1474 of this country, and rightfully so.

1475 And with that, I yield back.

1476 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Seeing no one
1477 on the Republican side, anyone on the Democrat side?

1478 Seeing none, okay, we are going to be _ a roll call has
1479 been _ yes, sorry. If there is no further discussion, the
1480 vote occurs on the amendment. A roll _ the gentleman from
1481 New Jersey has requested a roll call vote, and the clerk will
1482 call the roll.

1483 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1484 *Mr. Latta. No.

1485 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

1486 Mr. Griffith?

1487 *Mr. Griffith. No.

1488 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

1489 Mr. Bilirakis?

1490 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

1491 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
1492 Mr. Hudson?
1493 [No response.]
1494 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1495 [No response.]
1496 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
1497 *Mr. Palmer. No.
1498 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
1499 Mr. Dunn?
1500 *Mr. Dunn. No.
1501 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
1502 Mr. Crenshaw?
1503 [No response.]
1504 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1505 *Mr. Joyce. No.
1506 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
1507 Mr. Weber?
1508 [No response.]
1509 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
1510 *Mr. Allen. No.
1511 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
1512 Mr. Balderson?
1513 [No response.]
1514 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
1515 *Mr. Fulcher. No.

1516 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
1517 Mr. Pfluger?
1518 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
1519 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
1520 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1521 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
1522 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
1523 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1524 [No response.]
1525 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
1526 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
1527 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
1528 Mr. Obernolte?
1529 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
1530 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
1531 Mr. James?
1532 *Mr. James. No.
1533 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
1534 Mr. Bentz?
1535 *Mr. Bentz. No.
1536 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
1537 Mrs. Houchin?
1538 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
1539 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
1540 Mr. Fry?

1541 *Mr. Fry. No.
1542 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
1543 Ms. Lee?
1544 *Ms. Lee. No.
1545 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
1546 Mr. Langworthy?
1547 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
1548 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
1549 Mr. Kean?
1550 *Mr. Kean. No.
1551 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
1552 Mr. Rulli?
1553 *Mr. Rulli. No.
1554 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
1555 Mr. Evans?
1556 *Mr. Evans. No.
1557 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
1558 Mr. Goldman?
1559 *Mr. Goldman. No.
1560 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
1561 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1562 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
1563 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
1564 Mr. Pallone?
1565 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1566 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1567 Ms. DeGette?
1568 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1569 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1570 Ms. Schakowsky?
1571 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1572 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1573 Ms. Matsui?
1574 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1575 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1576 Ms. Castor?
1577 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1578 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1579 Mr. Tonko?
1580 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1581 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1582 Ms. Clarke?
1583 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1584 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1585 Mr. Ruiz?
1586 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1587 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1588 Mr. Peters?
1589 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1590 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

1591 Mrs. Dingell?
1592 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1593 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1594 Mr. Veasey?
1595 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
1596 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1597 Ms. Kelly?
1598 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1599 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1600 Ms. Barragan?
1601 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1602 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1603 Mr. Soto?
1604 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1605 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1606 Ms. Schrier?
1607 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1608 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1609 Mrs. Trahan?
1610 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1611 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1612 Mrs. Fletcher?
1613 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1614 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1615 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

1616 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1617 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1618 Mr. Auchincloss?
1619 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1620 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1621 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1622 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1623 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1624 Mr. Menendez?
1625 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1626 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1627 Mr. Mullin?
1628 [No response.]
1629 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
1630 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1631 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1632 Ms. McClellan?
1633 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1634 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1635 Chairman Guthrie?
1636 *The Chair. No.
1637 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
1638 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter _
1639 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.
1640 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Carter votes no.

1641 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
1642 *Mr. Balderson. Balderson?
1643 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is not recorded.
1644 *Mr. Balderson. No.
1645 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
1646 *Mr. Weber. How is Mr. Weber recorded?
1647 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is not recorded.
1648 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes no.
1649 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
1650 [Pause.]
1651 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
1652 23 ayes and 27 noes.
1653 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
1654 further amendments?
1655 The gentlelady from New York, for what purpose do you
1656 seek recognition?
1657 *Ms. Clarke. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
1658 desk.
1659 *The Chair. The clerk will report.
1660 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, could you please _
1661 *Ms. Clarke. It is _
1662 *The Chair. Oh, the number, the amendment number?
1663 *Ms. Clarke. Yes, it is OI1.
1664 *The Chair. The clerk will report.
1665 *The Clerk. Amendment to Draft Oversight Plan OI1. On

1666 page 14, after the section entitled _
1667 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
1668 amendment is dispensed with.
1669 [The amendment of Ms. Clarke follows:]
1670
1671 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****
1672

1673 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
1674 minutes in support of the amendment.

1675 *Ms. Clarke. Mr. Chairman, I would like to call up the
1676 amendment labeled OI1, which has been done.

1677 Just days after taking office, Donald Trump attempted to
1678 remove at least 17 inspectors general from their posts. This
1679 includes the IGs from the Departments of Energy, Health and
1680 Human Services, Commerce, and the Environmental Protection
1681 Agency from this committee's jurisdiction alone. This purge
1682 is not only in violation of the law, but it is an alarming
1683 attack on the transparency and accountability of Federal
1684 agencies under the Trump Administration.

1685 IGs provide independent and objective oversight. All
1686 members of this committee know that IGs are regularly called
1687 to testify at our hearings because their reports and findings
1688 are non-partisan and reliable after lending to legislation or
1689 other congressional action _ excuse me, after leading to
1690 legislation and other congressional action.

1691 IGs are empowered to look for waste, fraud, or abuse,
1692 and ensure that our Federal tax dollars are spent in
1693 accordance with congressional intent. And in fiscal year
1694 2023 alone, IGs saved the government \$100 billion.

1695 All members of this committee should be outraged by
1696 these brazenly unlawful actions jeopardizing the effective
1697 and efficient execution of our Federal laws and programs.

1698 Instead of outrage, however, committee Republicans seem
1699 engaged only in lip service about the need to ensure
1700 accountability and to cut waste, fraud, and abuse at our
1701 Federal agencies, and are quite comfortable and smug about
1702 relinquishing their own authority to two men, one unelected,
1703 who are the sole arbiters of what constitutes transparency
1704 and governance.

1705 Republicans are clearly more interested in playing
1706 politics than protecting taxpayer dollars, and House
1707 Republicans also have been silent about Elon Musk and his
1708 minions slashing jobs and freezing funding government-wide
1709 without any regard for whether the chaos they are creating is
1710 actually addressing waste, fraud, and abuse.

1711 So I want to urge my colleagues. I want to urge my
1712 colleagues on the other side of the aisle, my Republican
1713 colleagues, to take oversight seriously, regardless of which
1714 party controls the White House, and support this amendment.

1715 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1716 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
1717 The gentleman from Alabama seeks recognition.

1718 You are recognized for five minutes.

1719 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
1720 speak in opposition to the amendment.

1721 The oversight plan before us already contemplates this
1722 topic. The plan explicitly states that the committee will

1723 examine departments and agencies under its jurisdiction to
1724 ensure adequate and prompt implementation of recommendations
1725 from the Administration, the Offices of Inspector General,
1726 the Government Accountability Office. This language is broad
1727 enough to include oversight of inspector general offices
1728 within the agencies under this committee's jurisdiction,
1729 ensuring they continue investigating and reporting on waste,
1730 fraud, and abuse.

1731 The inspector generals must be independent, but they are
1732 not above oversight. The Committee has a responsibility to
1733 ensure inspector generals remain focused on their core
1734 mission, rather than engaging in politically motivated
1735 investigations.

1736 The amendment is unnecessary, and I urge my colleagues
1737 to vote no on the amendment.

1738 Mr. chairman, I yield back.

1739 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
1740 from Florida is recognized for five minutes.

1741 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
1742 the last word.

1743 Remember how we got here. In the new President's first
1744 week in office, on a Friday night, he purged and fired
1745 inspectors general across the Federal Government. These are
1746 the folks who are responsible for rooting out waste, fraud,
1747 and abuse. The President at that time called them rogue

1748 partisan bureaucrats, which is a lie. These are non-partisan
1749 inspectors general. Many of them that have jurisdiction of
1750 Department of Energy and EPA have pretty strong Republican
1751 backgrounds, actually.

1752 The new President said that this is a common thing to
1753 do. That is a lie. It is not common practice to sweep into
1754 office and abuse your power and to fire inspectors general.

1755 So Mr. Chairman, I have a question for you. I have
1756 looked at the House Energy and Commerce press releases and
1757 social media, and I have not seen any comment by you or the
1758 majority calling into question that illegal purge of the
1759 inspectors general. Am I missing something? Did _ have you
1760 made a statement or has any member in the majority made a
1761 statement calling into question the illegal firing of the
1762 inspectors general?

1763 *The Chair. I haven't made a public statement.

1764 *Ms. Castor. Okay. Is there any Republican member of
1765 the majority here today that has raised any concern about the
1766 illegal firing of the inspector general, particularly the
1767 ones that oversee HHS, Department of Energy, and EPA?

1768 Well, I think that is a real abdication of your
1769 responsibility. You think that it is okay to take the cops
1770 off the beat, the ones that are responsible for rooting out
1771 waste, fraud, and abuse?

1772 I am going to offer for the record a letter that the

1773 ranking member and the ranking members of the subcommittee _
1774 but I know it captures the feelings of the Democrats here
1775 today _ a letter to you, Mr. Chairman and Chairman Palmer of
1776 O&I, calling for an Energy and Commerce Oversight and
1777 Investigation hearing immediately to investigate the
1778 terminations of the inspectors general on January 24 by the
1779 President, purging _ and let me read a little bit of it.
1780 "Purging government watchdogs without notice to Congress is a
1781 violation of the law, and it is an alarming attack on the
1782 transparency and accountability of Federal agencies.' "

1783 I know there is a lot of discussion about how we root
1784 out fraud and achieve savings for the American people. Do
1785 you all know that in fiscal year 2023 alone it was estimated
1786 that the work of inspectors general saved the government over
1787 \$100 billion? So what the heck? You are taking them off the
1788 beat? You are countenancing waste, fraud, and abuse? I
1789 don't think you are that far gone.

1790 We say in our letter our members deserve an opportunity
1791 to question why the Trump Administration attempted to
1792 eliminate and have eliminated these inspectors general, and
1793 whether and to what extent internal agency oversight will
1794 continue.

1795 It is not just the inspectors general, by the way. A
1796 lot of the professional staffers who have deep experience in
1797 rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse have left, as well.

1798 So Mr. Chairman, I will offer this letter for the
1799 record. I don't know that we have received an answer to it
1800 yet. I would hope that we have an answer. But most of all,
1801 I would hope that you approve Rep. Clarke's amendment and
1802 that you schedule an immediate oversight hearing on the purge
1803 of the inspectors general, especially the ones that relate to
1804 our jurisdiction.

1805 *The Chair. Without objection _

1806 *Ms. Castor. I yield back.

1807 *The Chair. _ the letter is in the record.

1808 [The information follows:]

1809

1810 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1811

1812 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back? The gentlelady
1813 yields back.

1814 *Ms. Castor. I yield back.

1815 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
1816 from Georgia seeks recognition.

1817 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Yes, Mr. Chair.

1818 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

1819 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you. Excuse me. I yield
1820 to Congressman Palmer.

1821 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

1822 I keep hearing my Democratic colleagues say this is an
1823 illegal act. Maybe you should read the Inspector General Act
1824 of 1978 that states an inspector general may be removed from
1825 office by the President. The President simply exercised the
1826 authority that he has under the Act.

1827 *Mr. Palmer. I yield back.

1828 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And I yield back.

1829 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
1830 from Louisiana seeks recognition.

1831 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I move to
1832 strike the last _

1833 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

1834 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. You know, it is amazing to
1835 me. If Mr. Musk and my Republican colleagues are sincere
1836 about wanting to rid our government of fraud, waste, and

1837 abuse, it seems to me that the last thing you would want to
1838 do is to remove individuals that have proven that that is
1839 their core task. They saved \$100 billion for the taxpayers,
1840 yet here we are, saying we should just unilaterally get rid
1841 of them.

1842 And the silence of my colleagues is deafening because
1843 this is not a Republican or a Democratic issue. This is
1844 oversight. And we, as duly elected members of the United
1845 States Congress, have a responsibility to call balls and
1846 strikes, not to hide behind partisan politics or hide behind
1847 an unelected billionaire who somehow sees this as his newest
1848 toy, who somehow sees this as an opportunity to have reverse
1849 Robin Hood, to steal from the hard-working American families
1850 and to give to the wealthiest few.

1851 This is not rocket science, my dear friends. Why would
1852 you want to remove someone who has _ by the way, these
1853 individuals have worked through multiple administrations,
1854 Republican and Democrat, rooting out abuses. And I know you
1855 feel like I do because I have spoken to many of you. But
1856 your silence is deafening.

1857 The American people deserve better. The American people
1858 deserve more. The American people deserve to hear from you,
1859 to use your voices. Stand up to tyranny, stand up to those
1860 who would ruin or attempt to wreck our rule of law, or the
1861 core principles of our United States Constitution. I call

1862 upon our friends. Do the right thing. Demonstrate courage
1863 in the face of adversity, in the face of fear of someone who
1864 may threaten you, to primary you. You didn't come here to
1865 get re-elected. You came here to serve the American people.

1866 Mr. Chairman, I yield my time.

1867 *Mr. Ruiz. Does the gentleman yield?

1868 It is okay.

1869 *The Chair. He is asking for a yield.

1870 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I yield to _

1871 *The Chair. Okay.

1872 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. _ Ruiz.

1873 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you. This is pretty straightforward.

1874 I mean, if you have individuals by law who are supposed to
1875 look for waste, fraud, and abuse, to conduct audits to make
1876 sure that taxpayer dollars are spent responsible [sic], to
1877 raise the alarm when they see corruption, and when you see a
1878 president who is purging them from their bipartisan role,
1879 that president is undercutting the constitutional power of
1880 Congress to have oversight, as well as opening the door for
1881 more waste, fraud, and abuse, and corruption. It is that
1882 simple. When you want to build your capacity to go after
1883 waste, fraud, and abuse, you want more inspector generals.
1884 You want to empower these independent auditors to do their
1885 job.

1886 So let's make sure that we understand that this whole

1887 notion of Trump purging the Federal Government and freezing
1888 funds to go after waste, fraud, and abuse is simply a dog
1889 whistle. The whole notion that, oh, well, these individuals
1890 are some form of a deep state that, quote-unquote, are
1891 politically motivated is only a dog whistle.

1892 What they are doing is dismantling the very fabric of
1893 our Constitution that allows the Congress, our committee
1894 right here, to provide oversight, and you are abdicating that
1895 responsibility. You are taking it lying down. You are
1896 allowing this to happen to the American people and to our
1897 Constitution. You are not saying we are going to investigate
1898 the effects of these funding freezes, we are going to
1899 investigate these effects of massive layoffs on the American
1900 people.

1901 *The Chair. The gentleman's time has expired.

1902 *Mr. Ruiz. In fact, that is turning a blind eye.

1903 I yield back.

1904 *The Chair. The gentleman from Louisiana yields back.

1905 Seeing none on the Republican side, the gentlelady from
1906 Illinois _ I almost said New York _ Illinois, sorry.

1907 *Ms. Kelly. I move to strike the last word.

1908 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

1909 *Ms. Kelly. Okay. Found in title 5, section 403(b),

1910 "An inspector general may be removed from office by the
1911 president. If an inspector general is removed from office or

1912 is transferred to another position or location within an
1913 establishment, the president shall communicate in writing the
1914 substantive rationale including detailed and case-specific
1915 reasons for any such removal or transfer to both houses of
1916 Congress, including the appropriate congressional committees
1917 not later than 30 days before the removal or transfer.
1918 Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a personnel action
1919 otherwise authorized by law other than transfer or removal.'`

1920 I yield back.

1921 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone on
1922 the Republican side? None on the Democrat side?

1923 Seeing no further discussion _

1924 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

1925 *The Chair. The vote occurs on the amendment, a roll
1926 call vote is _ the gentleman from New Jersey requests a
1927 recorded vote, and the clerk will call the roll.

1928 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1929 *Mr. Latta. No.

1930 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

1931 Mr. Griffith?

1932 *Mr. Griffith. No.

1933 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

1934 Mr. Bilirakis?

1935 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

1936 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

1937 Mr. Hudson?

1938 *Mr. Hudson. No.

1939 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

1940 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

1941 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

1942 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

1943 Mr. Palmer?

1944 *Mr. Palmer. No.

1945 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

1946 Mr. Dunn?

1947 [No response.]

1948 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

1949 [No response.]

1950 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

1951 *Mr. Joyce. No.

1952 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

1953 Mr. Weber?

1954 [No response.]

1955 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

1956 *Mr. Allen. No.

1957 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

1958 Mr. Balderson?

1959 *Mr. Balderson. No.

1960 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

1961 Mr. Fulcher?

1962 *Mr. Fulcher. No.
1963 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
1964 Mr. Pfluger?
1965 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
1966 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
1967 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1968 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
1969 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
1970 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1971 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
1972 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes on.
1973 Mrs. Cammack?
1974 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
1975 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
1976 Mr. Obernolte?
1977 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
1978 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
1979 Mr. James?
1980 *Mr. James. No.
1981 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
1982 Mr. Bentz?
1983 *Mr. Bentz. No.
1984 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
1985 Mrs. Houchin?
1986 [No response.]

1987

1988 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

1989 *Mr. Fry. No.

1990 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

1991 Ms. Lee?

1992 *Ms. Lee. No.

1993 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

1994 Mr. Langworthy?

1995 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

1996 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

1997 Mr. Kean?

1998 *Mr. Kean. No.

1999 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

2000 Mr. Rulli?

2001 *Mr. Rulli. No.

2002 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

2003 Mr. Evans?

2004 *Mr. Evans. No.

2005 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

2006 Mr. Goldman?

2007 *Mr. Goldman. No.

2008 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

2009 Mrs. Fedorchak?

2010 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

2011 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

2012 Mr. Pallone?

2013 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2014 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

2015 Ms. DeGette?

2016 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

2017 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

2018 Ms. Schakowsky?

2019 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

2020 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

2021 Ms. Matsui?

2022 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

2023 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

2024 Ms. Castor?

2025 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2026 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

2027 Mr. Tonko?

2028 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

2029 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

2030 Ms. Clarke?

2031 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

2032 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

2033 Mr. Ruiz?

2034 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

2035 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

2036 Mr. Peters?

2037 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2038 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2039 Mrs. Dingell?
2040 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2041 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2042 Mr. Veasey?
2043 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2044 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2045 Ms. Kelly?
2046 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2047 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
2048 Ms. Barragan?
2049 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2050 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
2051 Mr. Soto?
2052 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
2053 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2054 Ms. Schrier?
2055 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2056 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2057 Mrs. Trahan?
2058 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
2059 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
2060 Mrs. Fletcher?
2061 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2062 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2063 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
2064 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
2065 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
2066 Mr. Auchincloss?
2067 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
2068 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
2069 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
2070 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
2071 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
2072 Mr. Menendez?
2073 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
2074 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
2075 Mr. Mullin?
2076 [No response.]
2077 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
2078 [No response.]
2079 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?
2080 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
2081 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
2082 Chairman Guthrie?
2083 *The Chair. No.
2084 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
2085 *The Chair. How is Mr. Dunn recorded?
2086 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

2087 *Mr. Dunn. No.

2088 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

2089 Mr. Weber is not recorded.

2090 *Mr. Weber. No.

2091 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

2092 [Pause.]

2093 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were

2094 22 ayes and 28 noes.

2095 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

2096 For what purpose does gentlelady from Washington seek

2097 recognition?

2098 *Ms. Schrier. I have an amendment at the desk.

2099 *The Chair. The clerk will report the _ what amendment

2100 number?

2101 *Ms. Schrier. HE8.

2102 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

2103 *The Clerk. HE8 _ an amendment to Draft Oversight Plan,

2104 HE8. On page four, under the section "Entitlement

2105 Programs,'` after _

2106 *The Chair. Without objection, the amendment _ the

2107 reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

2108 [The amendment of Ms. Schrier follows:]

2109

2110 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2111

2112 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
2113 minutes in support of the amendment.

2114 *Ms. Schrier. Mr. Chairman, we all know that there is
2115 no way to achieve the stated Republican goal of a minimum
2116 \$880 million cut to spending under our committee's _ billion,
2117 excuse me, billion _ under this committee's jurisdiction
2118 without deep cuts to Medicaid.

2119 My amendment simply clarifies that going after Medicaid
2120 with a chainsaw will result in reduced Medicaid coverage, a
2121 program that covers a third of the people in this country,
2122 will take health care away from people in need, betray
2123 seniors, and increase health care costs overall.

2124 I am just going to quote a Republican colleague talking
2125 about Medicaid, Representative Gonzales from Texas. He said,
2126 "At what point do you stop cutting into the fat and start
2127 cutting into the bone?"

2128 Make no mistake, Republicans are trying to cut the bones
2129 of a program that pays for health care for nearly half of the
2130 pregnancies and children in this country, for rural
2131 hospitals, and for nursing homes so that they can fund their
2132 tax cuts for billionaires and corporations. If they were
2133 serious about fraud, they would go after the predatory
2134 insurance companies that are gouging both the government and
2135 patients as they are contractors for programs like Medicare
2136 Advantage.

2137 The Department of Health and Human Services inspector
2138 general found \$7.5 billion in suspect payments made to
2139 Medicare Advantage plans due to upcoding _ in other words,
2140 making patients look sicker than they actually are _ in 2023
2141 alone. Oh, and by the way, as has been mentioned by my
2142 colleagues, Donald Trump illegally fired that inspector
2143 general last month, whose sole job was to oversee the
2144 department and ensure that taxpayer dollars were not being
2145 misspent. That is what inspectors general do. They root out
2146 fraud, waste, and abuse, and they protect you and your tax
2147 dollars.

2148 So why aren't Republicans speaking out about this?
2149 Because they are not serious about fraud. They are not
2150 serious about lowering costs and making American lives
2151 better. They are lying to the American people, claiming that
2152 \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid is rooting out fraud when
2153 their actual goal is to fund a huge tax break for gigantic
2154 corporations and billionaires.

2155 So I urge my colleagues who are serious about supporting
2156 their constituents and rooting out real fraud to vote yes on
2157 this amendment.

2158 Thank you, and I yield back.

2159 *Mr. Joyce. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields. The
2160 gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter is recognized.

2161 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.

2162 Chairman, this amendment seeks to claim that the committee's
2163 goal of responsible stewardship solely involves cuts to harm
2164 Medicaid beneficiaries.

2165 Look, folks, Medicaid is an important program. As a
2166 healthcare professional, as a consultant pharmacist at long-
2167 term care facilities, I know this. It covers half of all
2168 children in the country, and it is the largest payer for
2169 long-term care for people with disabilities. Our nation's
2170 most vulnerable rely on it for care. Medicaid was intended
2171 to be a safety net program for the aged, the blind, and
2172 disabled, pregnant women, children, those living with
2173 disabilities. That is what Medicaid is for.

2174 It is also a program, however, that spending is growing
2175 at an unchecked rate, at a rate we cannot continue to
2176 finance. According to the CBO, Medicaid enrollment will
2177 largely stay flat over the next decade, but Medicaid spending
2178 will grow by more than \$300 billion over the same period.
2179 Let me repeat that. According to the CBO, the Congressional
2180 Budget Office, Medicaid enrollment would largely stay flat
2181 over the next decade, but Medicaid spending will grow by more
2182 than \$300 billion over the same period.

2183 As written, this oversight plan will put us on a path
2184 toward accomplishing this goal by identifying opportunities
2185 to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in the program while also
2186 protecting the most vulnerable among us. Our goal here

2187 today, again, is to ensure that the program is secure for
2188 future generations of beneficiaries, and that it can continue
2189 to serve those in need. That is what we were trying to do _
2190 or are trying to do with this oversight plan.

2191 We know there are opportunities to streamline the
2192 program and to generate more efficiencies for both the
2193 Federal Government and the states _ and the states _ that
2194 will not only lower costs, but also reduce red tape for
2195 beneficiaries and state Medicaid programs. In fiscal year
2196 2023 alone, the Government Accountability Office estimated
2197 that there were approximately \$50 billion in improper
2198 payments in the Medicaid program, \$50 billion in improper
2199 payments in the Medicaid program. It should be a shared
2200 priority by members of both sides of the aisle on this
2201 committee that we address this issue as this oversight plan
2202 sets out to do.

2203 This committee will continue to focus on both building
2204 on successes from the last Congress like banning spread
2205 pricing in Medicaid and expanding access to home and
2206 community-based services, while also focusing on the long-
2207 term sustainability of the program. Again, save, sustain,
2208 stabilize. That is what we are trying to do with Medicaid.

2209 Mr. Chairman, unless there is someone else who wants
2210 time, I will yield back.

2211 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The ranking member

2212 from New Jersey, Mr. Pallone, is recognized.

2213 *Mr. Pallone. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2214 I want to say, Mr. Carter, I am _ I guess I shouldn't be
2215 surprised, but I am a little shocked that you are openly
2216 advocating Medicaid cuts, because from what I have heard so
2217 far a lot of the Republican members on this committee have
2218 not been willing to say that. So I guess maybe I should
2219 respect your honesty.

2220 But on the other hand, it is pretty shocking when I know
2221 that this budget resolution is saying, at a minimum, there
2222 should be \$880 billion in cuts in this committee's
2223 jurisdiction, and possibly up to 1.5 trillion from what I can
2224 see. And I know that those cuts can't possibly happen
2225 without most of it being in Medicaid. We just don't have _
2226 you know, spectrum, maybe, I don't know, 10 billion, energy a
2227 few billion. But basically, we are talking almost \$1
2228 trillion in Medicaid cuts.

2229 Now, you can argue that there is waste, fraud, and
2230 abuse. The reality is that the Medicaid program is the
2231 leanest of all the Federal programs, health programs. It is
2232 actually the biggest, as well. It is bigger than any of the
2233 others, but it is the leanest of any of them, as well. And
2234 so, you know, I doubt there is very much of waste, fraud, and
2235 abuse there, certainly not \$1 trillion worth.

2236 What I have been hearing from your members is _ you

2237 know, I think Mr. Guthrie, the chairman, talked about a cap,
2238 a per capita cap. I have heard about reducing the Medicare
2239 expansion from 90 percent to less. That _ I think there are
2240 nine states right now that have Medicare expansion that say
2241 on their law that if that were to happen they would eliminate
2242 the Medicaid expansion, millions of people would
2243 automatically not have Medicaid anymore under the expansion
2244 program.

2245 We are hearing about reducing, like _ a state like
2246 Mississippi gets 70 percent, I think, of their money. My
2247 state gets 40 percent of Medicaid from the Federal
2248 Government. We are hearing about reducing that. You know,
2249 in my case, in the State of New Jersey, the governor is _ the
2250 budget of the State of New Jersey is about \$55 billion. If
2251 you were to implement that \$880 billion Medicaid cut
2252 proportionate to what New Jersey gets, we are talking about a
2253 \$9 billion cut in a state budget that has \$55 billion. What
2254 is that, a 20 percent cut for the state budget? It is not
2255 sustainable. They would have to kick people off the rolls.

2256 So everything that I have heard about Medicaid cuts is
2257 not what you are mentioning, waste, fraud, and abuse, but
2258 actually money that is being used now to pay for the program,
2259 whether it is expansion program, the regular Medicaid
2260 program, whatever. And what does that mean? It means that
2261 60 percent of the people in nursing homes are paid for by

2262 Medicaid. They are either going to close or they are going
2263 to provide a lot less services. Hospitals, rural hospitals
2264 will close. People with disabilities is _ almost 100 percent
2265 of people with disabilities get some kind of Medicaid help.
2266 What are they going to do? Children, half the children in
2267 the country, their health care is covered by Medicaid.

2268 So, you know, I appreciate that you are being honest and
2269 saying that you want to cut Medicaid. It is pretty
2270 outrageous, but you are saying it. Let's _ you know, I
2271 appreciate the honesty. But the idea that you are going to
2272 come up with 880 billion at least, maybe a trillion, maybe
2273 even a trillion and a half in Medicaid cuts, and that is
2274 going to be from waste, fraud, and abuse, not for this
2275 program. This program is very lean, as it is, the most
2276 effective program that we have, Federal program for health
2277 care.

2278 And so, you know, you have to be _ I know you are being
2279 honest about your willingness to make the cuts, but you have
2280 to be honest about where those cuts are going to come from.
2281 They are going to come directly from the funding of Medicaid,
2282 and it is going to mean that many people are going to lose
2283 their health care. That is what is going to happen.

2284 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2285 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentleman from
2286 Alabama is recognized.

2287 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
2288 the last word.

2289 I just want to point out that what we are trying to do
2290 is save Medicaid for the people it was intended for. What
2291 has happened over the last few years is really an
2292 abomination. In the first 8 years of the expansion, for
2293 instance, there were over 740,000 people on waiting lists who
2294 got pushed to the end of the line, and over 21,000 of those
2295 died. Just last May there were two reports from the
2296 inspector general's office that showed that California
2297 improperly claimed \$52.7 million in Federal Medicaid
2298 reimbursement. That is fraud. That is abuse. New York
2299 claimed 20 million.

2300 And _ but I want to point out something else here that I
2301 think is important in terms of what we are trying to do, and
2302 I will share a quote with you: "Almost all of the long-term
2303 deficit and debt that we face relates to the exploding cost
2304 of Medicare and Medicaid. If we don't get control over that,
2305 we can't control over _ we can't get control over our Federal
2306 budget.'" That is a direct quote from President Barack
2307 Obama. And for once I can say I stand with President Obama
2308 that we have to get control of this.

2309 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from
2310 Georgia, Mr. Carter.

2311 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, I

2312 think my short-term memory is pretty good, but my friend from
2313 New Jersey said that I mentioned the word "cuts." I don't
2314 ever remember a few minutes ago when I was speaking
2315 mentioning the word "cuts." I remember mentioning
2316 stabilize, secure, save, sustain, but not cuts.

2317 We need to make sure we understand what we are doing
2318 here. We are trying to save a program, an important program.
2319 I know as well as anyone. I have spent more hours in nursing
2320 homes than probably just about most of the people here put
2321 together. I understand it. I am not _ have not used the
2322 word "cuts," and I don't appreciate someone putting words in
2323 my mouth that I haven't said. I said save, stabilize,
2324 secure, sustain, all of those things, but not cuts.

2325 I yield back.

2326 *The Chair. Does the gentleman yield?

2327 *Mr. Pallone. Can I _

2328 *The Chair. Does the gentleman from Alabama yield?

2329 *Mr. Pallone. I don't know who has the time, but I was
2330 going to ask if I could _

2331 *Mr. Palmer. The gentleman is not _

2332 *The Chair. Does the gentleman from Alabama yield to
2333 me?

2334 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields _

2335 *Mr. Palmer. I control the time.

2336 *Mr. Joyce. _ to the chairman of the whole committee.

2337 *Mr. Palmer. I yield to the chairman, Mr. Guthrie.

2338 *The Chair. Yes, I just want to say that if you look at
2339 where Medicaid is now, if you look at the CBO score and you
2340 talk about per capita allotments, which grows with
2341 population, grows _ if you let Medicaid grow at the rate of
2342 medical inflation, you let it grow at _ so today's dollars,
2343 every state gets exactly the same dollars next year based on
2344 whether _ qualifications for Medicaid or not. Don't change
2345 anything and grow, it is \$900 billion. So Medicaid is
2346 estimated to grow \$900 billion over the next decade beyond
2347 medical inflation. Beyond medical inflation.

2348 And so what _ we know what President Trump said. He
2349 said it publicly. We are going to make sure that what _ we
2350 honor what he said about Medicaid. But there is
2351 opportunities to save money. This very committee voted in
2352 the IRA to take _ I got criticized for taking money out of
2353 Medicare when you voted to do the price setting for Medicare
2354 Part D and took that money and spent it somewhere else. You
2355 guys didn't classify that as a cut in Medicare.

2356 And so what we are saying is there is opportunities to
2357 reform the program, stabilize the program.

2358 And also, if a sick child goes to the doctor in
2359 Kentucky, the Federal Government gets \$0.72. If a healthy
2360 adult goes to a child [sic] in Kentucky on Medicaid, the
2361 Federal Government gets \$0.90. We think that is an unfair

2362 setup, as well.

2363 And so we want to make sure that people are covered,
2364 that Medicaid is adequate for every state, and they are not
2365 cut from where they were before. But we can also look at the
2366 growth and deal with the growth. And if we continue to have
2367 unending growth in health care spending in this country, the
2368 whole budget is going to implode, all of health care
2369 spending. Employers are being pushed by the employee plans
2370 that they spend. Health care costs are just _ continue and
2371 to continue to grow. And if we don't address it, we are not
2372 going to have a budget, we are not going to have a country,
2373 we are not going to have a future for our children.

2374 And so we can deal with Medicaid _ and you will see a
2375 plan to deal with Medicaid _ that doesn't put _ that doesn't
2376 cut Medicaid, that gives the opportunities for people to be
2377 covered, and that people have access to health care, and also
2378 meet what the President _ the criteria the President has set
2379 down about what he wants to do with Medicaid.

2380 I am sorry, I said Medicare, I mean Medicaid, I am
2381 sorry.

2382 I yield back.

2383 *Mr. Palmer. I yield back.

2384 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentlelady from
2385 Illinois is recognized.

2386 *Ms. Schakowsky. I move to strike the last word.

2387 There are two women in my congressional district who
2388 have suggested that what they need to do is to commit
2389 suicide. They are in a senior home in a very nice building,
2390 and they rely on Medicare and Medicaid. And they have
2391 investigated this. You don't just decide about taking your
2392 own life. They investigated this, and what would happen to
2393 the amount of money that they would get in order to be able
2394 to keep their own lives.

2395 And these are not people who are scammers. They are not
2396 just trying to get money. They are trying to live a modest
2397 life. So at this home there was a group that got together
2398 with them, and talked them out of suicide, and promised that
2399 they would work as hard as they can to make sure _ and that
2400 we were definitely _ and I said I would, as well _ organize
2401 to make sure that they wouldn't be left without their
2402 lifesaving medication.

2403 We are talking about among the poorer people in this
2404 country. And how can we just say no? And you are saying,
2405 oh, well, we have all this proof, but I certainly have talked
2406 to a number of experts in this room who know about the
2407 Medicaid program, know that people need the money in order to
2408 live a decent life. And I just think this attack on poor
2409 people and on families that says that they have to get less
2410 money is just unbelievable to me in the United States of
2411 America. You think we don't have poor people that can't get

2412 what they need to live? You better look around in your own
2413 districts and see who is there. And I say we must give
2414 people _ and help them get the care that they need, not let
2415 them decide about suicide.

2416 And I yield back.

2417 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The gentlelady from
2418 Colorado is recognized.

2419 The gentlelady from Florida is recognized.

2420 *Ms. Castor. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want
2421 to thank Dr. Schrier for bringing this very important
2422 amendment, and I think she has done a good job, along with
2423 Ranking Member Pallone and Rep. Schakowsky here, of
2424 highlighting the _ what is going on, this betrayal of
2425 American families to fund tax cuts for billionaires and the
2426 wealthy and the well-connected.

2427 I hear the rhetoric from my Republican colleagues, that
2428 they are concerned about reform and Medicaid. But that is
2429 belied by the fact, again, that you have allowed the illegal
2430 firing of the inspector general who makes non-partisan
2431 recommendations to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. It is
2432 also belied by the fact that what is going on here in the
2433 Capitol today is a push for a budget resolution to give
2434 major, major tax benefits to billionaires like Elon Musk and
2435 the wealthy and the well-connected. It is not just, oh,
2436 Medicare reform, this is a topic of conversation. It is not.

2437 This is why they have to go to find a place to fund
2438 their big tax cuts. And where do they go? They go to the
2439 people who are probably least _ have the least political
2440 power in the country, right? We are talking about people
2441 with disabilities, children with complex medical conditions,
2442 our grandparents and older neighbors who relied on skilled _
2443 who rely on skilled nursing care or home and community-based
2444 services to keep them out of nursing homes.

2445 But don't just take it from me. I wanted to ask to
2446 submit for the record nearly 40 letters representing hundreds
2447 of stakeholders who oppose Medicaid cuts and the Republicans'
2448 budget resolution. These letters highlight just how
2449 devastating and cruel these cuts would be to our neighbors
2450 back home.

2451 And we have heard loudly and clearly from patient
2452 advocates, faith-based organizations, providers, community
2453 organizations, state and local communities about what the
2454 impact will be on the health of our neighbors, their
2455 pocketbooks, and their livelihoods. And I will just take _ I
2456 will just read a couple of samples.

2457 Here is one from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the
2458 Children's Defense Fund, the Children's Hospital Association,
2459 and the March of Dimes. They say, "Cuts to Medicaid and CHIP
2460 cannot be accomplished without harming children. Together,
2461 Medicaid and CHIP cover more than 37 million children in the

2462 United States. Medicaid covers 40 percent of all births in
2463 the country. Medicaid also covers three million children in
2464 military-connected care families, helping ensure highly
2465 specialized health care needs are covered that are not fully
2466 addressed by Tricare. Medicaid and CHIP help ensure children
2467 have access to essential health care services such as doctor
2468 visits, hospital care, medications, vision and dental care,
2469 and early intervention therapies. Medicaid improves health
2470 outcomes by reducing child mortality, emergency care
2471 utilization, and hospitalizations while promoting
2472 preventative care and early treatment illnesses.'`

2473 Here is another letter _ I will just read part of it _
2474 from the National Conference of State Legislators, the League
2475 of Cities, the Association of Counties: "Medicaid accounts
2476 for over half of all Federal funds to states, and is the
2477 largest source of Federal funding for state budgets, making
2478 it essential to states' ability to design and administer
2479 health care programs that meet the unique needs of their
2480 populations.'`

2481 Here is another one from a _ from Justice in Aging:
2482 "These massive cuts threaten the health care of millions of
2483 older adults who rely on Medicare. Medicaid is not just a
2484 safety net, it is a lifeline for seniors. Without it, they
2485 could not afford home-based or nursing facility care, and
2486 would struggle to meet high out-of-pocket costs associated

2487 with Medicare. The proposed cuts would starve Medicaid,
2488 forcing states to reduce spending by cutting access to these
2489 essential benefits, leaving older adults without health care
2490 and the support that they need.'`

2491 Here is one from the Mental Health Liaison Group:
2492 "Limiting access to Medicaid threatens to undermine gains in
2493 reducing overdose mortality rates, and could lead to
2494 increasing rates of incarceration and hospitalization.
2495 Medicaid is the single largest payer of mental health and
2496 substance use services, and cuts of this magnitude will
2497 undeniably have devastating consequences for our citizens,
2498 states, and health care providers.'`

2499 Here is one from hospitals, America's essential
2500 hospitals: "Medicaid allows essential hospitals to keep
2501 their doors open and provide care for everyone in their
2502 community.'`

2503 I think you are getting the gist of this. And so I will
2504 ask that these letters from _ 40 letters from these
2505 organizations be offered for the record. And please support
2506 this amendment.

2507 *Mr. Joyce. Without objection, so ordered.

2508

2509

2510 [The information follows:]

2511

2512 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2513

2514 *Ms. Castor. Thank you.

2515 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman from California, Dr. Ruiz, is
2516 recognized.

2517 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just
2518 really want to point out a couple of inconsistencies that I
2519 have been hearing here.

2520 First, I am hearing that Republicans want to save
2521 Medicaid, that they want to make it last. And it is pretty
2522 simple, common sense. You don't save Medicaid and its
2523 mission of providing important health insurance and access to
2524 critical health care for the people that need it by cutting
2525 and reducing the amount of people that are insured by
2526 Medicaid. It is not common sense.

2527 You see, when you say _ you want to save Medicaid but
2528 then you want to remove Medicaid from people's lives is an
2529 inconsistency.

2530 Second, just a while ago you all voted against an
2531 amendment that would look at the impacts of Trump's illegally
2532 firing of inspector generals who are responsible for rooting
2533 out fraud and corruption, but then I hear that you want to
2534 end Medicaid inappropriate payments, look at perhaps fraud or
2535 inefficiency. So let me ask you, who is going to do the
2536 audits when the inspector generals are responsible to do the
2537 audits, to find the proof, if there indeed is fraud and any
2538 inappropriate payments?

2539 We agree that there should be no fraud. We do want to
2540 root out fraud. We want to work with you to find legal,
2541 appropriate mechanisms to identify, to calculate, and to make
2542 transparent with the facts about fraud. But what this is _
2543 and we want to empower the inspector generals to do that.
2544 But again, what this is is a dog whistle. You see, this is
2545 yelling out fraud, waste, abuse, like President Trump yelled
2546 out the electoral fraud to justify what he did regarding the
2547 big lie. And this is another dog whistle to justify and hide
2548 the real fact that you are ordered to cut over \$880 billion
2549 or more in order to fund _ in order to find the funds to give
2550 billionaires like Elon Musk more billions in tax giveaways.

2551 Now, you say you want to save Medicaid. I will give you
2552 an example of how you can save Medicaid. As a physician, you
2553 know I know that by reducing the burden and the impacts of
2554 illnesses that are preventable with access to care, but
2555 reducing the illnesses in the working poor families by
2556 helping them get affordable health care, by helping educate
2557 the communities that use Medicaid, by keeping them healthy,
2558 including the disabled, the elderly, children, then you will
2559 reduce the burden of cost due to Medicaid. But instead, you
2560 want to cut the actual programs that provide the care, that
2561 provide access to these health _ to these medications by
2562 providing the innovative programs to go into communities to
2563 keep them healthy.

2564 You know, it is maybe easy to throw out fancy terms
2565 about saving Medicaid for the future, et cetera, when you all
2566 don't use Medicaid. It may be easy to talk about waste and
2567 inefficiency, so therefore we need to cut Medicaid when you
2568 all don't use Medicaid. I have taken care of the patients
2569 who use Medicaid. I have taken care of children. I have
2570 taken care of the elderly who are on Medi-Medi, and it is not
2571 easy for them to overcome their illness when they are _ no
2572 longer have access to the health insurance that provides them
2573 a lifeline to a decent life with dignity and with health.

2574 So I want to ask you all, when you use this dog whistle
2575 about waste _ because that is what you are going to continue
2576 to do, it is wasteful, it is wasteful _ which benefit is
2577 wasteful to you? Is it mental health services? Is it drug
2578 rehabilitation services? Which of those legitimate benefits
2579 are you determining a waste that you are looking to help cut
2580 in order to pay for billions in tax breaks for billionaires?

2581 I yield back.

2582 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentleman from
2583 Ohio is recognized.

2584 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
2585 the last word.

2586 So I am not a physician, I have never run a hospital. I
2587 am new to Congress. But I was a teacher, and I taught, among
2588 other things, remedial math. So for me, there is a math

2589 question here. There is _ I think you all got stuck with an
2590 \$880 billion bill, right?

2591 This President and the majority wanted to not just keep,
2592 but indefinitely have these wasteful tax giveaways to the
2593 super wealthy, the Elon Musks of the world who don't need the
2594 money. And to pay for it, because it is so much money, two
2595 things had to happen. They had to convince a bunch of folks
2596 to take on trillions in new debt, and then to make sure it
2597 wasn't too much in new debt and deficit spending they said to
2598 you all, "Find nearly \$1 trillion in health care funding,"
2599 which means that you are going to cut almost \$1 trillion in
2600 health care.

2601 And it is not just for children or seniors. We are
2602 talking about doctors, we are talking about hospitals,
2603 hospitals that are on the edge already. Many of these
2604 hospitals have a few days of revenue. They will shutter
2605 their doors. The doctors will go. They will leave. Health
2606 care for folks who aren't on Medicaid will disappear all to
2607 make this math work.

2608 The fact is, if we decided as a Congress to focus 100
2609 percent of the tax relief on the people who need it, if we
2610 just said, look, we are just going to provide tax relief for
2611 working people, small businesses, farmers, and the middle
2612 class, you wouldn't have to cut a dollar in health care. You
2613 could actually save Medicaid. That is it. Just give up on

2614 the wasteful spending on the uber-wealthy. That is it.

2615 I yield back.

2616 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentlelady from
2617 New York is recognized.

2618 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2619 I think, to reiterate what my colleague just stated from
2620 Ohio, it is a _ there is a fundamental math problem here.
2621 There is a constant reiteration of waste, fraud, and abuse.
2622 Sure, that is great. What is the identified amount of waste
2623 that this committee has identified? Because what _ the order
2624 that has been sent down here is find \$880 billion, not there
2625 is \$880 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse. It is find \$880
2626 billion.

2627 And so we have not heard a single concrete number of the
2628 amount of waste that has been identified. We have not heard
2629 a single concrete number on the amount of abuse that has been
2630 identified. And there is just kind of this vague, magic wand
2631 around waste, to my colleague from California's point. And
2632 waste is being used as a very large word here, because what
2633 is being suggested is that long-term care is wasteful in
2634 America, that children's health insurance is wasteful in
2635 America, that poor people seeing the doctor is a waste, that
2636 all of these people are disposable, that the elderly are
2637 disposable.

2638 So I think the problem here is that the numbers don't

2639 add up. The numbers don't add up. Eight hundred and eighty
2640 billion dollars is a devastating cut to Medicaid. And given
2641 that 30 percent of Medicaid dollars also go to Medicare, it
2642 is also an attack on Medicare, to Medicare recipients.

2643 And so while I completely understand the idea that there
2644 should not be waste, that they are not _ that there should
2645 not be fraud, and that there should not be abuse, \$880
2646 billion is not that. This is an attack on Medicaid. And
2647 anyone who votes on this budget this week is voting to cut
2648 Medicaid in America and voting to gut health care for
2649 Medicare recipients in America. There is just no other way
2650 around it.

2651 And with that I yield back.

2652 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The gentleman from
2653 Georgia is recognized.

2654 *Mr. Allen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we are
2655 voting on a budget reconciliation, there is not the word
2656 "Medicaid" in the resolution, period. There is no word.

2657 What we are attempting to do is to deal with a situation
2658 that, frankly, was put in our laps years ago. And just to
2659 give you some examples, we spend 4 trillion a year on health
2660 care; 1.6 trillion of that is taxpayer dollars. The nearest
2661 nation to us _ which is about 12,000 per capita. The nearest
2662 nation to us spends about 6,000. We are running \$2 trillion
2663 deficits. We have under the Biden Administration.

2664 You know, I think what we are trying to work toward is
2665 to get at what is our problem here. In other words, I was
2666 chairman of a hospital board. We looked at outcomes and we
2667 said, hey, you know, we spend about \$0.25 on every dollar on
2668 preventive, and we spend 75 percent of every dollar on
2669 critical care. Do you realize that critical care is, you
2670 know, much more expensive than preventive care? What are we
2671 doing?

2672 Now, obviously, our Secretary of HHS has hit a nerve as
2673 far as, you know, nutrition, things that Americans need to be
2674 doing. I know in my district we have an epidemic of
2675 diabetes. We have, you know, obesity, we have food deserts.
2676 We _ you know, I mean, you know, folks, we have got some
2677 problems here.

2678 And I am willing to work with you to solve these
2679 problems. But to ignore the fact that we don't have _ you
2680 know, we can just continue on down the road and do the same
2681 thing. You know, insanity is doing the same thing over and
2682 over again. And we must look for solutions for the American
2683 people.

2684 And here is the other thing. You know, go to an
2685 emergency room on a Friday or a Saturday night, or talk to
2686 your local physician or anybody else, you know, here is the
2687 thing. We are spending this kind of money, and nobody in
2688 this country is happy with their health care. Nobody. The

2689 physicians, the providers aren't. Like the gentleman said,
2690 the hospitals are barely making it. Indigent care in my
2691 rural communities has not been helped by Medicaid. We are
2692 still running 40 percent indigent care costs.

2693 You know, are we just going to allow this to keep going,
2694 or are we going to vote on budget reconciliation, get to work
2695 in these committees, find out what the issue is, and help _
2696 really help the American people, rather than sit here and
2697 call each other, you know, names and, you know, this is what
2698 we are going to do, this is what we are going to do?

2699 Well, guess what? This is a big body. We have to get
2700 to a solution to this, folks. It is unsustainable. And I
2701 would like to hear the argument about we can keep going down
2702 this road, it is no problem, let's just forget it, let's just
2703 go down the road. Let's _ you know, what do you want taxes
2704 to be? I mean, do you want your model, 80 percent taxes? I
2705 don't know. You know, I don't think the American people want
2706 that.

2707 I can tell you on the tax deal, what is important in my
2708 district is my small business community. They are the ones
2709 that we have _ they are not permanent. We have to reinstate
2710 those tax benefits for small business or either you are going
2711 to have, you know, large corporations running everything.

2712 And for that matter, here is the other problem on
2713 employer-based insurance: it is unaffordable. You know,

2714 people _ you know, companies and people are paying, and it is
2715 going up every year, and it is going up substantially every
2716 year.

2717 So, you know, I would urge my colleagues, you know,
2718 let's get at the root of the problem here. Let's go down the
2719 road here on budget reconciliation, and let's do something
2720 for the American people.

2721 And I yield back.

2722 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentlelady from
2723 Virginia is recognized.

2724 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
2725 the last word.

2726 I sat on the board of a Medicaid provider. I sat on the
2727 board of a hospital. I sat on the Senate Finance Committee
2728 in Virginia, the subcommittee that handled health care and
2729 Medicaid. And the one thing that I know with certainty is
2730 that the reason the cost of Medicaid has gone up is not
2731 because of waste, fraud, and abuse. It is because people are
2732 living longer than they did in 1965. It is because they are
2733 living with more complex illnesses than they did in 1965, in
2734 part because the very communities that Medicaid was designed
2735 for were redlined into communities where pollution was
2736 emitted into those communities every single day, where their
2737 neighborhood was literally cut off from food, work, hospitals
2738 by a highway.

2739 The cost of long-term care is going up. The cost of
2740 prescription drugs is going up. In both _ in every meeting I
2741 was in on the Joint Commission on Health Care, on the
2742 Medicaid provider, the hospital, the Senate Finance
2743 Committee, we were concerned about the cost of prescription
2744 drugs going up to take care of these measures. And in the
2745 last administration, in the 117th Congress, we did _ you did
2746 something. I wasn't here. You did something to help reduce
2747 costs of prescription drugs. That is under attack.

2748 We have hospitals in rural areas that were closing until
2749 Medicaid expansion came. You have hospitals and providers
2750 that are struggling to stay open and struggling to recruit
2751 and retain the best and the brightest workforce because the
2752 reimbursement rates they get are so low they can't pay them.

2753 Cuts to Medicaid _ which are going to be necessary to
2754 get to \$880 billion, which you have already heard _ cuts to
2755 Medicaid is basically forcing states to raise taxes because
2756 Medicaid is a state-Federal partnership, and states are
2757 already struggling to meet their portion. So you are going
2758 to make that problem worse.

2759 Medicaid expansion allowed people who never got
2760 preventative care to get preventative care. And we have
2761 heard from the other side of the aisle how it is more
2762 expensive to treat people when they come in the emergency
2763 room, where you have to treat them. And if the hospital, the

2764 provider doesn't get paid, that cost trickles to everybody
2765 else and makes our costs go up.

2766 That is all basic, fundamental fact if you sit in a
2767 state legislature and look at what they are looking at, if
2768 you sit in the hospital board room looking at the financials,
2769 what they are looking at, if you sit in the board rooms of
2770 the Medicaid providers and what they are looking at. And
2771 putting your head in the sand and saying we have got to
2772 reduce the deficit when the President of the United States
2773 wants to add, what, \$4 trillion for tax cuts for billionaires
2774 _ your budget, your oversight plan is a statement of your
2775 priorities. What I hear from my colleagues on the other side
2776 of the aisle is your priorities are billionaires and large
2777 corporations.

2778 When I talk to my constituents, when I had a record
2779 number of constituents show up for a tele-town hall meeting,
2780 more than double than ever, they weren't saying they wanted
2781 tax cuts for billionaires or corporations. They were saying,
2782 "Please don't take my health care away. Don't close my rural
2783 hospital. Don't take away my veteran's benefits.'" And we
2784 better listen because in Virginia, you know, we got to quote
2785 Thomas Jefferson. If you went to UVA you got to quote Thomas
2786 Jefferson. In the Declaration of Independence it says we are
2787 all entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
2788 Life is first, and the government is set up to help you

2789 achieve and maintain those rights. Health care is a
2790 fundamental right.

2791 I yield back.

2792 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The gentlelady from
2793 California is recognized.

2794 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2795 The last _ my colleague across the aisle had said, just
2796 join us, just join us. Why I won't join is because this new
2797 House Republican budget is a betrayal on the American people,
2798 and I will not betray the American people by taking away
2799 health care from hard-working families while giving \$4
2800 trillion in tax cuts.

2801 So Mr. Allen mentioned Medicaid, and I am curious on
2802 what the 176,000 constituents in Georgia's 12th district, how
2803 they feel about their Medicaid being at risk, and being cut,
2804 and getting less access to health care. That is what I am
2805 curious about. That is _ 24 percent of his district relies
2806 on Medicaid.

2807 And you want to talk about children? Who is fighting
2808 for children and protecting children? Fifty-three percent of
2809 children in Georgia's 12th district rely on Medicaid or have
2810 CHIP in the district. I may not represent that district, but
2811 I am fighting for all Americans, for all Americans to have
2812 access to health care.

2813 And we are also told the word "Medicaid" doesn't even

2814 appear in the resolution. Oh, say it ain't so. It is not
2815 there. I think "tax cuts" isn't there either. But we know
2816 that is the plan. There is no way, there is zero way to do
2817 the cuts without impacting Medicaid. We know that.

2818 The other side wants to talk about the deficit. Let's
2819 talk about the deficit. It was Trump 1.0 tax cuts to the top
2820 one percent that drove up the deficit. Now they are looking
2821 to cut trillions of dollars to add four trillion in tax cuts.
2822 The math doesn't add up. It is adding more to the deficit.
2823 So don't come and say, well, it is not in there.

2824 And actually, there was a document that was accidentally
2825 leaked to the _ in the Budget Committee, a 50-page document
2826 on the resolution, and sentence after sentence says the
2827 Energy and Commerce Committee didn't provide details on how
2828 they were going to do this, but basically just trust them.

2829 This is no time to trust people who are silent. This is
2830 no time to trust people that are complicit in the Federal
2831 funds being cut, people being laid off. They are not going
2832 to tell you out of their mouth they are going to cut Medicaid
2833 because they know there is hundreds of thousands of
2834 constituents that rely on it. Now, some people will, and we
2835 have heard some defend it. But for the most part, this is a
2836 bait and switch. Just because it is in it doesn't mean it is
2837 not being done.

2838 And with that I yield back.

2839 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The gentlelady from
2840 Washington, Dr. Schrier, is recognized.

2841 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I _ first of
2842 all, I want to just say I appreciate Ms. Barragan's comments,
2843 and I also wanted to respond to some of what we are hearing
2844 from our colleagues.

2845 One of the things we heard was that people don't like
2846 their health care. I can assure you that the quarter of
2847 people in your districts definitely appreciate having
2848 Medicaid health care.

2849 I will tell you also, pregnant women who would otherwise
2850 not get care appreciate that health care. Kids _ I am a
2851 pediatrician _ certainly appreciate that care. Seniors in
2852 nursing homes who have no other options, as we have heard
2853 before, will appreciate it. And so will people with
2854 disabilities.

2855 And you know what else? If none of that even affected
2856 you, the rural hospitals in your districts will not survive
2857 without Medicaid.

2858 You know, the other thing I wanted to mention was that,
2859 again, you said it doesn't say any Medicaid anywhere in this
2860 bill, but you are not fooling anyone. Like, you can't get
2861 close to \$1 trillion without cutting Medicaid. And I want to
2862 make sure that the public understands that. And based on my
2863 town hall with almost 15,000 people, they understand. We got

2864 a lot of calls from people saying, "What is going to happen?
2865 I am getting treated for cancer. Are they going to take away
2866 my Medicaid?"` `

2867 We also heard about a complaint that adult reimbursement
2868 is higher than reimbursement _ Medicaid reimbursement for
2869 taking care of kids. And the solution given was, well, we
2870 should cut the adult reimbursement. No. The answer is you
2871 should raise the reimbursement for taking care of kids. And
2872 by the way, I have a bill to do that called Kids Access to
2873 Primary Care, and I would welcome all of you to support that.

2874 You know, the other one I wanted to mention is that we
2875 heard that, with inflation, numbers will balloon. You know,
2876 what that means is that, with inflation, this already is a
2877 cut to Medicaid.

2878 And then I also wanted to just comment about work
2879 requirements. That just sort of like flows off the tongue as
2880 though people are scamming the system. I have two colleagues
2881 here from Georgia. It turns out right now Georgia is the
2882 only state in the country that has imposed these work
2883 requirements. Also, it turns out the vast majority of the
2884 people meet the requirements, but that people have fallen off
2885 the rolls because there is so much paperwork to do that the
2886 paperwork either doesn't get submitted on time, or it is
2887 incomplete and they get thrown off of Medicaid
2888 illegitimately.

2889 In fact, it turns out also that the amount of money
2890 being spent in Georgia just on the paperwork to deal with
2891 these re-applications and proving that people are working
2892 costs more than the cost of taking care of these people's
2893 health. And so, in fact, they tried this in Arkansas and
2894 they canned the program exactly because it was so much
2895 paperwork, bureaucracy _ waste, frankly, which is what you
2896 guys say you are going after _ that they did away with the
2897 program.

2898 So I just wanted to set the record straight. Medicaid
2899 is a program that is critical to the lives of people in all
2900 of our districts and to our rural hospital systems.

2901 And I am going to yield to my colleague, Lori Trahan.

2902 *Mrs. Trahan. Well, thank you, Congresswoman Schrier.
2903 I don't have much to add because I think you covered it so
2904 well.

2905 And I think we are all having a reaction to our
2906 colleague from Georgia's comments around putting the budget
2907 discussion and the cuts ahead of a policy discussion. Or
2908 Congressman Allen articulated the problems in his district:
2909 diabetes, food deserts, accessibility to care. That afflicts
2910 all of us. But those solutions are for us to come up with in
2911 a policy discussion.

2912 I doubt when you were chairman of your hospital you
2913 said, we need to solve these problems. Let's start by

2914 cutting 880 billion from the budget so that we can get at
2915 solving those problems. No, it is in reverse. You talk
2916 about how we solve those problems, and then we figure out how
2917 much it is going to cost to accomplish that.

2918 So I would like to just focus on _ let's have the
2919 conversations around preventative care, screenings, healthy
2920 living. I don't think anyone would agree that saying let's
2921 cut almost \$1 trillion from Medicaid so that we can help the
2922 176,000 people in your district who rely on that program
2923 today.

2924 *Ms. Schrier. Yield back?

2925 *Mrs. Trahan. I yield back.

2926 *Ms. Schrier. And I yield back.

2927 *Mr. Joyce. If there is no further discussion, the vote
2928 will _ Representative Tonko is recognized.

2929 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
2930 last word.

2931 I will fight these Medicaid cuts with every fiber of my
2932 being because I did not get elected to take health care away
2933 from the 80 million Americans who rely upon Medicaid. In New
2934 York State alone Medicaid provides coverage to nearly 7
2935 million people, including 44 percent of all children and 49
2936 percent of new moms and their newborns. And 64 percent of
2937 people living in nursing homes in my state rely on the
2938 program. Medicaid is also the single largest payer for

2939 behavioral health services, so any cuts would mean gutting
2940 access to health care for mental health and substance use
2941 disorders.

2942 Our constituents' lives are on the line, and they
2943 deserve better than being used as a pay-for for President
2944 Trump and his richest supporters. Last week I sat through a
2945 marathon, all-day markup for the House Budget Committee, and
2946 Republicans are discussing cutting up to \$1.5 trillion in
2947 Federal Medicaid funding. Cuts of this magnitude would hurt
2948 community health centers which serve as New York's primary
2949 care safety net, providing care to over 2.4 million patients.
2950 That is one in eight New Yorkers. A staggering 47 percent of
2951 New York Community Health Center's funding comes from
2952 Medicaid, making Medicaid the largest share of revenue from
2953 one source for our community health centers.

2954 In many congressional districts across New York,
2955 including those represented by my Republican colleagues,
2956 almost one quarter of the population are Medicaid
2957 beneficiaries. I am left wondering, do you really want to be
2958 responsible for cutting health care benefits from a quarter
2959 of your constituents? Do you want to be responsible for
2960 taking funding away from community health centers that are a
2961 lifeline to our region?

2962 Earlier I said we have been placed with a challenge by
2963 our districts, by the people across this country. We have

2964 seen it at town halls. They want answers. They want
2965 solutions.

2966 Where is the solution? Where does it rest? It lies
2967 right in this room, because we have the largest chunk of cuts
2968 that are assigned this table, and we know they are going to
2969 come from Medicaid. They don't want these decisions made by
2970 someone who did not be subjected _ was not subjected to a
2971 background check. They do not want it made by someone who
2972 was not approved and confirmed by the United States Senate.
2973 They do not want them operating these cuts through a shadow
2974 agency that was never sanctioned by Congress. They do not
2975 want a team not familiar with the culture of the agency doing
2976 these draconian cuts.

2977 So I say the public asks and we must commit to end the
2978 congressional paralysis. Let us embrace the duties, the
2979 assignments, the _ or the opportunities and the
2980 responsibilities assigned us by the Constitution. The power
2981 of the purse rests with the House of Representatives. Let's
2982 put that back into action, and let's not be silent about this
2983 effort. Let's take over the process as we are assigned to
2984 do, and let's go forward and do this in a smart,
2985 compassionate, professional outcome, not leaving it to hacks
2986 who are not aware of all of the issues.

2987 We hear about these stories from our constituents. We
2988 have the pulse of the people. We know what the struggle is.

2989 We are assigned this responsibility. Let's exercise that
2990 responsibility and have the best outcome.

2991 With that I yield back.

2992 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair recognizes
2993 the chairman of the full committee.

2994 *The Chair. Thank you. I did speak a few minutes ago,
2995 but on Mr. Palmer's time.

2996 So I just want to say that I represent rural hospitals.
2997 There are, believe me, people on this side of the podium that
2998 want people to be protected, we absolutely want them to be
2999 protected. But you look at just the growth in the budget.
3000 We got a \$1.8 trillion budget deficit. We are going to spend
3001 more on interest this year than we spent on the military.

3002 And if you take a program, you just think the score _ it
3003 is all out there, people have seen it _ and I don't believe
3004 there is going to be per capita allotments on all of
3005 Medicaid. But if you took that and you say, okay, we are
3006 going to let _ so my friend from New York just mentioned New
3007 York. New York State gets every penny they got this year,
3008 less if people move away. Or people move in, you get more.
3009 With the growth factor for _ which we can debate, it is a
3010 medical inflation, and you are saving \$900 billion over _ or
3011 about 800 billion _ between 8 and 900 billion, it depends on
3012 the score you look at _ that is all of Medicare _ Medicaid.

3013 And that _ I am just saying that we can make this

3014 sustainable, we can make it work in a way that it is supposed
3015 to protect the people that it is supposed to protect. I have
3016 looked at different dials and different options and different
3017 movements, and I sat down with hospitals and people who deal
3018 with Medicaid and talked to them. And so we can _ we are
3019 only going to do this in a responsible way, I can tell you
3020 that. And we are not going to do it in a way that is going
3021 to threaten hospitals.

3022 But you can look at different reports of waste, fraud
3023 and abuse. You can see that some of the rules we have allow
3024 people to stay on Medicaid up to even almost a year, even
3025 though they may not qualify and say they don't qualify. A
3026 week after or a month after they get on Medicaid, they are
3027 still on for 11 months. You know, I am not _ we still have
3028 the idea that a disabled child in Kentucky, the Federal
3029 Government will pay the State of Kentucky \$0.72 out of a
3030 dollar, but a able-bodied working adult the Federal
3031 Government pays \$0.90 to the dollar. And we just think those
3032 are inequities, and those are things that can be looked at
3033 and can be addressed in a way that is responsible.

3034 I will tell you there are people on my side of the
3035 aisle, just like people on your side of the aisle, talking to
3036 me quite often about we have got to do this in a responsible
3037 way, it has got to be something that I can support, it has
3038 got to be _ and it _ only _ I can only support it if I know

3039 my hospitals are _ can work, and can operate, and that is
3040 where we are, and that is what we are working on.

3041 And I will _ we will have an opportunity to debate this,
3042 hopefully in a month or so, whenever the opportunity comes.
3043 And I think it will _ you will see that it is a responsible
3044 plan. And as we develop what that plan is, nothing is going
3045 to go forward, in my view, that is not responsible. And so
3046 we are going to make sure we take care of the least of us,
3047 and we are going to make sure that we take care of the
3048 working people that need help.

3049 So I will yield back.

3050 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentlelady from
3051 _ Mrs. Fletcher is recognized.

3052 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and
3053 thank you, Chairman Guthrie, for those remarks.

3054 I think there is broad agreement that we want to see
3055 responsible government, and that we want to see things being
3056 done responsibly. And what I am hearing from my constituents
3057 _ and I did a telephone town hall with my constituents last
3058 night _ I asked for questions in advance. I got more than
3059 300 questions about Elon Musk and DOGE because people don't
3060 see that proceeding in a responsible way. They see it as
3061 arbitrary and capricious, and are deeply concerned about what
3062 is not happening in that agency. And so _ not agency. It is
3063 not an agency, right? It is not a real department of

3064 government. It is not even really a thing.

3065 But we seem to have ceded all of this authority to an
3066 unelected billionaire who is being shielded, is totally not
3067 transparent, and is sending threatening emails to people who
3068 work in our districts in the middle of the night. And so I
3069 think there is just a deep concern, and I really hope that we
3070 can, as a Congress, insist through this oversight plan that
3071 we proceed responsibly. That is not what is happening with
3072 this Administration, and that is a deep concern.

3073 And with that I am going to yield my time to my
3074 colleague from New York.

3075 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you.

3076 Yes, and since New York was mentioned _ and again, I
3077 think one area where there is common ground here is where
3078 there is legitimate waste, where there is legitimate fraud
3079 there is a willingness to work on this. But there is zero
3080 evidence, zero evidence that has been provided that that adds
3081 up to \$880 billion.

3082 And, you know, even mentioning New York, the inflation
3083 costs on health care, or the rises in health care costs, as
3084 was mentioned previously, is because one of the largest
3085 generations in the United States, Baby Boomers, are aging.
3086 They are aging and require health care. I _ and I understand
3087 there is disagreement here _ but I personally believe that
3088 health care should be a right in this country. I believe

3089 that we _ that people should be able to see a doctor without
3090 going bankrupt. But the idea that this is just some kind of
3091 inflationary indicator, the _ people are getting older. Baby
3092 Boomers are aging, and they need health care.

3093 And so once again, if in doing the math the majority and
3094 Republicans decide that there will be service cuts to long-
3095 term care, cuts to what is covered in Medicare, cuts to what
3096 is covered to children and to seniors, I just want us to be
3097 honest about that. Let's just be honest. Let's just say it,
3098 \$880 billion, that math is a cut. And I know folks may want
3099 to say the resolution doesn't say Medicaid, the resolution
3100 doesn't say a cut. It says a lot of things that mean that.
3101 A rose by any other name smells just as sweet. And this is a
3102 cut, this is a cut, \$880 billion, doing the math, is a cut.

3103 Thank you, and I yield back.

3104 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentlelady yield?

3105 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Yes, yes.

3106 *Ms. DeGette. The gentlelady from Texas. It is her
3107 time.

3108 *Mrs. Fletcher. Yes.

3109 *Ms. DeGette. So here is the other thing. I want to
3110 agree with everything that my colleagues have said about, you
3111 know, you can try to sugarcoat it, you can say, well, in my
3112 state some people get reimbursed this and others reimbursed
3113 that. But in most states, including my state of Colorado,

3114 because of our laws the states are not going to be able to
3115 make up that difference. And so, as a result, the patients
3116 are going to be the ones that suffer the cuts, not some
3117 nebulous state agency.

3118 And I think the thing that strikes us as so unjust is,
3119 as my colleague from New York just said, health care is
3120 getting more expensive. And so _ and we all agree we should
3121 address waste, fraud, and abuse. Every single one of us
3122 agrees that we should do _ we should root it out. But just
3123 doing that, A, it is not going to save \$880 billion; and B,
3124 this \$880 billion that this committee has been asked to cut,
3125 it is being asked to cut it in order to be able to offset tax
3126 cuts that are going to billionaires and corporations.

3127 And so, from my perspective, what you are saying is,
3128 okay, in Kentucky or Colorado or in any other state, you are
3129 going to have to take real cuts for health care for many
3130 working Americans, for senior citizens and kids in order to
3131 be able to give tax cuts for billionaires. And that just
3132 seems like a poor result. And I am sorry to say you are
3133 going to hear all of us saying this every day from now until
3134 the end of this, until this stops.

3135 Thank you, and I yield back.

3136 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, and I yield back.

3137 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. Is there any
3138 further discussion on the amendment?

3139 *Mr. Pallone. Just a roll call.

3140 *Mr. Joyce. The vote _ a request for a roll call has
3141 been submitted by the ranking member. The roll _ the request
3142 for a recorded vote, and the clerk will call the roll.

3143 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3144 *Mr. Latta. No.

3145 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

3146 Mr. Griffith?

3147 *Mr. Griffith. No.

3148 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

3149 Mr. Bilirakis?

3150 [No response.]

3151 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

3152 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

3153 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

3154 Mr. Hudson?

3155 [No response.]

3156 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3157 [No response.]

3158 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

3159 [No response.]

3160 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

3161 *Mr. Dunn. No.

3162 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

3163 Mr. Crenshaw?

3164 [No response.]

3165 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

3166 *Mr. Joyce. No.

3167 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

3168 Mr. Weber?

3169 *Mr. Weber. Negatory.

3170 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

3171 Mr. Allen?

3172 *Mr. Allen. No.

3173 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

3174 Mr. Balderson?

3175 *Mr. Balderson. No.

3176 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

3177 Mr. Fulcher?

3178 *Mr. Fulcher. No.

3179 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

3180 Mr. Pfluger?

3181 [No response.]

3182 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

3183 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

3184 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

3185 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

3186 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.

3187 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.

3188 Mrs. Cammack?

3189 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
3190 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
3191 Mr. Oubernolte?
3192 *Mr. Oubernolte. No.
3193 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes no.
3194 Mr. James?
3195 *Mr. James. No.
3196 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
3197 Mr. Bentz?
3198 *Mr. Bentz. No.
3199 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
3200 Mrs. Houchin?
3201 [No response.]
3202 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3203 *Mr. Fry. No.
3204 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
3205 Ms. Lee?
3206 *Ms. Lee. No.
3207 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
3208 Mr. Langworthy?
3209 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3210 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3211 Mr. Kean?
3212 *Mr. Kean. No.
3213 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

3214 Mr. Rulli?
3215 *Mr. Rulli. No.
3216 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
3217 Mr. Evans?
3218 *Mr. Evans. No.
3219 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
3220 Mr. Goldman?
3221 *Mr. Goldman. No.
3222 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
3223 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3224 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
3225 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
3226 Mr. Pallone?
3227 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3228 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3229 Ms. DeGette?
3230 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3231 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3232 Ms. Schakowsky?
3233 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3234 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3235 Ms. Matsui?
3236 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3237 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3238 Ms. Castor?

3239 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3240 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3241 Mr. Tonko?
3242 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3243 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3244 Ms. Clarke?
3245 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3246 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3247 Mr. Ruiz?
3248 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3249 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3250 Mr. Peters?
3251 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3252 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3253 Mrs. Dingell?
3254 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3255 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3256 Mr. Veasey?
3257 [No response.]
3258 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
3259 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3260 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3261 Ms. Barragan?
3262 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3263 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

3264 Mr. Soto?

3265 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

3266 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

3267 Ms. Schrier?

3268 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

3269 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

3270 Mrs. Trahan?

3271 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

3272 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

3273 Mrs. Fletcher?

3274 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

3275 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

3276 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

3277 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

3278 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

3279 Mr. Auchincloss?

3280 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

3281 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

3282 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

3283 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

3284 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

3285 Mr. Menendez?

3286 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

3287 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

3288 Mr. Mullin?

3289 [No response.]

3290 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

3291 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

3292 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

3293 Ms. McClellan?

3294 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

3295 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

3296 Chairman Guthrie?

3297 *The Chair. No.

3298 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

3299 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter recorded?

3300 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

3301 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Carter votes no.

3302 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

3303 *Mr. Joyce. How is Mr. Pfluger reported?

3304 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.

3305 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

3306 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

3307 *Mr. Joyce. How is Mr. Hudson reported?

3308 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson is not recorded.

3309 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.

3310 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

3311 *Dr. Joyce. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

3312 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie is recorded as no.

3313 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the result.

3314 [Pause.]

3315 *The Clerk. Chairman Joyce, on that vote there were 22
3316 ayes and 27 noes.

3317 *Mr. Joyce. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
3318 any further amendments?

3319 *Ms. Castor. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
3320 desk.

3321 *Mr. Joyce. For what purpose does the gentlelady seek
3322 recognition?

3323 *Ms. Castor. I have an amendment at the desk, ENG_13.

3324 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.

3325 *The Clerk. An amendment to Draft Oversight Plan
3326 ENG_13. On page six, under the heading "Management of the
3327 Department of Energy and its National Laboratories," after
3328 the second sentence, insert the following.

3329 *Mr. Joyce. Without objection, the reading of the
3330 amendment is dispensed with.

3331 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

3332

3333 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3334

3335 *Mr. Joyce. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
3336 minutes in support of her amendment.

3337 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3338 Colleagues, out of all of the outrageous, damaging, and
3339 illegal firings and shutdowns, whether we are talking about
3340 the inspectors general, or the top military JAG officers, or
3341 the folks in charge of the Department of the Oversight Ethics
3342 office _ I mean, the list goes on and on _ I think we can all
3343 agree that one of the most troubling was the firings at the
3344 National Nuclear Security Administration. Their professional
3345 workforce was targeted by Elon Musk and Donald Trump's
3346 reckless gutting of the Federal workforce and the illegal
3347 layoffs. But I really hope this is an area that can garner
3348 bipartisan support because we desperately need oversight
3349 here.

3350 You all _ and for the new members of this committee,
3351 this is a little bit unique. The National Nuclear Security
3352 Administration is an agency within the Department of Energy,
3353 and it is tasked with securing dangerous nuclear materials
3354 and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Their
3355 work is so sensitive that even inadvertent inquiries into how
3356 the NSA [sic] spends money abroad could compromise sensitive
3357 information about cooperation between the United States and
3358 other governments to keep highly enriched uranium secure.

3359 I mean, this is the kind of data that our adversaries

3360 would love to get their hands on. These are the kind of
3361 professionals that we desperately need to retain and keep on
3362 the job. Even the new energy secretary, Chris Wright, said
3363 on February 7th publicly that Elon Musk's staffers did not
3364 have access to secretive information about U.S. nuclear
3365 weapons stockpile at NNSA. But despite that, two weeks ago
3366 Elon Musk and his associates kept at it. They went in and
3367 they fired 300 professional staffers at NNSA. This includes
3368 the employees, the professionals who write requirements and
3369 guidelines for contractors who build nuclear weapons. And
3370 that is what we have seen. That is what has happened.

3371 Silence from the other side. It is just completely
3372 outrageous. This included the professional staffers working
3373 on the ground at facilities where nuclear weapons are built.
3374 They are overseeing contractors and inspecting these weapons.
3375 Let me tell you a few of these places.

3376 In Tennessee, the Y-12 National Security Complex, where
3377 they deal with uranium, lithium capability, material and
3378 process research _ the Savannah River site in South Carolina,
3379 they are doing important work in tritium recycling,
3380 extraction. The Savannah Nuclear Solutions Group, they have
3381 private contractors there. Pantex plant in Texas, where they
3382 are doing weapons assembly and disassembly, surveillance,
3383 high explosives, I mean, how dare this guy who is a tech
3384 billionaire come in and target our national security?

3385 Who gave him the authority to go after our nuclear
3386 experts and fire them?

3387 Don't you think this is an area for oversight? I think
3388 so.

3389 In fact, Mr. Chairman, are there any hearings planned
3390 right now, or have any letters been written under your
3391 signature that have demanded answers here on this topic?

3392 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Nothing currently planned.

3393 *Ms. Castor. No oversight hearings currently planned
3394 about the arbitrary firing _ firing of our nuclear experts.
3395 It is scary. It is also wasteful. It is a waste of time and
3396 money, that you _ that Elon Musk and Donald Trump allowed
3397 these experts to be fired, put them all through this turmoil.
3398 Who knows where that data has gone?

3399 I think this is a topic, a very important topic for
3400 oversight and investigation of the Energy and Commerce
3401 Committee.

3402 *Mr. Pfluger. Will the gentlelady yield?

3403 *Ms. Castor. They didn't even _ yes, I will yield.

3404 *Mr. Pfluger. I just want to clarify. Maybe I heard it
3405 wrong. Are you alleging that the Administration has broken
3406 the law when it comes to security clearances?

3407 *Ms. Castor. They certainly have broken the law _

3408 *Mr. Pfluger. No, but when you _

3409 *Ms. Castor. _ when it comes to the firing of the

3410 inspectors general.

3411 *Mr. Pfluger. No, I am talking security clearances.

3412 Are you alleging that they have somehow broken the law?

3413 *Ms. Castor. I am _ thank you, Mr. Pfluger. Yes, I
3414 think this is so arbitrary and outlandish, to go in and fire
3415 people who are responsible for our nuclear enterprise,
3416 working at our labs, making sure our nuclear weapons are safe
3417 and secure. Yes, I think it is outrageous, and I think the
3418 lawsuits are ongoing right now.

3419 Since I am a little bit over my time, I will yield back,
3420 but I am not done.

3421 [Laughter.]

3422 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
3423 recognizes the gentleman from Ohio for five minutes.

3424 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, strike the last
3425 word.

3426 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

3427 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3428 The committee in its oversight plan will examine the
3429 impact of government policies and actions on the supply and
3430 delivery of energy, and this includes all agencies that
3431 impact the supply and delivery of energy. Its oversight and
3432 related policy inquiries will examine the management,
3433 governance, and operations of the Department of Energy, which
3434 also will include the nuclear weapons enterprise.

3435 DoE, under orders from the Office of Personnel
3436 Management two weeks ago laid off fewer than 700 probationary
3437 employees. Fewer than 50 were at NNSA, the National Nuclear
3438 Security Administration. National security and mission-
3439 critical positions were exempt. To the extent that any
3440 unintended dismissals occurred, the agency leadership is
3441 correcting this.

3442 Let us not forget the speed at which the agency has been
3443 expanded under the Biden Administration, with no effort by
3444 the minority to assess the waste and bloat of these actions.
3445 DoE's budget requests increased 45 percent since 2021 and
3446 roughly 35 billion to over 50 billion. Add this to the 100
3447 billion in addition to IRA and Infrastructure Act spending,
3448 and a 20 percent increase in workforce, or 3,000 employees,
3449 and there is certainly room to reduce and streamline. In the
3450 last year alone the Biden Administration added 1,000
3451 employees at DoE, bringing the total Federal employees there
3452 to 17,500. The contractor workforce at the National Labs,
3453 nuclear security, and weapons sites and other sites expanded
3454 from 120,000 to 135,000 personnel.

3455 The oversight plan is sufficient to monitor personnel
3456 developments at DoE and NSA [sic], and I urge my colleagues
3457 to oppose the amendment, and I _

3458 *Mr. Weber. Will the gentleman yield?

3459 *Mr. Latta. And I yield to my friend, the gentleman

3460 from Texas.

3461 *Mr. Weber. I thank the gentleman. It is interesting
3462 that the congresswoman from Florida makes the statement, and
3463 then she pauses and she says _ she waits about 5 or 10
3464 seconds and then she says, "Silence from the other side.'" I
3465 would remind my friends across the aisle that, when you are
3466 listening to a fairy tale, you normally let them get all the
3467 way to the end. And so we listened to the fairy tale, and
3468 let you get all the way to the end.

3469 To our chairman's point, in the last year alone the
3470 Biden-Harris Administration added 1,000 employees at DoE,
3471 which would bring the total Federal employees there to
3472 17,500, and nothing has been done about improving permitting.
3473 Nothing has been done about making sure that we have the
3474 energy we need.

3475 And with that I yield back.

3476 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my
3477 time.

3478 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
3479 recognizes the gentlelady from Colorado for five minutes.

3480 *Ms. DeGette. I move to strike the last word.

3481 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

3482 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3483 Well, actually, this amendment is not about all those
3484 other things. This amendment is about the firing of these

3485 nuclear inspectors. And I just want to clarify for Mr.
3486 Pfluger. Yes, we do think that the firing of these
3487 inspectors was illegal because DOGE is _

3488 *Mr. Pfluger. No, will the gentlelady yield?

3489 *Ms. DeGette. Excuse me, let me finish my statement.
3490 DOGE is an illegal agency, and Elon Musk was not appointed by
3491 anybody, and that is what we are talking about here.

3492 I am now going to yield my time to Ms. Castor to finish
3493 her statement.

3494 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Rep. DeGette.

3495 Boy, I wish this was a fairy tale. I wish _ I _ it is
3496 so outlandish that if someone swooped in to say, "Is this
3497 really happening," they would really be scratching their
3498 heads. It is like we are living in the upside down, where
3499 you have an unelected billionaire swooping in and illegally
3500 firing public servants across the country, sending arbitrary
3501 emails.

3502 But I think what we are doing here is trying to
3503 highlight how serious this is when Elon Musk and his
3504 associates swoop in to our nuclear security professionals and
3505 try to clean house, and do so without even getting to know
3506 what does this agency do. It is irresponsible, it is
3507 reckless, it is dangerous. It is something that China,
3508 Russia, our adversaries across the world are cheering on.
3509 You better believe they are.

3510 And who knows? This is one reason it is important to
3511 have oversight. What data did they extract from this agency?
3512 I think that is a fair question. Who were the people? Who
3513 were the experts that they coerced and put on leave or fired?
3514 What connections do they have, if any, to our adversaries?

3515 Even the new energy secretary, Chris Wright, said he _
3516 he tried to play off these firings as him just having moved a
3517 little too quickly there. As he said in an interview, he
3518 said, "The problem is you can't move a little too quickly
3519 when the consequences can harm our national security.'`

3520 So our committee is responsible for oversight. We
3521 should take it seriously. This isn't a game. You can't just
3522 tweet about imaginary job cuts or illegally withholding
3523 contractually-obligated funds like Musk is doing. The DoE's
3524 oversight of our nuclear weapons stockpile is one of its most
3525 important functions. More money goes to the NNSA than all of
3526 DoE's energy programs combined. It is _ it absolutely must
3527 be a priority for this committee's oversight efforts this
3528 Congress. I do not _ this should have been a hearing as soon
3529 as this happened, because it is that serious. We have got to
3530 get to the truth amidst all of this corruption and chaos.

3531 So I will urge my colleagues to vote yes on this
3532 amendment and yield back my time.

3533 *Ms. DeGette. And I will yield to Mr. Pfluger.

3534 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes, thank you. I just want to state for

3535 the record that that was a complete mischaracterization of my
3536 question.

3537 My question was not what you said, it was actually are
3538 _ is Ms. Castor alleging that the Administration has broken
3539 the law with regards to security clearances, which is what I
3540 thought I heard. It had nothing to do with anything else
3541 that was said. So _

3542 *Ms. DeGette. Well, I get _

3543 *Mr. Pfluger. Are _

3544 *Ms. DeGette. Reclaiming my time _

3545 *Mr. Pfluger. Is Ms. _

3546 *Ms. DeGette. Reclaiming my time, I suppose that if we
3547 could have the hearing, then we would find out the answer to
3548 that question.

3549 And I yield back.

3550 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
3551 anyone seeking recognition on the Republican side?

3552 Seeing none, the gentlelady from California is
3553 recognized for five minutes.

3554 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going
3555 to say anything, but the fairy tale comment _ this is
3556 indicative of what is going on across the aisle. It is our
3557 colleagues. They laugh, they think it is funny. They think
3558 it is funny, that thousands of people across this country are
3559 being laid off and let go. Not in a specific surgical review

3560 of their jobs and what they are doing, but it is getting a
3561 sledgehammer and saying let's just fire all these people
3562 without knowing what they do, what the impact will be of not
3563 having this work anymore. That is the reality. That is not
3564 a fairy tale. That is the reality.

3565 The reality also is that there is no disputing _ zero
3566 disputing that this Administration, along with DOGE, tried to
3567 just fire 350 employees at the National Nuclear Security
3568 Administration, just abruptly, without knowing what they even
3569 do. They were fired.

3570 Now, one of the hardest-hit offices was in Texas, which
3571 saw 30 percent of the cuts. The employees there work mostly
3572 on reassembling warheads, one of the most sensitive jobs
3573 across the nuclear weapons enterprise with the highest levels
3574 of clearance. Yet, as was stated by Daryl Kimball, executive
3575 director of the Arms Control Association, referencing Elon
3576 Musk's Department of Government Efficiency team, "The DOGE
3577 people' _ and I am quoting _ "are coming in with absolutely
3578 no knowledge of what these departments are responsible for.'"

3579 This is what is happening. This is no fairy tale. This
3580 is serious nuclear business. And make no mistake, this
3581 Administration and the silence of my Republican colleagues to
3582 stand up and try to protect some kind of a system, to
3583 actually do this in an efficient way, to actually be more
3584 strategic and surgical about how to do this, they are totally

3585 silent. So they are saying it is okay.

3586 So if you are one of the Federal employees and workers
3587 that has been fired, who has been let go, why don't you call
3588 and make sure your voice is heard to those people who are not
3589 standing up for you, who are totally silent on this issue?

3590 And my last point I want to make is this Administration
3591 and my House Republicans are making this country less safe.
3592 Let me say that again. They are making this country less
3593 safe. Just think about it. They are laying off workers in
3594 charge of the most sensitive information without knowing
3595 anything.

3596 The smoke and the mirrors of fairy tale language and so
3597 on and so forth is very disingenuous.

3598 And with that I yield back.

3599 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
3600 further discussion?

3601 Since we do have further discussion, we are going to
3602 probably have to recess for votes, and then we will come back
3603 and we will begin with you, Dr. Schrier. All right?

3604 So we will _ the committee will be in recess until 15
3605 minutes after the last vote.

3606 [Recess.]

3607 *The Chair. The committee will come back to order.

3608 We were _ Ms. _ Dr. Schrier was next to speak, right?

3609 So to come back to order, I believe when we recessed to

3610 go vote Dr. Schrier was in the queue to speak.

3611 So Dr. Schrier, you are recognized for five minutes.

3612 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were talking
3613 about protecting our nuclear experts, and I move to strike
3614 the last word.

3615 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

3616 *Ms. Schrier. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3617 While this amendment is about mainly the critical staff
3618 that were laid off from jobs safeguarding our nuclear
3619 arsenal, similar layoffs at the Department of Energy targeted
3620 another really critical group of workers in nuclear safety.
3621 In fact, just 16 miles down the Columbia River from my
3622 district is one of the largest and most expensive
3623 environmental cleanup projects worldwide: the Hanford
3624 cleanup site.

3625 Hanford, for those who don't know, manufactured nuclear
3626 weapons during the 1940s. The Hanford Site has been
3627 undergoing cleanup and remediation now for over 30 years.
3628 Underground tanks, meant to be permanent, were first built in
3629 the 1950s and 1960s, but they are now leaking, adding to the
3630 more than 1 million gallons of hazardous waste that the
3631 Washington Ecology estimates is already in the soil across
3632 the Hanford Site, which is then heading toward the Columbia
3633 River.

3634 Under current standards, the cleanup and remediation is

3635 not expected to be completed until the 2070s. And that is
3636 why _ one reason why _ it is unconscionable that this
3637 Administration indiscriminately fired over a dozen workers,
3638 including safety engineers, environmental scientists, and
3639 safety inspectors who are absolutely critical to this cleanup
3640 effort. It cannot move quickly enough. Delays in funding
3641 and cleanup put the Columbia River and the entire region, and
3642 certainly surrounding communities, at risk.

3643 And by the way, that public safety exemption under the
3644 Administration's executive order did not save their jobs.
3645 And I would just challenge anyone to try to explain to the
3646 constituents of central Washington, to these residents or,
3647 frankly, to the rest of the country how this improves
3648 efficiency without compromising their personal or our public
3649 safety.

3650 And with that I want to thank you, and I will yield
3651 back.

3652 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
3653 discussion on the Republican side?

3654 Seeing none, any further discussion on the Democrat
3655 side?

3656 [Pause.]

3657 *The Chair. The committee will suspend.

3658 [Pause.]

3659 *The Chair. Okay, if there is no further discussion,

3660 the vote occurs on the amendment.

3661 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

3662 All those opposed, no.

3663 The noes have it, and the amendment is not agreed to.

3664 Are there any other amendments at the desk?

3665 For what purpose does the gentlewoman from Massachusetts
3666 seek recognition?

3667 *Mrs. Trahan. I have an amendment at the desk.

3668 *The Chair. The clerk will report. Do you have the
3669 amendment number?

3670 Clerk?

3671 *Mrs. Trahan. Yes, I just need my glasses. It is
3672 titled HE11. Thank you.

3673 *The Chair. Thank you. The clerk will report the
3674 amendment.

3675 *The Clerk. Amendment to Draft Oversight Plan HE11. At
3676 the end of the second _

3677 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
3678 amendment is dispensed with.

3679 [The amendment of Mrs. Trahan follows:]

3680

3681 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3682

3683 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
3684 minutes in support of the amendment.

3685 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3686 My amendment would ensure this committee examines the
3687 full impact of proposed cuts to the National Institutes of
3688 Health, cuts that would devastate medical innovation in this
3689 country, and set us back decades in the fight against life-
3690 threatening diseases.

3691 Alzheimer's disease currently affects over 6 million
3692 Americans and imposes an estimated annual cost of 321 billion
3693 on our health care system, a figure projected to nearly
3694 triple by 2050. Recent advancements such as the development
3695 of anti-amyloid antibodies have shown promise in slowing the
3696 progression of Alzheimer's. These therapies, emerging after
3697 decades of rigorous research, represent significant strides
3698 toward effective treatment.

3699 However, proposed cuts to NIH funding threaten to halt
3700 this momentum, undermining the critical discoveries that
3701 patients and families desperately await. Federal investment
3702 in NIH research has been instrumental in achieving these
3703 break-throughs, and reducing support now would jeopardize the
3704 potential for future life-changing treatments.

3705 Congress took a bold step forward by establishing ARPA-H
3706 to accelerate cutting-edge medical break-throughs. But
3707 slashing NIH funding now would turn back the clock,

3708 undermining the very progress this committee has fought so
3709 hard to achieve, progress that has the power to transform and
3710 save American lives.

3711 And while we consider turning our backs on the world's
3712 best scientists, let's be clear. Our global competitors are
3713 watching. Nations like China are investing heavily in
3714 biomedical research. They see what is happening here, and
3715 they will gladly take our place as the leader in medical
3716 innovation if we let them. This isn't just about research
3717 funding. It is about national security, economic
3718 competitiveness, and maintaining our place as the global
3719 standard for medical excellence.

3720 If we are going to fundamentally change the way we fund
3721 medical research in this country, it should happen through
3722 the appropriate legislative process, not at the whims of
3723 billionaires who have zero understanding of how scientific
3724 funding works. We don't leave our defense budget up to
3725 Twitter polls. We don't let venture capitalists rewrite the
3726 rules for how we educate our children. So why would we
3727 gamble with the future of medical research in the same way?

3728 Because let's be clear about what is at stake. These
3729 cuts don't just mean fewer grants and less lab equipment,
3730 they mean fewer clinical trials for patients fighting rare
3731 disease, fewer young scientists entering the field because
3732 research careers become unsustainable, and slower drug

3733 development for conditions affecting millions of Americans.
3734 We cannot afford to turn our backs on the next lifesaving
3735 treatment, the next revolutionary break-through, the next
3736 cure all because some think we should leave it up to private
3737 industry to decide which diseases are worth attention.

3738 This committee has a duty to examine the full impact of
3739 these proposed cuts before we make a mistake that we cannot
3740 undo. Patients, scientists, and families across this country
3741 are counting on us to protect the NIH and ensure America
3742 remains the world leader in medical innovation.

3743 And when families reach the worst case scenario for a
3744 loved one, when they look their doctor in the eye and ask,
3745 "What more can you do," the NIH is the institution that
3746 works to get them an answer in the form of a medical miracle.
3747 It is the engine behind the break-throughs that turn despair
3748 into hope, and we cannot afford to let it falter.

3749 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I
3750 yield back.

3751 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. For what
3752 purpose does the gentleman from Georgia seek recognition?

3753 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I ask to strike the last word.

3754 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

3755 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I would like to
3756 speak in opposition to the amendment.

3757 As I read the memo released by the NIH, there are no

3758 cuts, no cuts to available funding. Yes, I did use the word
3759 "cuts," but please note that I modified it before and said
3760 "no," no cuts. It is a cap on where funds can be spent, and
3761 it has since been paused by a Federal judge.

3762 In other words, if the policy continues, depending on
3763 what happens in the courts, the total amount of funding
3764 available for research projects would not change. But NIH
3765 grant recipients would need to use more of the funding on
3766 research and not facilities and administration costs, known
3767 as indirect cost.

3768 Energy and Commerce and other committees have been
3769 talking about indirect costs for some time now. Both sides
3770 of the aisle have been talking about indirect costs for some
3771 time now. Some universities _ take, for instance, Harvard _
3772 have a \$50 billion endowment, \$50 billion endowment, yet uses
3773 nearly 70 percent of taxpayer money, taxpayer-funded grants,
3774 for overhead and administrative costs. It amounts to limited
3775 taxpayer dollars being used to subsidize incredibly well-off
3776 universities.

3777 President Trump was elected to rein in government, and
3778 he has made it clear that his Administration will scrutinize
3779 every taxpayer dollar to make sure it is being spent
3780 effectively.

3781 Additionally, the oversight plan indicates that the
3782 committee will conduct oversight of the NIH, including how

3783 Federal agencies approve and monitor grants to ensure the
3784 safe, appropriate, and efficient use of Federal tax dollars.
3785 This is certainly broad enough to capture research on
3786 Alzheimer's disease, pediatric cancer, rare diseases, and
3787 other public health research, as specifically noted in the
3788 amendment.

3789 This amendment does not improve the committee's
3790 oversight plan, and is simply a political talking point. I
3791 urge a no vote on the amendment and I yield back.

3792 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
3793 from California is recognized for five minutes.

3794 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
3795 Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

3796 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

3797 *Ms. Matsui. First I would like to thank Representative
3798 Trahan for her amendment asking for oversight into the
3799 firings and freezes at NIH. I would like to associate myself
3800 with her amendment and all the remarks made will be made in
3801 support of that amendment.

3802 My amendment focuses on a specific impact of NIH policy
3803 freezes, which has historically enjoyed great bipartisan
3804 support: rare diseases. This week is Rare Disease Week.
3805 Thousands of patients and families are here in D.C. for a
3806 week of community engagement and productive conversations
3807 with governor partners. Yet yesterday I received word that

3808 the NIH and FDA has canceled two days of Rare Disease Day
3809 events at the last minute because many of the employees
3810 working on the program were fired over the weekend.

3811 Now, this is greatly disappointing to those families,
3812 many of whom were already in D.C. when the events were
3813 canceled. But that disappointment pales in comparison to
3814 what is to come if these careless attacks on our scientific
3815 agencies continue.

3816 We are in an unprecedented moment of attacks on science.
3817 Whether it is arbitrarily cutting NIH research grants,
3818 replacing scientists' judgment about how and what they can
3819 research, or injecting uncertainty and fear into researchers'
3820 lives. These attacks threaten the entire research and
3821 development ecosystem.

3822 The impacts are not abstract. NIH-funded research
3823 impacts all of us, bringing solutions to our most pressing
3824 problems. But for the 1 in 10 Americans with a rare disease,
3825 it is often the only hope for a break-through cure. These
3826 scientific break-throughs often lead to drugs that are taken
3827 up by pharma companies. But companies don't want to invest
3828 in the long haul of basic research into the diseases. That
3829 is why NIH funding is absolutely vital.

3830 For example, decades of NIH-funded research helped
3831 uncover insights about a certain protein that is altered in
3832 patients with cystic fibrosis. That research made it

3833 possible for a pharmaceutical company to develop the first
3834 medicines to treat the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis.
3835 But even if private companies could take on the role of
3836 primary research and development without NIH funds, they
3837 won't have any trained scientists to conduct the research.
3838 NIH dollars train the next generation of scientists.

3839 In response to the Trump Administration's wanton cuts,
3840 grad schools are pausing or closing their admissions because
3841 they don't know if they can support more trainees in the
3842 chaotic funding environment. The attacks are already chasing
3843 bright minds away from these positions, reducing U.S.
3844 competitiveness.

3845 This committee has a responsibility to oversee our
3846 Federal biomedical research enterprise. Standing idly by
3847 while an unelected billionaire dismantles that carefully
3848 constructed research ecosystem is unacceptable. So I urge my
3849 colleagues to support my amendment, especially _ support
3850 Representative Trahan's amendment, especially given the
3851 impacts on the futures and hopes of rare disease patients.

3852 With that I yield the balance of my time.

3853 *The Chair. I thank the gentlelady for yielding. She
3854 yields back. Is there anyone on the Republican side?

3855 Seeing none, Mr. Tonko of New York, you are recognized
3856 for five minutes.

3857 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the

3858 last word.

3859 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

3860 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you.

3861 I really do believe that America's intellectual capacity
3862 is her greatest asset. And to deny that asset and not work
3863 it for the betterment of not only Americans, but people
3864 around the world, it is a really _ a sense of falling far
3865 short.

3866 The Trump Administration's decision to block key Federal
3867 funding mechanisms for biomedical research is doing real and
3868 lasting damage, halting progress on lifesaving treatments for
3869 diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and the number-one killer
3870 in our nation, cardiovascular disease. Every 33 seconds,
3871 someone in the U.S. dies from cardiovascular disease. One of
3872 my constituents, Dr. Michelle Lennartz, is working to change
3873 that. Her research could help us better understand heart
3874 disease. But thanks to this reckless funding pause, her work
3875 is in jeopardy.

3876 NIH grants go through a rigorous, multi-step review
3877 process, with final approval resting on advisory committee
3878 meetings. Dr. Lennartz's grant was on the agenda for the
3879 January 27 meeting of that committee, one that never
3880 happened. Now the future of her lab, her students, and her
3881 career hangs in the future _ hangs in the balance. This
3882 isn't just bureaucratic red tape. It is a direct attack on

3883 scientific progress.

3884 Delays like this don't just stall research. They stall
3885 hope, hope for patients and families counting on break-
3886 throughs. We need this funding restored. Lives depend on
3887 it.

3888 And again, we can make a difference by ending the
3889 congressional paralysis and doing our job and assuming the
3890 responsibilities and opportunities that the Constitution
3891 grants us.

3892 With that I yield back.

3893 *The Chair. Thank you. I thank the gentleman for
3894 yielding back. The gentleman from California is recognized
3895 for _ the gentleman of California, Mr. Obernolte.

3896 *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you, Mr. _

3897 *The Chair. We got a lot of Californians, so I will
3898 clarify that.

3899 Mr. Obernolte is recognized for five minutes.

3900 *Mr. Obernolte. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
3901 word.

3902 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

3903 *Mr. Obernolte. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment.
3904 I share my colleagues' support for the good research that NIH
3905 is doing. I have been a member of the Science, Space, and
3906 Technology Committee for over four years. I currently am the
3907 chairman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee on SST,

3908 and we have jurisdiction over the NIH's research budget. So
3909 I have been fighting for over four years now to get more
3910 funding for the NIH, so I support my colleagues' good words
3911 in that respect.

3912 But no discussion about this, about all the good work
3913 the NIH is doing, can be had without discussing some of the
3914 wasteful spending that was recently discovered at the NIH,
3915 and I will give you a couple of examples: \$2.3 million on a
3916 program for injecting beagles with cocaine; \$611,000 on a
3917 study entitled, "Evaluating Microaggressions Among Latinx
3918 Individuals with Obesity'"; \$87,000 to study the role of the
3919 Estrous Cycle on Oxycodone Cravings in Female Rats; \$19
3920 million to study why lesbian women of color prefer menthol
3921 cigarettes; and my personal favorite, \$710,000 to study the
3922 correlation between binge drinking on Super Bowl Sunday and
3923 the birth of babies nine months later, which I could probably
3924 shed some light on, and it wouldn't cost \$700,000.

3925 So if those projects went through a rigorous, multi-step
3926 review process, I would like _ really like to see what is
3927 wrong with the reviews that we are doing.

3928 And folks, the problem here is that every dollar that we
3929 spend _ I mean, these might be worthy topics of discussion
3930 and research for someone's PhD thesis, but this is taxpayer
3931 money we are talking about. And every money that we spend on
3932 one of these projects and programs is a dollar that we are

3933 not able to spend on the good work that my colleagues have
3934 mentioned: curing cancer, finding cures for some of these
3935 diseases. So that is why I am glad that we are taking a look
3936 at the work that NIH is doing, and I am glad that we are
3937 doing some review on that.

3938 So for that reason I would oppose this amendment and
3939 urge my colleagues to vote no.

3940 I yield back.

3941 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Let's go down
3942 the _ the gentlelady from Michigan, we will keep working down
3943 the aisle. The gentlelady from Michigan, you are recognized
3944 for five minutes.

3945 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
3946 strike the last word.

3947 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

3948 *Mrs. Dingell. I wish to align myself with Mrs.
3949 Trahan's amendment, because I am very concerned about the
3950 Trump Administration's recent announcement of what they are
3951 doing to NIH grants. And I _ while I happened _ the titles
3952 that you just read are certainly something we should be
3953 looking into, I don't think a meat axe is the way that we
3954 need to be approaching it.

3955 And by the way, when I made a comment innocently saying
3956 why are we doing that, I learned about a lifesaving break-
3957 through that ended up in saving a lot of people in cancer.

3958 So we need to get more information on these. We need to, but
3959 we don't cut and stop everything.

3960 And on top of these indirect cost rates that have
3961 happened, NIH has stopped considering that _ new grant
3962 applications because they are blocking the NIH from posting
3963 any new notices on the Federal Register, which means that new
3964 grants aren't being looked at, advisory committees can't
3965 meet. They are obfuscating the fact that _ a lot of research
3966 that was making a difference in many people's lives.

3967 I had a mother that is being treated at the University
3968 of Michigan call me, sobbing. Her child has leukemia. She
3969 has been like, they say they can't do anything. She is just
3970 frozen in the trial. I don't think that is what we mean to
3971 happen, either.

3972 I have heard from countless researchers who are
3973 terrified about what this means for the future of biomedical
3974 research. One wrote me, "If the block on the Federal
3975 Register isn't removed in the next few months, I fear a
3976 majority of labs will close within a year. This small
3977 procedural wrench has the power to kill U.S. science
3978 indefinitely, losing an entire generation of discovery and
3979 innovation.'`

3980 So these funding cuts and the disruptions threaten to
3981 undo a lot of progress that we all care about. This is
3982 impacting lifesaving cures, treatments, devices, and

3983 therapies for some of our nation's most pressing needs, from
3984 pancreatic cancer to addiction to children's health.

3985 One of the studies that was stopped last week when they
3986 fired a researcher at the VA _ was joint NIH-VA _ was looking
3987 at burn pits. I don't think we don't want to learn more
3988 about our veterans exposed to burn pits.

3989 Let's _ and let's be clear, most of the lifesaving
3990 medications that are taken today wouldn't be possible without
3991 NIH funding. So I hope all my colleagues will join me in
3992 being very worried about this misguided decision that is
3993 going to undoubtedly endanger our country's health.

3994 I urge you to support Mrs. Trahan's amendment, and I
3995 yield.

3996 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Any member of
3997 the Republican side?

3998 Seeing none, next would be Mrs. Fletcher from Texas.

3999 You are recognized for five minutes.

4000 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
4001 strike the last word.

4002 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

4003 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4004 Recent advances in biomedical and health sciences, from
4005 immunotherapy as a cancer treatment to the highly-effective
4006 COVID-19 vaccines, demonstrate the strengths and successes of
4007 the U.S. biomedical enterprise.

4008 And Houston, which I am so proud to represent, is home
4009 to multiple world-leading medical care and research
4010 institutions, including the world's largest medical complex
4011 at the Texas Medical Center, which employs more than 100,000
4012 people, has 10 million patient encounters a year, and GDP of
4013 \$25 billion just at the Texas Medical Center alone.

4014 The Trump Administration's announcement that it would
4015 not honor the individually negotiated contracts with
4016 institutions across the country and would instead impose
4017 blanket cuts across the board to indirect costs threatens to
4018 devastate medical health research _ in our community,
4019 certainly, but across the country, as many of my colleagues
4020 have already noted.

4021 And I think one thing that is important for us to think
4022 about here and to understand is to think a little bit about
4023 the history. I listened to a really interesting news story
4024 the other day, where the editor in chief of the journal
4025 Science explained that about 70 years ago, after World War
4026 II, the United States decided that, instead of building its
4027 own research buildings and hiring its own scientists, that it
4028 would carry out national research efforts at universities.
4029 And the idea behind that was that it was mainly that
4030 professors would be carrying out the research. They would be
4031 more independent, they would be more creative if they were
4032 doing it this way, rather than being directed by the

4033 government.

4034 Obviously, that is expensive, and so the institutions
4035 and the government decided they would split the costs
4036 roughly. And the Federal Government's contribution to that
4037 comes in the form of these indirect cost portions of the
4038 grant, and that is a fraction of the direct costs they are
4039 contributing. And I think it is just really important to say
4040 we have built up this enterprise over the last 70 years that
4041 has been roughly splitting the costs 50/50 between the
4042 government and these institutions.

4043 And one of the things that really struck me when I first
4044 got to Congress _ I, like Mr. Obernolte, served on the
4045 Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and I was always
4046 struck at every single hearing by the witnesses' testimony
4047 about the collaboration between the research institutions,
4048 the government, and the private sector at every single
4049 hearing. That is by design, and we see it working incredibly
4050 successfully time and again in that committee and in the work
4051 that they came to testify about. But these arbitrary,
4052 across-the-board cuts undermine our entire research system.
4053 In Texas alone, the NIH funds 4,400 active projects that
4054 totaled \$2.5 billion.

4055 And I think it is important also for us to remember that
4056 they are not just damaging for the long-term success of the
4057 enterprise. They are prohibited by law. And since 2018 the

4058 Congress, us, we have said in our appropriations bills _ most
4059 recently the last appropriations bill _ that banning _ we ban
4060 NIH from making changes to how indirect costs are determined.
4061 That is the direction of Congress.

4062 And so, once again, I ask my colleagues, why are we
4063 ceding our authority? Why are we allowing Elon Musk to
4064 replace his judgment for ours? Why are we not exercising our
4065 oversight capacity now, and ensuring that what is happening
4066 _ we can look into the kinds of things that we have heard
4067 about today. We should be looking and performing our
4068 oversight function. But instead, we seem to be ceding all of
4069 our authority to an unelected person and his team.

4070 And my constituents, as I said earlier, have a lot of
4071 questions about this, but I think it is really important that
4072 we remember that we are here for a reason, and we all got
4073 elected too, and people expect us to do this work that we
4074 were sent here to do. And I have got a lot of constituents
4075 asking me, where is Congress? Why isn't Congress doing this?

4076 Why aren't we asserting our committee's jurisdiction
4077 here? Why aren't we asserting our authority here as
4078 Congress?

4079 And I think it is really important that we vote in favor
4080 of this amendment, that we exercise our jurisdiction, that we
4081 assert our authority, and that we do the work that we were
4082 sent here to do.

4083 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4084 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.

4085 Anyone on the Republican side?

4086 Seeing none, the gentlelady from California, Ms.

4087 Barragan, is recognized for five minutes.

4088 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4089 My colleague cited some Harvard amount of money, but
4090 let's look to Georgia. Are you willing to go and get your
4091 sledgehammer and go after the Emory University or the
4092 University of Georgia's Augusta? Or how about we look at
4093 University of Georgia Tech? What about Morehouse School of
4094 Medicine? Those are all academic institutions in your state.
4095 Would you want to do that? Nobody wants to do that. We
4096 don't want to do that.

4097 But it is very disingenuous to pick out one institution
4098 and not to name an institution maybe that is in your district
4099 or your state. As a matter of fact, the number of academic
4100 institutions that get funding from NIH are very heavily
4101 Republican. Let's look at Texas: University of Texas
4102 Southwestern Medical Center; in Alabama, the University of
4103 Alabama at Birmingham; in Florida, the University of Florida.

4104 The disagreement is not where their program should be
4105 looked at and that we should see where things should be cut.
4106 The disagreement is that you all, our Republican colleagues,
4107 are saying that is okay, we don't need to have a role in

4108 this. Just _ we will let you, Mr. billionaire that was not
4109 elected, we will let you just decide where we are just going
4110 to make all these cuts, without even looking at the programs.

4111 Now, some of the cuts that were made by this
4112 Administration and Elon Musk, which my Republican colleagues
4113 have been totally silent on, totally silent, which is
4114 complicity, is the cuts and the devastation to the Center for
4115 Alzheimer's and Related Dementias, CARD. They fired _ one-
4116 tenth of its critical workforce is out of jobs. CARD is the
4117 forefront of groundbreaking research not only for
4118 Alzheimer's, but for Parkinson's disease. Scientists across
4119 the nation depend on CARD's research. So if you gut CARD,
4120 you are gutting critical research nationwide, setting us back
4121 years, if not decades.

4122 This isn't just policy. These are personal. These are
4123 people's lives. We have heard from people on this dais of
4124 their family members who have this. Why would you take a
4125 sledgehammer and just cut without looking and assessing
4126 programs? And that is what we are talking about here today.
4127 It is looking at the jobs that have been cut, it is looking
4128 at the impact that it is going to have, and the negative
4129 impact it also will have for health outcomes.

4130 Millions of Americans and families who live with
4131 Alzheimer's fight every single day. Do we have their back or
4132 do we not have their back?

4133 My colleagues across the aisle are saying it is okay, we
4134 are going _ not going to look at it, we are going to let
4135 somebody else come in and decide that we are just going to
4136 fire people indiscriminately. Because make no mistake, that
4137 is exactly what is happening over and over again.

4138 So let's have the conversation about actually looking at
4139 programs instead of just being silent and letting somebody
4140 else do this in such an irresponsible manner. And I heard we
4141 want to be responsible. Are you kidding me? There is so
4142 much irresponsibility happening now, and nobody is speaking
4143 out. And that is what we are trying to do today, is to
4144 include this in the oversight plan.

4145 As Republicans remain silent, Elon Musk and Donald Trump
4146 will continue to dismantle our scientific workforce and
4147 sabotage lifesaving research. House Democrats are standing
4148 up to say not on our watch, and today are making that effort
4149 to put that into the oversight plan.

4150 So when my colleagues across the aisle say they are for
4151 the NIH, if you were let go as part of NIH, remember who it
4152 was who stood up, and call your person that represents you
4153 and ask them why they let this happen without any real review
4154 of the process, any real oversight, and why they said we are
4155 not going to do the oversight, we are leaving it to somebody
4156 else.

4157 I yield back.

4158 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Anyone on the
4159 Republican side?

4160 Seeing none, the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr.
4161 Auchincloss, is recognized for five minutes.

4162 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Chair. I move to strike
4163 the last word.

4164 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4165 *Mr. Auchincloss. I want to respond first to the
4166 gentleman from California. And I believe him when he says
4167 that he supports NIH funding. But I am disappointed in the
4168 tactic employed of laying out some silly examples as an
4169 excuse to throw the baby out with the bath water.

4170 The thing about curiosity-driven, peer-reviewed basic
4171 research is that you are going to have investigators pursue
4172 their curiosity, and it is going to end up taking them
4173 sometimes to silly places. And that is okay. Other times,
4174 you know, two amateur ornithologists who are also bicycle
4175 mechanics pursue their curiosity and they invent an airplane.
4176 Or sometimes some engineers ask what happens if computers
4177 could talk to each other, and you get the Internet. Or
4178 sometimes people ask, I wonder what would happen if you could
4179 edit DNA, and you get CRISPR.

4180 Curiosity-driven, peer-reviewed basic research is not
4181 meant to pass the politician's test. It is meant to pass
4182 peer review. It is meant to be scientifically rigorous. And

4183 when politicians point out failures, it inhibits the spirit
4184 of American curiosity and enterprise that makes us an
4185 innovation hub.

4186 I want to also respond to the gentleman from Georgia,
4187 and he had indicated that, thankfully, a Federal judge
4188 stopped the NIH policy of 15 percent indirect cost recapture
4189 rate, as though that somehow excuses Republicans' inaction on
4190 the matter. The reason a judge stopped it is that it was
4191 illegal in 2718 [sic] _ in 2018, in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022,
4192 2023, 2024. In bipartisan majorities Congress said to the
4193 NIH, "You are not allowed to do this.'`

4194 Now, the NIH, I am sure, is telling the Republicans on
4195 the side, no, no, we are allowed to do it because we are
4196 citing a different law that says, actually, on a case by case
4197 basis, with documented exceptions, we are allowed to lower
4198 the IDC rate. There was no documentation, and this was not
4199 case by case. This was a chainsaw taken across the board,
4200 dropping an average 60 percent IDC all the way to 15 percent.

4201 You all think that somehow this is the Administration
4202 taking it to the blue states, and that they are mocking the
4203 blue states. Folks, the Administration is mocking you. You
4204 are the ones who voted for this, and the Administration is
4205 ignoring you.

4206 And you are right, Harvard has a \$50 billion endowment.
4207 MIT has a \$30 billion endowment. They are in my home state.

4208 You know, I could point out that their endowments are largely
4209 restricted giving, but you are probably right. The big ones
4210 are going to be okay.

4211 I challenge all of you. Go back to your districts, talk
4212 to your academic medical centers, your universities, ask them
4213 how they are going to be, because what they are going to tell
4214 you is young investigators, early-stage scientists are giving
4215 up. And as they are losing, do you know who is winning?
4216 China. China is becoming a biotechnology powerhouse.

4217 You know, there used to be a synthetic biology
4218 competition _ there still is, I should say _ called iGEM.
4219 And for the first 15 years U.S. teams of students were
4220 dominating, having won 10 years. Now, half of all 400 teams
4221 come from China. China is doing 60 percent of synthetic
4222 biology publications. China is investing in dozens of
4223 Kendall Squares all across the country. And from that
4224 biotechnology power comes economic competitiveness and comes
4225 military prowess.

4226 So as we cut research infrastructure through this NIH 15
4227 percent indirect capture policy, ultimately it is going to be
4228 every American scientist, red states and blue, who suffers.
4229 And it is going to be China who eats our lunch because of it.

4230 I yield back.

4231 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Seeing none on
4232 the Republican side, the gentlelady from Washington would _

4233 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4234 First of all, I just want to associate myself with so
4235 many of the remarks from my esteemed colleagues about the NIH
4236 and what it means to arbitrarily say you can only spend a
4237 certain amount on indirect costs.

4238 And I thought the first thing I should do is just remind
4239 people that the United States is the gold standard for
4240 research for a reason. We, in a bipartisan way, decided to
4241 fund the National Institutes of Health in order to supply the
4242 resources to our most brilliant scientists at universities
4243 across the country to do the research that would allow the
4244 entire world to take leaps forward. And I think we are all
4245 so proud of this record of accomplishment in our country.

4246 In my state I just _ across the water from where I live
4247 we have the University of Washington, which you would call
4248 big, but is not going to be okay with these cuts, I assure
4249 you. We have Seattle Children's Hospital, another leader in
4250 research; Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Harborview,
4251 researching brain trauma and other trauma; Washington State
4252 University. They all get NIH funding, and I have been
4253 getting panicked calls and texts from researchers saying this
4254 is going to shut down medical schools, this is going to shut
4255 down our institutions.

4256 And I will just tell you, because much of what I was
4257 going to say has already been said, that when it comes to

4258 children _ and I am a pediatrician _ during my residency,
4259 when I worked on the cancer wards, all those kids, they were
4260 being treated on trial protocols, on experimental protocols
4261 funded by the National Institutes of Health. This is how
4262 they got access to the ground-breaking new treatments that
4263 had the best chance of giving them a cure. And by taking
4264 away this funding, we are putting those kids' lives at risk.

4265 I want to point out a couple other things. Just _ the
4266 word "indirect" gets thrown out there as though it is, you
4267 know, a slush fund or something like that. The reality is
4268 direct funding is what you think of. It is laboratories. It
4269 is the salaries for the scientists. It is the bench, the
4270 place where they work. Indirect means that it may not be
4271 used for a single research project, but it could be used for
4272 the entire university. It could be the building, the
4273 equipment, the lab, the infusion center, the MRI machine. It
4274 could be the grant writers. It is keeping the lights on.
4275 These are not insignificant needs.

4276 And many, as we have heard, of our universities get
4277 about 50 percent indirect costs. And I also just want to
4278 clarify some math on that. Fifty percent does not mean that
4279 half of the money is spent on indirect; it means that for
4280 every dollar spent on research, \$0.50 is added for some of
4281 these equipment and upkeep and the like.

4282 We have also heard about not just the kids with cancer

4283 that I talked about, but I am hearing stories about people
4284 who are in the middle of a trial right now. They are getting
4285 their chemotherapy through NIH-funded research. And now, all
4286 of a sudden, that stopped. That is a very personal
4287 experience not of the researcher, but of the patient who is
4288 depending on this.

4289 And I want to just emphasize that this is gutting U.S.
4290 excellence, U.S. research and innovation, and it is gutting
4291 people's lives. It is also, for those students who are
4292 thinking about going into biomedical research, now they are
4293 thinking twice. They are thinking, why would I go into a
4294 field where I am being kneecapped already, where there might
4295 not be funding for my work, where I can't let my imagination
4296 go wild to treat _ to find the cures for tomorrow's diseases?
4297 And I just cannot emphasize enough the damage that this does.

4298 So I would encourage my colleagues to support this
4299 amendment. I yield back.

4300 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
4301 The gentlelady from New York is recognized for five minutes.

4302 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you.

4303 You know, I think it is important for us to remind what
4304 this amendment is all about. It is not about defunding
4305 studies that are deemed as wasteful. It is about just
4306 assessing the impacts of these cuts on the NIH, on the
4307 current research that is happening right now.

4308 When I was 16 years old my dad was diagnosed with a very
4309 rare form of lung cancer, stage three. And it was very
4310 aggressive. And I was in high school. And we were in Sloan
4311 _ we were at Memorial Sloan Kettering at the time, and his
4312 prognosis was not good. And as a sophomore or junior in high
4313 school, my mom, she cleaned houses to make ends meet. I was
4314 on CHIP as a kid growing up. And we looked towards the
4315 doctors at Sloan Kettering, the researchers at Sloan
4316 Kettering, and we said, "Is there anything you can do to save
4317 my dad's life?"`

4318 And they said, "With the current treatments that we have
4319 right now, our options are very limited. But there is an
4320 experimental trial that we can try to gain _ get him access
4321 to.` And for millions of people across this country whose
4322 child has a rare disease, whose parent is on death's door,
4323 who they themselves have no recourse for treatment, research,
4324 clinical trials are one of the only options they have to
4325 extend their life.

4326 My dad was admitted to that trial and his cancer went
4327 into remission for a brief period. We got two to three more
4328 years with my dad before he eventually passed away. And I
4329 can tell you that two more years with my dad, three more
4330 years that a person has with their child, or a lifetime for
4331 some people whose lives are saved by the NIH's work do not
4332 think that this is wasteful. They do not think that what is

4333 happening right now is acceptable.

4334 And this amendment simply seeks to assess if any of this
4335 lifesaving research is at risk due to these indiscriminate
4336 cuts. If you don't believe that central nervous stimulant
4337 should be explored, the impacts of that should be explored on
4338 certain mammalian species, fine. If you don't think certain
4339 research on bedside manner regarding racial groups in this
4340 country is _ rises to the level of merit, fine. But this
4341 isn't about that. This is about whether this research is
4342 being affected. And shouldn't we want to know that? And if
4343 not, why don't we want to know that? That is what this is
4344 about.

4345 These are things that are pretty basic that I would
4346 think, on a bipartisan basis, we would be able to agree on,
4347 just an assessment on what is happening and what is being
4348 cut, not in approval or disapproval, but an understanding and
4349 proper oversight of what is actually going on.

4350 With that I yield back.

4351 *Mr. Joyce. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields. The
4352 gentleman from Ohio is recognized. I am sorry, the gentleman
4353 from _ Mr. Guthrie is recognized.

4354 *Mr. Griffith. That would be Griffith from Virginia.

4355 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Griffith.

4356 *Mr. Griffith. I appreciate it.

4357 *Mr. Joyce. Sorry.

4358 [Laughter.]

4359 *Mr. Griffith. That is what happens in mid-afternoon,
4360 Mr. Chairman.

4361 *Mr. Pallone. Too many Gs.

4362 *Mr. Griffith. I appreciate the gentlelady's comments,
4363 and I am sorry about her father's situation.

4364 That said, as many of my colleagues have said, this is
4365 _ this document that we are going over is inclusive. I too
4366 want to have answers to the questions about whether or not
4367 the 15 percent is appropriate in biomedical research. I
4368 don't know the answer, and I think that the committee will do
4369 that. But we don't need the amendment to do that. There are
4370 people on both sides of the aisle who agree we need to figure
4371 out what the right number is. I am not sure it is 50
4372 percent, I am not sure it is 15 percent. But it is something
4373 that I think that we, as a committee, are going to have to
4374 dig into.

4375 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4376 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentleman from
4377 Ohio is recognized.

4378 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
4379 the last word.

4380 The question here is whether or not we are going to
4381 update our oversight rule to give folks who are deeply
4382 concerned about the loss of NIH funding some reason to

4383 believe that they may not lose the tens of millions of
4384 dollars that they desperately need to provide the care that
4385 they are providing.

4386 And if there was a bipartisan vote here today on this
4387 amendment that said, yes, no, we are going to ask questions,
4388 we are going to push and prod, we are going to hold people
4389 accountable, we are going to get to the bottom of this so
4390 that our universities and hospitals, research institutions
4391 aren't punished, that is the question. So whether it is a
4392 cut or a cap, it is still stealing money from hospitals and
4393 universities.

4394 And we have this table where we can bring people in and
4395 ask them questions, hold them accountable. We can ask about
4396 the eagles and the other things that maybe folks don't want
4397 to spend money on. And then we can say, hey, don't do that.
4398 But don't cut tens of millions of dollars from these local
4399 hospitals, these local universities.

4400 I have a hospital that could lose up to \$50 million, a
4401 university that is likely going to lose up to \$30 million.
4402 That is what they are worried about. They are worried about
4403 tens of millions of dollars. So if you add all my hospitals
4404 and universities together, we could lose hundreds of millions
4405 of dollars in NIH funding.

4406 Now, to put _ again, to put people _ their minds at ease
4407 and say, no, no, no, there is going to be a bipartisan effort

4408 to ensure that doesn't happen, the least we can do is add 10
4409 words to say that we are going to hold a hearing or hearings
4410 to ensure that these indirect costs aren't done in a way that
4411 hurts our universities and colleges and research
4412 institutions, period.

4413 I yield back.

4414 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The gentleman from
4415 California, Mr. Peters, is recognized.

4416 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4417 This is about oversight. Americans from all over,
4418 including in my district, want real oversight. It is not
4419 about arguing the merits of a spending level at this point.
4420 It is about how these spending decisions we have already made
4421 were changed unilaterally by the President.

4422 And one of the most important institutions we are
4423 responsible for overseeing is the National Institutes of
4424 Health, which drives our country's scientific research
4425 enterprise and makes it the world leader. It is a playbook
4426 that other countries want to copy. Funding from public
4427 research institutions like NIH and the National Science
4428 Foundation helps us access lifesaving medicines, strengthen
4429 our health care system, and support small businesses in
4430 districts across the country.

4431 In my district in San Diego in 2023 we drew in about
4432 \$2.2 billion in funding from the NIH and NSF. The regional

4433 economy, which sustains a strong public-private life sciences
4434 ecosystem, turned that \$2.2 billion into \$56.6 billion in
4435 total economic output. That is more than the entire NIH
4436 budget during the fiscal year, and that doesn't just boost
4437 areas like San Francisco, Boston, and San Diego. It supports
4438 scientists, families, and small businesses in every state,
4439 including red states like North Carolina, Florida, and
4440 Alabama.

4441 We should have those debates, but what we shouldn't be
4442 doing is watch the White House on January 27 issue a memo
4443 freezing Federal funding for all Federal agencies, including
4444 NIH. Almost immediately, families with sick children and
4445 those enrolled in clinical trials struggle to access the
4446 medicines they need to survive, including one trial at Moores
4447 Cancer Center at UC San Diego, which I visited this week.

4448 And this is what you are talking about when you talk
4449 about waste. If they don't get paid, they have to shut down
4450 their clinical trial, and all the benefit of the work they
4451 have done so far will be lost. They will have to either not
4452 have that research or have to do it again. That is waste.
4453 That is waste. We don't want that.

4454 And by the way, it is not the President's decision to
4455 make when we have approved this already. So that is why a
4456 Federal judge put a temporary restraining order preventing
4457 the freeze while these legal arguments unfold in court.

4458 On the 7th of February the Trump Administration
4459 announced it would illegally slash grants with help _ that
4460 help university research programs keep up with increasing
4461 overhead costs like rent, lab equipment, utilities, safety,
4462 cybersecurity, and more. And I _ as a lawyer, I don't throw
4463 the word around _ "illegally'" _ lightly, because Mr. Pfluger
4464 raised this and I respect him. But the law prevents any
4465 administration, Republican or Democrat, from unilaterally
4466 changing existing contracts.

4467 Every member of this committee should want to
4468 investigate potential violations of Federal contracting laws,
4469 and should hold on to the right of the power of the purse for
4470 the _ for this Congress. I have not seen one member of the
4471 opposite party, from the Speaker of the House down, stand up
4472 for Article I, for the Congress of the United States as an
4473 independent, co-equal branch of government. And until that
4474 happens, this place is not going to work. Now, I am not
4475 asking you to agree with the funding level at this point.
4476 Let's have that discussion. We should have that discussion.
4477 Maybe you want more, maybe you want less. But that is our
4478 decision to make. It is not to be done unilaterally by any
4479 executive.

4480 A few days after the Trump Administration's
4481 announcement, a Federal judge temporarily blocked the NIH cut
4482 from going into effect, but that kind of change has to come

4483 from Congress. So contrary to what some people would have
4484 you believe, NIH workers are not deep state leftist
4485 bureaucrats sitting around and twiddling their thumbs. They
4486 are some of America's brightest and best scientists working
4487 to cure Alzheimer's, which, if we don't get ahead of that, is
4488 going to break the budget of this country. Cancer, rare
4489 diseases.

4490 I will argue vociferously against cuts. But what I will
4491 say today is this is about oversight. And you would not let
4492 any Democratic president go run this mischief on the Federal
4493 Government. So let's stick together as an institution, and
4494 let's do the right thing, and let's add this specific thing
4495 to our oversight plan and get ahead of it.

4496 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman _

4497 *Mr. Peters. Price tags are only going to go up with
4498 time. And obviously, the more you _ we let this get away
4499 from us and let this executive over-reach go unchecked, the
4500 less power we have as an institution, and less power _ less
4501 ability we are able to have to do what our constituents sent
4502 us to do here when they elected us on the same day as they
4503 elected Donald Trump. We have jobs here that are
4504 independent. Let's do them.

4505 I yield back.

4506 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair recognizes
4507 the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. Castor.

4508 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to
4509 thank Representative Trahan for bringing this important
4510 amendment.

4511 And Rep. Fletcher, your history lesson was very
4512 illuminating, thank you. And all of the members, I think,
4513 have offered thoughtful comments.

4514 And Representative Peters is right, this is too
4515 important for our Republican colleagues to abdicate their
4516 responsibility to put your head in the sand to the fact that
4517 Elon Musk and this Administration now have made this illegal
4518 shutdown of NIH grants. Thankfully, the courts have stepped
4519 in and said that it _ that looks like it is illegal. There
4520 is just too much at stake here, and we need to work together
4521 to continue to keep medical research, biomedical research,
4522 the top in the world. We cannot cede that to China. I am
4523 not willing to do that. But I just urge you to join us.

4524 And Mr. Chairman, I have asked on a few of these, has
4525 the majority sent any letter or _ at all to the
4526 Administration on this topic of the NIH shutdown and grants
4527 or on this _

4528 *Mr. Joyce. We will check with staff.

4529 *Ms. Castor. Okay. It is just too important. And it
4530 is one of the reasons I know we all want to serve on this
4531 committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, because we want
4532 our neighbors back home to be healthy and well.

4533 And I have really learned a lot leading the Children's
4534 Health Care Caucus, the Children's Pediatric Cancer Caucus,
4535 and I have learned so much from the patients, my neighbors,
4536 the doctors and researchers back home at the Moffitt Cancer
4537 Centers, the lead cancer research institute in the southeast,
4538 or the University of South Florida, where they do
4539 extraordinary research on diabetes and brain _ traumatic
4540 brain injury, and they have been out front on the cure and
4541 prevention of Alzheimer's.

4542 I will never forget the young woman who said _ met me at
4543 USF at the Alzheimer's Institute, who said, "With the
4544 University of South Florida, with what they are able to do,
4545 my mother is more engaged. Her Alzheimer's'' _ they are able
4546 to delay the total onset so that they know each other and can
4547 enjoy life.

4548 The patients that talk about the therapies for breast
4549 cancer treatment, the advances that we have seen because,
4550 thankfully, America is the lead in the world in doing this.
4551 And right now, Rep. Peters is right, you throw a wrench into
4552 it, clinical trials are delayed, treatments and cures are
4553 delayed.

4554 I think about the researchers, how they _ at Moffitt
4555 Cancer Center or in the University of Florida, which is
4556 probably the lead institution in Florida for NIH dollars, or
4557 Florida State University, my alma mater, they are doing

4558 extraordinary work, and they don't _ this isn't wasteful
4559 stuff. This is a multiple myeloma, how you treat leukemia.
4560 They are attracting post-doc researchers from across the
4561 world. I can't tell you how many I have met from overseas
4562 who come here to America to learn and to find these
4563 treatments and cures.

4564 There is something sinister going on here because this
4565 is a page out of the Project 2025 playbook. If you Google
4566 it, if you look it up, this is what they said they would do.
4567 And despite the fact that President said, "Oh, I didn't _ we
4568 are not doing that," they are doing it. Project 2025 said,
4569 okay, maybe this NIH money, maybe instead of going to our
4570 research institutions and finding treatments and cures, we
4571 will do a block grant to the states. Is that what is
4572 happening next? Are Republicans going to continue to be
4573 silent when that happens, you are going to continue to put
4574 your head in the sand, turn your back on our neighbors back
4575 home who rely on medical research to stay healthy and well
4576 and to survive diseases?

4577 Let's do this oversight. It is our responsibility
4578 together. I don't care if you are a Democrat or Republican.
4579 It is our responsibility to our neighbors. We owe them that.
4580 So vote yes on this amendment, and let's get to work.

4581 I yield back.

4582 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The chair

4583 recognizes the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Pfluger.

4584 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just _
4585 throughout the early portion of this debate _ and I think it
4586 will go probably far into the night, as well _ is really
4587 exciting, actually. And I think this committee stands to _
4588 the vigorous debate that we are having, we really stand to
4589 continue this throughout the year because this particular
4590 committee is going to address many of the issues that we are
4591 facing in our country.

4592 So I am personally glad to see a call for oversight from
4593 our colleagues, because for the last four years we haven't
4594 had that. And we have had a lot of people testify in front
4595 of this committee and other committees. And I will just draw
4596 your attention, speaking of the NIH, remember how we got
4597 here? Remember about the lack of trust that our country
4598 formed in people like Dr. Anthony Fauci? And I will just
4599 read you _ David Morens was a Fauci aide, a career NIH
4600 scientist.

4601 And by the way, NIH does amazing things. The
4602 competitive advantage is our innovation. The science that we
4603 do leads the world. We need to continue this. We are going
4604 to continue this. But my constituents want to look under the
4605 hood and understand that there _ that _ are there things that
4606 we can do more efficiently? They are asking me that. So as
4607 much as we are hearing from the other side, you are not

4608 hearing it _ but I will tell you and speak for this side that
4609 we want to know that we are doing this correctly.

4610 This was just one example that Morens, the former aide,
4611 said. He said, "I can either send'' _ when sending emails on
4612 a personal email instead of government email but as
4613 government business, he said, "I can either send stuff to
4614 Tony on his private Gmail or hand it to him at work. He is
4615 too smart to let colleagues send him stuff that could cause
4616 trouble,'' Morens wrote in a 2021 email released by the
4617 committee.

4618 And then he says, I quote, "I learned from our FOIA lady
4619 here how to make emails disappear after I am FOIA'd but
4620 before the search starts. So I think we are all safe,''
4621 Morens wrote in a separate email. That is just one example,
4622 guys.

4623 Now, throwing the baby out with the bath water, no, but
4624 we do have a responsibility to do oversight.

4625 So Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding an oversight
4626 structural conversation. And it sounds like both Republicans
4627 and Democrats are all on board to do oversight in the
4628 government and to make sure that our agencies are actually
4629 operating efficiently.

4630 I will yield back.

4631 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair recognizes
4632 Mr. Carter from Louisiana.

4633 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4634 Strike the last word, please, move to strike the last word.

4635 Listen, you know, I heard earlier one of my colleagues
4636 say that preventive versus curative, that preventive care
4637 costs far less but reaped greater benefits. Well, what is
4638 research? Research gives us the ability to identify and
4639 prevent dreaded diseases.

4640 I know in my district in Louisiana we have some of the
4641 best research hospitals anywhere. And I know that they tell
4642 me that their return on investment is, for every dollar that
4643 is spent, there is some \$3 in return on the investment.
4644 Preventive care versus curative care.

4645 We also know that, if there is one area where there has
4646 been nearly, if not zero, cases of fraud or abuse, it has
4647 been in National Health _ National Institute of Health
4648 funding. So when we know that we have this return on
4649 investment that comes back to the Federal Government and back
4650 to the American people in multiple ways, why would we
4651 endeavor to impact NIH?

4652 When we look at the dreaded diseases that we end up
4653 spending billions of dollars on in curative care that are
4654 fixed with preventive care through research, if there is
4655 something that should never be viewed as political or
4656 partisan, research, medical research, our young, best, and
4657 brightest who are preparing themselves are having to leave

4658 our country because they don't believe that we believe in
4659 research.

4660 We talk about a brain drain. We talk about losing our
4661 best and our brightest to China or to other places who are in
4662 fact investing in research. Yet because of this willy nilly
4663 effect of let's just crash and burn, cut and ask questions
4664 later, cut and let's see what impact it has, cut and then
4665 let's uncut because, oops, we cut too fast, oops, we didn't
4666 mean to cut that, we need that, how about looking and seeing
4667 what these things do before you cut? How about a little bit
4668 of preventive care on watching what you are doing?

4669 One thing I know that Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk understand:
4670 return on investment. This is a return on investment that is
4671 unimpeachable. The data is empirical. I implore you to get
4672 your hands off NIH. Get your hands off research dollars.
4673 Get your hands off our doctors and our research scientists
4674 who are saving lives every day.

4675 This is not political. This is not partisan. This is
4676 the right thing to do for all the right reasons.

4677 I yield.

4678 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

4679 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Yes.

4680 *Ms. DeGette. So I just want to briefly say Mr. Peters
4681 gave the whole litany of what happened with DOGE and
4682 everybody trying to freeze all of this biomedical spending,

4683 and then the court ordered them to start it up again. But he
4684 didn't mention that what happened _ and this is why we _ Mr.
4685 Chairman, this is why we have to have a hearing into what
4686 they are doing to NIH, because what the Trump Administration
4687 did after they were ordered by the court to restore the
4688 funding is they simply stopped having the Federal Register
4689 notice these review meetings.

4690 So, in other words, what they said is you can't have a
4691 grant review meeting, and that has frozen any approval of new
4692 grants in the entire United States. Hundreds of studies are
4693 at a standstill, including pancreatic cancer, brain injuries,
4694 and child health. Last week the NIH canceled 42 out of 47
4695 scheduled meetings to assess new grants, including grants on
4696 drug users and HIV, including a review panel for a grant
4697 application on staph infections in people with diabetes, and
4698 on and on.

4699 Universities, because of this technicality that nobody
4700 has paid any attention to, have stopped all this funding
4701 coming to institutions that have stopped the grants. And so
4702 this is why we need to have a hearing to figure out what the
4703 heck the Trump Administration is doing and how this is
4704 impacting our research institutions.

4705 And I would ask unanimous consent to put this article
4706 where I got this information from, "Paying for Science,"
4707 from the New York Times, in this morning's New York Times,

4708 into the record. I would ask unanimous consent.

4709 *Mr. Joyce. We will review the article. The gentlelady
4710 yields. The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Virginia,
4711 Ms. McClellan.

4712 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am glad to
4713 hear my colleague from Virginia say that he wants to look
4714 into and possibly have a hearing on these cuts. And they are
4715 cuts because when you put a cap on indirect costs that causes
4716 a university research center to lose \$26 million, as VCU in
4717 my district has estimated they will, or \$13 million as
4718 Virginia Tech in the gentleman's district will, or \$39
4719 million that UVA in Virginia will, or additional cuts that
4720 James Madison University of Richmond, Virginia State
4721 University, to the total for Virginia losing around \$78
4722 million in funding if a 15 percent cap _ across-the-board cap
4723 goes in place.

4724 I hope this hearing looks into the damaging effects that
4725 taking a chainsaw to something that needs a scalpel will
4726 have, because a 15 percent across-the-board cut hits VCU very
4727 differently from Harvard, because these _ this cut is not in
4728 a vacuum. VCU doesn't have a Harvard-like or even a UVA-like
4729 endowment. VCU is one of the largest safety net hospitals in
4730 Virginia. It relies very heavily on Medicaid funding, which
4731 is going to be cut, as we have discussed earlier. Their
4732 student base relies very heavily on financial aid or

4733 scholarships. Many of them are first-time, first-generation,
4734 non-traditional students who typically work while going.

4735 And so this cut, combined with the cuts to Medicaid,
4736 combined with the stress that are going to be on the
4737 Commonwealth of Virginia as they try to help fill this hole
4738 to keep the research done with these grants from stopping
4739 [sic].

4740 And what is it? You know, I asked _ go talk to your
4741 institutions that are doing this research. I did, and I
4742 asked, "Give me an example of something that you are worried
4743 is going to stop.'" And we talked about brain cancer. But
4744 not all brain tumors come from brain cancer. All cancers,
4745 when they metastasize, eventually result in brain tumors.
4746 That is what happened with my father when he had kidney
4747 cancer. And when you have radiation or chemotherapy, it is a
4748 broad, very debilitating treatment for sometimes a tumor that
4749 is as big as the tip of my pen. What killed my father was
4750 not the brain tumor. What killed my father, ultimately, was
4751 the effects of the treatment.

4752 But one of our institutions in Virginia has a clinical
4753 trial for targeted, injection-based metastatic brain tumor
4754 treatment. And they don't know if they can continue it. And
4755 they don't have an endowment that they can go to. They don't
4756 have a rich alumni base that they can go to. They are
4757 already under-funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia, which

4758 has to balance its budget and can't print money.

4759 So when you think about all of these cuts, and when we
4760 look at the impact in our oversight role of all of these
4761 cuts, remember they are not in a vacuum. And an across-the-
4762 board, one-size-fits-all cut is going to hit each of our
4763 constituents and each of our economies very differently
4764 because in Virginia alone NIH funding sustains over 7,000
4765 jobs and adds nearly \$1.73 billion of economic activity to
4766 our commonwealth. That is just in Virginia alone.

4767 So I look forward to an oversight hearing with my
4768 colleague from Virginia on these cuts and how they impact _
4769 how they intersect with the Medicaid cuts we are expected _
4770 when we get _ find \$880 billion to fund tax cuts for
4771 billionaires.

4772 I yield back.

4773 *Mr. Joyce. Is there any further discussion on the
4774 amendment?

4775 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment. The
4776 ranking member has asked for a recorded vote. The roll will
4777 call the vote _ the clerk will call the roll.

4778 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4779 [No response.]

4780 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

4781 *Mr. Griffith. No.

4782 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

4783 Mr. Bilirakis?
4784 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
4785 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
4786 Mr. Hudson?
4787 *Mr. Hudson. No.
4788 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
4789 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
4790 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
4791 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
4792 Mr. Palmer?
4793 *Mr. Palmer. No.
4794 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
4795 Mr. Dunn?
4796 *Mr. Dunn. No.
4797 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
4798 Mr. Crenshaw?
4799 [No response.]
4800 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
4801 *Mr. Joyce. No.
4802 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
4803 Mr. Weber?
4804 [No response.]
4805 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
4806 [No response.]
4807 *Mr. Weber. No.

4808 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
4809 *Mr. Allen. No.
4810 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
4811 Mr. Balderson?
4812 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4813 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
4814 Mr. Fulcher?
4815 *Mr. Fulcher. No.
4816 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
4817 Mr. Pfluger?
4818 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
4819 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
4820 Mrs. Harshbarger?
4821 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4822 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4823 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4824 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
4825 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
4826 Mrs. Cammack?
4827 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
4828 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
4829 Mr. Obernolte?
4830 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
4831 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
4832 Mr. James?

4833 [No response.]

4834 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?

4835 *Mr. Bentz. No.

4836 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

4837 Mrs. Houchin?

4838 [No response.]

4839 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

4840 [No response.]

4841 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

4842 [No response.]

4843 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?

4844 [No response.]

4845 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?

4846 *Mr. Kean. No.

4847 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

4848 Mr. Rulli?

4849 *Mr. Rulli. No.

4850 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

4851 Mr. Evans?

4852 *Mr. Evans. No.

4853 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

4854 Mr. Goldman?

4855 *Mr. Goldman. No.

4856 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

4857 Mrs. Fedorchak?

4858 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4859 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
4860 Mr. Pallone?
4861 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4862 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4863 Ms. DeGette?
4864 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4865 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4866 Ms. Schakowsky?
4867 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4868 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4869 Ms. Matsui?
4870 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4871 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4872 Ms. Castor?
4873 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4874 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4875 Mr. Tonko?
4876 [No response.]
4877 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?
4878 [No response.]
4879 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
4880 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4881 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4882 Mr. Peters?

4883 *Mr. Peters. Yes.
4884 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4885 Mrs. Dingell?
4886 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4887 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4888 Mr. Veasey?
4889 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4890 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4891 Ms. Kelly?
4892 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4893 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4894 Ms. Barragan?
4895 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4896 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4897 Mr. Soto?
4898 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4899 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4900 Ms. Schrier?
4901 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4902 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4903 Mrs. Trahan?
4904 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4905 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4906 Mrs. Fletcher?
4907 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

4908 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4909 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4910 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4911 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4912 Mr. Auchincloss?
4913 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4914 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4915 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4916 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4917 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4918 Mr. Menendez?
4919 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4920 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4921 Mr. Mullin?
4922 [No response.]
4923 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
4924 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4925 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4926 Ms. McClellan?
4927 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4928 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4929 Chairman Guthrie?
4930 *The Chair. No.
4931 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
4932 *Mr. Joyce. How is Mr. Latta recorded?

4933 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

4934 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.

4935 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

4936 [Pause.]

4937 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the result.

4938 *The Clerk. Chairman Joyce, on that vote there were 21
4939 ayes and 24 noes.

4940 *Mr. Joyce. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
4941 any further amendments?

4942 For what purpose does the gentlelady seek recognition?

4943 *Mrs. Dingell. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
4944 desk labeled HE19.

4945 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.

4946 *The Clerk. Amendment to Draft Oversight Plan HE19. On
4947 page 3, after "Making sure" _

4948 *Mr. Joyce. Without objection, the reading of the
4949 amendment is dispensed with.

4950 [The amendment of Mrs. Dingell follows:]

4951

4952 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4953

4954 *Mr. Joyce. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
4955 minutes in support of the amendment.

4956 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4957 As all of us know, long-term care is a crisis in this
4958 country. This amendment would require the committee to study
4959 the impact of cutting Federal Medicaid coverage and access to
4960 long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities.

4961 Medicaid is a lifeline for millions of seniors and older
4962 Americans on fixed incomes. I think we all talk about it
4963 intellectually, but until you have navigated the system
4964 which, unfortunately many of us have here, we do not realize
4965 how broken the system is or how deeply fractured it is. And
4966 quite frankly, all of us here are a lot luckier than most
4967 Americans across this country.

4968 Medicaid is the single largest payer of long-term health
4969 care services, and it currently covers long-term care for
4970 millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities. It
4971 covers institutional care. And almost 62 percent of
4972 institutional care in this country is paid for by Medicare
4973 right now, and individual states can seek waivers to provide
4974 home and community-based services, or HCBS _ Home CBS _
4975 which, by the way, we should be looking at doing more because
4976 most seniors want to stay in their own home in the community
4977 that they are in, and this actually saves Federal dollars.
4978 And there are more than almost a million people on the

4979 waiting list for that.

4980 I have introduced several pieces of legislation to
4981 strengthen access to HCBS and bolster the caregiving
4982 workforce who provide these critical services. And while I
4983 remain entirely focused on continuing to support these
4984 efforts, I am deeply, deeply concerned about what will happen
4985 to seniors in this country if Medicaid is cut and we are
4986 cutting support for seniors and _ that need and are desperate
4987 for long-term care services.

4988 When faced with these cutting _ these funding cuts,
4989 states will have to limit the level of service they provide,
4990 forcing many to forgo the care or to pay out-of-pocket
4991 expenses they don't have. It will place a tremendous
4992 financial burden on the seniors and individuals living with
4993 disabilities who depend on long-term care services to lead
4994 healthy and dignified lives.

4995 Many seniors and older Americans survive off of low
4996 incomes or have chronic health conditions that prohibit them
4997 from working. Medicaid allows these individuals living on
4998 fixed incomes _ and often have chronic diseases _ to continue
4999 getting the care they need by filling in the gaps that their
5000 Medicare coverage doesn't have without having to worry about
5001 choosing between food and housing and their health. Medicaid
5002 has long been considered one of the most effective anti-
5003 poverty programs in the nation, and its expansion has

5004 significantly improved health outcomes for seniors and older
5005 adults. They have worked hard their whole life. They have
5006 earned the right to live with dignity and respect, and not be
5007 desperate about how they can even afford their medicine and
5008 the food on their table.

5009 In a nation where out-of-pocket health care spending
5010 forced more than 10 million Americans into poverty in 2016
5011 alone, Medicaid serves as a lifeline not only for health care
5012 but for economic stability as Americans age. It is _ a slash
5013 in funding will result in a reduction of long-term care
5014 services that too many people rely on.

5015 This study is important because there are too many
5016 families where the spouse doesn't _ they have _ don't _
5017 doesn't know what they are going to do or how to take care of
5018 someone they love. And if they can't find the caregiver,
5019 they have got to give up their job, and then they are in a
5020 more vicious circle of what happens.

5021 We need to be discussing much-needed events _
5022 investments in our long-term care infrastructure and our
5023 caregiving workforce to ensure that we are doing this right,
5024 that we are giving people the support that they need, and
5025 families aren't left destitute, living on the street or, the
5026 worst, dying because they have no options.

5027 So I urge this committee to take a very serious look and
5028 study in oversight long-term care in this country and how we

5029 can make it easier, more affordable, reduce costs _ because
5030 we can, some very simple ways _ and meet a moral commitment
5031 we should have to our seniors.

5032 Thank you very much, and I yield back.

5033 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The chair
5034 recognizes the gentleman from Florida, Dr. Dunn.

5035 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you. I move to strike the last word.

5036 *Mr. Joyce. You are recognized.

5037 *Voice. You have been recognized.

5038 *Mr. Joyce. You have been recognized.

5039 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5040 We share a bipartisan interest in making sure that
5041 Medicaid can provide care for our nation's most vulnerable,
5042 including ensuring that it continues to provide long-term
5043 care for our nation's seniors and people with disabilities.

5044 What this amendment fails to acknowledge is the
5045 devastating impacts that the Biden Administration did to the
5046 long-term care access in just four years. The Nursing Home
5047 Staffing Ratio Rule is the single biggest threat to our
5048 nation's long-term care system. Over 80 percent of nursing
5049 homes cannot comply with the rule, and are at risk of
5050 closing. The access rule would require sizable pass-through
5051 payments for long-term care providers that are, in theory,
5052 good but are untenable for the states to pay out.

5053 States like California and New York, as well as

5054 disability rights groups like Arc, wrote strong opposition
5055 against this rule out of fear that it would gut home and
5056 community-based long-term care.

5057 What is more is that the Biden Administration saddled
5058 the states with hundreds of billions of dollars in new
5059 Medicaid regulations that will threaten access to home and
5060 community-based services, as well as long-term care.

5061 To me, this amendment is redundant because the oversight
5062 plan already calls out the waste and abuse of the last four
5063 years and the harm that it is bringing to the Medicaid
5064 program. Real cuts to long-term care are already happening
5065 as we speak because of the Biden Administration. And our
5066 first goal needs to be to reverse that course.

5067 And Mr. Chair, I yield back.

5068 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair now
5069 recognizes the ranking member of the entire committee, Mr.
5070 Pallone.

5071 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would like
5072 to _ well, first of all, let me thank Debbie Dingell, because
5073 I know that she has been working on long-term care for so
5074 many years, and has introduced legislation. And of course,
5075 what she _ when she talked about home-based as an alternative
5076 to institutional, it is certainly something that we all
5077 desire.

5078 But I do want to talk about nursing home care right now,

5079 and I heard what Dr. Dunn said. Whether or not you agree
5080 with what the Biden Administration did with nurse staffing
5081 ratios or with other regulations _ and of course, I do
5082 support what they did _ the bottom line is that if you cut
5083 funding for Medicaid that pays for nursing home care, you are
5084 only going to make the situation worse.

5085 I mean, what you are hearing from states is that, you
5086 know, the expense, I suppose, or, you know, trying to get an
5087 adequate number of nurses or nurses' aides or whatever, but
5088 you are only going to aggravate that situation even more if
5089 you make cuts in a level of funding. It is not waste, it is
5090 the fact that they maybe have a harder time finding people
5091 that will actually perform the care. It is not an issue of
5092 waste, fraud, and abuse. It is an issue of having enough
5093 money, enough money to pay the salaries, having the people
5094 educated, the cost of the education for the nurses' aides and
5095 for the nurses.

5096 But I want to tell you this. These nursing homes _ and
5097 you probably agree with me _ they operate on such a minimal
5098 level of funding now that if you start making cuts in their
5099 funding, you are definitely going to see nursing homes close,
5100 you are going to see them sending those individuals back to
5101 their caregivers if there is one. Those caregivers are going
5102 to have to _ you know, they won't even know what to do. They
5103 will lose their job because they can't take care of the loved

5104 one. But the main thing you are going to see is the quality
5105 of care in these nursing homes going down.

5106 You know, I have been here a long time. I guess I have
5107 been here longer than anybody else, to be honest. I remember
5108 even before I came to Congress, when I was in the state's
5109 legislature, we had in New Jersey fires at nursing homes.
5110 The situation at nursing homes because of the lack of funding
5111 was so bad that we had people killed in fires in nursing
5112 homes all over the state, but even _ particularly, in I
5113 remember in my district, in my state legislative district.

5114 These places are operating on a very minimal level of
5115 funding. You will see them not having enough nurses, you
5116 will see them cutting back on everything, application of
5117 medication. You will see fire and safety codes go down the
5118 drain. I can't emphasize enough the _ how the quality of
5119 nursing homes will go downhill. It is not just a question of
5120 closing. A lot of them will close, but a lot of them will
5121 try to continue to provide services and won't have the
5122 funding to do so.

5123 So when you talk about Medicaid cuts to nursing homes,
5124 you are literally causing _ you will literally see people
5125 die. They will not have someone to turn them over. They
5126 will have more bed sores. They will end up in the emergency
5127 room more often because they can't be cared for at the
5128 nursing home.

5129 I mean, I have seen it myself. I have been to these
5130 places many times. A lot of people don't like _ I am not
5131 saying anybody here, because I know you care, but, you know,
5132 a lot of people don't understand. They don't even want to go
5133 to a nursing home. They don't think about a nursing home.
5134 They put it out of their mind because they don't _ you know,
5135 they don't want to think about what goes on.

5136 But the quality of nursing home care has significantly
5137 increased, believe it or not, over the last 20, 30, 40, 50
5138 years. But if you start making major cuts to Medicaid that
5139 are going to impact these nursing homes, you are going to go
5140 back to where we were 40, 50 years ago: fires, safety,
5141 unhealthy conditions like you have never seen. And I know I
5142 may sound like I am exaggerating, but I am not because I have
5143 seen it. I have seen it happen.

5144 And so that is why it is so important to have some
5145 oversight about what is going on here, and that is why I
5146 support the gentlewoman from Michigan's amendment.

5147 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

5148 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair recognizes
5149 the gentleman from California, Dr. Ruiz.

5150 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you. The question here is whether or
5151 not this committee will provide oversight on the effects
5152 cutting Federal funding on coverage and access to long-term
5153 care for seniors and people with disabilities.

5154 We know that the drastic changes to Medicaid will result
5155 in cuts to the program. We know that it is going to affect
5156 the American people in drastic ways. So what is the
5157 opposition? Why will you vote no? And why not look into the
5158 eyes of people whose lives will be hurt due to these cuts to
5159 Medicaid?

5160 So I took the opportunity and asked around, and let me
5161 tell you a couple stories. One is a text I received from a
5162 dear friend of mine who also is my staffer, who says that "My
5163 30-year-old brother has developmental disorders and is
5164 currently in the care of a state hospital in Wisconsin. He
5165 is on Medicaid. He no longer needs the level of
5166 institutional care at the hospital, but they can't release
5167 him without a place to go. He was supposed to be put in an
5168 assisted apartment situation soon, an apartment where there
5169 would be 24/7 assistance, someone to come by and make sure he
5170 takes his pills and cleans him, et cetera. However, because
5171 of the threats of Medicaid cuts, the state is pulling back
5172 Medicaid home and community-based services already. So my
5173 brother just lost that housing care opportunity. Now he will
5174 have to stay institutionalized, which costs the state more
5175 money than the HCBS programs, until they can find some other
5176 alternative.' '

5177 Here is another email from John in Bermuda Dunes who
5178 said, "You know, I am an HIV patient on the medication

5179 Biktarvy. It is paid for by Co-Pay Relief, which is
5180 federally funded. I cannot afford it and will not survive
5181 without it. It is in the thousands of dollars a year. And
5182 my parents are in assisted living in New York, which is paid
5183 for by Medicaid. Without it they literally have nowhere to
5184 go.'`

5185 And I will read this, just because it is pertinent in
5186 the general scheme of what Trump is doing to our workforce.
5187 He continues saying that "My niece and her husband are
5188 Federal employees who have recently received resignation
5189 letters. One is employed by the Homeland Security, the other
5190 is a patent attorney, and they will be left without a source
5191 of income. They have been federally employed since graduate
5192 school, for which they still have student loans. They have
5193 four children.'`

5194 These are real impacts by these actions that are being
5195 done with complete disregard to the human story behind them.
5196 You know, there are people who are suffering and will suffer
5197 with these Medicaid cuts. The face of these failed policies
5198 or these attempts to rip away health care insurance in the
5199 patients are not smiling. They are unhappy, and they are
5200 concerned.

5201 With that I yield back.

5202 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair recognizes
5203 the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter.

5204 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
5205 move to strike the last word.

5206 You know, to my friends on the other side of the aisle,
5207 we share a bipartisan interest. We share a bipartisan
5208 interest in making sure that Medicaid can provide care for
5209 our nation's most vulnerable, including ensuring that it
5210 continues _ it can continue to provide long-term care for our
5211 nation's seniors and people with disabilities.

5212 I hate to be redundant, but, as I told you, I was a
5213 consultant pharmacist in nursing homes, so I hung out in
5214 nursing homes all week long and on weekends, saw it
5215 firsthand. What this amendment fails to acknowledge,
5216 however, is the devastating impacts that the Biden
5217 Administration did to long-term care access in just four
5218 years. In just four years. The Nursing Home Staffing Ratio
5219 Rule is the single biggest threat to our nation's long-term
5220 care system. Over 80 percent of nursing homes cannot comply
5221 with the rule and are at risk of closing.

5222 Now, you want to talk about quality of care? What about
5223 no care whatsoever? If 80 percent of the nursing homes
5224 close, then we have no care whatsoever.

5225 The access rule would require sizable pass-through
5226 payments for long-term care providers that are in theory
5227 good, but are untenable for states to pay out, states like
5228 California and New York as well as disability rights groups'

5229 _ like the Arc wrote _ strong opposition against this rule
5230 out of fear that it would gut home and community-based long-
5231 term care. New York and California, blue states, both of
5232 them, they wrote letters in strong opposition against this
5233 rule out of fear that it would gut home and community-based
5234 long-term care.

5235 What is more is that the Biden Administration saddled
5236 the states with hundreds of billions of dollars in new
5237 Medicaid regulations that will threaten access to home and
5238 community-based services and long-term care.

5239 To me, this amendment is redundant. It is redundant
5240 because the oversight plan already calls out the waste and
5241 abuse of the last four years and the harm that it is bringing
5242 to the Medicaid program. Real cuts to long-term care are
5243 already happening as we speak _ as we speak _ because of the
5244 Biden Administration, and our first goal needs to be to
5245 reverse that course.

5246 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

5247 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. Is there any
5248 additional discussion on the amendment?

5249 Ms. Barragan from California.

5250 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues
5251 want to talk about what the last administration did. Yet my
5252 colleagues today _ in a few hours House Republicans are going
5253 to vote on a budget that is going to betray the American

5254 people by taking away health care from hard-working families,
5255 while giving more than \$4 trillion in tax breaks to
5256 billionaire donors and corporations.

5257 What does that mean? That means that there is _ needs
5258 to be at least \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid. What does
5259 that mean? That means long-term care is at risk, nursing
5260 homes is at risk. That is the vote that my colleagues are
5261 going to take tonight. And when they vote yes for the budget
5262 on the resolution, they are voting to cut Medicaid and they
5263 are voting to cut long-term care and investments in nursing
5264 homes.

5265 This amendment is merely a study to say let's look at
5266 what the effects are of cutting Federal Medicaid funding, and
5267 what is it going to do to long-term care for seniors and
5268 people with disabilities? That is what this is. And my
5269 colleagues across the aisle say we don't even want to look at
5270 this. We don't want to know about this.

5271 Let me shed some light on why that might be. I don't
5272 know. Let's see. Representative Bilirakis in Florida's 12th
5273 district, 16 percent of his district are seniors with
5274 Medicaid who may rely on just this, long-term nursing care,
5275 in-home care. Representative Carter, 13 percent of his
5276 district are just seniors with Medicaid. This is not even
5277 talking about children or people with disabilities.
5278 Representative Cammack, hers is higher. It is at 16 percent

5279 in Florida's 3rd district. Representative Evans in Colorado,
5280 7 percent of his district is seniors with Medicaid, 49
5281 percent are children with Medicaid. They have CHIP and rely
5282 on CHIP.

5283 So I tell the American people, look to see what your
5284 representatives are doing. Are they fighting to invest in
5285 nursing home care? Are they fighting to keep and fight back
5286 against the cuts to in-home care and long-term care? So I
5287 implore people watching today, especially those percentages,
5288 to see the vote not just on this amendment, on whether they
5289 stand for or against even looking what Medicaid cuts will do
5290 to long-term care, but that vote they are going to take this
5291 evening, whether they are voting to cut Medicaid, which is
5292 cutting investments in long-term care and nursing care.

5293 What you hear otherwise is all smoke and mirrors. What
5294 you hear otherwise is all smoke and mirrors.

5295 With that I yield back.

5296 *Mrs. Dingell. Would you yield? Would the
5297 gentlewoman _

5298 *Ms. Barragan. I will yield to Mrs. Dingell.

5299 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you. I would just like to take
5300 this last minute to, with respect for my colleagues, object
5301 to the fact that improving quality care in nursing homes is
5302 the worst thing that ever happened to nursing homes. Long-
5303 term care is in crisis in this country, but it is in crisis

5304 because, one, we can't find caregivers. We don't invest in
5305 caregivers. We don't pay them a decent wage or give them
5306 benefits, so these homes can't find caregivers. And two,
5307 many of these long-term care homes are owned by billionaires
5308 who are trying to make money and don't want to invest in
5309 quality health care for those that are in these institutions.

5310 And I quite find it _ I find it offensive to say
5311 investing in quality long-term care for our seniors, making
5312 sure that they are getting the kind of attention that they
5313 need is one of the worst things that ever happened.

5314 I think our seniors deserve quality health care with a
5315 _ with enough caregivers to make sure they are getting the
5316 kind of care they need. And if we were to look at home-based
5317 community care, which we have been trying to do in this
5318 committee for a while, we would be able to lessen the cost
5319 and improve the care of our seniors. And quality care and
5320 investing in caregivers is not the worst thing we can do for
5321 our seniors. Providing them quality care and not making the
5322 billionaires money is what I think we should be investing in
5323 and looking at.

5324 And I yield back.

5325 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Debbie Dingell. I just want
5326 to say I think we should all stand with seniors and
5327 investments in care, not with the billionaires and the
5328 corporations.

5329 I yield back.

5330 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The chair
5331 recognizes the gentlelady from New York.

5332 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5333 I heard the point made earlier that the concern here is
5334 around the sustainability of Medicaid, that Medicaid is
5335 getting too expensive. We cannot sustain this level of
5336 output, and so therefore we are going to _ that _ what is the
5337 term? They are not trying to say "cuts," so they are saying
5338 "lower caps on spending." But that is the argument, right?

5339 But if that were true, then one would think that the so-
5340 called cost savings from certain wasteful cuts would be
5341 reinvested in Medicaid. However, that is not what the
5342 committee is proposing. They are proposing that we have cuts
5343 to these essential programs in order to pay for Elon Musk's
5344 tax breaks.

5345 The order has come down to this committee: find \$880
5346 billion. Find it for what? To pay for a tax cut bill that
5347 benefits tax cuts on yachts and private jets and billionaires
5348 and mega-corporations, while secretaries and working-class
5349 people pay higher effective tax rates than Facebook does.
5350 Undocumented immigrants in this country pay more in taxes
5351 than many large corporations do.

5352 And so the argument here that these cuts need to be for
5353 the sustainability of Medicaid doesn't really make sense when

5354 you realize that these cuts are being just moved to justify
5355 expenditures and deficit spending in another area. This is
5356 about how we funnel money away from the working class and
5357 towards the rich. And if we genuinely care about the
5358 sustainability of Medicaid, my question would be, what is the
5359 plan to do that? Where are the reinvestments in these "cost
5360 savings" going to? Because it is certainly not going into
5361 reinvestments in care.

5362 With that I yield back.

5363 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The chair
5364 recognizes the gentlelady from Virginia, Ms. McClellan.

5365 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you. I move to strike the last
5366 word.

5367 I have heard twice now my colleagues on the other side
5368 of the aisle say that part of the reason for increases in
5369 costs for long-term hair _ care are the staffing ratio
5370 requirements. Let's talk about why the staffing ratio
5371 requirements were put in place. It was to improve the
5372 quality of life of residents in long-term care, to provide
5373 necessary assistance with their daily living activities,
5374 their medical needs, and overall well-being. What does that
5375 mean?

5376 Have you ever had a parent in long-term care, and you
5377 come to visit them and they are lying in their own feces
5378 because no one has come to help them go to the bathroom,

5379 because the facility that they are in doesn't have enough
5380 providers or workforce?

5381 Have you ever had a parent, you come to visit them, and
5382 their hip is broken because they fell out of bed and they
5383 laid on the floor because no one was able to pick them up?

5384 Have you had a parent in long-term care who you watch
5385 their mental health decline because of how agitated they get
5386 when they need help brushing their teeth and they can't get
5387 somebody to come in? I have.

5388 I was really proud to be on the Science, Space, and
5389 Technology Committee because every day in a hearing I would
5390 see a portrait of Eddie Bernice Johnson, a hero to me. Eddie
5391 Bernice Johnson died of an infection from complications from
5392 back surgery when she was left to lay in her own feces.

5393 So part of the point of a health care system that cares
5394 for our seniors is not just making sure they get the basic
5395 care they need, but that it is quality care. And when we
5396 can't _ when we get to the point where we can't take care of
5397 our own family members anymore _ in some cases, family
5398 members who took care of other family members or other
5399 people, or in my mother's mother's and sister's case, cared
5400 for other people long-term for Jim Crow wages, or their
5401 grandparents who did it for free under the institution of
5402 slavery, let's talk about the real reasons for the increase
5403 in cost of care because we recognize care workers deserve

5404 higher wages, including those that are funded through
5405 Medicaid, because we recognize we need more of them to care
5406 for the Boomers who are not aging. They are aged.

5407 I am 52. I am Gen X.

5408 Let's talk about the real reasons for the costs, and not
5409 just sit back and say we are going to have this blanket
5410 demonization of something we disagree with without actually
5411 going in and talking to the patients and their family members
5412 that benefit from the new rules.

5413 I yield back.

5414 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. Is there any
5415 additional discussion on the amendment?

5416 *Mr. Pallone. We will have a roll call.

5417 *Mr. Joyce. Seeing none, there is a call for a roll
5418 call vote. The clerk will call the roll.

5419 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5420 *Mr. Latta. No.

5421 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

5422 Mr. Griffith?

5423 *Mr. Griffith. No.

5424 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

5425 Mr. Bilirakis?

5426 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

5427 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

5428 Mr. Hudson?

5429 *Mr. Hudson. No.
5430 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
5431 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
5432 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
5433 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
5434 Mr. Palmer?
5435 *Mr. Palmer. No.
5436 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
5437 Mr. Dunn?
5438 *Mr. Dunn. No.
5439 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
5440 Mr. Crenshaw?
5441 [No response.]
5442 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5443 *Mr. Joyce. No.
5444 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
5445 Mr. Weber?
5446 *Mr. Weber. No.
5447 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
5448 Mr. Allen?
5449 *Mr. Allen. No.
5450 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
5451 Mr. Balderson?
5452 *Mr. Balderson. No.
5453 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

5454 Mr. Fulcher?
5455 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, no.
5456 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
5457 Mr. Pfluger?
5458 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
5459 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
5460 Mrs. Harshbarger?
5461 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
5462 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
5463 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5464 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
5465 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
5466 Mrs. Cammack?
5467 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
5468 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
5469 Mr. Obernolte?
5470 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
5471 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
5472 Mr. James?
5473 [No response.]
5474 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
5475 *Mr. Bentz. No.
5476 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
5477 Mrs. Houchin?
5478 [No response.]

5479 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
5480 [No response.]
5481 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
5482 [No response.]
5483 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
5484 [No response.]
5485 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
5486 [No response.]
5487 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
5488 *Mr. Rulli. No.
5489 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
5490 Mr. Evans?
5491 *Mr. Evans. No.
5492 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
5493 Mr. Goldman?
5494 *Mr. Goldman. No.
5495 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
5496 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5497 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
5498 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
5499 Mr. Pallone?
5500 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
5501 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
5502 Ms. DeGette?
5503 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

5504 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
5505 Ms. Schakowsky?
5506 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
5507 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
5508 Ms. Matsui?
5509 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5510 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5511 Ms. Castor?
5512 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
5513 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5514 Mr. Tonko?
5515 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5516 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5517 Ms. Clarke?
5518 [No response.]
5519 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
5520 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
5521 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
5522 Mr. Peters?
5523 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
5524 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
5525 Mrs. Dingell?
5526 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
5527 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
5528 Mr. Veasey?

5529 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
5530 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
5531 Ms. Kelly?
5532 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
5533 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
5534 Ms. Barragan?
5535 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
5536 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
5537 Mr. Soto?
5538 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
5539 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
5540 Ms. Schrier?
5541 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
5542 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5543 Mrs. Trahan?
5544 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
5545 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
5546 Mrs. Fletcher?
5547 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
5548 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
5549 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
5550 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
5551 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
5552 Mr. Auchincloss?
5553 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

5554 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
5555 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
5556 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
5557 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
5558 Mr. Menendez?
5559 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
5560 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
5561 Mr. Mullin?
5562 [No response.]
5563 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
5564 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
5565 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
5566 Ms. McClellan?
5567 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
5568 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
5569 Chairman Guthrie?
5570 *The Chair. No.
5571 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
5572 [Pause.]
5573 *The Clerk. Chairman Joyce, on that vote there were 22
5574 ayes and 23 noes.
5575 *Mr. Joyce. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
5576 any further amendments?
5577 *Mr. Pallone. Schakowsky.
5578 *Ms. Schakowsky. Yes, I have an amendment at the desk.

5579 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.
5580 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman _
5581 *Ms. Schakowsky. The amendment is CDT-6.
5582 *Voice. CMT.
5583 *Voice. CMT.
5584 *Ms. Schakowsky. MT?
5585 *Voice. CMT.
5586 *Ms. Schakowsky. Oh, CMT, okay.
5587 *The Clerk. Amendment to Draft Oversight Plan CMT-6,
5588 including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in the
5589 committee's oversight _
5590 *Mr. Joyce. Without objection, the reading of the
5591 amendment is dispensed with.
5592 [The amendment of Ms. Schakowsky follows:]
5593
5594 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****
5595

5596 *Mr. Joyce. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
5597 minutes in support of the amendment.

5598 *Ms. Schakowsky. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
5599 will get to the Consumer Product Safety Commission but I want
5600 to start with _ a mention was made of our former President,
5601 and I wanted to make a comment about the present President.

5602 So Donald Trump promised to all people in the United
5603 States that there was going to be this almost magical
5604 decrease in costs, we were going to have more people who were
5605 going to enjoy all the things of good life because of his
5606 leadership, and nothing could have been further from the
5607 truth. And as the month now have gone _ has gone on, I think
5608 we see even further what the damages is being _ are being
5609 done, and we are talking about some of them right now.

5610 I talked about two women who thought about committing
5611 suicide because they thought their Medicaid was going to be
5612 gone, and so they wouldn't be able to live the life they
5613 have, and they wanted to just give it up. And now we are in
5614 a situation where we want to make sure that the basics in
5615 life are _ and that we shouldn't have competition with the
5616 wealthiest people on Earth right now with the people who are
5617 among the poorer people in our country who need basic health
5618 care.

5619 I also just want to point out we have never talked about
5620 health care as _ in other countries around the world, in

5621 domestic countries that have their own health care systems.
5622 But we, along with private equity, has gotten very involved
5623 in the money version of making sure we have the health care
5624 that we need.

5625 But we also talked a lot about the Consumer _
5626 *Voice. Financial Protection Agency.

5627 *Ms. Schakowsky. _ Financial Protection Agency, and I
5628 wanted to just say this. We have an agency that is looking
5629 out for our safety to make sure that we are not being ripped
5630 off, that senior citizens are going to be able to get the
5631 money that they need and deserve, that they are _ that our
5632 veterans are going to have the money and benefits that they
5633 should have. We had someone on the lookout to make sure that
5634 we are protected.

5635 And guess what? Now no one is working at the Consumer
5636 Financial Agency. Why? Because they were told not to go to
5637 work again. So nobody is watching out for all the people who
5638 read some _ need some protection and have provided it _ been
5639 provided by a wonderful organization that has helped make
5640 sure that the money, the _ all the evidence that people
5641 should have has come because we had this agency that was
5642 assigned to that to make sure that we are safe. And so now
5643 we don't have that kind of protection anymore.

5644 And I would suggest, since it has not been made totally
5645 official, that we need to continue to fight all the way to

5646 make sure that this agency is going to be back making sure
5647 that Americans are not going to get stiffed, so they are not
5648 going to get cheated, that our seniors are going to be able
5649 to be protected.

5650 And with that I yield.

5651 *Mr. Griffith. [Presiding] The gentlelady yields. Any
5652 Republican?

5653 I recognize the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Bilirakis.

5654 *Mr. Bilirakis. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
5655 word.

5656 *Mr. Griffith. You are recognized.

5657 *Mr. Bilirakis. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe the
5658 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau falls within the
5659 committee's jurisdiction, and therefore I do not believe it
5660 is appropriate to include this in the oversight plan.

5661 I will be happy to discuss this particular issue,
5662 because we want to protect our seniors most of all, with the
5663 gentlelady, but it should not be in this oversight plan, as I
5664 said, for the purposes I said before. It is not part of our
5665 committee's jurisdiction.

5666 Thank you, I yield back.

5667 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. I now
5668 recognize the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Pallone, ranking
5669 member of the full committee, for his five minutes.

5670 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I do want to

5671 assure Mr. Bilirakis that the Consumer Financial Protection
5672 Bureau is within our jurisdiction. Many aspects of what they
5673 do directly relates to the Energy and Commerce Committee.

5674 And I mentioned that in particular because I wanted to
5675 thank Ms. Schakowsky. Earlier this month the author of
5676 Project 2025 sent an email to everyone who works at the CFPB
5677 headquarters, which is directly across from the White House,
5678 across from the Executive Mansion. And that email told the
5679 people that worked there not to come into the office and to
5680 stop working. Now, for that reason, myself and Ms.
5681 Schakowsky went down. There was a protest. A lot of the
5682 people that worked there, you know, because they were
5683 essentially closed out of their offices _ they closed the
5684 building _ stepped outside and organized a protest against
5685 the fact that the building was closed and that they were told
5686 to go home.

5687 And so we, Jan and I, specifically went down there
5688 because we were essentially representing the Energy and
5689 Commerce Committee and saying that we strongly oppose the
5690 closure and the stop work order. And, you know, we were also
5691 happy because we felt there were so many people there that it
5692 was clear that, you know, whoever was in the Oval Office that
5693 day or was in the Executive Mansion clearly heard us because
5694 we were screaming very loudly, and I have no doubt that they
5695 heard our protests.

5696 Now, you know, I am not _ you know, everything that Jan
5697 said is true. And I just want to run through this because it
5698 does show you what our jurisdiction was and how it
5699 encompasses this agency.

5700 The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was established
5701 in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis to put an end to the
5702 predatory behaviors that led to the recession and resulted in
5703 millions of people losing their homes in the wave of mass
5704 foreclosures. So it stands up against predatory lenders like
5705 payday lenders that exploit Americans and often force them
5706 into financial debt. It has returned more than \$21 billion
5707 to American consumers since the agency was established. In
5708 my home state of New Jersey more than 100,000 New Jerseyans
5709 filed a complaint with the CFPB last year. Consumers save an
5710 estimated \$5 billion per year thanks to the CFPB's bank
5711 overdraft rule, which the Trump Administration could prevent
5712 from taking effect. The CFPB is working to remove medical
5713 debt from millions of Americans' credit reports, which could
5714 be reversed if the Trump Administration gets its way.

5715 Essentially, what the Trump Administration is doing here
5716 is taking the cop off the beat when it comes to the work that
5717 this organization does for American consumers. It is
5718 directly under our consumer affairs _ our consumer protection
5719 committee, which, as you know, Ms. Schakowsky is the ranking
5720 member of the subcommittee.

5721 So without the CFPB, banks and bad actors can return to
5722 these practices that destroyed our economy, eliminating
5723 thousands of jobs, ruining people's lives. I mean, it is
5724 really outrageous. And the reason we need to have this
5725 amendment is because we don't know what is going on down
5726 there. They _ I don't believe they ever reopened the office.
5727 My understanding is that they may have some people working at
5728 regional offices, they may not.

5729 More than anything else that _ and I am not trying to
5730 take away from the other amendments today, but the fact of
5731 the matter is the reason we need this hearing and oversight
5732 is because I think that, more than any other agency that we
5733 have discussed today, no one knows what is going on down
5734 there. We don't know whether they are open, whether they are
5735 closed, how many people work there, whether they are _ have _
5736 you know, whether they are able to do anything anymore.

5737 So this is directly something that should be in our
5738 oversight plan, particularly since there is so much secrecy
5739 about what the Administration is doing with this very
5740 important agency.

5741 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

5742 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Do I have
5743 anyone who wishes recognition on this side?

5744 Going to this side, does anybody wish to be recognized?

5745 Seeing none, we will move to the vote.

5746 Okay then, a roll call vote has been requested.

5747 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Menendez _

5748 *Mr. Griffith. Oh, sorry, I did not see you. I
5749 apologize.

5750 Mr. Menendez of New Jersey _

5751 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, and I _

5752 *Mr. Griffith. _ recognized for five minutes.

5753 *Mr. Menendez. _ appreciate my colleague for bringing
5754 this amendment up for discussion and the critical importance
5755 that the CFPB has played since the 2008 financial crisis to
5756 ensure that we are protecting the folks in our districts
5757 across the country, making sure that those who are predatory
5758 lenders are not taking advantage of good Americans.

5759 And we had a great American who led this, Rohit Chopra,
5760 for so many years, a great New Jerseyan, until he was let go
5761 by this Administration. And the President has said in the
5762 Oval Office that his intention is to shutter this department.
5763 So, you know, we need to continue to be mindful of how
5764 Americans are being impacted by the decisions of this
5765 Administration, making sure that, if we truly are looking as
5766 a general matter to have oversight over fraud, waste, and
5767 abuse, we had an agency like CFPB that was set up to do this
5768 exact thing, and we should ensure that we do whatever we can
5769 to advance this mission and push back against the
5770 Administration's attempt to shutter it.

5771 With that I yield back.

5772 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
5773 else seeking recognition?

5774 Going, going, gone. Seeing none, a roll call vote has
5775 been requested. I would ask the clerk to call the roll.

5776 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5777 [No response.]

5778 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5779 [No response.]

5780 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

5781 *Mr. Griffith. No.

5782 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
5783 Mr. Bilirakis?

5784 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

5785 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
5786 Mr. Hudson?

5787 *Mr. Hudson. No.

5788 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

5789 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

5790 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

5791 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

5792 Mr. Palmer?

5793 *Mr. Palmer. No.

5794 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

5795 Mr. Dunn?

5796 *Mr. Dunn. No.
5797 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
5798 Mr. Crenshaw?
5799 [No response.]
5800 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
5801 [No response.]
5802 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5803 [No response.]
5804 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5805 [No response.]
5806 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
5807 *Mr. Weber. No.
5808 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
5809 Mr. Allen?
5810 *Mr. Allen. No.
5811 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
5812 Mr. Balderson?
5813 *Mr. Balderson. No.
5814 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
5815 Mr. Fulcher?
5816 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
5817 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
5818 Mr. Pfluger?
5819 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
5820 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

5821 Mrs. Harshbarger?
5822 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
5823 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
5824 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5825 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
5826 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
5827 Mrs. Cammack?
5828 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
5829 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
5830 Mr. Obernolte?
5831 [No response.]
5832 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
5833 [No response.]
5834 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
5835 [No response.]
5836 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
5837 [No response.]
5838 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
5839 *Mr. Bentz. No.
5840 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
5841 Mrs. Houchin?
5842 [No response.]
5843 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
5844 [No response.]
5845 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

5846 [No response.]

5847 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

5848 [No response.]

5849 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?

5850 [No response.]

5851 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?

5852 [No response.]

5853 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?

5854 *Mr. Rulli. No.

5855 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

5856 Mr. Evans?

5857 *Mr. Evans. No.

5858 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

5859 Mr. Goldman?

5860 *Mr. Goldman. No.

5861 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

5862 Mrs. Fedorchak?

5863 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

5864 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

5865 Mr. Pallone?

5866 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

5867 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

5868 Ms. DeGette?

5869 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

5870 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

5871 Ms. Schakowsky?
5872 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
5873 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
5874 Ms. Matsui?
5875 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5876 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5877 Ms. Castor?
5878 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
5879 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5880 Mr. Tonko?
5881 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5882 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5883 Ms. Clarke?
5884 [No response.]
5885 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
5886 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
5887 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
5888 Mr. Peters?
5889 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
5890 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
5891 Mrs. Dingell?
5892 [No response.]
5893 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
5894 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
5895 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

5896 Mr. Veasey?
5897 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
5898 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
5899 Ms. Kelly?
5900 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
5901 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
5902 Ms. Barragan?
5903 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
5904 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
5905 Mr. Soto?
5906 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
5907 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
5908 Ms. Schrier?
5909 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
5910 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5911 Mrs. Trahan?
5912 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
5913 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
5914 Mrs. Fletcher?
5915 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
5916 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
5917 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
5918 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
5919 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
5920 Mr. Auchincloss?

5921 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
5922 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
5923 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
5924 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
5925 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
5926 Mr. Menendez?
5927 [No response.]
5928 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
5929 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
5930 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
5931 Mr. Mullin?
5932 [No response.]
5933 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
5934 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
5935 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
5936 Ms. McClellan?
5937 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
5938 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
5939 Chairman Guthrie?
5940 *The Chair. No.
5941 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
5942 *The Chair. [Presiding.] How is Latta recorded?
5943 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
5944 *Mr. Latta. No.
5945 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

5946 *The Chair. Joyce?

5947 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.

5948 *Mr. Joyce. No.

5949 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

5950 *The Chair. Mr. Obernolte?

5951 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.

5952 *The Chair. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

5953 [Pause.]

5954 *The Chair. Seeing no other answers to the roll call,
5955 the clerk will report.

5956 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
5957 22 ayes and 23 noes.

5958 *The Chair. The _

5959 *Mr. Tonko. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chair.

5960 *The Chair. What number of the amendment?

5961 *Mr. Tonko. Amendment 012.

5962 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

5963 *The Chair. The clerk will report. Oh _

5964 *The Clerk. Could the gentleman from New York please
5965 specify his amendment?

5966 *The Chair. Once again say your _

5967 *Mr. Tonko. Amendment 012.

5968 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan 012.

5969 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
5970 amendment is dispensed with.

5971 [The amendment of Mr. Tonko follows:]

5972

5973 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5974

5975 *The Chair. And the gentleman from New York is
5976 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

5977 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5978 Today the need for scientific integrity has never been
5979 more urgent, especially in public health and environmental
5980 protection. For generations, Federal science has driven
5981 progress in medicine and climate research and in pollution
5982 reduction. Agencies like the CDC, the NIH, and EPA rely on
5983 independent research to safeguard public health and ensure
5984 environmental safety, but that integrity is under attack.
5985 The Trump Administration and now Elon Musk and his band of
5986 muskrats pose a direct threat to America's scientific
5987 leadership. They are censoring research, scrubbing critical
5988 data, and undermining career scientists who dedicate their
5989 lives to protecting public health and national security.

5990 Congress cannot sit idly by while these violations go
5991 unchecked. We have a duty to defend our nation's research
5992 institutions and provide rigorous oversight. This
5993 Administration has made its position clear: they do not care
5994 about scientific integrity, they do not care about saving
5995 American lives from the escalating climate crisis, they do
5996 not care about public health and protecting families from
5997 deadly viruses like COVID-19 or the emerging bird flu threat.

5998 The knowledge we carry forward is essential to our
5999 survival, yet its validity is being questioned on a scale

6000 unprecedented in modern history. Now research projects vital
6001 to public health, economic prosperity, and national security
6002 are being evaluated not for their scientific merit, but
6003 whether they contain words like "diversity," "women," or
6004 "under-represented."

6005 The United States has long been a beacon of research
6006 excellence because we uphold principles that transcend
6007 politics. But those principles are now under attack. In my
6008 district alone institutions like Suny Albany, Albany Medical
6009 College, RPI, the Wadsworth Center, and Albany Molecular are
6010 leading ground-breaking biomedical research work that relies
6011 on consistent support from agencies like the NIH. I have
6012 heard directly from researchers at these institutions, from
6013 infectious disease experts to national security professionals
6014 who are grappling with stalled program reviews, frozen
6015 funding, and an uncertain future for their critical work.
6016 These challenges are not abstract; they are direct threats to
6017 our nation's scientific enterprise and to the progress, the
6018 security, and the well-being of the American people.

6019 Scientists should be focused on their next break-
6020 through, not scrambling for funding or fighting to defend
6021 their right to pursue knowledge free from political
6022 interference. Instead, confusion, delays, and outright fear
6023 are gripping our research institutions. We cannot allow
6024 political ideology to dictate which discoveries are pursued

6025 and which are suppressed. We cannot allow critical research
6026 on climate change, public health, or national security to be
6027 derailed by short-sighted political mandates. And we cannot
6028 allow the United States to fall behind while our competitors
6029 capitalize on our self-inflicted setbacks.

6030 The next great discovery, the next cure, the next
6031 technological revolution could come from any lab, any
6032 researcher, any corner of this country, but only if we let
6033 science be science.

6034 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to uphold
6035 scientific integrity and ensure that facts, not politics,
6036 shape our future.

6037 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

6038 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. For what
6039 purpose does the gentleman from Virginia seek recognition?

6040 *Mr. Griffith. Speaking in opposition to the amendment,
6041 Mr. Chairman.

6042 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

6043 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6044 This amendment is woefully unnecessary, as the oversight
6045 plan contains oversight of the Federal agencies within the
6046 committee's jurisdictions that are responsible for public
6047 health, environmental protection, energy security,
6048 technology, and consumer protection. It is already an
6049 expectation of scientific integrity existing within these

6050 agencies, and the oversight conducted by this committee as
6051 outlined in this oversight plan is sufficient to ensure this.

6052 Furthermore, there is no factual basis to claim that
6053 there is political interference at this time stopping
6054 scientists and researchers in Federal agencies or grantee
6055 institutions from conducting their important work.

6056 The amendment is unnecessary, and some of the predicate
6057 for it lacks a factual basis, and I urge my colleagues to
6058 vote no on the amendment.

6059 Now, you may have noticed that I emphasized at this
6060 time, because I have got to tell you, Mr. Chairman, I was
6061 flabbergasted at the fact that in the last Administration it
6062 did appear _ it did appear _ that there was political
6063 chicanery going on with some of our scientific institutions.
6064 Now, I am not saying the President knew about it, but the
6065 Administration either knew or should have known what was
6066 going on.

6067 I mean, all I got to do is tell you I spent a lot of
6068 time investigating with the Oversight and Investigations
6069 Subcommittee the workings at the NIH in relationship to their
6070 lack of oversight and their perhaps actual meddling in
6071 determining the origins of the COVID-19 virus, and that
6072 continued. It started in one administration, in a Republican
6073 administration, and continued over into the Biden
6074 Administration. So I feel very strongly that we will do this

6075 whether we adopt this amendment or not, because that is
6076 within the jurisdiction.

6077 And I am going to point out something now, Mr. Chairman,
6078 that has vexed me all day, and that is that we keep doing
6079 these amendments to specific points of concern for individual
6080 members. That is not the purpose of an oversight general
6081 plan. What you have drawn up, Mr. Chairman, is very similar
6082 to what we have done in the past, and it is saying that we
6083 are going to look into these areas, we are going to take care
6084 of these areas.

6085 And here is the problem, I think, from a legalistic
6086 standpoint _ and yes, I am a recovering attorney, and so
6087 maybe this is _ I am the only one in the room that is feeling
6088 this way. If you site A out of an alphabet of 26 letters in
6089 a specific vote and you say this is what we are going to do,
6090 you are implying that the other 25 letters don't matter.
6091 Well, there is no way we are going to get to everything today
6092 or tomorrow. We could spend six weeks in this room going
6093 over every little thing that this committee might want to
6094 investigate, and arguing about whether or not that should be
6095 on the list. If that is where we want to go, then we can
6096 forget getting any work done, because we will spend the next
6097 month and a half working on exactly what each subcommittee is
6098 going to research and look into and have oversight over.

6099 *Ms. Castor. Will the gentleman yield?

6100 *Mr. Griffith. I am not going to yield. I am on a rant
6101 and I want to finish it.

6102 [Laughter.]

6103 *Mr. Griffith. And it just bothers me that we are
6104 wasting a lot of time that we could be working on other
6105 things, getting ourselves prepared for the hearings. We got
6106 hearings tomorrow. We got hearings coming up next week. We
6107 could be getting prepared for that, to do the very things
6108 that some of the members on the other side of the aisle want
6109 us to do, and taking a look at it. And I am surprised
6110 because I am looking at all the environment _ and I have got
6111 two more to read _ I haven't seen anything on neonicotinoids.
6112 Well, I am concerned about that. Maybe I should be doing an
6113 amendment because we need to talk about every single thing
6114 tonight, instead of moving forward with getting our work done
6115 with a very good, solid product, which is our plan that the
6116 chairman has put together.

6117 So now that I have finished my rant, I will yield back.

6118 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
6119 recognizes the ranking member for five minutes for the
6120 amendment.

6121 *Mr. Pallone. I don't mind your being on your rant, but
6122 I just want to say this, and I will be brief. It wouldn't be
6123 necessary to do these amendments if there was some reasonable
6124 _ if there was some reason to believe that the majority was

6125 willing to stand up and do any real investigation, whether it
6126 be by hearing or by letter or by subpoena or whatever, of
6127 what is happening with the chaos of the Trump Administration
6128 and Elon Musk.

6129 You know, if you noticed over and over again, members on
6130 the Democratic side have said you guys have been silent, and
6131 many times you have admitted that you have been silent on a
6132 lot of these issues. So really, that is the problem here.
6133 You have an oversight plan that is almost exactly what it was
6134 two years ago. Two years ago is a totally different
6135 situation. In the last month we have seen across-the-board
6136 cuts, firing of thousands of people. I just mentioned the
6137 Consumer Finance Agency which literally _ the door was
6138 closed, and everybody was sent home.

6139 I mean, none of these things make any sense from a
6140 rational point of view. And I am not saying that the
6141 President doesn't know what he is doing, but sometimes I do
6142 wonder, and I certainly don't think that Musk knows what he
6143 is doing.

6144 And all we are asking is that there be some indication
6145 somewhere by somebody on the Republican side that you
6146 understand that all these firings and freezes _ and half of
6147 them have been turned around in the courts, but even then,
6148 you know, I have to tell you I _ in my home state of New
6149 Jersey _ because Jen McClellan mentioned this _ you know,

6150 they had _ when the freeze was on they were told, you know,
6151 the portal was closed for my community health centers to get
6152 paid under _ for Medicaid or anything, right?

6153 The next day the freeze is lifted by the courts, but
6154 some of them are still not able to get the funding because
6155 the portal is closed. Now, some of you may say, oh, that is
6156 because the portal is broken. Well, I don't believe that.
6157 They are definitely getting around a lot of these things,
6158 even when the courts have ordered them to do the right thing.

6159 So we are just asking. We have no reason to believe
6160 that of _ you know, whether it is the cuts to a nursing home
6161 and freeze, or it is consumer finance, or whatever it is,
6162 that any hearing is ever going to be held or any letters ever
6163 going to be sent saying, DOGE, Musk, what are you doing? Are
6164 you going to continue with this chaos, across-the-board cuts
6165 that have no rationale? We have sent letters to these
6166 various agencies and to Musk and the President. They don't
6167 respond to us in any way. They don't give any reason. Oh,
6168 waste, fraud, and abuse. That is all they keep saying over
6169 and over again. Well, show us where the waste, fraud, and
6170 abuse is. They don't respond to anything.

6171 So you have to understand. And, you know, you have to
6172 understand that the reason that we are going through this
6173 list is because you have an oversight plan that doesn't seem
6174 to recognize in any way what has been going on in the last

6175 month with this Administration, and it is unprecedented.

6176 Now, some of you may say, oh, well, that is great, you
6177 know, they are wrecking everything, and changing everything,
6178 and, you know, everybody stinks in the Federal Government so
6179 let's just get rid of them all. But, I mean, you are not
6180 going to say that because you don't believe that.

6181 But all we are saying is give us some indication here
6182 that you are going to address some of this behavior that
6183 seems to us to make no sense whatsoever, and it is killing
6184 the economy. You can't keep freezing all the funding, having
6185 tariffs, firing everybody, creating all this chaos, you know,
6186 the stock market _ not that I am _ I am not going to favor
6187 the stock market, but the market goes up and down every day.
6188 This _ all this instability out there that I think is going
6189 to lead to an economic downturn.

6190 And so we are just saying with this oversight plan, you
6191 know, we have got to address these issues. We have got to
6192 bring them to your attention. We are not getting any
6193 response at all. So that is it. I don't know what else to
6194 tell you.

6195 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

6196 *The Chair. The ranking member yields back. Is anyone
6197 seeking recognition?

6198 The gentlelady from Washington, you are recognized for
6199 five minutes.

6200 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I move to
6201 strike the last word.

6202 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

6203 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to
6204 support this amendment.

6205 The idea has been tossed around by my Republican
6206 colleagues that there is no need for this amendment to make
6207 sure that we protect scientific integrity. You better
6208 believe there is a need. I mean, look at what we have seen
6209 over the past several years. We have seen anti-mask
6210 information. We have just seen a confirmation of vaccine
6211 denier and skeptic RFK, Jr. put in charge of Health and Human
6212 Services. He is also questioning FDA decisions and just
6213 pulling ideas out of his pocket and throwing them out there,
6214 even though he is in charge of Health and Human Services.

6215 We have seen firings at the NIH, cutting funding to the
6216 NIH, attacks on universities as being elitist, even though
6217 that is where our scientists, the best in the world, are
6218 trained. We are even seeing cuts to the Department of
6219 Education. Where do you think our kids are going to get
6220 educated in terms of science?

6221 And it feels like there is this, like, a purposeful
6222 attempt to dumb down our population by attacking science,
6223 undermining science, misinterpreting studies, throwing
6224 conspiracy theories out there.

6225 And so I just want to emphasize that we do need this
6226 amendment, that it is important, that there seems to be an
6227 attack on science and a misunderstanding of science, and
6228 definitely a politicization of science, especially when you
6229 see the anti-vax sentiment aligning very much along partisan
6230 lines. And so I would like to encourage my colleagues to
6231 support this very necessary _ unfortunately, very necessary
6232 amendment.

6233 Thank you, I yield back.

6234 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Mr. Obernolte
6235 from California, you are recognized for five minutes.

6236 *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and
6237 I have to admit a little bit of frustration here.

6238 Scientific integrity is something that I deeply value.
6239 I have served on the Science, Space, and Technology the last
6240 four years. It is something we always strive for. We don't
6241 want research to be tainted by political interference. I
6242 don't think anybody does on either side of the aisle.

6243 One of the things that I like best about serving on SST
6244 is that we are largely a bipartisan committee, and we work on
6245 things that are mutually important to everybody on the dais,
6246 and it is very seldom that we have partisanism rise to the
6247 level where it is actually interrupting the committee
6248 business. And I have really enjoyed serving on Science _ on
6249 Energy and Commerce, and I felt the same way about this

6250 committee until just recently. And so it is frustrating to
6251 be having this discussion.

6252 And I just _ I want to remind people, because I have a
6253 feeling that people think the sky is falling here. And, you
6254 know, we have been here before, and we are going to get
6255 through it. In terms of the cuts that have been made
6256 recently, let me remind everyone that the last time we had a
6257 balanced budget was under a Democratic president and a
6258 Republican Congress. It was under President Clinton. And
6259 when he first came into office, his first week in office he
6260 issued an executive order that said he was going to cut four
6261 percent of the Federal workforce, and he did it. He did more
6262 than that. He cut hundreds of thousands of Federal workers.
6263 It was very controversial, and people didn't like it. But
6264 folks, that is what was required to balance the Federal
6265 budget.

6266 And we have had presidents in the past who pushed the
6267 limits of constitutional law. In fact, the most recent one
6268 we had was Barack Obama, who got frustrated with the fact
6269 that Congress wasn't doing what he wanted them to do, and he
6270 said, literally, "So sue me.'" Those were his exact words.
6271 And people did, and the courts did what the courts are
6272 supposed to do, and sorted out what was legal and what was
6273 extralegal, and brought the administration to heel. And we
6274 are seeing that play out in the courts right now.

6275 So we will get through this. But folks, I am concerned
6276 that we are losing our ability to have a civil discussion
6277 with each other. You know, I really value the opinions of my
6278 colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I think we are here
6279 for the same reasons. I think we all play for not Team
6280 Republican or Team Democrat, but Team United States. And,
6281 you know, it really hurts my heart to see this kind of
6282 partisanism because I remember _ I remind you this is what
6283 should have been a procedural vote to approve our oversight
6284 plan. That is it. And it was largely the plan as it has
6285 been under both Republican and Democrat control for years
6286 here in this committee.

6287 So the fact that we have all chosen to spend our time
6288 here all day on this procedural vote not accomplishing the
6289 business, the important business that this committee has to
6290 accomplish, you know, I think is really non-sensical. So I
6291 hope that we can, at the end of the day here, remember that
6292 we are supposed to play for the same team.

6293 So I apologize for, I guess, my rant, but, you know, it
6294 has really been painful to watch. I yield back, Mr.
6295 Chairman.

6296 *The Chair. The gentleman from California yields back.
6297 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

6298 *Mr. Landsman. And thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want
6299 to respond because I _ this is _ the vote _ the last time we

6300 had a balanced budget was 1993. The budget was the 1993
6301 omnibus budget bill, and it was President Clinton. He had
6302 just gotten elected. And instead of ransacking the Federal
6303 Government, getting one of his donors to take a chainsaw to
6304 the Federal bureaucracy, indiscriminately laying off public
6305 employees, accessing public data, breaching the Treasury
6306 payment system, he went to the United States Congress _ and
6307 it was a Democratic Congress, they lost in 1994, but it was a
6308 Democratic Congress. So the last time we had a balanced
6309 budget it was a Democratic president and a Democratic
6310 Congress that passed a budget bill.

6311 And so instead of doing all of the crazy things that
6312 have happened over the last five or six weeks, truly
6313 problematic behavior, he went and did the hard work by
6314 negotiating with the United States Congress, which is what
6315 you are supposed to do. That budget led not only to a
6316 balanced budget, but to several surpluses and the largest
6317 economic expansion in American history. So why doesn't the
6318 President do that? Why doesn't the President come to the
6319 United States Congress and work with us to pass a budget that
6320 doesn't increase our deficit, that doesn't cut nearly \$1
6321 trillion in health care from people?

6322 And if there is waste, fraud, and abuse, bring it to the
6323 United States Congress.

6324 That is not what they are doing. And the reason why we

6325 are here offering these amendments is because people are
6326 frustrated and angry and scared, and they are looking at a
6327 Republican-controlled Congress doing absolutely nothing to
6328 stop the mayhem that is going on. And the show of good faith
6329 could have been just support the amendments. These are
6330 pretty simple amendments that say we are going to start
6331 asking questions. We are going to push and prod and hold
6332 people accountable, but that is not what we are doing.

6333 So I wanted to be on this committee for the same reasons
6334 that you talked about, which is this bipartisan, problem-
6335 solving aspect of this committee. We are living in a
6336 different moment. And the sooner that my colleagues on the
6337 other side of the aisle get that and stand up to at least
6338 Musk, then we can go back to something resembling normalcy.
6339 But until then, this is going to be problematic because we
6340 have to do something.

6341 With that I yield back.

6342 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there anyone
6343 from the Republican side?

6344 Seeing none, the gentleman from New Jersey is recognized
6345 for five minutes.

6346 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. I appreciate my
6347 colleague, Congressman Tonko, for introducing this amendment.

6348 And we hear across the aisle that our Republican
6349 colleagues keep saying we have been here before, right? That

6350 this is just a procedural committee hearing with regard to
6351 what we have done in the past. But if you don't realize we
6352 are in very different times right now, then I don't know what
6353 to tell you, and you are clearly not talking to your
6354 constituents.

6355 We have a Secretary of HHS who openly engages in public
6356 health conspiracy theories. The second-most important
6357 scientific mind in the Administration or outside the
6358 Administration is Joe Rogan, right? Like, these are not
6359 normal times. And for you all to sit there and pretend like
6360 it is, and this should just be a procedural day, you are
6361 missing the moment. We really need to ensure scientific
6362 integrity throughout our departments and agencies, because
6363 that is what this moment calls for.

6364 We need to protect scientific integrity at Federal
6365 agencies that are responsible for our public health because
6366 the President is entrusting people who have worms in their
6367 head, right? That is not a place that we should be going.
6368 That is not someone that we should trust. And if that is who
6369 the President chooses to trust, then we need to ensure that
6370 we do our oversight obligation here to ensure that all of our
6371 departments, all of our agencies can engage in their business
6372 with the utmost scientific integrity.

6373 And with that I yield back.

6374 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Dr. Joyce is

6375 recognized for five minutes, the gentleman from Pennsylvania
6376 is recognized for five minutes.

6377 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
6378 the last word.

6379 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

6380 *Mr. Joyce. For years Democrats sat silently as "the
6381 science'' was weaponized against Americans. So many of us in
6382 this room are trained in science, but it should have never
6383 been used as a weapon. We were told that a vaccine would
6384 prevent individuals from ever getting COVID. We were sold a
6385 bill of goods.

6386 Dr. Fauci and Dr. Collins, then both government
6387 employees, orchestrated a brutal takedown of theory, a theory
6388 that I will note is widely accepted as likely that the COVID-
6389 19 pandemic originated from a lab leak in Wuhan, China.

6390 Subsequently, a congressional investigation into this
6391 topic turned up documents of NIH employees discussing
6392 laughing about stonewalling and obstructing this very
6393 committee.

6394 This investigation also uncovered efforts to delete
6395 government records. Remember the FOIA lady?

6396 This committee has fought for years to restore
6397 accountability in our scientific agencies. This is not a
6398 time that we would ever want to turn a blind eye, and yet a
6399 blind eye was turned.

6400 So let's spare the crocodile tears. Let's talk about
6401 what truly is scientific integrity. This oversight plan, as
6402 written, already provides us the broad discretion to conduct
6403 oversight into our health agency, and this amendment is
6404 unnecessary.

6405 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield.

6406 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back.

6407 *Ms. Barragan. Mr. Joyce, can I _ will you yield for a
6408 minute?

6409 *The Chair. Would the gentleman yield to the lady from
6410 California?

6411 *Ms. Barragan. I just have a quick question, and this
6412 is a genuine question. Do you believe that the COVID vaccine
6413 had any benefit to it?

6414 *Mr. Joyce. I feel that the information that was
6415 presented to us fractured the trust that my patients have in
6416 government because we were told that the COVID vaccine
6417 allowed individuals not to get COVID, and so many of us
6418 locked into that, and it was a mistruth. It was not what we
6419 saw, because individuals who did get the COVID vaccine went
6420 on to develop COVID, and that fractured the doctor-patient
6421 relationship, and that fractured the ability for us who serve
6422 on Energy and Commerce to _

6423 *Mr. Ruiz. Will that gentleman yield?

6424 *Mr. Joyce. _ take information back to our district.

6425 *Ms. Barragan. Do you think that it saved any lives, or
6426 no?

6427 *Mr. Joyce. I am sorry?

6428 *Ms. Barragan. I am just curious. Do you think it
6429 saved any lives? Because I know you got the jab. Do you
6430 think it saved any lives?

6431 *Mr. Joyce. I think that a mandate for any vaccine _

6432 *Ms. Barragan. That is not what I am asking.

6433 *Mr. Joyce. Ms. Barragan, I feel that any mandate _

6434 *Ms. Barragan. I am just asking if you think it saved
6435 any lives.

6436 *Mr. Joyce. _ for any vaccine is unnecessary. I think
6437 that is a decision that should be made between the patient
6438 and the doctor with truths from science.

6439 *Ms. Barragan. I don't disagree _

6440 *Mr. Joyce. And if you don't have that truth from
6441 science _ this is my time, I am reclaiming my time. If you
6442 don't have that truth in science, if you don't have that
6443 ability to know that what is coming out of the NIH is true,
6444 then you don't provide physicians the ability to give that
6445 information to their patients.

6446 And as I travel into my district, which I do all the
6447 time, every weekend and every district work period, I have
6448 heard from constituents that they don't trust science, that
6449 they don't trust the NIH. And we now have adequate oversight

6450 to _ again, to do the necessary intelligent investigations in
6451 our health agency, and this specific amendment is
6452 unnecessary.

6453 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield.

6454 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there anyone
6455 on the _ that is right, we just did the Republicans, so Ms.
6456 Barragan, you want _ Ms. _ the gentlelady from California is
6457 recognized for five minutes.

6458 *Ms. Barragan. Yes, I am _ I wasn't going to speak, but
6459 I am just going to expand on the conversation because, you
6460 know, the comment that was made was almost insinuating that
6461 the vaccine was this terrible thing, when in reality it saved
6462 lives.

6463 Now, whether it prevented people from getting COVID
6464 again is an argument we could have. But it did save lives,
6465 and God knows it is much better than _ the advice the
6466 President gave was to go inject bleach into yourself. So you
6467 talk about the trust and the mistrust? Excuse me? You got
6468 the President, who is supposed to be a leader, who is a, you
6469 know, clown, asking people, telling people to inject bleach,
6470 putting people into harm's way.

6471 I will strike the clown comment. We know, we know, we
6472 have seen the memes, okay? We don't even have to say it.
6473 The fact that nobody calls it out, the fact that people don't
6474 recognize the circus that we are in, they don't want to admit

6475 it in the room is pretty hilarious. It is pretty comical.

6476 And I will also say that my colleagues across the aisle
6477 have called the former president worse things.

6478 *Voice. That is right.

6479 *Ms. Barragan. Okay? So all of a sudden, all of a
6480 sudden, you got decorum. Oh my gosh, you have seen the
6481 light.

6482 But you know, this is really hypocritical because you
6483 come in here and you want to go attack the COVID vaccine when
6484 it saved lives _ and you yourself got it too, by the way.
6485 Nobody is suggesting that it is not a decision a doctor could
6486 make with their patients. For God sakes, we talk about that
6487 with women's right to choose, and you won't see it the same
6488 way when it comes to that.

6489 So with that said, I am going to yield time to my
6490 colleague, Mr. Ruiz.

6491 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, I think what we just witnessed here is
6492 a clear example of how the manufacturing of distrust happens,
6493 where you have a physician who talks about something
6494 erroneously that occurred, takes it out of context,
6495 misrepresents those words, and then determines it is as
6496 facts, and goes around the constituents and to the American
6497 people and distilling that misinformation as fact.

6498 So for example, at that time _ and I know what you are
6499 referring to when Mr. _ when President Biden said that if you

6500 get it you won't get sick. At that time the studies showed
6501 that it was very protective against COVID-19. That virus
6502 evolved and changed.

6503 Now, you know, I know, as physicians, that a vaccine
6504 helps boost your immune response to a virus, and that once
6505 you reach a threshold of that viral load into a body you
6506 become symptomatic, and for some very symptomatic in the ICU,
6507 and some people died.

6508 You also know that if you boost your immune system
6509 enough, then you will prevent from getting sick, you will not
6510 get symptoms. You will defeat the virus that is in your body
6511 before it manifests as a symptom. And yes, you _ it will
6512 prevent, in some cases, getting sick. But the point of the
6513 vaccine _ and it still is _ is to help you not die, to help
6514 you not go to the ICU, and for many to help prevent getting
6515 sick, period.

6516 Now, that is the logical, reasonable explanation that
6517 you and others can clearly give to the public. But instead
6518 you focus on this misinterpretation with false _ under the
6519 false premise and the context of what was said at that one
6520 time. But you are hoping _ and it has been explained over
6521 and over again, but they refuse to acknowledge that and go
6522 back and focus on the words that were being said.

6523 So as a physician, I want to clear the record and say
6524 that this vaccine helps you and some people prevents them

6525 from getting sick, period. And for many people who get sick,
6526 even though they are on the vaccine, prevents them from
6527 having been more sick or even dying, period.

6528 The vaccine is the reason why we are here without
6529 wearing masks. That is the reason. But when you continue to
6530 sow doubt, then you are manufacturing distrust into our
6531 public health leaders and the best tools that we have to
6532 protect the public's health, and that is dangerous. That is
6533 sowing mistrust into our agencies and our scientists.

6534 I yield back to Representative Barragan.

6535 *Ms. Barragan. I will yield back.

6536 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
6537 wants to emphasize the gentlelady struck her words. I just
6538 want to _

6539 *Ms. Barragan. Only the word "clown."'

6540 *Mr. Pallone. The clown.

6541 *The Chair. The clown, right, the word "clown."'' That
6542 is what I mean. That is what I mean, and so we appreciate
6543 you striking your words. I just want to remind the committee
6544 of the decorum that we have to _ that we need to abide by of
6545 _ in the committee rules.

6546 So the chair will now recognize the gentleman from North
6547 Carolina.

6548 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to
6549 yield to my colleague from Virginia, Mr. Griffith.

6550 *Mr. Griffith. Yes, I told you all this might take us
6551 six weeks at this rate, but here is the problem we have and
6552 that the good doctor was touching on. It is a slightly
6553 different point.

6554 But we were told _ and in fact, our Federal Government
6555 spent millions of dollars, and this committee investigated it
6556 without a specific requirement to do so, this committee
6557 investigated it. And what we found was they spent millions
6558 of dollars telling people that if you got the jab it would
6559 stop the spread. You _ advertisements to our young people
6560 and others that you can go back to school if you get the
6561 shot. Advertisements that you can suddenly go back to
6562 parties if you get the shot. None of that had any scientific
6563 basis in it at the time.

6564 There is _ and there wasn't any evidence then, there
6565 isn't any evidence now that it stops the spread. And they
6566 suddenly discovered that without _ they made the claim
6567 without scientific basis, and then discovered it when there
6568 was a big party somewhere in New England. I want to say it
6569 was New York, but I might be mistaken. It has been a while
6570 since I read the report that our committee and our committee
6571 staff came up with. But the bottom line was we need
6572 scientific integrity. We don't need an amendment to tell us
6573 to do it. We did it in the last term without a specific
6574 amendment to say let's have scientific scrutiny. We got

6575 stonewalled by the past administration.

6576 I hope that you all can get your documents. It may not
6577 be exactly when you want them, but we never got a lot of the
6578 documents that we wanted when we were asking for it, trying
6579 to do exactly what this amendment says it wants us to do. We
6580 already have authority to do that in this broad statement of
6581 what we are trying to do. It is a good statement, and we
6582 need to quit going into the little nuances and saying, well,
6583 you can't do it if we _ oh, you might not do it. We have
6584 done it in the past and we will do it again. I don't care
6585 who the administration is. If they are spreading things that
6586 are not scientifically accurate, we need to put a stop to it
6587 because we want scientific accuracy.

6588 But don't come in here and say we are misleading people.
6589 That is the facts. It never stopped the spread, and there
6590 was never any evidence it would stop the spread. But the
6591 past administration spent millions of taxpayer dollars
6592 telling people you got to get the shot because it is going to
6593 stop the spread and you can go back to having parties. And
6594 it wasn't ever true, and people got sick because of it,
6595 because they went to parties thinking they had had the shot
6596 and they were safe from getting the disease. And I think
6597 that is the point that the good gentleman from Pennsylvania
6598 previously was trying to make.

6599 And I yield back.

6600 *Mr. Hudson. I yield back.

6601 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone _ the
6602 gentleman from Florida, Mr. Soto, you are recognized for five
6603 minutes.

6604 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman, and I appreciate this
6605 amazing debate.

6606 You know, I was reading the headline today that I never
6607 thought I would see in 2025: Texas measles outbreak. Here
6608 is why it is not going away any time soon. It is also
6609 affecting New Mexico, 124 kids getting a disease that hasn't
6610 really affected folks for quite a while, mostly unvaccinated.

6611 And when we are talking about vaccines like the COVID
6612 vaccine, I think the key thing to understand is that it was
6613 supposed to prevent substantial injury and death, and that is
6614 what it did, right? It didn't stop it in its tracks, but
6615 when we think about the death rates between those who got the
6616 vaccine and who didn't, they are vastly different, and long
6617 COVID is predominantly among folks who didn't get the
6618 vaccine.

6619 I am going to need a little help here, Dr. Ruiz. You
6620 know, what are some of the symptoms of measles? And do you
6621 think that would be worse than getting the vaccine? What is
6622 really at risk for these kids in _ across America who,
6623 because of political gain, because people are questioning
6624 science at every aspect, what are the consequences for

6625 measles?

6626 *Mr. Ruiz. Thanks, Representative Soto, for the
6627 opportunity.

6628 But first let me say that yes, the standard of public
6629 health professionals and physicians will say that the COVID-
6630 19 vaccines helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. No vaccine
6631 is 100 percent. And this is again the manufacturing of
6632 distrust, saying that they said it was 100 percent. It is
6633 not 100 percent. But the big picture here is that, yes,
6634 indeed, it reduced the spread of COVID-19.

6635 Measles, as we are seeing in the population that are not
6636 vaccinated, have a higher rate of getting sick with the
6637 illness than those who are vaccinated in getting the side
6638 effects. The symptoms could include these small red spots
6639 with blue-white centers inside the mouth, hoarseness, swollen
6640 lymph nodes, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain can last
6641 7 to 14 days. It starts 7 to 14 days after exposure. And
6642 the fever and rash slowly go away after a few days.

6643 Now, the seriousness of this, the diarrhea could lead to
6644 dehydration, it could lead to a brain infection,
6645 inflammation, infection that causes brain swelling and
6646 potential brain damage, and severe breathing problems
6647 including pneumonia.

6648 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Dr. Ruiz. And I also want to
6649 talk to Dr. Schrier.

6650 Did you see a lot of measles cases over the last couple
6651 of years before an attack on science?

6652 *Ms. Schrier. You know, it is really interesting. In
6653 the year 2000 measles was declared eradicated from the United
6654 States. And then, in about 2019, we had really big
6655 outbreaks. And I put this really at the feet of RFK, Jr. and
6656 people like him for spreading doubt, sowing doubt. There
6657 have been meta-studies showing its safety.

6658 And let me just tell you, I have seen one child with
6659 measles, and it _ at the time _ this was in around the year
6660 2001 _ it took a 75-year-old doctor to diagnose it because
6661 none of us really saw it.

6662 So just keep in mind, 20 percent of kids end up in the
6663 hospital, and many get brain swelling and die from this
6664 incredibly contagious disease.

6665 *Mr. Soto. These are the types of deaths that shouldn't
6666 be happening right now in the United States, and the types of
6667 conditions that shouldn't be happening anymore in the United
6668 States, yet it is happening because there is political gain
6669 to be made when you attack science, which is so hard to do,
6670 to get a vaccine together, to get something that works. And
6671 it is very easy to attack it for political gain because
6672 people are afraid.

6673 But what have we seen over many years? A lot of these
6674 conditions have been reduced or ended, and now we are seeing

6675 them come back. And this is a consequence of the lack of _
6676 the attacks on scientific integrity that we need to protect
6677 here today.

6678 And I yield back.

6679 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there anyone
6680 on the Republican side? Any more on the Democrat side?

6681 Seeing none, seeing no further discussion, the vote
6682 occurs on the amendment. The gentleman from New Jersey has
6683 requested a roll call, a recorded vote, and the clerk will
6684 call the roll.

6685 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6686 *Mr. Latta. No.

6687 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

6688 Mr. Griffith?

6689 *Mr. Griffith. No.

6690 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

6691 Mr. Bilirakis?

6692 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

6693 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

6694 Mr. Hudson?

6695 *Mr. Hudson. No.

6696 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

6697 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

6698 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

6699 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

6700 Mr. Palmer?
6701 *Mr. Palmer. No.
6702 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
6703 Mr. Dunn?
6704 *Mr. Dunn. No.
6705 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
6706 Mr. Crenshaw?
6707 [No response.]
6708 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6709 *Mr. Joyce. No.
6710 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
6711 Mr. Weber?
6712 *Mr. Weber. No.
6713 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
6714 Mr. Allen?
6715 *Mr. Allen. No.
6716 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
6717 Mr. Balderson?
6718 *Mr. Balderson. No.
6719 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
6720 Mr. Fulcher?
6721 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
6722 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
6723 Mr. Pfluger?
6724 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

6725 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
6726 Mrs. Harshbarger?
6727 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
6728 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
6729 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6730 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
6731 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
6732 Mrs. Cammack?
6733 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
6734 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
6735 Mr. Obernolte?
6736 [No response.]
6737 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
6738 [No response.]
6739 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
6740 *Mr. Bentz. No.
6741 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
6742 Mrs. Houchin?
6743 [No response.]
6744 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
6745 [No response.]
6746 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
6747 [No response.]
6748 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
6749 [No response.]

6750 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
6751 [No response.]
6752 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
6753 [No response.]
6754 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
6755 [No response.]
6756 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
6757 [No response.]
6758 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
6759 [No response.]
6760 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
6761 *Mr. Rulli. No.
6762 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
6763 Mr. Evans?
6764 *Mr. Evans. No.
6765 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
6766 Mr. Goldman?
6767 *Mr. Goldman. No.
6768 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6769 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6770 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
6771 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
6772 Mr. Pallone?
6773 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6774 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

6775 Ms. DeGette?
6776 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6777 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6778 Ms. Schakowsky?
6779 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6780 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6781 Ms. Matsui?
6782 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6783 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6784 Ms. Castor?
6785 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6786 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6787 Mr. Tonko?
6788 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
6789 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6790 Ms. Clarke?
6791 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
6792 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
6793 Mr. Ruiz?
6794 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6795 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6796 Mr. Peters?
6797 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6798 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6799 Mrs. Dingell?

6800 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
6801 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6802 Mr. Veasey?
6803 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
6804 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6805 Ms. Kelly?
6806 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
6807 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
6808 Ms. Barragan?
6809 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
6810 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6811 Mr. Soto?
6812 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
6813 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6814 Ms. Schrier?
6815 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6816 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6817 Mrs. Trahan?
6818 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6819 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6820 Mrs. Fletcher?
6821 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6822 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
6823 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6824 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

6825 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
6826 Mr. Auchincloss?
6827 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
6828 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
6829 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6830 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
6831 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
6832 Mr. Menendez?
6833 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6834 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6835 Mr. Mullin?
6836 [No response.]
6837 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
6838 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
6839 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
6840 Ms. McClellan?
6841 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
6842 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
6843 Chairman Guthrie?
6844 *The Chair. No.
6845 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
6846 *The Chair. How is Mr. _
6847 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.
6848 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
6849 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll?

6850 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

6851 [Pause.]

6852 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
6853 23 ayes and 23 noes.

6854 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
6855 further amendments?

6856 The gentleman from New Jersey, for what purpose do you
6857 seek recognition?

6858 *Mr. Menendez. To offer an amendment, CAT 12.

6859 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

6860 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan CAT 12.

6861 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
6862 amendment is dispensed with.

6863 [The amendment of Mr. Menendez follows:]

6864

6865 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6866

6867 *The Chair. And the gentleman from New Jersey is
6868 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

6869 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman.

6870 My amendment would require this committee to conduct
6871 oversight of conflicts of interest that involve a government
6872 or quasi-government official that has an ownership interest
6873 in FCC licensee.

6874 I want to be clear. The situation with Elon Musk is
6875 completely unprecedented. Through his role as a special
6876 government employee leading Trump's crusade against the
6877 Federal Government, Musk has the authority to oversee
6878 government agencies that are supposed to be regulating his
6879 businesses and influence FCC decisions that directly impact
6880 the profitability of the companies he runs, to the detriment
6881 of the American people.

6882 Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX, has applied for
6883 various contracts and licenses through the FCC. It
6884 previously applied for almost \$900 million through the Rural
6885 Digital Opportunity Fund. In November the FCC approved
6886 SpaceX's request to deploy mobile signal connectivity from
6887 SpaceX.

6888 And it doesn't stop with the FCC. Musk's companies
6889 routinely engage with the Federal Government on defense
6890 contracts, energy policies, and other matters. SpaceX and
6891 Starlink have received approximately \$1.7 billion from NASA,

6892 \$1.3 billion from the Air Force, and \$199 million from the
6893 Defense Information Systems Agency: over \$3.3 billion in
6894 just the past 12 months.

6895 Prior to 2019 Tesla benefitted from a Clean Vehicle Tax
6896 Credit that Musk is now calling for an end to, which would
6897 reduce competition for his own company.

6898 Most recently, Starlink was awarded a contract to
6899 upgrade information systems used to manage our airspace.
6900 That is not going well. As companies are not passive
6901 participants in government processes, X, formerly known as
6902 Twitter, has faced SEC litigation and SpaceX is suing an
6903 independent government agency.

6904 The American taxpayers, those who are funding these
6905 investments, deserve clarity on where their money is going
6906 and who is benefiting. So when it comes to Musk's conflicts
6907 of interest related to the FCC, this committee has a duty to
6908 conduct oversight on behalf of the American people.

6909 I urge my colleagues to support this incredible
6910 amendment, and I yield back.

6911 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
6912 from North Carolina is recognized for five minutes.

6913 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank my
6914 colleague for his interest in public integrity. The plan,
6915 though, already includes oversight over the FCC. We also
6916 maintain jurisdiction over spectrum management as well as

6917 wireless _ wireline and wireless communications.

6918 All commissioners and public officials are responsible
6919 for upholding the Constitution and following all appropriate
6920 laws. Any instances of violation of the law will be subject
6921 to our committee's oversight, as well as any appropriate
6922 legal remedies.

6923 This amendment is unnecessary, and I urge my colleagues
6924 to oppose it.

6925 With that I yield back.

6926 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there anyone
6927 on the Democrat side? Anyone on the Republican side seeking
6928 recognition?

6929 I will recognize myself. I appreciate the opportunity
6930 for everybody to be here, and we are talking about the issue
6931 before us today, and we have had several people talk about is
6932 DOGE lawful, is Elon Musk properly appointed to be where he
6933 is.

6934 The DOGE comes from the U.S. Digital Group, which was
6935 founded at an executive order by President Obama. If you
6936 remember, right after the rollout of the Affordable Care Act
6937 they had the marketplace, health.gov, and the health.gov was
6938 not successful when it first came out so they put in a
6939 executive order to create a group called the U.S. Digital
6940 Group that brought tech people into the Department of Health
6941 and Human Services. I don't know how they were lawfully

6942 appointed or whatever, but they came in and had, obviously,
6943 access to data to get health.gov running. And so they got
6944 health.gov running, and they were able to accomplish things,
6945 and so the administration decided to keep them permanent and
6946 send them out into other different agencies to make sure that
6947 technology, as technology was spreading and being _ as their
6948 iPhones were kind of new back then, the other things were new
6949 at that time.

6950 So when President Trump came back into office, it is the
6951 U.S. digital that has remained on the executive order. They
6952 did change the name to the Department of Government
6953 Efficiency, and so that is the legal status that the DOGE
6954 operates from. It operates _ it goes from the line _ from
6955 the Obama Administration to a straight line all the way to _
6956 with the changing of the name, but that is where it is moved
6957 for.

6958 So the renamed USDS relies upon the same authority that
6959 the digital services had in the Obama, the Trump 45, and the
6960 Biden Administration. So I want to make sure that is on the
6961 record.

6962 Is anyone seeking time?

6963 Dr. Joyce?

6964 Well, let me _ I will yield back, and then I will _ is
6965 there anyone on the Democrat side?

6966 The gentlelady from New York.

6967 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. I appreciate the
6968 recounting of the fact that the U.S. Digital Service is the
6969 original purpose of this agency. This is to help agencies
6970 with their websites. That is what the U.S. Digital Service
6971 does. It helps agencies with their public-facing websites.
6972 The actual renaming of this gives the whole game away. The
6973 renaming of a digital service to "government efficiency" '
6974 really tells the whole story of what is going on here.

6975 The United States Digital Service has never, in its
6976 history, been a participant in one of the largest data
6977 breaches in American history. The U.S. Digital Service has
6978 never been responsible for firing the Park Service officials
6979 en masse and then scrambling to reverse it. The United
6980 States Digital Service has never compromised the security of
6981 our nuclear supply.

6982 So I do want to know where the authority is, because
6983 there was never any standing authority for the United States
6984 Digital Service to be raiding every sensitive government
6985 official. Did they have access to some systems? Sure.
6986 Maybe, I don't know, a Squarespace.

6987 [Laughter.]

6988 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Not the nuclear supply of the
6989 United States of America.

6990 And so I don't think that answers the core question here
6991 of what the legal standing is, and where this authority comes

6992 from to take from President Trump, to be honest.

6993 And with that I would like to yield to the gentlelady
6994 from Texas to finish her point.

6995 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you so much to my colleague from
6996 New York.

6997 Mr. Chairman, I just have an article from the Associated
6998 Press. Actually, this article is from Politico that I would
6999 like to submit for the record. I am happy to give it to you
7000 to look at.

7001 But I hope that everyone on this committee knows that
7002 the career employees at the United States Digital Service,
7003 more than 20 of them, resigned on Tuesday. That is today.
7004 They resigned, and they said that they were refusing to use
7005 their technical expertise to "dismantle critical public
7006 services.'" "We swore to serve the American people and
7007 uphold our oath to the Constitution across presidential
7008 administrations,'" the 21 staffers wrote in a joint
7009 resignation letter, a copy of which was obtained by the
7010 Associated Press.

7011 "However, it has become clear that we can no longer
7012 honor those commitments.'" "

7013 I think it is important for everyone on this committee
7014 to know and understand that the people who were working in
7015 that agency prior to President Trump reassigning it to Elon
7016 Musk have resigned en masse today.

7017 Thank you, and I yield back.

7018 *The Chair. So the _

7019 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you, and I yield back to the
7020 chair.

7021 *The Chair. So the consent is, without objection, so
7022 ordered and entered into the record.

7023 [The information follows:]

7024

7025 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7026

7027 *The Chair. So the chair will now recognize the
7028 gentlelady from Florida.

7029 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you
7030 to all my colleagues for all of your patience. It has been a
7031 long day.

7032 But in talking about the authorities under which DOGE
7033 has been created, I thought it would be fun to just do a
7034 little history lesson, you know? And I know we have a
7035 literacy crisis in this country, so I am just going to read
7036 this out loud because I am afraid that people might not read
7037 it.

7038 So I dug back into the National Archives, pulled up that
7039 President Obama executive order, which was Executive Order
7040 13576, 1-3-5-7-6, "Delivering an Efficient, Effective and
7041 Accountable Government.'" "By the authority vested in me as
7042 President by the Constitution and the laws of the United
7043 States of America, and in order to cut waste, streamline
7044 government operations, and reinforce the performance and
7045 management reform gains my administration has achieved, it is
7046 hereby ordered as follows.'"`

7047 Now, I am not going to read the whole thing, but you can
7048 absolutely Google this, and you will find that the absolute
7049 premise of President Obama's executive order is, in fact,
7050 what DOGE has done. And if you look at the U.S. code that
7051 President Trump has cited _ and I will give it to you, it is

7052 U.S. Code 3161 under title 5 _ he has absolute presidential
7053 authority for hiring.

7054 Now, you would remember, going back, that President
7055 Obama actually _ when the healthcare.gov, Affordable Care
7056 Act, a.k.a. Obamacare, website crashed in a horrific just
7057 dumpster fire rollout, they had to bring in private-sector
7058 techies. And I don't recall anyone on the Democrat side of
7059 the aisle raising Cain about 19, 20 and 21-year-old
7060 programmers showing up and fixing all of these
7061 inefficiencies.

7062 And I will also address this so-called data breach.
7063 These individuals have been hired well under the authority of
7064 President Trump to act in an official capacity to streamline
7065 and execute the agenda of this agency of DOGE. I don't see
7066 anything on the other side of the aisle addressing the 443
7067 Federal data breaches that occurred under President Biden's
7068 tenure. Where were you then? Nowhere to be found, clearly.

7069 I find it exceptionally hypocritical that we are talking
7070 about so-called oversight today, when for the last four years
7071 the silence has been deafening. It is absolutely incredible
7072 that you guys are attacking the very same executive order
7073 that President Obama stood up. But heaven forbid that we are
7074 actually taking stock of the taxpayers' money, using it
7075 efficiently, identifying areas of waste, fraud, and abuse,
7076 but you want to fight it every step of the way.

7077 So I would like to enter into the record Executive Order
7078 13576 dated June 13, 2011, which was President Obama's
7079 executive order, so that _

7080 *The Chair. Without objection _

7081 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7082 *The Chair. _ so ordered.

7083 [The information follows:]

7084

7085 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7086

7087 *Mrs. Cammack. I just think it is important that we
7088 clear the air and recognize that this is all political
7089 theater from our friends on the other side of the aisle. It
7090 is time that we actually get work done for the American
7091 taxpayers. They are sick and tired of the waste, fraud, and
7092 abuse. They are sick and tired of the theatrics. We have
7093 been sitting here for hours, and not a single thing has been
7094 accomplished because of the obstruction of our friends on the
7095 other side of the aisle.

7096 So with that I yield, Mr. Chairman.

7097 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
7098 _ the gentlelady from California, you are recognized for five
7099 minutes.

7100 *Ms. Barragan. I am not going to apologize to the
7101 American people for wanting to be here in my committee and
7102 doing the job that this _ my constituents elected me to do.

7103 Some people are clearly _ this is a long time for them
7104 to be in committee, and it is too hard to be here, and they
7105 want to go somewhere else. But I was elected to be here to
7106 fight for the American people against the betrayal by the
7107 Republicans against the American people for the betrayal on
7108 cutting access to health care and Medicare _ Medicaid.

7109 Now, you just heard this whole smoke and mirrors about
7110 DOGE and this executive order by another president. But
7111 those folks were not coming in with a chainsaw and a

7112 sledgehammer and just firing all these people
7113 indiscriminately. They were hired to look at websites. They
7114 were not then given access to the American people's privacy
7115 information, their bank account numbers, their home
7116 addresses, their birth dates, their Social Security numbers.
7117 They didn't go do that.

7118 But my Republican colleagues thinks that is perfectly
7119 fine. As a matter of fact, House Democrats came up with a
7120 bill after that to say let's provide protection for the
7121 American people. Let's put a bill and pass a bill. We just
7122 need three Republicans to join us to provide protections on
7123 privacy for the American people. But you know what? It
7124 didn't happen. You know why? They are all so deathly afraid
7125 of the President.

7126 Don't be mistaken. That is part of what is going on
7127 here. So spare me the speeches about hypocrisy, and please
7128 recognize that what is happening here today is that Democrats
7129 believe there should be specifics in the oversight plan in
7130 response to what is happening in this country right now.

7131 Our Republican colleagues don't want to talk about it.
7132 Why? Because they don't want to even comment about the
7133 thousands of Federal workers _ some are even in their
7134 districts _ that are being just cut, let go, fired,
7135 disrespected, working on critical, critical information like
7136 making sure there is prevention to things like diabetes.

7137 So I will be here as long as is necessary. I don't have
7138 a schedule where I need to go somewhere else, because the
7139 American people elected me to be here. If a member of
7140 Congress doesn't want to be here, they can leave. They can
7141 leave and they don't need to vote. But this is my job, and
7142 this is what I will do.

7143 And I will remind the American people that within the
7144 next hour we are supposed to go vote on a budget, and my
7145 colleagues across the aisle will vote _ just watch it _ will
7146 vote to take health care away from the most needy people and
7147 cut Medicaid.

7148 I yield back.

7149 *Mr. Joyce. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields.

7150 *Mr. Menendez. Will the gentlelady yield?

7151 *Ms. Barragan. I will yield to my colleague, Mr.
7152 Menendez.

7153 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, my colleague, Congresswoman
7154 Barragan.

7155 I just want to _ if we are going to do history lessons,
7156 the one quick one, especially before this vote, is that
7157 President Obama worked tirelessly with House Democrats to
7158 expand health care in this country through the Affordable
7159 Care Act. And tonight Republicans will have the opportunity
7160 to make a decision whether they want to strip health care
7161 away from children, from pregnant women, and from our seniors

7162 if they are going to look to cut Medicaid.

7163 So as we go into this evening's vote, an important
7164 history reminder that Democrats seek to expand health care
7165 while Republicans try to strip it away from Americans.

7166 Thank you, and I yield back.

7167 *Mr. Joyce. Does the gentlelady yield back?

7168 *Ms. Barragan. I _

7169 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. Is there any
7170 additional discussion on the amendment?

7171 As there is no further discussion, the vote will occur
7172 on the amendment. The ranking member has asked for a roll
7173 call vote. I will ask the clerk to call the roll.

7174 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7175 *Mr. Latta. No.

7176 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

7177 Mr. Griffith?

7178 *Mr. Griffith. No.

7179 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

7180 Mr. Bilirakis?

7181 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

7182 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

7183 Mr. Hudson?

7184 *Mr. Hudson. No.

7185 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

7186 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

7187 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
7188 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
7189 Mr. Palmer?
7190 *Mr. Palmer. No.
7191 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
7192 Mr. Dunn?
7193 *Mr. Dunn. No.
7194 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
7195 Mr. Crenshaw?
7196 [No response.]
7197 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7198 *Mr. Joyce. No.
7199 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
7200 Mr. Weber?
7201 *Mr. Weber. Ma'am, I don't reckon I will be voting for
7202 this thing. In Texas we say that is a no, ma'am.
7203 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
7204 Mr. Allen?
7205 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.
7206 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
7207 Mr. Balderson?
7208 *Mr. Balderson. No.
7209 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
7210 Mr. Fulcher?
7211 *Mr. Fulcher. No.

7212 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
7213 Mr. Pfluger?
7214 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
7215 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
7216 Mrs. Harshbarger?
7217 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
7218 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
7219 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7220 [No response.]
7221 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7222 [No response.]
7223 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
7224 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
7225 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
7226 Mr. Obernolte?
7227 [No response.]
7228 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
7229 [No response.]
7230 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
7231 [No response.]
7232 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
7233 *Mr. Bentz. No.
7234 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
7235 Mrs. Houchin?
7236 [No response.]

7237 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
7238 [No response.]
7239 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
7240 [No response.]
7241 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
7242 [No response.]
7243 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7244 [No response.]
7245 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7246 [No response.]
7247 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
7248 [No response.]
7249 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
7250 [No response.]
7251 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
7252 [No response.]
7253 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
7254 [No response.]
7255 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
7256 *Mr. Rulli. No.
7257 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
7258 Mr. Evans?
7259 *Mr. Evans. No.
7260 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
7261 Mr. Goldman?

7262 *Mr. Goldman. No.
7263 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
7264 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7265 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
7266 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
7267 Mr. Pallone?
7268 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
7269 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
7270 Ms. DeGette?
7271 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7272 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7273 Ms. Schakowsky?
7274 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
7275 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7276 Ms. Matsui?
7277 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
7278 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7279 Ms. Castor?
7280 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7281 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7282 Mr. Tonko?
7283 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7284 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7285 Ms. Clarke?
7286 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

7287 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7288 Mr. Ruiz?
7289 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7290 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7291 Mr. Peters?
7292 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
7293 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7294 Mrs. Dingell?
7295 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
7296 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
7297 Mr. Veasey?
7298 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
7299 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7300 Ms. Kelly?
7301 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
7302 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
7303 Ms. Barragan?
7304 [No response.]
7305 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
7306 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7307 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7308 Mr. Soto?
7309 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7310 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7311 Ms. Schrier?

7312 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

7313 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

7314 Mrs. Trahan?

7315 [No response.]

7316 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan?

7317 [No response.]

7318 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?

7319 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

7320 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

7321 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7322 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

7323 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

7324 Mr. Auchincloss?

7325 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

7326 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

7327 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7328 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7329 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7330 Mr. Menendez?

7331 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

7332 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

7333 Mr. Mullin?

7334 [No response.]

7335 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

7336 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.

7337 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
7338 Ms. McClellan?
7339 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
7340 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
7341 Chairman Guthrie?
7342 *The Chair. No.
7343 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
7344 *Mr. Joyce. How is Mr. Obernolte recorded?
7345 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte is not recorded.
7346 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
7347 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
7348 *Mr. Joyce. How is Dr. Miller-Meeks recorded?
7349 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.
7350 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
7351 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
7352 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the result.
7353 [Pause.]
7354 *The Clerk. Chairman Joyce, on that vote there were 22
7355 ayes and 23 noes.
7356 *Mr. Joyce. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
7357 further amendments?
7358 Mr. Auchincloss is recognized.
7359 *Mr. Auchincloss. Chair, I have an amendment at the
7360 desk, HE13.
7361 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.

7362 *Voice. Can he say which one it is?

7363 *Mr. Joyce. Could you please clarify which amendment?

7364 *Mr. Auchincloss. HE13, vaccines.

7365 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan HE13. On

7366 page four, under the section "Food and Drug

7367 Administration'` _

7368 *Mr. Joyce. Without objection, the reading of the

7369 amendment is dispensed with.

7370 [The amendment of Mr. Auchincloss follows:]

7371

7372 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7373

7374 *Mr. Joyce. And the gentleman is recognized for five
7375 minutes in support of the amendment.

7376 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Chair.

7377 Recently the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Griffith,
7378 stated that, to the extent that this Administration was
7379 espousing content that did not have scientific integrity or
7380 that was undermining confidence in science, that, Republican
7381 or Democrat, there would be oversight over that. And I
7382 genuinely appreciate that. That is the role that we have on
7383 this committee of oversight. And given who our Secretary of
7384 Health and Human Services is, we are going to have our hands
7385 full.

7386 Let's meet Secretary Kennedy, who specializes now for
7387 two decades in conspiracy and quackery. This man does not
7388 believe that Al Qaeda attacked America on 9/11. This man
7389 thinks that Wi-Fi causes leaky brain syndrome. This man does
7390 not think that AIDS is caused by a virus. This man believes
7391 that COVID was ethnically engineered to spare Jews and the
7392 Chinese. This man believes that the government engineers
7393 pandemics every few years, and that there are "cemeteries
7394 with a bunch of child coffins" from government experiments.
7395 And I have got receipts for all of these comments.

7396 Of course, most notoriously, Secretary Kennedy believes
7397 that "no vaccine is safe and effective." This document,
7398 this oversight document proposed by congressional

7399 Republicans, has zero mention of the word "vaccine." The
7400 word "vaccine" does not appear in the document, this despite
7401 the fact that the Secretary of Health and Human Services is a
7402 notorious anti-vaxxer, and that vaccines have been the most
7403 safe and effective medical intervention of the last century,
7404 that 146 million kids' lives have been saved in the last 50
7405 years because of vaccines for things like measles and polio
7406 and pertussis and rubella.

7407 It is not academic that we have a Secretary who does not
7408 believe in the safety and efficacy of vaccines. In 2019 he
7409 took his anti-vax road show to Samoa. And Samoa was doing a
7410 measles vaccination drive because there had been an incident
7411 where nurses had mixed a vial incorrectly and a child had
7412 tragically died. And so they were trying to rebuild public
7413 confidence in the measles vaccine and the MMR.

7414 Now, Kennedy ran what he called "a natural experiment,"
7415 he was excited about this, and he pumped disinformation and
7416 propaganda into the Samoan public health and social media
7417 ecosystem, and 83 people died. The majority of them were
7418 children. They died in pain. Their lungs filled with
7419 liquid, and they choked to death.

7420 Now, RFK doesn't seem to think that that is anything
7421 related to the MMR vaccine. He says that when he was young
7422 his 11 brothers and sisters got measles and it was "a great
7423 week," they just had chicken soup and vitamin A and there

7424 was no issue. The challenge is I don't think chicken soup
7425 and vitamin A is going to cut it in Texas and Georgia, where
7426 we now have measles outbreaks. And the Secretary is intent
7427 on running this same "natural experiment" that he ran in
7428 Samoa here in the United States.

7429 We have got four members of the Texas delegation who are
7430 Republicans on this committee. We have got two members of
7431 the Georgia delegation on this committee who are Republicans.
7432 And I would certainly hope that they would stand up through
7433 oversight against Secretary Kennedy and declare that Texas
7434 and Georgia are not laboratories for his natural experiments,
7435 that the measles vaccine works, that every parent should take
7436 _ should have their kids take the MMR vaccine because RFK,
7437 when he was asked directly would he recommend parents take
7438 the vaccine, refused to say that they should.

7439 Now, Senator Cassidy, during the oversight hearings,
7440 tried to assuage public concern about this by getting a
7441 series of commitments from Secretary Kennedy about vaccines.
7442 Here is what he didn't get a commitment on, though. He did
7443 not get a commitment on the Vaccine Injury Compensation
7444 Program, which is a little-known government program over
7445 which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has
7446 tremendous power, and that provides an alternative to civil
7447 claims litigation for people who claim to be injured by
7448 vaccines. If he demolishes that program, it is going to

7449 undermine the distribution and development of vaccines and
7450 you will see further outbreaks.

7451 Now, Chairman Guthrie, I understand that you are going
7452 to whip no on this vote, but I want to yield my last 30
7453 seconds to you and just ask you _ if he is here.

7454 All right, is Palmer here, Mr. Palmer, of Oversight?

7455 I would ask you, sir, in your role as the chair of
7456 Oversight, will you strenuously enforce oversight of the
7457 Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to prevent Secretary
7458 Kennedy from dismantling it and thereby making it impossible
7459 to develop and distribute vaccines, and leading to further
7460 measles outbreaks?

7461 *Mr. Palmer. In response to the gentleman, we will
7462 exercise vigorous oversight over the entire Federal
7463 Government, including past actions of the Federal Government
7464 and the previous administration, which should be satisfactory
7465 to the gentleman.

7466 *Mr. Auchincloss. Sir, will you protect the Vaccine
7467 Injury Compensation Program from Secretary Kennedy? He made
7468 no such commitment to Senator Cassidy, so I just want to make
7469 sure that at least the House is on the record if he is not on
7470 the record in the Senate.

7471 *Mr. Palmer. We will exercise due diligence and
7472 oversight on every aspect of the Federal Government.

7473 *Mr. Auchincloss. Well, I certainly hope that the

7474 members from Texas and Georgia will take a firmer stance on
7475 their side of the aisle than that.

7476 I yield back.

7477 *Mr. Joyce. Is there additional discussion on the
7478 amendment?

7479 Dr. Dunn from Florida is recognized.

7480 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
7481 speak in opposition to the amendment.

7482 The oversight plan before us already covers this topic
7483 in three different places.

7484 First, the plan notes that the committee will conduct
7485 oversight of the Federal Government's policies and procedures
7486 relating to pandemic prediction, prevention, preparedness,
7487 and response.

7488 Second, in the plan's discussion related to CDC
7489 oversight, the committee will be _ examine issues including
7490 CDC's role in preparing and responding to emerging biological
7491 threats and infectious diseases.

7492 And third, in the plan's discussion related to the FDA,
7493 it notes that the committee will work to ensure that the FDA
7494 is fulfilling its mission to ensure that regulated drugs and
7495 medical devices are safe, effective, and available to
7496 American patients in an expeditious fashion.

7497 Even taken separately, each of these instances are
7498 certainly broad enough to encompass the vaccine-related

7499 priorities included in the amendment. And taken together,
7500 this amendment is wholly unnecessary. Therefore, I urge my
7501 colleagues to vote no on the amendment.

7502 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. Is there any
7503 additional discussion on the amendment?

7504 Dr. Schrier from Washington is recognized.

7505 *Ms. Schrier. I want to thank my colleague for the
7506 amendment, and want to clarify that this program is a program
7507 that makes it so that families can be compensated, and in
7508 that way does not subject manufacturers of vaccines to
7509 lawsuits that would discourage them from manufacturing
7510 lifesaving vaccines. And so, as a pediatrician, I want to
7511 emphasize how important that program is, and how grateful I
7512 am to the manufacturers of vaccines that have saved millions
7513 of lives.

7514 I have a question for Mr. Palmer. I would ask, and I
7515 would love to have a commitment from you that _ we have been
7516 talking about measles. But I would say, if there are
7517 outbreaks of more than three cases of any vaccine-preventable
7518 disease _ so let me just name a few. We can talk about
7519 measles, mumps, pertussis. We could talk about polio. We
7520 can talk about chicken pox, all preventable by vaccines.
7521 There is no reason for any child to get these. Will you
7522 subpoena _ will you call in RFK, Jr., Secretary of Health and
7523 Human Services, to come in and answer for this?

7524 *Mr. Palmer. I will exercise due diligence and
7525 oversight of the entire Federal Government.

7526 *Ms. Schrier. I would like more of a commitment from
7527 you.

7528 *Mr. Palmer. Well, you just got the commitment you are
7529 going to get.

7530 [Laughter.]

7531 *Ms. Schrier. My colleagues are laughing, and I just
7532 want to be really clear again, as a pediatrician, we should
7533 not have to wait for kids to get sick and kids to die because
7534 you think this is some sort of joke when there are experts
7535 representing public health in this country who sow doubt
7536 about proven science about vaccines, cause parents to
7537 hesitate, and some of them then to not vaccinate their
7538 children, and their children get sick, potentially die, or
7539 their children bring diseases to school to the child in that
7540 classroom with leukemia.

7541 This is not a laughing matter. I think you ought to be
7542 taking this a whole lot more seriously, and I think that our
7543 _ your colleagues in the Senate, who all approved this man
7544 knowing about conspiracy theories, lies, and an anti-science
7545 attitude, ought to be ashamed of themselves, and I will hold
7546 you all accountable.

7547 I yield.

7548 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. If there is no

7549 further discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment.

7550 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

7551 All opposed, no.

7552 In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it.

7553 Is there any further amendments?

7554 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, for what purpose does the gentlelady
7555 seek recognition?

7556 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Yes, I have an amendment at the
7557 desk, HE3.

7558 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.

7559 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan HE3. At
7560 the end of the first paragraph on page four, in the section
7561 entitled, "Entitlement Programs," insert the following
7562 sentence.

7563 *Mr. Joyce. Without objection, the reading of the
7564 amendment is dispensed with.

7565 [The amendment of Ms. Ocasio-Cortez follows:]

7566

7567 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7568

7569 *Mr. Joyce. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
7570 minutes in support of the amendment.

7571 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do believe
7572 it is important for the Committee to understand the substance
7573 of this amendment, and so I want to describe it briefly.

7574 The committee will conduct appropriate oversight to
7575 ensure that access to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
7576 Services, CMS, payment systems is only granted to authorized
7577 government officials, and that any access data is not
7578 distributed or used for any purpose unrelated to the
7579 functioning of CMS programs.

7580 Now, the reason I think that this amendment is
7581 particularly relevant is that in our oversight plan, as was
7582 mentioned _ I know folks may say that everything is
7583 inclusive, but nowhere in this oversight plan is DOGE
7584 mentioned at all. And I do believe that it is very important
7585 for all of us to explicitly include the activities of DOGE
7586 accessing CMS systems, Medicaid payment systems, Medicare
7587 payment systems under the jurisdiction of the committee's
7588 investigations and oversight.

7589 I have been _ I had town halls last week. I know plenty
7590 of you had town halls last week. This is, in many areas, the
7591 number-one issue that the American people at town halls are
7592 raising, and it is very important that we take action to
7593 explicitly conduct investigations into access to systems here

7594 at CMS.

7595 This is some of the most sensitive personal data that
7596 exists for some of the most vulnerable medical populations
7597 that exist, and I genuinely believe this should be a
7598 straightforward vote. We should be ensuring that the laws on
7599 the books are upheld. And given the massive activities that
7600 we have been seeing around CMS, we should have an explicit _
7601 I think we should have an _ explicitly hold a hearing to
7602 ensure that access to CMS systems are transparent and
7603 reported.

7604 And with that I yield back to the chair.

7605 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. Dr. Dunn from
7606 Florida is recognized.

7607 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

7608 The oversight plan makes it clear that the committee is
7609 focused on rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse in the
7610 Medicare and Medicaid programs. In fact, the Government
7611 Accountability Office examined the very serious and growing
7612 risk posed to the Medicare and Medicaid programs resulting
7613 from exactly fraud, waste, and abuse.

7614 In 2023 alone GAO found improper payments in Medicaid
7615 totaling \$50 billion, and Virginia investigators uncovered
7616 over \$22 million in payments to deceased Medicaid
7617 beneficiaries. This committee worked to combat waste, fraud,
7618 and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid programs over the past

7619 year and on a bipartisan basis. We intend to continue these
7620 efforts that focus on ensuring providers are eligible to bill
7621 Medicaid and ensuring we know exactly who is eligible to
7622 receive Medicaid benefits.

7623 More to the point, CMS authorized DOGE to have read-only
7624 access to CMS's payment system without compromising any
7625 personal medical information. I would hope and think that my
7626 friends on the other side of the aisle would welcome efforts
7627 to help us uncover any unnecessary spending that is diverting
7628 resources away from the most vulnerable patient populations.

7629 And I urge a no vote on the amendment, Mr. Chairman, I
7630 yield back.

7631 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Does anyone else wish to be
7632 heard on this amendment?

7633 I recognize Mr. Soto for five minutes.

7634 *Mr. Soto. Thanks so much. I think it is a great time
7635 to have a DOGE check-in right now. We _ just over the last
7636 two weeks we have seen _ these are kind of the top five most
7637 ridiculous things that at least I felt DOGE did.

7638 First of all, we saw the President claim millions of
7639 people getting Social Security fraudulently, which,
7640 obviously, right afterwards he had to say it didn't happen.

7641 Then we saw just today DOGE quietly deletes the five
7642 biggest spending cuts it announced with joy last week because
7643 they were false. They had announced \$55 billion in cuts,

7644 only to come back to say it is 7.2 billion.

7645 We saw the firing of _ number four, the firing of
7646 critical nuclear engineers, FAA, DoD, all these folks that
7647 are the only ones who know how to do this.

7648 And then today we just saw a bunch of folks who work for
7649 DOGE quit.

7650 So if this is the start of this great efficiency effort,
7651 it isn't an auspicious one.

7652 And I yield.

7653 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Soto.
7654 And I _ once again, this is _ this amendment has nothing to
7655 do with any accusations of waste or abuse. It is not here to
7656 litigate that. It is, once again, to ensure that the
7657 committee will conduct oversight to ensure that these _ that
7658 this data is only granted to people with _ who are authorized
7659 government officials. That is all that this amendment does,
7660 ensuring that this committee is conducting proper oversight
7661 so that authorized government officials have access to these
7662 systems. That is all this amendment does. It is not
7663 litigating waste. It is not litigating abuse.

7664 The reason this is important is because DOGE just posted
7665 classified information on its website, sharing budget and
7666 staffing information of the National Reconnaissance Office
7667 within the White House complex. Wi-Fi permissions that are
7668 meant to bolster security by prompting that users are logging

7669 in frequently were just recently changed to allow guests to
7670 remain logged in at White _ at the White House complex Wi-Fi
7671 for a year, up from just seven days because so many new
7672 personal devices are being used to access the White House
7673 Wi-Fi network.

7674 This isn't even about intent. These permissions _ you
7675 have one device that remains logged in, and is _ and gets
7676 lost in the back of a cab, and you have a data breach on our
7677 hands. We have to ensure that we are using our proper
7678 oversight and investigatory capacities to make sure that
7679 these systems are properly secured. That is all this
7680 amendment does.

7681 That _ genuinely, that is all it does. I have the
7682 amendment at the desk. I am happy to circulate it to all of
7683 my colleagues. This is just about ensuring that the folks
7684 who are authorized to have this information are the ones that
7685 get _ that are getting it, and no one else, because we are
7686 already starting to see some cracks in our systems. We are
7687 starting to see some cracks in the security of these systems,
7688 whether they are intentional or not.

7689 But it is very clear that there are liberties being
7690 taken here that are creating a leaky data flow. And if we
7691 don't take care of it now, if something big happens, it is
7692 going to be on this committee's hands, and I don't want that
7693 to be the case.

7694 Thank you, and I yield back.

7695 *Mr. Soto. And I thank the gentlelady. We can include
7696 this as number six in the DOGE disaster of things that we
7697 have seen so far.

7698 And I yield back.

7699 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Do I have
7700 anyone interested on this side?

7701 Anyone else interested in speaking on the other side?

7702 Ms. Matsui, you are recognized for five minutes.

7703 *Ms. Matsui. I move to strike the last word, and I have
7704 been listening very intently with what was being said with
7705 this last amendment, particularly with Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and
7706 others.

7707 We are talking about the duties and the responsibilities
7708 of our committee, and I don't _ I am looking at this and
7709 realizing that what we are saying is that, under the guise of
7710 looking for government efficiency _ and I say _ inefficiency
7711 _ this is just a guise. Musk and his 20-year-olds have
7712 strong-armed their way into our most personal information,
7713 information that most of us, when you think about hacking our
7714 health care, hacking our Social Security, hacking our tax
7715 records, we would be alarmed. But we are letting this
7716 happen.

7717 And DOGE is not equipped, these young 20-year-olds are
7718 not equipped. Their lack of knowledge about these programs

7719 and unfamiliarity with the data, they don't know what they
7720 are _ they have, and they will let this data flow. And all
7721 of a sudden we will find out that people have our most
7722 personal information, security information about our country,
7723 and we will be caught flat-footed. And this is a warning.
7724 And we have to understand that something like this cannot
7725 happen at all.

7726 I am _ you know, every time we read about some sort of
7727 breach or hack we get all worried about it and we get
7728 information from, like, say, the health care provider or
7729 something like this. This is happening in our government.
7730 And you look at this. Any small change they can make is
7731 going to be significant in our lives, and we may not be able
7732 to go back and fix it, and that scares me.

7733 This is really a five-alarm fire. This committee has to
7734 stand up, has to stand up. And I can't believe that you on
7735 the other side are going to continue to be silent about this
7736 because it affects all of us. And if we don't realize this
7737 today, we are going to be paying for it in the days ahead.

7738 With that I yield back the balance of my time.

7739 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone
7740 desiring to speak on this side?

7741 Anyone else on the Democrat side of the aisle?

7742 Seeing none, we will move to the vote.

7743 *Mr. Pallone. I ask for a roll call on this one.

7744 *The Chair. There is a request for a roll call vote, so
7745 we will now begin with a roll call vote on this amendment,
7746 HE3, and we will start the roll call, please.

7747 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7748 *Mr. Latta. No.

7749 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

7750 Mr. Griffith?

7751 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Griffith votes no.

7752 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

7753 Mr. Bilirakis?

7754 *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes no.

7755 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

7756 Mr. Hudson?

7757 [No response.]

7758 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

7759 [No response.]

7760 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

7761 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

7762 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

7763 Mr. Palmer?

7764 [No response.]

7765 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

7766 *Mr. Palmer. No.

7767 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

7768 Mr. Dunn?

7769 *Mr. Dunn. No.
7770 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
7771 Mr. Crenshaw?
7772 [No response.]
7773 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
7774 [No response.]
7775 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7776 *Mr. Joyce. No.
7777 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
7778 Mr. Weber?
7779 *Mr. Weber. No.
7780 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
7781 Mr. Allen?
7782 *Mr. Allen. No.
7783 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
7784 Mr. Balderson?
7785 *Mr. Balderson. No.
7786 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
7787 Mr. Fulcher?
7788 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
7789 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
7790 Mr. Pfluger?
7791 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
7792 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
7793 Mrs. Harshbarger?

7794 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
7795 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
7796 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7797 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
7798 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
7799 Mrs. Cammack?
7800 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
7801 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
7802 Mr. Obernolte?
7803 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
7804 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
7805 Mr. James?
7806 [No response.]
7807 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
7808 [No response.]
7809 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
7810 *Mr. Bentz. No.
7811 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
7812 Mrs. Houchin?
7813 [No response.]
7814 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
7815 [No response.]
7816 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
7817 [No response.]
7818 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

7819 [No response.]
7820 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7821 [No response.]
7822 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7823 [No response.]
7824 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
7825 [No response.]
7826 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
7827 [No response.]
7828 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
7829 [No response.]
7830 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
7831 [No response.]
7832 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
7833 *Mr. Rulli. No.
7834 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
7835 Mr. Evans?
7836 *Mr. Evans. No.
7837 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
7838 Mr. Goldman?
7839 *Mr. Goldman. No.
7840 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
7841 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7842 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
7843 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

7844 Mr. Pallone?
7845 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
7846 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
7847 Ms. DeGette?
7848 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7849 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7850 Ms. Schakowsky?
7851 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
7852 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7853 Ms. Matsui?
7854 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
7855 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7856 Ms. Castor?
7857 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7858 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7859 Mr. Tonko?
7860 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7861 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7862 Ms. Clarke?
7863 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
7864 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7865 Mr. Ruiz?
7866 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7867 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7868 Mr. Peters?

7869 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
7870 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7871 Mrs. Dingell?
7872 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
7873 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
7874 Mr. Veasey?
7875 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
7876 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7877 Ms. Kelly?
7878 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
7879 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
7880 Ms. Barragan?
7881 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7882 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7883 Mr. Soto?
7884 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7885 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7886 Ms. Schrier?
7887 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
7888 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7889 Mrs. Trahan?
7890 [No response.]
7891 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan?
7892 [No response.]
7893 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?

7894 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

7895 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

7896 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7897 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

7898 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

7899 Mr. Auchincloss?

7900 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

7901 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

7902 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7903 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7904 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7905 Mr. Menendez?

7906 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

7907 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

7908 Mr. Mullin?

7909 [No response.]

7910 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin?

7911 [No response.]

7912 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

7913 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.

7914 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

7915 Ms. McClellan?

7916 *Ms. McClellan. Yes.

7917 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

7918 Chairman Guthrie?

7919 *The Chair. No.

7920 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

7921 *The Chair. How is Mr. Hudson recorded?

7922 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson is not recorded.

7923 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.

7924 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

7925 *The Chair. And the vote is?

7926 *The Clerk. Chairman Griffith, on that vote there were

7927 22 ayes and 23 noes.

7928 *Mr. Landsman. So close.

7929 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

7930 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair?

7931 *The Chair. Mr. Landsman.

7932 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the

7933 desk.

7934 *The Chair. Mr. Landsman has an amendment at the desk.

7935 *Mr. Landsman. It is labeled HD17_Trigger Laws.

7936 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

7937 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan HE17. On

7938 page three, after "The committee will continue to examine

7939 issues related to affordability of health care, including

7940 areas where Federal Government intervention has contributed

7941 to increased costs for patients and families,'` insert, "the

7942 committee will examine the effects of cutting Federal

7943 Medicaid funding for those made eligible by Medicaid

7944 expansion on rates of insurance, out-of-pocket costs, and
7945 medical debt for low-income Americans, particularly in states
7946 with laws that require the termination of medical assistance
7947 for people covered under Medicaid expansion if the matching
7948 rate is reduced below 90 percent.'`

7949 [The amendment of Mr. Landsman follows:]

7950

7951 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7952

7953 *The Chair. Mr. Landsman, you are recognized for five
7954 minutes.

7955 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you heard, my
7956 amendment seeks to clarify that our oversight
7957 responsibilities include examining the effects of cutting
7958 Medicaid to states and how it will impact those who are
7959 covered by Medicaid expansion, particularly in states that
7960 have so-called trigger laws that terminate Medicaid expansion
7961 if Federal Medicaid funding is reduced.

7962 And since we are expected to vote on a budget bill that
7963 may include nearly \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, cuts to
7964 health care that tens of millions of people rely on, it could
7965 be worse in states like Ohio, where the legislature is
7966 considering a measure to repeal Medicaid expansion funding if
7967 Federal Medicare share falls below 90 percent. This would
7968 mean the elimination of health care for an additional 770,000
7969 Ohioans. More hospitals. More doctors. More long-term care
7970 facilities. It will be devastating to children, to families,
7971 to seniors. In my district in southwest Ohio alone more than
7972 160,000 people depend on health care through Medicaid. More
7973 than 40 percent of them are children.

7974 So instead of passing a \$4.5 trillion dumpster fire of a
7975 budget that makes huge cuts to Medicaid that could trigger
7976 even additional cuts, will trigger additional cuts to
7977 Medicaid health care for folks, we could _ because it was

7978 raised, what is the alternative?

7979 The alternative is so simple: 100 percent of all tax
7980 relief goes to working people, 100 percent goes to working
7981 people, the middle class, small businesses, and farmers.
7982 Paid for with zero cuts to health care. Zero in new deficit
7983 spending. The pay-for is just asking the folks at the top to
7984 pay all their taxes.

7985 If you give up on the tax giveaways to the top 2
7986 percent, you save \$2.4 trillion, \$2.4 trillion just if you
7987 give up on the top 2 percent. That allows you to avoid
7988 cutting health care for tens of millions of people, hundreds
7989 of thousands in Ohio, tens of thousands in my district.

7990 For all of these reasons _ and this is an important
7991 amendment and I urge my colleagues to support it _ I would
7992 hope that, at the very least, they recognize that these
7993 trigger laws are very serious, it will hurt hundreds of
7994 thousands of people in our state alone, and is just one more
7995 reason to walk away from these disastrous cuts to health
7996 care.

7997 I yield back.

7998 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
7999 recognizes the gentleman from Georgia for five minutes.

8000 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

8001 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

8002 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this oversight

8003 plan already makes it clear that the committee will continue
8004 to examine issues around the affordability of health care for
8005 the American people, including for Medicaid beneficiaries.
8006 We spent all of last Congress working on a bipartisan effort
8007 to lower the cost of care through the Lower Costs, More
8008 Transparency Act which, I might add, passed this committee
8009 unanimously, passed the Ways and Means Committee, went
8010 through the House.

8011 I would say that both the past actions of this committee
8012 _ and listen to me carefully, if you will, I pay close
8013 attention to what you say _ I would say that both the past
8014 actions of this committee and the oversight plan in
8015 particular affirm our goal to lower health care costs for
8016 Americans while also bringing accountability, accountability
8017 to Federal spending. Because with that said, we know that
8018 Medicaid spending continues to grow at an unchecked rate. We
8019 know that, and we need to do more to make sure that it can
8020 remain sustainable to care for future generations. These
8021 people need us. They need Medicaid. We need to be able to
8022 provide it for them.

8023 The answer from the Biden Administration over the past
8024 four years was always that more spending is the only way to
8025 lower cost. Throw more money at it. And oh, by the way, the
8026 more money you throw away, the more money you throw at it,
8027 the more you care. No, that is not always the case.

8028 Not only has more government spending increased costs,
8029 but has set our entitlement programs on a course for
8030 insolvency. We all know that. If you are a Member of
8031 Congress, you know that we are headed for insolvency if we
8032 don't do something.

8033 In 2023 alone, the Medicaid program had more than \$50
8034 billion in improper payments. I don't think anybody in this
8035 room likes that. I think everybody in this room wants to do
8036 something about that. We can walk and we can talk at the
8037 same time, though, and we can prioritize right-sizing the
8038 Medicaid program while also ensuring that we lower health
8039 care costs for Americans.

8040 Mr. Chairman, I have said it, you have heard me say it,
8041 I continue to say it. We all want the same thing. We want
8042 accessible, affordable, quality health care, and we can do
8043 that, and this oversight plan that we have submitted does
8044 just that. It is going to give us the opportunity to do
8045 that, to achieve our common goal: accessible, affordable,
8046 quality health care.

8047 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

8048 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair?

8049 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back.

8050 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair?

8051 *The Chair. The gentleman has had time. Does somebody
8052 want to claim time and give you _

8053 The gentleman from New Jersey, you seek recognition?

8054 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. I yield to my
8055 colleague from Ohio.

8056 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8057 Thank you, Mr. Menendez.

8058 Two things, Mr. Carter. The PBM reforms are so
8059 critically important, and you have worked harder than anybody
8060 on these PBM reforms. And it passed out of this committee, I
8061 think, 44 to nothing, most of them, unanimous bipartisan
8062 support. It ends up in the final spending bill. Guess who
8063 kills it? Elon Musk. Why are we letting him do this?

8064 On the Medicaid question, we don't have to cut a single
8065 dollar in health care. All we have to do is say for the top
8066 two percent of wage earners, the big corporations in this
8067 country, we are not going to continue to do these tax
8068 giveaways. We will give tax cuts to everybody else. Saves
8069 you \$2.4 trillion, 0 cuts to Medicaid, and you can invest
8070 those additional resources in reimbursement rates.

8071 I yield back.

8072 *The Chair. Does the gentleman from New Jersey yield
8073 back?

8074 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman, I yield.

8075 *The Chair. The gentleman from Ohio, for what purpose
8076 do you seek recognition? Mr. Rulli. We have got a lot of
8077 Ohioans, too, don't we?

8078 Mr. Rulli.

8079 *Mr. Rulli. Thank you, Chairman. If you tell a big-
8080 enough lie enough and keep repeating it, it will eventually
8081 become believed as the truth.

8082 I spent seven years in the Ohio Senate. I was chairman
8083 of Government. I had Medicaid in my committee every year.
8084 Let's get the facts straight about what goes on in Ohio. The
8085 General Assembly of Ohio operates on \$93 billion worth, third
8086 in the country for Medicaid expansion, \$44 billion. We
8087 worked very diligently in the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House
8088 of Representatives to make that money put to good use. But
8089 the lies that have been spread over the last eight hours
8090 about how there is this Medicaid and Medicare language in
8091 there which doesn't exist is unacceptable. It is a lie. It
8092 doesn't exist. It is not part of this. And I have
8093 entertained this for eight hours now. But Medicaid in Ohio
8094 is third in the country for expansion, and we do the best
8095 that we can.

8096 The answer is not throwing more money. The answer is
8097 being a better steward of due diligence of the money that the
8098 people already give them and applied in the proper procedure.

8099 With that I yield back, Chairman.

8100 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
8101 seeking recognition?

8102 *Mr. Pallone. Get a roll call.

8103 AFTER 6:00 p.m.

8104 *The Chair. Oh, I want to _ the gentlelady from
8105 California, you are recognized for five minutes.

8106 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know a
8107 little bit about lying because we hear it all the time from
8108 across the aisle, so it is kind of offensive to hear _ he is
8109 the one who brought it up, Mr. Chairman. He brought it up
8110 that he has been hearing lies for the last eight hours, so I
8111 don't want to hear a boo. I don't want to hear a boo, okay?

8112 [Laughter.]

8113 *Ms. Barragan. Why don't you get your folks' decorum in
8114 order?

8115 *The Chair. The gentlelady has the time.

8116 *Ms. Barragan. And I am serious, Mr. Chairman.

8117 *The Chair. The gentlelady from California has the
8118 time.

8119 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you. I move to strike the last
8120 word.

8121 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

8122 *Ms. Barragan. This week _ rather, tonight maybe _
8123 House Republicans will try to pass a budget that betrays the
8124 American people and American families. Their scheme will
8125 slash Medicaid by nearly \$1 trillion, robbing health care for
8126 millions of seniors and children and hard-working families,
8127 all to fund massive tax breaks for billionaires and big

8128 corporations. That is the truth.

8129 Medicaid isn't just numbers. It is real people and real
8130 lives. And we know what people will go through because many
8131 lost Medicaid, even after the COVID pandemic happened.

8132 Justin Gibbs, a married father of four from Ohio, lost his
8133 Medicaid after he finally got his high blood pressure under
8134 control with a combination of three different medications.

8135 Mr. Chairman, there is not order in the room. Mr.
8136 Chairman, there is not order in the room.

8137 *The Chair. Would you repeat your question? I am
8138 sorry.

8139 *Ms. Barragan. No, there is no order in the room, and
8140 I _

8141 *The Chair. Yes, I am sorry, I was _

8142 *Ms. Barragan. And I deserve the _

8143 *The Chair. I am sorry. There is a vote on the floor,
8144 and we were discussing that. So yes, the committee will come
8145 to order. The gentlelady may continue.

8146 *Ms. Barragan. Yes, I should get another 30 seconds
8147 back.

8148 Justin Gibbs, a married father of four from Ohio, lost
8149 his Medicaid after he had finally gotten his high blood
8150 pressure under control with the combination of three
8151 different medications. But after he had his Medicaid
8152 coverage terminated and a nationwide eligibility review, he

8153 had to go without medication for a week and a second for
8154 several days. He was afraid that his progress could reverse.
8155 Justin is 53 and works multiple part-time jobs.

8156 Kristen Fortner from Arkansas suddenly received notice
8157 in the mail that she needed to prove that she and her husband
8158 still deserve Medicaid.

8159 These stories are about people, and it is about their
8160 health care, and it is about how they had such a difficult
8161 time _ some of them coming off their Medicare _ off of their
8162 meds because their Medicaid had been cut off.

8163 And suddenly Kristen owed hundreds of dollars. She is
8164 33 years old, she is a waitress and earns \$3 an hour plus
8165 tips.

8166 These are real people. These are stories. These are
8167 constituents, and there are many constituents not only in my
8168 district, where I have over 340,000 people on Medicaid, and
8169 those people are at risk of looting _ losing their health
8170 care, but many in this room.

8171 [Chart]

8172 *Ms. Barragan. I have this poster board here today so
8173 the American people could see.

8174 We have Representative John James, who represents
8175 Michigan's 10th district and sits right here on the Energy
8176 and Commerce Committee. He has in his jurisdiction 24
8177 percent of his constituents relied on Medicaid. That is over

8178 184,000 people, 184,000 constituents. Do you go home and say
8179 I voted to take away your Medicaid, or do you stand up and
8180 say I am here to vote for you, I am here to stand up for
8181 working families, not for the billionaires, not for the big
8182 corporations? That is the test that will happen.

8183 We also have Mr. Gabe Evans. Twenty-five percent of his
8184 district relies on Medicaid. That is over 180,000 people.
8185 And let's take a look at how many children, how many
8186 children. This is about the children. Forty-nine percent of
8187 children in his district rely on Medicaid. So is this
8188 representative going to stand up for his constituents and his
8189 children? We will know shortly.

8190 David Valadao, one of my colleagues from California,
8191 look at this. Sixty-two percent of his constituents rely on
8192 Medicaid. Imagine going back to your district and saying I
8193 voted to take away your health care, I voted that your
8194 children, vulnerable children, are not going to have access
8195 to health care or those with disabilities. That is shameful,
8196 just shameful.

8197 I don't know how they do it, but I do hope that every
8198 one of these members is going to go back and hold a town hall
8199 so they can hear from their constituents how they betrayed
8200 American families, how they betrayed American families. And
8201 with that said, we need just three Republicans to stand up
8202 and say I am going to fight. I am going to fight. I am

8203 going to join you and I am going to stop this madness, and we
8204 are going to help save health care for the American people.

8205 I yield back.

8206 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. There is a
8207 vote on the floor, and this is what we will do. We will
8208 recess to take the vote on the floor. I will come
8209 immediately back, but we will not vote on it. We won't do a
8210 roll call vote until 15 minutes after the last vote. But if
8211 you want to speak or come back and we will get started, but
8212 we won't do a roll call until 15 minutes after the last vote,
8213 but we will start 15 minutes after the last vote.

8214 Thank you. The committee is in recess.

8215 [Recess.]

8216 *The Chair. The committee will come back to order.

8217 As I said, after the last vote we would give people at
8218 least 15 minutes to get back before we vote. But next in the
8219 queue to speak on my friend from Ohio's amendment was Dr. _
8220 the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Dunn.

8221 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We were
8222 discussing trigger laws when we were so rudely interrupted.

8223 There is nothing in this oversight plan or budget
8224 resolution, for that matter, that addresses changing the
8225 expansion population FMAP settings, or anything to set off
8226 the trigger laws. All this oversight plan does is call into
8227 question the growing costs of entitlement programs like

8228 Medicaid, and resolve to address ways to right-size the
8229 government and ensure long-term sustainability for the
8230 programs.

8231 Now, I know that outside groups have talked about these
8232 policies as ways to address the overall costs of the Medicaid
8233 program, and we know that Medicaid spending is going to grow
8234 from 550 billion this year to over 800 billion by the end of
8235 the decade, and that is unsustainable. It is unsustainable,
8236 and you know it is unsustainable, and I do too.

8237 But we shouldn't have to discuss and address some
8238 specific policy proposal that isn't even being discussed
8239 today in either the oversight plan or the budget resolution
8240 that.

8241 With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

8242 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Mr. _

8243 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair?

8244 *The Chair. You have time. Does somebody want to _

8245 *Mr. Landsman. Oh, do I have _

8246 *The Chair. The gentlelady from Virginia, do you want
8247 to yield time to my friend from Ohio?

8248 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I do.

8249 *The Chair. Okay.

8250 *Mr. Landsman. I apologize, Mr. Chair. I am getting
8251 it.

8252 So the reason why the trigger laws are so important, and

8253 why this is something that we are going to have to wrestle
8254 with is that moments ago you all passed a budget resolution
8255 that includes \$880 billion in cuts from here. And as the
8256 ranking member went through earlier, you don't get very far
8257 cutting anything else. And so the assumption _ reasonably so
8258 _ is that there is going to be drastic cuts to Medicaid.
8259 That is the only way to get to \$880 billion.

8260 So right now in the State of Ohio, House Bill 96, they
8261 are set to pass a piece of legislation that includes the
8262 following language: "If the Federal medical assistance
8263 percentage for medical assistance provided to members of the
8264 expansion eligibility group is set below 90 percent, then the
8265 Department of Medicaid shall immediately discontinue all
8266 medical assistance for members of that group.'" That is 770
8267 Ohioans [sic]. That is almost 800,000 Ohioans. That is why
8268 it is relevant. That is why we should take it up.

8269 I yield back.

8270 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back to the gentlelady
8271 from Virginia. Do you want to yield back, or _ you have
8272 time.

8273 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just
8274 remind our colleagues that if the trigger laws are triggered
8275 by cuts to Medicaid, which I don't see how we get to \$880
8276 billion without, that is going to have an impact on our state
8277 budgets. That is going to close hospitals, particularly in

8278 rural areas, and hundreds of thousands of people in Virginia
8279 alone are going to lose their health care.

8280 And we _ I was in the state legislature when we expanded
8281 Medicaid, and it was a bipartisan vote because Republicans in
8282 the state legislature understood that their constituents
8283 needed health care, that their constituents needed their
8284 hospitals to stay open, and that their constituents were
8285 counting on them to ensure they had health care coverage.

8286 And any action that this committee or any other
8287 committee takes that rips health care away from 80 million
8288 Americans, or even just the expansion states, we should have
8289 an oversight hearing to determine what is the ripple effect
8290 on those states and their populations and their access to
8291 care. And we shirk our responsibility as members of this
8292 body in a public _ in a Federal-state partnership if we don't
8293 do that.

8294 And so I think we need to include in our oversight plan
8295 something that shows we recognize our responsibility not just
8296 to our constituents, but our state government partners
8297 because we are about to blow a hole in their budget that they
8298 are going to not be able to fill.

8299 And with that I yield back.

8300 *Mr. Pallone. Could _ would the gentlewoman yield to me
8301 for the last minute?

8302 *Ms. McClellan. I do.

8303 *Mr. Pallone. I just want to point out _ you know, I
8304 heard what Mr. Landsman said in the context of this
8305 amendment, and I heard Mr. Rulli, I think _ I hope I am
8306 pronouncing it right _ disagree, and say that Ohio doesn't _
8307 I mean, the way I understood it, he said that Ohio doesn't
8308 really have a trigger law that does this.

8309 So, I mean, again, these _ I think there are nine states
8310 that have trigger laws of some sort. So, I mean, I do think
8311 it _ I mean, even in the case of Ohio, but the other ones _ I
8312 mean, it makes sense to have this in the oversight plan
8313 because I don't think it is at all clear from this discussion
8314 here, you know, how many states have this, what the trigger
8315 laws say, when it is triggered. Again, I mean, we are
8316 talking about potential cuts of, you know, several hundred
8317 billion dollars, and it certainly makes sense to include that
8318 in the oversight plan.

8319 I yield back to the gentlewoman.

8320 *The Chair. The gentlelady from Virginia yields back?

8321 *Ms. McClellan. I do. Thank you.

8322 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
8323 Seeing no discussion on the Republican side, is there any
8324 more on the Democrat side?

8325 *Mr. Pallone. I ask for a roll call.

8326 *The Chair. Yes, I said that we were going to have 15
8327 minutes after votes. I think we are right at it. By the

8328 time we do the roll call, we will _ certainly, everybody
8329 would have plenty of plenty of time to have gotten back.

8330 So if there is no further discussion on the amendment,
8331 the vote occurs on the amendment.

8332 All those in _ well, the gentleman from New Jersey has
8333 requested a roll call vote, and the clerk will call the roll.

8334 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8335 *Mr. Latta. No.

8336 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

8337 Mr. Griffith?

8338 *Mr. Griffith. No.

8339 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

8340 Mr. Bilirakis?

8341 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

8342 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

8343 Mr. Hudson?

8344 [No response.]

8345 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

8346 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

8347 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

8348 Mr. Palmer?

8349 *Mr. Palmer. No.

8350 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

8351 Mr. Dunn?

8352 *Mr. Dunn. No.

8353 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
8354 Mr. Crenshaw?
8355 [No response.]
8356 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
8357 *Mr. Joyce. No.
8358 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
8359 Mr. Weber?
8360 *Mr. Weber. No.
8361 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
8362 Mr. Allen?
8363 [No response.]
8364 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
8365 *Mr. Balderson. No.
8366 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
8367 Mr. Fulcher?
8368 *Mr. Fulcher. No.
8369 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
8370 Mr. Pfluger?
8371 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
8372 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
8373 Mr. _ Mrs. Harshbarger?
8374 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
8375 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
8376 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
8377 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.

8378 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
8379 Mrs. Cammack?
8380 [No response.]
8381 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
8382 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
8383 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
8384 Mr. James?
8385 *Mr. James. No.
8386 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
8387 Mr. Bentz?
8388 *Mr. Bentz. No.
8389 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
8390 Mrs. Houchin?
8391 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
8392 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
8393 Mr. Fry?
8394 *Mr. Fry. No.
8395 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
8396 Ms. Lee?
8397 *Ms. Lee. No.
8398 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
8399 Mr. Langworthy?
8400 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
8401 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
8402 Mr. Kean?

8403 *Mr. Kean. No.
8404 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
8405 Mr. Rulli?
8406 [No response.]
8407 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
8408 *Mr. Evans. No.
8409 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
8410 Mr. Goldman?
8411 *Mr. Goldman. No.
8412 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
8413 Mrs. Fedorchak?
8414 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
8415 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
8416 Mr. Pallone?
8417 *Mr. Pallone. Votes aye.
8418 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
8419 Ms. DeGette?
8420 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
8421 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8422 Ms. Schakowsky?
8423 [No response.]
8424 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
8425 *Ms. Schakowsky. Yes.
8426 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
8427 Ms. Matsui?

8428 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
8429 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8430 Ms. Castor?
8431 [No response.]
8432 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?
8433 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
8434 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
8435 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
8436 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
8437 Ms. Clarke?
8438 [No response.]
8439 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
8440 [No response.]
8441 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
8442 [No response.]
8443 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
8444 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
8445 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
8446 Mr. Veasey?
8447 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
8448 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
8449 Ms. Kelly?
8450 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
8451 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
8452 Ms. Barragan?

8453 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
8454 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
8455 Mr. Soto?
8456 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
8457 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
8458 Ms. Schrier?
8459 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
8460 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8461 Mrs. Trahan?
8462 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
8463 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8464 Mrs. Fletcher?
8465 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8466 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
8467 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
8468 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
8469 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
8470 Mr. Auchincloss?
8471 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
8472 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
8473 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
8474 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
8475 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
8476 Mr. Menendez?
8477 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

8478 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
8479 Mr. Mullin?
8480 [No response.]
8481 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
8482 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.
8483 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
8484 Ms. McClellan?
8485 *Ms. McClellan. Yes.
8486 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
8487 Chairman Guthrie?
8488 *The Chair. No.
8489 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
8490 *The Chair. Mr. Allen?
8491 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not recorded.
8492 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.
8493 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
8494 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?
8495 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.
8496 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
8497 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
8498 *The Chair. Ms. Clarke?
8499 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke is not recorded.
8500 *Ms. Clarke. Yes.
8501 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
8502 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

8503 *The Chair. Is anyone else looking to enter the roll
8504 call? It has been more than 15 minutes, so everybody has had
8505 an opportunity to get back. I want to make sure everybody
8506 has an opportunity to vote.

8507 So the clerk will report.

8508 [Pause.]

8509 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
8510 21 ayes and 27 noes.

8511 *The Chair. With 21 ayes and 27 noes, the amendment is
8512 not agreed to.

8513 Are there any other amendments?

8514 *Mr. Pallone. I think Kelly was next.

8515 *The Chair. Ms. Kelly? Okay. Or is it Barragan?

8516 *Mr. Pallone. Barragan?

8517 *The Chair. Okay, for what purpose does the gentlelady
8518 from California seek recognition?

8519 *Ms. Barragan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
8520 desk.

8521 *The Chair. The clerk will _ what amendment?

8522 *Ms. Barragan. EV_18.

8523 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

8524 *Voice. What did she say?

8525 *The Chair. Could you repeat? I am sorry, could you
8526 repeat that again?

8527 *Ms. Barragan. EV_18.

8528 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

8529 *The Clerk. Could the gentlelady from California read
8530 the first sentence of the amendment?

8531 *Ms. Barragan. Okay.

8532 *The Chair. ENG, did she say?

8533 *Mr. Pallone. Hers is _

8534 *Ms. Barragan. On page nine, after the section titled
8535 "CERCLA and Brownfields," in a new section titled
8536 "Environmental Justice," insert _ and I am quoting _ "The
8537 committee will review how the billions of dollars of EPA and
8538 DoE grants illegally frozen by the Trump Administration are
8539 stymieing environmental justice, including low-income
8540 communities and rural communities' ability to fund
8541 initiatives addressing rural infrastructure, clean water,
8542 toxic contamination, and clean air. This oversight will
8543 include the targeting of civil servants designated to
8544 administer these programs.'"

8545 Do you want me to continue reading?

8546 Okay.

8547 *The Chair. Do you have the amendment?

8548 *The Clerk. Mm-hmm.

8549 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

8550 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan _

8551 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
8552 amendment is dispensed with. We did have the reading from

8553 our friend from California.

8554 [The amendment of Ms. Barragan follows:]

8555

8556 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8557

8558 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
8559 minutes in support of her amendment.

8560 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8561 My amendment demands immediate oversight of how the
8562 Trump Administration's illegal freeze of billions in
8563 environmental and clean energy grants have harmed
8564 environmental justice communities, including low-income and
8565 rural communities in districts represented by my colleagues
8566 across the aisle. These grants fund essential initiatives to
8567 support clean drinking water, toxic contamination cleanup,
8568 and improved air quality.

8569 In recent weeks we have seen repeated stories of frozen
8570 funds causing chaos. A Missouri school district couldn't pay
8571 for electric school busses. A project to modernize the power
8572 grid in Georgia was put on hold. A grant to address drought
8573 in southwestern Colorado is in jeopardy. There are thousands
8574 of similar stories in all our districts.

8575 Well, where are House Republicans while the President
8576 continues to illegally withhold funds? Nowhere to be found.
8577 Silent as their own constituents and projects suffer.

8578 House Republicans are running a scheme to steal health
8579 care and environmental cleanup funds from the American
8580 people, all to reward billionaires with more tax cuts while
8581 their constituents suffer from pollution. This Republican
8582 betrayal does nothing to lower costs for everyday Americans.

8583 The Administration has also slashed environmental
8584 justice staff, and plans to shut down the EPA Office of
8585 Environmental Justice. This corporate polluter giveaway
8586 harms communities of color in my district and across the
8587 country that suffers from dangerous pollution. It also hurts
8588 rural and economically disadvantaged areas where a lot of
8589 Republicans are severely impacted by pollution.

8590 My amendment ensures that we fully understand the damage
8591 done by these Republican budget cuts and illegally frozen
8592 funds. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and
8593 protect all our communities from pollution.

8594 I yield back.

8595 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
8596 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia for five
8597 minutes.

8598 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I oppose the
8599 amendment.

8600 This amendment is unnecessary, as the oversight plan
8601 already includes oversight of the EPA, including the agency's
8602 funding decisions, resource allocation, and grants. The
8603 committee has already been engaged in the oversight of
8604 environmental justice programs, including use of resources
8605 and agency management of these programs. In fact, the
8606 Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations is holding a
8607 hearing tomorrow to assess EPA's implementation of its grant

8608 programs.

8609 Now, it is my understanding that the EPA is starting to
8610 unfreeze some of these funds, but a new administration came
8611 in, they froze funds so that they could get an idea as to
8612 what was being done, what was being done properly or not
8613 properly, what was being done legally or illegally.

8614 But I want to draw the attention of the members to the
8615 wording of the amendment because, if we are doing oversight,
8616 our job is to go in _ we may feel a certain way, but we
8617 shouldn't pre-judge until we have heard all the evidence.
8618 This amendment purportedly calls on us to hold an
8619 investigation. But in the second line, first sentence _
8620 second line of the amendment it says, "illegally frozen by
8621 the Trump Administration.'" Well, it is nothing but a
8622 kangaroo court if you have already made your mind up.

8623 So I urge everyone to vote no, and I yield back.

8624 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
8625 discussion, further discussion?

8626 *Mr. Pallone. We want a roll call.

8627 *The Chair. Seeing none, if there is no further
8628 discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment. The gentleman
8629 from New Jersey has requested a roll call vote, and the clerk
8630 will call the roll.

8631 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8632 *Mr. Latta. No.

8633 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
8634 Mr. Griffith?
8635 *Mr. Griffith. No.
8636 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
8637 Mr. Bilirakis?
8638 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
8639 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
8640 Mr. Hudson?
8641 [No response.]
8642 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
8643 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
8644 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
8645 Mr. Palmer?
8646 *Mr. Palmer. No.
8647 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
8648 Mr. Dunn?
8649 *Mr. Dunn. No.
8650 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
8651 Mr. Crenshaw?
8652 [No response.]
8653 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
8654 *Mr. Joyce. No.
8655 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
8656 Mr. Weber?
8657 *Mr. Weber. No.

8658 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
8659 Mr. Allen?
8660 [No response.]
8661 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
8662 *Mr. Allen. No.
8663 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
8664 Mr. Balderson?
8665 *Mr. Balderson. No.
8666 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
8667 Mr. Fulcher?
8668 *Mr. Fulcher. No.
8669 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
8670 Mr. Pfluger?
8671 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
8672 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
8673 Mrs. Harshbarger?
8674 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
8675 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
8676 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
8677 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
8678 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
8679 Mrs. Cammack?
8680 [No response.]
8681 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
8682 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

8683 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
8684 Mr. James?
8685 *Mr. James. No.
8686 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
8687 Mr. Bentz?
8688 *Mr. Bentz. No.
8689 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
8690 Mrs. Houchin?
8691 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
8692 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
8693 Mr. Fry?
8694 *Mr. Fry. No.
8695 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
8696 Ms. Lee?
8697 *Ms. Lee. No.
8698 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
8699 Mr. Langworthy?
8700 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
8701 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
8702 Mr. Kean?
8703 *Mr. Kean. No.
8704 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
8705 Mr. Rulli?
8706 [No response.]
8707 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

8708 *Mr. Evans. No.
8709 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
8710 Mr. Goldman?
8711 *Mr. Goldman. No.
8712 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
8713 Mrs. Fedorchak?
8714 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
8715 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
8716 Mr. Pallone?
8717 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
8718 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
8719 Ms. DeGette?
8720 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
8721 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8722 Ms. Schakowsky?
8723 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
8724 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
8725 Ms. Matsui?
8726 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
8727 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8728 Ms. Castor?
8729 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
8730 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
8731 Mr. Tonko?
8732 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

8733 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
8734 Ms. Clarke?
8735 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
8736 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
8737 Mr. Ruiz?
8738 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
8739 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
8740 Mr. Peters?
8741 [No response.]
8742 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
8743 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
8744 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
8745 Mr. Veasey?
8746 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
8747 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
8748 Ms. Kelly?
8749 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
8750 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
8751 Ms. Barragan?
8752 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
8753 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
8754 Mr. Soto?
8755 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
8756 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
8757 Ms. Schrier?

8758 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
8759 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8760 Mrs. Trahan?
8761 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
8762 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8763 Mrs. Fletcher?
8764 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8765 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
8766 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
8767 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
8768 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
8769 Mr. Auchincloss?
8770 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
8771 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
8772 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
8773 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
8774 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
8775 Mr. Menendez?
8776 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
8777 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
8778 Mr. Mullin?
8779 [No response.]
8780 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
8781 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.
8782 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

8783 Ms. McClellan?

8784 *Ms. McClellan. Yes.

8785 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

8786 Chairman Guthrie?

8787 *The Chair. No.

8788 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

8789 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?

8790 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

8791 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

8792 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

8793 *The Chair. Is there anyone on the Democrat side?

8794 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

8795 [Pause.]

8796 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were

8797 22 ayes and 27 noes.

8798 *The Chair. With 22 ayes and 27 noes, the amendment is

8799 not agreed to. Are there further amendments?

8800 *Mr. Pallone. Mrs. Fletcher.

8801 *The Chair. Mrs. Fletcher?

8802 *Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman?

8803 *The Chair. For what purpose does the gentlelady from

8804 Texas have a _

8805 *Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at

8806 the desk. It is HE31.

8807 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

8808 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan HE31.

8809 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
8810 amendment is dispensed with.

8811 [The amendment of Mrs. Fletcher follows:]

8812

8813 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8814

8815 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
8816 minutes in support of the amendment.

8817 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8818 Almost three years ago the Supreme Court overturned Roe
8819 v. Wade. And since that time people in states like mine that
8820 have outlawed abortion have been in crisis. And frankly, in
8821 my state the crisis started even before the Dobbs decision
8822 because what we have seen is that the vague and punitive laws
8823 outlawing abortion prevent access to reproductive health care
8824 much more broadly.

8825 In Texas we have seen story after story after story of
8826 women who were sent home from the hospitals while they were
8827 having miscarriages, told to wait outside in their cars
8828 because they weren't bleeding enough, they didn't have a
8829 high-enough fever. They weren't, as one was told, close
8830 enough to dying to get medical care. They were told to go
8831 home. We have heard from a lot of these women, and we have
8832 heard from families of women who were not able to get care at
8833 all and who have died. These are our fellow Texans, our
8834 fellow Americans in Houston, in Austin, in Vidor, across our
8835 state.

8836 The denials and delays in getting health care in states
8837 that have banned abortion is real. We hear it from patients
8838 and we hear it from physicians. They are not able to meet
8839 the standard of care that they have been trained to provide

8840 for their patients, and they live with the threat of losing
8841 their medical license or being criminally charged for
8842 providing reproductive health care to their patients.

8843 In Texas doctors who perform abortions are subject to a
8844 \$100,000 fine and life in prison, and anti-abortion lawmakers
8845 continue to say that these bans won't stop doctors from
8846 treating ectopic pregnancies or miscarriages, but that is not
8847 what we are seeing in our state and across the country. A
8848 recent report found that since the abortion ban in Texas the
8849 rate of sepsis has increased by more than 50 percent for
8850 women being hospitalized for miscarriage.

8851 We also know that states like mine that have abortion
8852 bans have some of the highest maternal mortality rates in the
8853 country. And at least in my state, the state Maternal
8854 Mortality Committee has failed to fully review the deaths
8855 from the first two years since the state banned nearly all
8856 abortions from its reporting. There is no transparency and,
8857 as I understand it, a similar thing happened in Georgia.
8858 They just disbanded their committee.

8859 We need to be clear about the impact that these laws are
8860 having on our constituents. We need to understand it, and we
8861 need to understand something else that is critically
8862 important. Across the country 40 percent of births, 40
8863 percent of births in the United States of America are covered
8864 by Medicaid. In Texas that number is 50 percent. So when

8865 the directive and the budget resolution that our friends on
8866 the other side of the aisle just voted for comes back to this
8867 committee to cut at least \$880 billion in spending from our
8868 committee, we understand that that is coming from Medicaid.

8869 Cutting Medicaid from children and pregnant women, as
8870 this budget resolution dictates, will only make things worse.
8871 And it is not very pro-life. My amendment today states that
8872 this committee will support data reporting that tracks the
8873 consequences that state abortion restrictions have on
8874 patients and providers across the country.

8875 These are the things we should want to know if we are
8876 serious about understanding the impacts of the laws on
8877 Americans' health and safety and their ability to access the
8878 care that they need. It is more important than ever that we
8879 work to protect the health, dignity, and freedom of women and
8880 families across this country so that they can safely access
8881 reproductive health care and make their own decisions about
8882 their families.

8883 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

8884 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
8885 there any discussion on the Republican side?

8886 Seeing none _ oh, the gentleman from Georgia, you are
8887 recognized for five minutes.

8888 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

8889 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

8890 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to speak
8891 in opposition to the amendment.

8892 Every child, every child is a gift and a blessing, and
8893 Republicans have shown commitment to supporting mothers and
8894 babies at every, every stage of life. For example, this
8895 committee worked in a bipartisan fashion to move the Maternal
8896 and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act through the
8897 committee process and get it signed into law. We also worked
8898 on the Preemie Reauthorization Act and Preventing Maternal
8899 Deaths Reauthorization Act, and I hope we are able to
8900 continue this bipartisan work through this Congress to get
8901 these reauthorization signed into law.

8902 The Dobbs decision simply gave individual states the
8903 authority to regulate abortion to more clearly reflect the
8904 will of their residents. The oversight plan already includes
8905 _ it already includes, and we have been saying this all day
8906 long _ it already includes broad public health oversight,
8907 including maternal and infant health programs. That is the
8908 reason this amendment is unnecessary, and it is only
8909 politically motivated. It is not necessary. The oversight
8910 is already in there.

8911 Mr. Chairman, I yield.

8912 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Any _ the
8913 gentlelady from Illinois, you are recognized for five
8914 minutes.

8915 *Ms. Kelly. I move to strike the last word.

8916 *The Chair. You are recognized.

8917 *Ms. Kelly. Chairman, I speak in support of this
8918 amendment.

8919 From what was just voted on, Republicans want to rip
8920 away Medicaid in the midst of our maternal mortality crisis.
8921 As my colleague said, Medicaid pays for more than 40 percent
8922 of all births in the U.S. Medicaid also pays for 75 percent
8923 of all publicly-funded family planning services such as
8924 contraception, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and HIV
8925 counseling.

8926 More hospitals in rural areas will be closed due to
8927 Medicaid cuts, increasing maternal care deserts. Half of
8928 counties in the U.S. are already maternal care deserts.
8929 Giving birth should not be a partisan issue, but this
8930 Republican budget will rip away health care for mothers and
8931 families, no matter their political party. Women and
8932 families deserve better than this budget.

8933 And I have been working on maternal mortality and
8934 morbidity for about eight years now or nine years now. And
8935 at first, when I brought it to this committee, there was a
8936 lot of fighting from the other side about was it really
8937 necessary. So everybody wasn't really on board from the
8938 beginning.

8939 I yield back.

8940 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
8941 anyone on the Republican side seeking recognition?

8942 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Virginia.

8943 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
8944 the last word.

8945 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

8946 *Ms. McClellan. I almost became one of the statistics
8947 of Black women who were three times more likely to die in
8948 childbirth in this country when my placenta ruptured and I
8949 was rushed into the emergency room for C-section when my
8950 heart rate and my now daughter's heart rate both were
8951 crashing. The last thing I remember as I was being wheeled
8952 into the emergency room was my doctor saying, "I am here,"
8953 and a nurse putting an oxygen mask on my face and saying
8954 everything is going to be fine. And my last thought was, you
8955 know _ at that moment I had the peace of mind of knowing that
8956 in that crisis moment my doctor would make the decision she
8957 felt necessary in that moment.

8958 My daughter might not have that same peace of mind.
8959 Joselli Barnica didn't have that peace of mind. Amber
8960 Thurman didn't have that peace of mind. I could be here all
8961 night listing the names of women who, in the midst of an
8962 emergency or a C-section, went to a hospital in a state that
8963 bans abortion for a pregnancy they wanted _ in some cases,
8964 desperately so after in vitro fertilization or fertility

8965 treatments _ and they were denied care because they weren't
8966 sick enough. They were denied care until they were septic.
8967 They were denied care until they died. And that is why it is
8968 not a surprise that the states that have adopted abortion
8969 bans since the fall of Roe v. Wade also have the highest
8970 numbers of maternal mortality rates.

8971 And in the context of states where they won't provide
8972 abortions in the case of gross fetal abnormality, and those
8973 children are born and, in some cases, the minute their
8974 umbilical cord is cut they die because they suffocate, that
8975 has physical and mental consequences for the mother and the
8976 family. That is what is happened because of these abortion
8977 bans.

8978 Now, in a lot of states we know that the reason _ so I
8979 want you to think about that in the context of cuts to
8980 Medicaid, where in many states and here at the Federal level
8981 coverage was expanded to the first year after birth. Why?
8982 Because for a lot of women, particularly Black women, you die
8983 from pregnancy-related complications within the first year,
8984 usually cardiovascular, usually because you have an
8985 underlying health condition that has gone untreated because
8986 you don't have access to care. So by providing coverage for
8987 the first full year we get you through and you are less
8988 likely to die.

8989 So now you got more women dying because of abortion

8990 bans. You are going to have more women die if we cut
8991 Medicaid because they don't have health care coverage after
8992 six months of pregnancy. And we need to look at the
8993 consequences of our actions. We need to look at the
8994 consequences.

8995 You know, I am a lawyer, and I know words matter, but
8996 actions matter. And the unintended consequences of laws
8997 matter. And it is life and death. It was almost death for
8998 me. And I want us to be sure that the next woman wheeled
8999 into an emergency room in the middle of a miscarriage, in the
9000 middle of bleeding out knows, first of all, that hospital
9001 will not have to call their lawyer and say is she sick
9002 enough, that the hospital will be there because they were
9003 able to keep their maternity ward and their obstructed _
9004 obstetrics unit open, and they had enough providers who said
9005 I am willing to be an OB/GYN because I don't have to worry
9006 about being prosecuted for providing the standard of care I
9007 think necessary.

9008 And that is why this is more than just politics. This
9009 is life and death.

9010 I yield back.

9011 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
9012 anyone on the Republican side?

9013 Seeing none, anyone _ the gentleman from New Jersey, you
9014 are recognized for five minutes.

9015 *Mr. Menendez. I move to strike the last word.

9016 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

9017 *Mr. Menendez. I would like to thank my colleague from
9018 Texas, Congresswoman Fletcher, for introducing this
9019 amendment.

9020 I would like to thank my incredible colleague from
9021 Virginia, Congresswoman McClellan, for sharing those stories,
9022 those real stories, and I would just challenge my folks
9023 across the aisle who said this is a politically motivated
9024 amendment.

9025 This is about understanding the real consequences of
9026 what is happening across the country with respect to state
9027 abortion restrictions and the impact that they are having on
9028 patients and providers across the country, and something that
9029 is 100 percent within our jurisdiction and 100 _ something we
9030 should absolutely be concerned about as Republicans consider
9031 drastic, immense cuts to Medicaid and all the incredible
9032 programing that they provide and coverage that they provide
9033 to women both during their pregnancy and post-partum.

9034 So this is definitely something of incredible
9035 importance, something that we should all be concerned about
9036 on both sides of the aisle, and that is why I will be
9037 supporting this amendment.

9038 Thank you, and I yield back.

9039 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone _

9040 *Ms. Castor. Wait _

9041 *The Chair. _ seeking recognition on the Republican
9042 side?

9043 Seeing none, anybody on the Democrat side?

9044 My friend from Florida, Ms. Castor, you are recognized
9045 for five minutes.

9046 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank
9047 Representative Fletcher for her very thoughtful and important
9048 amendment. I want to thank Representative Kelly for her
9049 years of work on the maternal mortality crisis, and Rep.
9050 McClellan for sharing her very personal story.

9051 In Florida we are seeing an unfortunate increase in
9052 maternal mortality. I have been in _ since Florida's very
9053 draconian 15-week abortion ban was implemented, I have talked
9054 to providers in hospitals and asked them directly, "Is this
9055 an impediment to providing the kind of care that you were
9056 trained to provide?" And unfortunately, the answer is yes,
9057 because _ yes, it is the case. The providers said that they,
9058 in the case of a fetal emergency, they are not able to
9059 provide the care that they are trained and that is medically
9060 necessary to provide. This, as Rep. Fletcher mentions, leads
9061 to more cases of sepsis and a higher maternal mortality rate.

9062 This demands oversight by this committee. And what you
9063 are going to do with Medicaid is you are going to make it
9064 worse because women will not be able to receive the pre-natal

9065 care. They will not have the same kind of access to doctors
9066 during a pregnancy. That is not pro-life. That is going to
9067 make _ unfortunately, women are going to die, and it is going
9068 to make this a lot worse.

9069 But what also adds insult to injury, and why I really
9070 wanted to speak on this _ for new members and for the members
9071 who are here _ remember, it wasn't that long ago that we
9072 worked together on a bipartisan bill, the Preemie Act. That
9073 was part of the year-end package that was negotiated between
9074 Democrats and Republicans that we passed, we sent over to the
9075 Senate. And lo and behold, who is responsible for throwing a
9076 wrench into the Preemie Act?

9077 That Preemie Act provides resources for clinical,
9078 biological, social, environmental, genetic, behavioral
9079 factors related to prematurity. We put a little bit of money
9080 away to help prevent premature births, and who was the one
9081 that threw a wrench into this and didn't let us get it across
9082 the finish line? It was Elon Musk at the end of the year who
9083 said, oh, wait, the bill _ that bill has too many pages,
9084 Congress, too many pages. It must be a bad bill, ignoring
9085 the work that we had done.

9086 So I think, the very least, knowing all the statistics,
9087 what is happening across the country with maternal mortality,
9088 the very least Republicans could do as you set this up to gut
9089 Medicaid and care for children and pregnant women under _

9090 that rely on Medicaid, the very least you can do is in your
9091 oversight plan say that women, pregnant women and women
9092 facing crisis and the impact of abortion bans across the
9093 country, deserve a little bit of analysis.

9094 So thank you, Rep. Fletcher, for bringing this.

9095 And I will yield back.

9096 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
9097 other discussion on the Republican side?

9098 Seeing none, on the Democrat side?

9099 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call.

9100 *The Chair. If there is no further discussion, the vote
9101 occurs on the amendment. The gentleman from New Jersey
9102 requests a recorded vote, and the clerk will call the roll.

9103 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

9104 *Mr. Latta. No.

9105 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

9106 Mr. Griffith?

9107 *Mr. Griffith. No.

9108 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

9109 Mr. Bilirakis?

9110 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

9111 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

9112 Mr. Hudson?

9113 [No response.]

9114 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

9115 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

9116 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

9117 Mr. Palmer?

9118 *Mr. Palmer. No.

9119 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

9120 Mr. Dunn?

9121 *Mr. Dunn. No.

9122 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

9123 Mr. Crenshaw?

9124 [No response.]

9125 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

9126 *Mr. Joyce. No.

9127 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

9128 Mr. Weber?

9129 *Mr. Weber. No.

9130 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

9131 Mr. Allen?

9132 [No response.]

9133 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?

9134 *Mr. Balderson. No.

9135 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

9136 Mr. Fulcher?

9137 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, no.

9138 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

9139 Mr. Pfluger?

9140 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
9141 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
9142 Mrs. Harshbarger?
9143 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
9144 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
9145 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
9146 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
9147 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
9148 Mrs. Cammack?
9149 [No response.]
9150 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
9151 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
9152 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
9153 Mr. James?
9154 [No response.]
9155 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
9156 *Mr. Bentz. No.
9157 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
9158 Mrs. Houchin?
9159 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
9160 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
9161 Mr. Fry?
9162 *Mr. Fry. No.
9163 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
9164 Ms. Lee?

9165 *Ms. Lee. No.

9166 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

9167 Mr. Langworthy?

9168 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

9169 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

9170 Mr. Kean?

9171 *Mr. Kean. No.

9172 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

9173 Mr. Rulli?

9174 [No response.]

9175 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

9176 *Mr. Evans. No.

9177 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

9178 Mr. Goldman?

9179 *Mr. Goldman. No.

9180 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

9181 Mrs. Fedorchak?

9182 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

9183 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

9184 Mr. Pallone?

9185 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

9186 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

9187 Ms. DeGette?

9188 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

9189 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

9190 Ms. Schakowsky?
9191 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
9192 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
9193 Ms. Matsui?
9194 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
9195 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
9196 Ms. Castor?
9197 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
9198 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
9199 Mr. Tonko?
9200 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
9201 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
9202 Ms. Clarke?
9203 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
9204 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
9205 Mr. Ruiz?
9206 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
9207 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
9208 Mr. Peters?
9209 [No response.]
9210 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
9211 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
9212 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
9213 Mr. Veasey?
9214 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

9215 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
9216 Ms. Kelly?
9217 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
9218 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
9219 Ms. Barragan?
9220 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
9221 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
9222 Mr. Soto?
9223 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
9224 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
9225 Ms. Schrier?
9226 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
9227 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
9228 Mrs. Trahan?
9229 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
9230 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
9231 Mrs. Fletcher?
9232 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
9233 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
9234 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
9235 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
9236 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
9237 Mr. Auchincloss?
9238 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
9239 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

9240 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

9241 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

9242 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

9243 Mr. Menendez?

9244 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

9245 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

9246 Mr. Mullin?

9247 [No response.]

9248 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

9249 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

9250 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

9251 Ms. McClellan?

9252 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

9253 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

9254 Chairman Guthrie?

9255 *The Chair. No. How is Mr. Allen recorded?

9256 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

9257 Mr. Allen is not recorded.

9258 *Mr. Allen. No.

9259 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

9260 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking recognition for the _ Mr.

9261 James?

9262 *Mr. James. Mr. Chair, how is James recorded?

9263 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.

9264 *Mr. James. No.

9265 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

9266 *The Chair. Anyone on the Democrat side?

9267 Seeing no one appearing to call the roll, the clerk will
9268 report.

9269 Oh, sorry. There is one. Mrs. Cammack, how is she
9270 recorded? Is she not there?

9271 Okay, the clerk will call the roll _ will report, I am
9272 sorry. It is getting late.

9273 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
9274 22 ayes and 26 noes.

9275 *The Chair. With 22 ayes and 26 noes, the amendment is
9276 not agreed to.

9277 For what purpose does the gentlelady from California
9278 seek recognition?

9279 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
9280 desk.

9281 *The Chair. Your amendment number?

9282 *Ms. Matsui. CAT4, broadband availability _
9283 affordability, rather.

9284 *Mr. Pallone. I guess she decided to do it after all.

9285 *The Chair. Okay. The clerk will report the amendment.

9286 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan CAT4,
9287 broadband affordability in compliance with the law. Under
9288 the subsection titled "Availability of Broadband," in the
9289 title of the subsection insert "and affordability" after the

9290 word "availability.'" Under that subsection, after the
9291 phrase "helping or hindering broadband'" _

9292 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
9293 amendment is dispensed with.

9294 [The amendment of Ms. Matsui follows:]

9295

9296 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

9297

9298 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
9299 minutes in support of the amendment.

9300 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9301 Closing the digital divide must remain a key priority
9302 for this committee. Truly closing the digital divide,
9303 however, requires more than building out the infrastructure
9304 necessary to connect the tens of millions of Americans still
9305 without reliable, high-speed broadband. It also requires
9306 ensuring that everyday Americans can access affordable
9307 broadband and equipping Americans, from our seniors to
9308 students, with the necessary digital skills and devices to
9309 reap the full benefits of online access.

9310 Across all 50 states broadband affordability and
9311 availability are the primary barriers to closing the digital
9312 divide. Unfortunately, this committee's oversight plan only
9313 prioritizes broadband availability. This is shortsighted and
9314 risks leaving many Americans behind. Democrats will keep
9315 fighting for the working class. That is why my amendment
9316 would ensure we also prioritize broadband affordability so
9317 that everyday Americans connect with their families, doctors,
9318 and schools online.

9319 Democrats can also keep fighting to hold the White House
9320 and Federal agencies accountable to the American people and
9321 to the law. That is why my amendment calls on this committee
9322 to conduct oversight to ensure this Administration is fully

9323 following the law when implementing Federal broadband
9324 programs including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's BEAD
9325 and digital equity grants.

9326 Already we have seen the chaos and confusion caused by
9327 the White House's malicious and misguided Federal funding
9328 freeze. Even as courts weigh in, we can't deny the
9329 uncertainty this unprecedented power grab has unleashed for
9330 our states and communities as they question when they will
9331 receive broadband funding and what the delays will cost them.
9332 This is especially important when our states and local
9333 communities have worked hard over the last few years to begin
9334 carrying out the BEAD and digital equity plans.

9335 States like Louisiana, Nevada, and Delaware are on track
9336 to put shovels in the ground this year to connect underserved
9337 communities. Many other states, including my home state of
9338 California, are hard at work building a fair and competitive
9339 award process and implementing digital equity plans so that
9340 our Federal broadband dollars go to where they are most
9341 needed. All this progress, however, could be wasted if the
9342 Trump Administration chooses to hold Federal funding like
9343 BEAD or digital equity grants hostages.

9344 Freezing this funding ignores the law and harms the tens
9345 of millions of Americans who are counting on these programs
9346 to get connected. They can't afford to wait, and neither can
9347 we. We are the only oversight that these communities have.

9348 If we don't ensure affordability in addition to availability,
9349 we risk creating a two-tier system where only the wealthy can
9350 get online.

9351 With that I call on my Republican colleagues to join us
9352 in voting for this common-sense amendment to protect
9353 broadband affordability and send a clear message that no
9354 administration is above the law.

9355 With that I yield back my time.

9356 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back, and the chair
9357 recognizes himself for five minutes.

9358 You know, I would probably be frustrated, as well, if I
9359 had voted for BEAD over two years ago and I don't think one
9360 penny has been dispersed nor one inch of fiber has been laid.
9361 If you want to talk about _ President Trump has been in
9362 office for a few weeks, and we are already saying that he is
9363 holding up the money. The money has been held up for two
9364 years.

9365 The Administration held the money to put restrictions on
9366 the spending of the money that was not in the law. So I know
9367 that is frustrating, but that was the previous two years, not
9368 the last couple of weeks. And by having the money there, it
9369 is going to give us an opportunity. We are going to look at
9370 this program. We are going to make sure the money is going
9371 to be spent correctly, it is going to be spent according to
9372 law.

9373 And so I can guarantee you there will be oversight of
9374 this money, hopefully before any penny is spent.

9375 So I will yield back. Does anybody else seek
9376 recognition?

9377 The gentlelady from Virginia.

9378 *Ms. McClellan. I move to strike the last word.

9379 So part of the reason why the funding hasn't been used
9380 and cables haven't been laid is because one of the first
9381 steps that had to happen was that states had to do broadband
9382 maps because most states, Virginia included, did not have a
9383 map of where the unserved and underserved areas were. So you
9384 can't begin to have a plan for how you are going to roll out
9385 broadband cables until you know who needs it. So that is the
9386 first step. That took a while, because providers needed to
9387 provide their data in a way that would ensure that it
9388 wouldn't be shared with their competitors.

9389 And so if we are _ if we want to look into the reasons
9390 why the funding from the IRA isn't immediately putting cables
9391 in the ground, let's look at that. But let's be realistic
9392 about it, and look at what does it actually take to go from
9393 nothing in the ground to figuring out where you need to go to
9394 provide service to under and unserved areas.

9395 And I know this because the last job I had before coming
9396 here was on how to do exactly that. So if we want to look at
9397 that, let's look at that. But let's also look at the full

9398 breadth of what needs to happen to ensure that every American
9399 not only has access to broadband, but that it is affordable.

9400 I yield back.

9401 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
9402 from Georgia is recognized for five minutes.

9403 *Mr. Allen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9404 The oversight plan already includes language committing
9405 to oversight of broadband programs, including the Universal
9406 Service Fund and programs related to broadband deployment and
9407 adoption, including those that were established as part of
9408 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

9409 I will note that we already have an affordability
9410 program, the Lifeline program within the USF. I know that
9411 Democrats want to blame Republicans for the end of the
9412 Affordable Connectivity Program, the COVID-era program that
9413 was designed to be temporary and end once the pandemic ended.

9414 I will also note that, as much as Democrats claim to
9415 miss that program, they controlled the Senate and the White
9416 House last Congress and couldn't agree on a proposal that
9417 could pass.

9418 I also find it amusing that the Democrats want to ensure
9419 compliance with statutory requirements in the IIJA when the
9420 Biden Administration blatantly ignored the statute when they
9421 unlawfully forced states to regulate rates for broadband
9422 plans as part of the BEAD program, something the very law

9423 prohibits.

9424 Committee Republicans have fought to ensure compliance
9425 with that provision for the past two years, and will continue
9426 to do so. Making sure broadband is affordable and accessible
9427 is important for Americans to participate in the digital
9428 economy, and we are open to working on policies that promote
9429 competition and reduce cost.

9430 All of this is covered by our oversight plan, so I plan
9431 to oppose this amendment.

9432 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone on
9433 the Democratic side seeking recognition?

9434 Seeing none, are there any further on the Republican
9435 side?

9436 If there is no further discussion, a vote occurs on the
9437 amendment. A roll call vote has been requested by the
9438 gentleman from New Jersey, the ranking member, and the clerk
9439 shall call the roll.

9440 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

9441 *Mr. Latta. No.

9442 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

9443 Mr. Griffith?

9444 *Mr. Griffith. No.

9445 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

9446 Mr. Bilirakis?

9447 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

9448 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
9449 Mr. Hudson?
9450 *Mr. Hudson. No.
9451 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
9452 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
9453 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
9454 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
9455 Mr. Palmer?
9456 *Mr. Palmer. No.
9457 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
9458 Mr. Dunn?
9459 *Mr. Dunn. No.
9460 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
9461 Mr. Crenshaw?
9462 [No response.]
9463 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
9464 *Mr. Joyce. No.
9465 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
9466 Mr. Weber?
9467 *Mr. Weber. No.
9468 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
9469 Mr. Allen?
9470 *Mr. Allen. No.
9471 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
9472 Mr. Balderson?

9473 *Mr. Balderson. No.
9474 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
9475 Mr. Fulcher?
9476 [No response.]
9477 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
9478 [No response.]
9479 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?
9480 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, no.
9481 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
9482 Mr. Pfluger?
9483 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
9484 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
9485 Mrs. Harshbarger?
9486 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
9487 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
9488 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
9489 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
9490 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
9491 Mrs. Cammack?
9492 [No response.]
9493 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte?
9494 *Mr. Oubernolte. No.
9495 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes no.
9496 Mr. James?
9497 *Mr. James. No.

9498 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
9499 Mr. Bentz?
9500 *Mr. Bentz. No.
9501 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
9502 Mrs. Houchin?
9503 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
9504 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
9505 Mr. Fry?
9506 *Mr. Fry. No.
9507 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
9508 Ms. Lee?
9509 *Ms. Lee. No.
9510 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
9511 Mr. Langworthy?
9512 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
9513 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
9514 Mr. Kean?
9515 *Mr. Kean. No.
9516 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
9517 Mr. Rulli?
9518 [No response.]
9519 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
9520 *Mr. Evans. No.
9521 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
9522 Mr. Goldman?

9523 *Mr. Goldman. No.
9524 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
9525 Mrs. Fedorchak?
9526 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
9527 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
9528 Mr. Pallone?
9529 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
9530 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
9531 Ms. DeGette?
9532 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
9533 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
9534 Ms. Schakowsky?
9535 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
9536 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
9537 Ms. Matsui?
9538 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
9539 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
9540 Ms. Castor?
9541 [No response.]
9542 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor?
9543 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
9544 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
9545 Mr. Tonko?
9546 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
9547 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

9548 Ms. Clarke?
9549 [No response.]
9550 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
9551 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
9552 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
9553 Mr. Peters?
9554 [No response.]
9555 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
9556 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
9557 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
9558 Mr. Veasey?
9559 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
9560 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
9561 Ms. Kelly?
9562 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
9563 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
9564 Ms. Barragan?
9565 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
9566 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
9567 Mr. Soto?
9568 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
9569 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
9570 Ms. Schrier?
9571 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
9572 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

9573 Mrs. Trahan?

9574 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

9575 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

9576 Mrs. Fletcher?

9577 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

9578 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

9579 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

9580 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

9581 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

9582 Mr. Auchincloss?

9583 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

9584 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

9585 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

9586 [No response.]

9587 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

9588 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

9589 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

9590 Mr. Menendez?

9591 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

9592 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

9593 Mr. Mullin?

9594 [No response.]

9595 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

9596 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.

9597 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

9598 Ms. McClellan?

9599 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

9600 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

9601 Chairman Guthrie?

9602 *The Chair. No.

9603 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

9604 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll?

9605 Seeing no Republican, anyone on the Democrat side who

9606 hasn't _ Ms. Clarke, how is the lady from New York recorded?

9607 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke is not recorded.

9608 *Ms. Clarke. I vote aye.

9609 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

9610 *The Chair. Anyone else?

9611 Seeing no one else, the clerk will report the result.

9612 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were

9613 22 ayes and 27 noes.

9614 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. So _

9615 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz is next.

9616 *The Chair. Mr. Ruiz, for what purpose does _

9617 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, sir.

9618 *The Chair. _ the gentleman from California seek

9619 recognition?

9620 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Chairman. I have an amendment at

9621 the desk.

9622 *The Chair. Will the gentleman state his amendment?

9623 *Mr. Ruiz. ENG_05.

9624 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

9625 *The Clerk. Amendment to the draft oversight plan,
9626 offered by Mr. Ruiz.

9627 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
9628 amendment is dispensed with.

9629 [The amendment of Mr. Ruiz follows:]

9630

9631 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

9632

9633 *The Chair. And the gentleman from California is
9634 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

9635 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9636 My amendment states, "The committee will also conduct
9637 oversight on the long-term impact to our national
9638 competitiveness with regards to batteries, critical minerals,
9639 and other 21st century energy technologies and materials and
9640 energy security from the freeze of grants, loans, and loan
9641 guarantees.' "

9642 My amendment addresses a critical issue that threatens
9643 our national competitiveness, energy security, and economic
9644 future. The unjustified delays and freezing of Federal funds
9645 for clean energy projects, particularly those in Lithium
9646 Valley, located in my district. Located in the Salton Sea
9647 region, Lithium Valley holds the largest lithium deposit in
9648 the United States and the fifth-largest globally, offering a
9649 historic opportunity to secure America battery energy storage
9650 dominance.

9651 The Trump Administration, like the Biden Administration,
9652 has prioritized domestic critical mineral development to
9653 reduce reliance on foreign adversaries. Lithium Valley is
9654 central to this vision by leveraging its vast lithium
9655 reserves to strengthen domestic supply chains, enhance grid-
9656 scale energy storage, and support national security
9657 applications.

9658 Under the current Administration, the DoE has emphasized
9659 lithium's essential role in America's energy security by
9660 making strategic investments in lithium production. Yet
9661 instead of moving full speed ahead, we are being stalled by
9662 bureaucratic red tape and funding freezes of their own making
9663 that jeopardize the progress we have fought so hard for. The
9664 Loan Program's Office at the Department of Energy is designed
9665 to invest in cutting-edge, clean energy projects that drive
9666 the very American innovation and industrial growth this
9667 Administration say they desire.

9668 By freezing the very funds meant to support lithium
9669 refining and battery manufacturing, the Trump Administration
9670 is undermining its own goals to compete with China and other
9671 global producers who are rapidly securing their own supplies.

9672 By freezing these funds, President Trump is putting
9673 China first in the lithium extraction and battery
9674 manufacturing.

9675 Let me be clear. This is not just about my district.
9676 This is about American energy dominance. Every delay in
9677 funding means more critical minerals are sourced from
9678 adversarial nations, more missed economic opportunities, and
9679 a weakened clean energy supply chain. If we fail to act now,
9680 we risk falling behind in one of the most strategic
9681 industries of the 21st century. We must move swiftly to
9682 unfreeze these funds, unlock the full potential of our

9683 domestic energy resources, and secure America's leadership in
9684 the global clean energy economy.

9685 And it is important for this committee to ensure that
9686 American energy is dominant in the 21st century, with 21st
9687 century technologies and clean energy, instead of doubling
9688 down on the 20th century technologies that have produced
9689 dirty energy production. We have to ensure that the U.S. can
9690 compete not just in critical minerals, but in batteries and
9691 other 21st century energy technologies. This should be easy,
9692 it should be bipartisan, and I urge all my colleagues to
9693 support my amendment.

9694 I yield back.

9695 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
9696 from Ohio is recognized for five minutes.

9697 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
9698 the last word.

9699 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

9700 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9701 The committee, in its oversight plan, will examine the
9702 management and implementation of clean energy and advanced
9703 technology grant, loan, and loan guarantee programs at the
9704 Department of Energy, which include programs related to
9705 batteries, critical minerals, and other 21st century energy
9706 technologies. This amendment is unnecessary to the
9707 underlying oversight plan, and undermines the committee's

9708 ability to conduct effective oversight, distracts from the
9709 egregious Federal over-reach of the previous administration,
9710 and weakens our energy security.

9711 Further, our oversight plan importantly focuses on how
9712 DoE loan programs may fund production of clean energy
9713 technology in places like Communist China, which will hurt
9714 our national security on the global stage.

9715 As this committee knows, the Biden Administration sought
9716 to spend finite taxpayer resources with reckless abandon and
9717 were advanced with little, if any, opportunity for proper
9718 oversight. Misguided decisions of the previous
9719 administration will only embolden our adversaries like
9720 Communist China who exploit global supply chains for critical
9721 minerals, materials, and clean energy technologies.

9722 As Secretary Wright has publicly discussed, under his
9723 leadership the Department of Energy will seek to ensure that
9724 all funding mechanisms will support and advance our national
9725 interests and lower costs for households that continue
9726 struggling under energy inflation. Importantly, as part of
9727 the executive order to unleash American energy, President
9728 Trump directed the Department of Energy to conduct a 90-day
9729 review of the processes, policies, and programs in place to
9730 disperse taxpayer resources. Our oversight plan will ensure
9731 that this committee can work hand in hand with the
9732 Administration to ensure any Federal funding advances our

9733 national interest in American energy dominance.

9734 And Mr. Chairman, I urge a no vote on the amendment and
9735 yield back.

9736 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
9737 further discussion?

9738 Seeing no further discussion _

9739 *Mr. Pallone. We are going to have a roll call.

9740 *The Chair. If there is no further discussion, the vote
9741 occurs on the amendment. A roll call has been requested by
9742 the ranking member. The clerk will call the roll.

9743 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

9744 *Mr. Latta. No.

9745 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

9746 Mr. Griffith?

9747 *Mr. Griffith. No.

9748 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

9749 Mr. Bilirakis?

9750 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

9751 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

9752 Mr. Hudson?

9753 *Mr. Hudson. No.

9754 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

9755 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

9756 [No response.]

9757 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

9758 *Mr. Palmer. No.
9759 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
9760 Mr. Dunn?
9761 *Mr. Dunn. No.
9762 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
9763 Mr. Crenshaw?
9764 [No response.]
9765 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
9766 *Mr. Joyce. No.
9767 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
9768 Mr. Weber?
9769 *Mr. Weber. No.
9770 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
9771 Mr. Allen?
9772 *Mr. Allen. No.
9773 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
9774 Mr. Balderson?
9775 *Mr. Balderson. No.
9776 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
9777 Mr. Fulcher?
9778 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
9779 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
9780 Mr. Pfluger?
9781 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
9782 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

9783 Mrs. Harshbarger?
9784 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
9785 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
9786 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
9787 [No response.]
9788 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
9789 [No response.]
9790 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
9791 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
9792 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
9793 Mr. James?
9794 *Mr. James. No.
9795 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
9796 Mr. Bentz?
9797 *Mr. Bentz. No.
9798 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
9799 Mrs. Houchin?
9800 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
9801 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
9802 Mr. Fry?
9803 *Mr. Fry. No.
9804 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
9805 Ms. Lee?
9806 *Ms. Lee. No.
9807 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

9808 Mr. Langworthy?
9809 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
9810 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
9811 Mr. Kean?
9812 *Mr. Kean. No.
9813 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
9814 Mr. Rulli?
9815 [No response.]
9816 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
9817 *Mr. Evans. No.
9818 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
9819 Mr. Goldman?
9820 *Mr. Goldman. No.
9821 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
9822 Mrs. Fedorchak?
9823 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
9824 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
9825 Mr. Pallone?
9826 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
9827 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
9828 Ms. DeGette?
9829 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
9830 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
9831 Ms. Schakowsky?
9832 [No response.]

9833

9834 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui?

9835 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

9836 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

9837 Ms. Castor?

9838 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

9839 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

9840 Mr. Tonko?

9841 [No response.]

9842 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?

9843 [No response.]

9844 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

9845 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

9846 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

9847 Mr. Peters?

9848 [No response.]

9849 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

9850 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

9851 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

9852 Mr. Veasey?

9853 [No response.]

9854 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

9855 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

9856 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

9857 Ms. Kelly?

9858 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
9859 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
9860 Ms. Barragan?
9861 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
9862 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
9863 Mr. Soto?
9864 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
9865 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
9866 Ms. Schrier?
9867 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
9868 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
9869 Mrs. Trahan?
9870 [No response.]
9871 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?
9872 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
9873 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
9874 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
9875 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
9876 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
9877 Mr. Auchincloss?
9878 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
9879 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
9880 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
9881 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
9882 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

9883 Mr. Menendez?

9884 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

9885 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

9886 Mr. Mullin?

9887 [No response.]

9888 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

9889 [No response.]

9890 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?

9891 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

9892 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

9893 Chairman Guthrie?

9894 *The Chair. No.

9895 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

9896 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack or Mr. Carter from Georgia?

9897 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

9898 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I vote no.

9899 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

9900 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?

9901 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

9902 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

9903 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

9904 *The Chair. Mr. Tonko?

9905 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko is not recorded.

9906 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

9907 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

9908 *The Chair. Ms. Clarke, are you recorded?
9909 Mrs. Trahan?
9910 *The Clerk. Ms. _
9911 *Ms. Clarke. No, I _
9912 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke _
9913 *The Chair. Oh, Ms. Clarke is not _ Ms. Clarke, how is
9914 she recorded?
9915 *The Clerk. She _ Ms. Clarke is not recorded.
9916 *Ms. Clarke. I vote aye.
9917 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
9918 *The Chair. Ms. Schakowsky?
9919 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky is not recorded.
9920 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
9921 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
9922 *The Chair. Mrs. Trahan?
9923 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan is not recorded.
9924 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
9925 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
9926 *The Chair. Mr. Landsman?
9927 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman is not recorded.
9928 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
9929 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
9930 *The Chair. Anybody else seeking to answer the roll
9931 call?
9932 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

9933 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
9934 22 ayes and 27 noes.

9935 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

9936 For what purpose does the gentleman from Louisiana seek
9937 recognition?

9938 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I have an amendment at the
9939 desk, HE4.

9940 *The Chair. Could you say that again in your
9941 microphone? I am sorry.

9942 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I have an amendment at the
9943 desk, HE4.

9944 *The Chair. Amendment HE4. The clerk will _

9945 *The Clerk. Amendment _

9946 *The Chair. _ report.

9947 *The Clerk. _ to draft oversight plan, HE4.

9948 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
9949 amendment is dispensed with.

9950 [The amendment of Mr. Carter from Louisiana follows:]

9951

9952 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

9953

9954 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Louisiana is
9955 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

9956 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, gun violence is
9957 a major public health problem in Louisiana and around the
9958 country. Even though gun deaths decreased for the third
9959 consecutive year, dropping 12 percent from 2023, there were
9960 more than 16,000 firearm deaths. When you account for those
9961 that use firearms to take their own life, that number more
9962 than doubles.

9963 Gun violence results in more than 40,000 deaths in 2024.
9964 In Louisiana 1,153 people died and 3,345 were wounded, on
9965 average each year. The number of school shootings in each of
9966 the last 4 years is more than 107 percent higher than any
9967 year prior to that for the last 25 years. In 2024, there
9968 were 330 incidents of schools around the country [sic]. Guns
9969 are the leading cause of death among children and teens in
9970 Louisiana and around the country. Gun violence hurts
9971 families, communities, and our public health workers,
9972 especially our mental health workforce which is on the front
9973 line to help heal those affected by gun violence.

9974 I would urge this committee to adopt this amendment
9975 because gun violence should be considered a public health
9976 emergency, and I would remind you that our young people are
9977 dying at alarming rates all over our country. And those
9978 bullets don't know party, they don't know race. Our

9979 community is depending on us to do something about this. And
9980 I would urge, urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

9981 I yield back the balance of my time.

9982 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. The
9983 gentleman from Georgia seeks recognition. The gentleman is
9984 recognized.

9985 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I ask to strike the last word.

9986 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

9987 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to _ Mr.
9988 Chairman, excuse me _ I move to speak in opposition to the
9989 amendment.

9990 The committee's oversight plan clearly, clearly states
9991 that the committee will conduct broad oversight of HHS,
9992 including the CDC, to ensure our public health agencies are
9993 taking actions that address true public health concerns. The
9994 gentleman's amendment is unnecessary, and I urge my
9995 colleagues to vote no on the amendment.

9996 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Does the gentleman yield?

9997 *The Chair. Will the gentleman yield?

9998 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I will yield.

9999 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Would you not consider this a
10000 real health [sic]?

10001 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. That is why we have oversight
10002 over HHS, including CDC.

10003 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Sir, I am sorry. The

10004 question is, so you don't consider this a health challenge?

10005 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No, that is not what I said.

10006 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I am asking the question,
10007 sir.

10008 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. What I said is that we have
10009 oversight already in this plan over HHS and CDC which _

10010 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I just _

10011 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. _ address public health
10012 situations.

10013 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I asked _ I just asked you
10014 the question.

10015 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Okay.

10016 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Do you consider this a health
10017 concern?

10018 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Do I consider it a health
10019 concern?

10020 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Yes.

10021 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I am _ I don't see the
10022 relevance in answering that in the sense that we have got
10023 oversight on it.

10024 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Either you do or you don't.

10025 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And if the majority of this
10026 committee considers it to be _

10027 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. People are dying _

10028 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. _ a health issue, then _

10029 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. _ Carter.

10030 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Then certainly we should

10031 have _

10032 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. People are dying.

10033 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. We have the ability to look at

10034 it.

10035 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. People are dying, and you

10036 don't think it is _ you don't feel it necessary to answer

10037 that? That is an easy one, I think. People are dying all

10038 over our country _

10039 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. _ yields.

10040 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. _ every day.

10041 *The Chair. The gentleman _ it is your time.

10042 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. It _ reclaiming my time, I will

10043 yield to the lady from Iowa.

10044 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Representative Carter,

10045 and thank you, Mr. Chair.

10046 I don't recall in all the time I spent, four years on

10047 the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis and

10048 Pandemic, our colleagues talking about the numbers dying from

10049 school lockdowns, the number of suicides of children because

10050 they were forced to remain out of school, not be with their

10051 peers, and only have access to the Internet and bullying. I

10052 don't recall anybody talking about that being a public health

10053 emergency.

10054 With that I yield.

10055 *The Chair. Does the gentleman yield back?

10056 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I yield back.

10057 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
10058 further discussion?

10059 The gentlelady from Florida.

10060 *Ms. Castor. I can't believe you can't at least say
10061 that firearms that are the leading cause of death among
10062 children today is not a public health concern.

10063 I yield back.

10064 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back.

10065 Seeing no further discussion, if there is no further
10066 discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment. The gentleman
10067 from New Jersey has requested a recorded vote. The clerk
10068 will call the roll.

10069 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

10070 *Mr. Latta. No.

10071 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

10072 Mr. Griffith?

10073 *Mr. Griffith. No.

10074 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

10075 Mr. Bilirakis?

10076 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

10077 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

10078 Mr. Hudson?

10079 *Mr. Hudson. No.
10080 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
10081 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
10082 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
10083 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
10084 Mr. Palmer?
10085 *Mr. Palmer. No.
10086 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
10087 Mr. Dunn?
10088 *Mr. Dunn. No.
10089 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
10090 Mr. Crenshaw?
10091 [No response.]
10092 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
10093 *Mr. Joyce. No.
10094 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
10095 Mr. Weber?
10096 *Mr. Weber. No.
10097 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
10098 Mr. Allen?
10099 *Mr. Allen. No.
10100 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
10101 Mr. Balderson?
10102 *Mr. Balderson. No.
10103 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

10104 Mr. Fulcher?

10105 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

10106 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

10107 Mr. Pfluger?

10108 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

10109 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

10110 Mrs. Harshbarger?

10111 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

10112 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

10113 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

10114 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.

10115 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.

10116 Mrs. Cammack?

10117 [No response.]

10118 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

10119 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

10120 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

10121 Mr. James?

10122 *Mr. James. No.

10123 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

10124 Mr. Bentz?

10125 *Mr. Bentz. No.

10126 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

10127 Mrs. Houchin?

10128 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

10129 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
10130 Mr. Fry?
10131 *Mr. Fry. No.
10132 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
10133 Ms. Lee?
10134 *Ms. Lee. No.
10135 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
10136 Mr. Langworthy?
10137 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
10138 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
10139 Mr. Kean?
10140 *Mr. Kean. No.
10141 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
10142 Mr. Rulli?
10143 [No response.]
10144 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
10145 *Mr. Evans. No.
10146 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
10147 Mr. Goldman?
10148 *Mr. Goldman. No.
10149 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
10150 Mrs. Fedorchak?
10151 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
10152 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
10153 Mr. Pallone?

10154 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
10155 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
10156 Ms. DeGette?
10157 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
10158 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
10159 Ms. Schakowsky?
10160 [No response.]
10161 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
10162 *Ms. Schakowsky. No. Aye.
10163 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
10164 Ms. Matsui?
10165 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
10166 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
10167 Ms. Castor?
10168 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
10169 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
10170 Mr. Tonko?
10171 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
10172 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
10173 Ms. Clarke?
10174 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
10175 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
10176 Mr. Ruiz?
10177 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
10178 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

10179 Mr. Peters?
10180 [No response.]
10181 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
10182 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
10183 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
10184 Mr. Veasey?
10185 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
10186 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
10187 Ms. Kelly?
10188 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
10189 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
10190 Ms. Barragan?
10191 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
10192 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
10193 Mr. Soto?
10194 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
10195 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
10196 Ms. Schrier?
10197 [No response.]
10198 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?
10199 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
10200 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
10201 Mrs. Trahan?
10202 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
10203 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

10204 Mrs. Fletcher?

10205 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

10206 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

10207 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

10208 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

10209 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

10210 Mr. Auchincloss?

10211 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

10212 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

10213 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

10214 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

10215 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

10216 Mr. Menendez?

10217 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

10218 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

10219 Mr. Mullin?

10220 [No response.]

10221 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

10222 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

10223 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

10224 Ms. McClellan?

10225 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

10226 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

10227 Chairman Guthrie?

10228 *The Chair. No.

10229 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

10230 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll call?

10231 Seeing none, the clerk will report the result.

10232 [Pause.]

10233 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were

10234 22 ayes and 27 noes.

10235 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Is anyone

10236 seeking _ why is the gentleman of Florida seeking

10237 recognition? For what purpose does the gentleman of Florida

10238 seek recognition?

10239 *Mr. Soto. For an amendment, CMT16.

10240 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

10241 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan, CMT16,

10242 CHIPS and Science Staffing.

10243 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

10244 amendment is dispensed with.

10245 [The amendment of Mr. Soto follows:]

10246

10247 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

10248

10249 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Florida is
10250 recognized for five minutes.

10251 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10252 You know, when a lot of us saw a headline the other day
10253 _ one of many _ with Federal staffers being fired, this time
10254 the 500 folks from the National Institute of Standards and
10255 Technology, 500 NIST staffers including lab directors
10256 expected to be fired, canned, DOGE'd by the DOGE disaster,
10257 and people want to know, like, how did this start?

10258 Well, we saw back in 2018 massive Trump tax cuts doubles
10259 the deficit, sets us on a path of debt that is now at \$36
10260 trillion. And now that this debt crisis has been passed, and
10261 here it is, we are in a fork in the road. A lot of people
10262 may remember that from this week.

10263 We could either do massive tax cuts for the few or
10264 health care for the many. And so here we are today at the
10265 oversight hearing. And we could either have an oversight
10266 plan or a rubber stamp plan. And I know that we have
10267 responsibility, and no one wants to just rubber stamp all
10268 this, right?

10269 And so we passed major legislation, the CHIPS Act, just
10270 a few years ago to make sure that we were lowering costs for
10271 Americans, addressing the slowdown during the pandemic, the
10272 chip shortage, and also address inflation which is right now
10273 at a six-month high. And to help with a manufacturing boom.

10274 We see a gray CHIPS project in Central Florida, in
10275 NeoCity and Kissimmee, where we are doing aerospace and space
10276 microchips. And we see others across the nation: Arizona,
10277 Texas, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Idaho. And so that is why it
10278 doesn't make much sense to fire these 500 NIST staffers,
10279 because they are the ones who are supposed to be reviewing
10280 all these new microchips that go to market. AI development,
10281 which has been discussed so much, cybersecurity. These NIST
10282 delays will hurt both jobs, hurt tech development, hurt
10283 businesses, and raise inflation.

10284 Remember the economy. That is what we all promised we
10285 were going to do, help streamline the government, help to
10286 lower inflation, help to boost manufacturing. But this will
10287 do the opposite.

10288 And Mr. Chair, it is my birthday today so I am hoping I
10289 have a shot at this one.

10290 [Laughter.]

10291 *Mr. Soto. So please vote for my pro-jobs, pro-
10292 innovation, inflation-reducing amendment, and I yield back.

10293 *The Chair. Is there any further discussion?

10294 The gentleman from California.

10295 *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you, Mr. Chair, I am speaking in
10296 opposition of the amendment.

10297 So this amendment directs the committee to conduct
10298 oversight of NIST. Unfortunately, oversight of NIST is not

10299 the jurisdiction of this committee. It is in the
10300 jurisdiction of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.
10301 So it would be appropriate to have this amendment in their
10302 oversight plan, not in this oversight plan, so I urge a no
10303 vote.

10304 *The Chair. Does the gentleman want to withdraw the
10305 amendment, since it is not in the _ for what purpose does the
10306 gentlelady from Illinois seek recognition?

10307 *Ms. Kelly. To strike the last word, and I would like
10308 to yield my colleague my time.

10309 *Mr. Soto. I thank the gentlelady from Illinois. This
10310 deals directly with implementation of the CHIPS Act, which is
10311 in the subject matter of this committee. And if we are going
10312 to continue to oversee it, you know, this committee has
10313 fought with Space, Science, and Technology on many occasions,
10314 including with satellites and in other areas, to protect what
10315 we deem as ours. And the CHIPS Act is one of those. Plus,
10316 it was also co-jurisdiction between both committees.

10317 So I would argue that we do have the jurisdiction to
10318 oversee it based upon our ability to oversee the CHIPS Act,
10319 and I yield back.

10320 *The Chair. Is there further discussion?

10321 Seeing none _

10322 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman?

10323 *Mr. Pallone. Can we have a roll call?

10324 *The Chair. Yes. Oh, the gentlelady from California is
10325 recognized.

10326 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
10327 the last word.

10328 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

10329 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I support my colleague from
10330 Florida _ and wish him happy birthday _ Congressman Soto's
10331 amendment to conduct oversight on the severe, drastic
10332 staffing cuts at NIST and the Department of Commerce.

10333 As co-author of the original CHIPS Act, I understand
10334 just how critical these agencies' work is to maintaining our
10335 leadership in chips and AI. The CHIPS and Science Act is
10336 working as intended, leveraging the \$50 billion of government
10337 funding to spur a ninefold investment of \$450 million from
10338 the semiconductor industry. Yet President Trump has
10339 threatened to abandon this historic investment, placing
10340 hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk and ceding ground to
10341 China and other foreign adversaries. Trump and his
10342 Administration are haphazardly purging our Federal workforce
10343 and crippling America's ability to innovate and compete on
10344 the global stage.

10345 I am proud of the hard, bipartisan work we did in
10346 crafting the CHIPS Act. It is critical that we exercise our
10347 oversight prerogative and keep the development of a world-
10348 class semiconductor industry on track. With that I urge my

10349 colleagues to vote yes on this amendment.

10350 I yield back the balance of my time.

10351 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
10352 further discussion?

10353 Seeing none _

10354 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call on this one.

10355 *The Chair. The vote occurs on the amendment, the
10356 gentleman from New Jersey requested a roll call vote, and the
10357 clerk will call the roll.

10358 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

10359 *Mr. Latta. No.

10360 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

10361 Mr. Griffith?

10362 *Mr. Griffith. No.

10363 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

10364 Mr. Bilirakis?

10365 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

10366 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

10367 Mr. Hudson?

10368 *Mr. Hudson. No.

10369 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

10370 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

10371 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

10372 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

10373 Mr. Palmer?

10374 *Mr. Palmer. No.
10375 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
10376 Mr. Dunn?
10377 *Mr. Dunn. No.
10378 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
10379 Mr. Crenshaw?
10380 [No response.]
10381 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
10382 *Mr. Joyce. No.
10383 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
10384 Mr. Weber?
10385 *Mr. Weber. Negative.
10386 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
10387 Mr. Allen?
10388 *Mr. Allen. No.
10389 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
10390 Mr. Balderson?
10391 *Mr. Balderson. No.
10392 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
10393 Mr. Fulcher?
10394 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
10395 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
10396 Mr. Pfluger?
10397 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
10398 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

10399 Mrs. Harshbarger?
10400 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
10401 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
10402 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
10403 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
10404 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
10405 Mrs. Cammack?
10406 [No response.]
10407 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
10408 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
10409 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
10410 Mr. James?
10411 *Mr. James. No.
10412 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
10413 Mr. Bentz?
10414 *Mr. Bentz. No.
10415 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
10416 Mrs. Houchin?
10417 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
10418 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
10419 Mr. Fry?
10420 *Mr. Fry. No.
10421 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
10422 Ms. Lee?
10423 *Ms. Lee. No.

10424 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
10425 Mr. Langworthy?
10426 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
10427 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
10428 Mr. Kean?
10429 *Mr. Kean. No.
10430 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
10431 Mr. Rulli?
10432 *Mr. Rulli. No.
10433 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
10434 Mr. Evans?
10435 *Mr. Evans. No.
10436 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
10437 Mr. Goldman?
10438 *Mr. Goldman. No.
10439 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
10440 Mrs. Fedorchak?
10441 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
10442 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
10443 Mr. Pallone?
10444 [No response.]
10445 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
10446 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
10447 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
10448 Ms. DeGette?

10449 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

10450 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

10451 Ms. Schakowsky?

10452 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

10453 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

10454 Ms. Matsui?

10455 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

10456 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

10457 Ms. Castor?

10458 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

10459 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

10460 Mr. Tonko?

10461 [No response.]

10462 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?

10463 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

10464 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

10465 Ms. Clarke?

10466 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

10467 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

10468 Mr. Ruiz?

10469 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

10470 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

10471 Mr. Peters?

10472 [No response.]

10473 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

10474 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
10475 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
10476 Mr. Veasey?
10477 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
10478 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
10479 Ms. Kelly?
10480 [No response.]
10481 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
10482 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
10483 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
10484 Ms. Barragan?
10485 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
10486 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
10487 Mr. Soto?
10488 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
10489 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
10490 Ms. Schrier?
10491 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
10492 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
10493 Mrs. Trahan?
10494 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
10495 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
10496 Mrs. Fletcher?
10497 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
10498 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

10499 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

10500 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

10501 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

10502 Mr. Auchincloss?

10503 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

10504 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

10505 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

10506 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

10507 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

10508 Mr. Menendez?

10509 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

10510 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

10511 Mr. Mullin?

10512 [No response.]

10513 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

10514 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

10515 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

10516 Ms. McClellan?

10517 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

10518 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

10519 Chairman Guthrie?

10520 *The Chair. No.

10521 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

10522 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll?

10523 Seeing no one, seeing no further people presenting to

10524 answer the roll, the clerk will report the result.

10525 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
10526 22 ayes and 28 noes.

10527 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

10528 *Mr. Pallone. Kelly is next.

10529 *The Chair. The gentlelady from Illinois, for what
10530 purpose do you seek recognition?

10531 *Ms. Kelly. I have an amendment at the desk.

10532 *The Chair. What number, do you have the amendment
10533 number?

10534 *Ms. Kelly. CMT3.

10535 *The Chair. EMC3?

10536 *Ms. Kelly. CMT3.

10537 *The Chair. Okay, the clerk will report.

10538 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan, CMT3,
10539 Tech Accountability.

10540 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
10541 amendment is dispensed with.

10542 [The amendment of Ms. Kelly follows:]

10543

10544 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

10545

10546 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
10547 minutes in support of her amendment.

10548 *Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10549 My amendment, CMT3, aims to specify the need for the
10550 committee to conduct rigorous oversight over social media,
10551 big tech, and e-commerce companies that lack meaningful
10552 safeguards for their users, often leaving their users
10553 susceptible to fraud, misinformation, and extremism.

10554 Unfortunately, we know that the proliferation of fraud
10555 and scams disproportionately targets and impacts members of
10556 the armed services and veterans, in addition to seniors who
10557 are the most vulnerable of our population. The uptick in
10558 fraudsters and scammers cannot be taken lightly, particularly
10559 because it is estimated that impersonation scams cost
10560 consumers more than \$1 billion over the course of just last
10561 year.

10562 To make matters worse, malicious actors are already
10563 using artificial intelligence to increase the scale and
10564 sophistication of existing scams, which underscores the
10565 importance of the FTC as an agile and robust law enforcement
10566 agency.

10567 Disappointingly, Project 2025 limits law enforcement
10568 work at independent agencies like the FTC, and even goes so
10569 far as to question whether the FTC should exist at all. We
10570 must reject this premise and ensure the FTC and other

10571 independent agencies are empowered and have the necessary
10572 tools and resources to continue combating scams through
10573 initiatives like Operation Stop Scam Calls, which returned
10574 almost \$400 million to victims of robo-scams. The impact on
10575 consumers, particularly senior citizens and other vulnerable
10576 communities, is far too consequential if the FTC is
10577 significantly weakened and corporations and fraudsters are
10578 allowed to operate in unfair and deceptive ways without fear
10579 of prosecution.

10580 Further, in the past two Congresses numerous witnesses
10581 testified before this committee about the harm caused by
10582 social media and other big tech companies, particularly as it
10583 relates to the mental and physical health of our children and
10584 teens. I, like many of my colleagues on this committee, find
10585 this very concerning.

10586 As Elon Musk has been empowered to invade the privacy of
10587 millions of Americans, we cannot stand by and allow social
10588 media, big tech, and e-commerce companies to go unchecked.
10589 We must conduct rigorous oversight in our social media, big
10590 tech, and e-commerce companies about how they collect and use
10591 personal information about their advertising practices and
10592 about how their apps affect children and teens. The risk is
10593 too grave at a time when we have yet to pass a Federal
10594 comprehensive privacy bill that would give Americans the
10595 ability to enforce their data privacy rights, hold companies

10596 accountable for not doing enough to protect their data, and
10597 directly address children's online privacy and the youth
10598 mental health crisis.

10599 While I commend the work that was done last Congress,
10600 our work is not finished. My amendment, CMT3, will help
10601 ensure that our work is continued and that social media, big
10602 tech, and e-commerce companies cannot steamroll Americans'
10603 privacy rights. For these reasons I urge all my colleagues
10604 to support my amendment.

10605 Thank you, and I yield back.

10606 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
10607 from Florida is recognized.

10608 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
10609 strike the last word.

10610 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

10611 *Mr. Bilirakis. The proposed amendment is unnecessary,
10612 in my opinion. The plan already commits the committee's
10613 robust oversight over social media and e-commerce platforms,
10614 including issues related to fraud, criminal activities, and
10615 negative impacts on children.

10616 Moreover, I am concerned that the proposal would have
10617 the committee focus on censoring the so-called
10618 "misinformation," which may be just speech my colleague
10619 doesn't like. We support the First Amendment and will
10620 continue our efforts to ensure that all American voices are

10621 heard and not controlled by powerful tech giants.

10622 So I will tell you that I believe we covered it very
10623 well, Ms. Kelly, in this particular language, the oversight
10624 language that we prepared.

10625 So with that I yield back. I urge my colleagues to vote
10626 no and I yield back.

10627 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
10628 from Massachusetts is recognized.

10629 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to
10630 strike the last word.

10631 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

10632 *Mr. Auchincloss. We support the First Amendment, as
10633 well. Strongly contrarian opinions are welcome. It is how
10634 we have strong civil discourse. The question is the effects
10635 of section 230 on these social media corporations, this law,
10636 drafted in the 1990s which has granted them immunity from any
10637 liability for user-generated content.

10638 And now, with AI incorporated on their platforms, we are
10639 left with a situation where 98 percent of online deep fake
10640 videos are graphic content, non-consentually targeting women.
10641 And these platforms have zero liability for it. The CEOs
10642 don't care. The boards don't care. They are making \$600
10643 billion globally in digital advertising revenue, which is the
10644 valuation of all the attention-fracking they have done on
10645 American and global youth, much to the detriment of their

10646 mental health and socio-emotional well-being.

10647 I wish I had more confidence that this President was
10648 serious about oversight of the social media corporations.
10649 But for his inaugural address he invited \$12 trillion worth
10650 of market capitalization to sit in front of his own cabinet,
10651 and refused to enforce the bipartisan law requiring
10652 divestment of TikTok from ByteDance that this committee voted
10653 for, including everybody on the other side of the aisle. The
10654 Administration is flouting the law and telling Republicans in
10655 Congress who voted to require TikTok to be divested from
10656 ByteDance that they don't care about your opinion and they
10657 don't care about the law.

10658 We need to be doing oversight over the social media
10659 corporations because this President clearly refuses to do so.
10660 He is much more interested in issuing meme coins that foreign
10661 adversaries, including the executive team of TikTok, are able
10662 to buy in secret and use as leverage over him and any
10663 decisions he makes about what company ends up owning this
10664 most important media and entertainment platform in the world.
10665 So since the Administration ain't going to do the job, I
10666 think this committee should.

10667 And I yield back.

10668 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there _
10669 yields back _ any further discussion?

10670 The gentleman from California, you are recognized.

10671 *Mr. Obernolte. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last
10672 word.

10673 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

10674 *Mr. Obernolte. Mr. Chairman, this amendment deletes
10675 the line from our oversight plan that says the committee will
10676 continue to review the manner in which fraud and other
10677 criminal activities affect e-commerce, and then replaces it
10678 with, "The committee will conduct oversight into how social
10679 media and e-commerce companies are affecting interstate
10680 commerce.'" So in other words, it narrows the scope of what
10681 we are conducting oversight on to just social media
10682 companies, and I think that that is a big mistake.

10683 I was honored to chair the bipartisan AI Task Force last
10684 year, and one of our biggest concerns with the malicious use
10685 of AI is the way that it can be used to steal people's money
10686 and in cyber fraud. In fact, we devoted a whole chapter of
10687 our task force report to that. To exclude that from the
10688 scope of our oversight would be very unwise. And I am
10689 assuming that that was a _ just a drafting error, which I
10690 guess can happen when you are drafting 120 of these. But I
10691 think this is something that no one ought to support on
10692 either side of the aisle, and I urge a no vote.

10693 I yield back.

10694 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is _ no _ if no
10695 further discussion _

10696 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

10697 *The Chair. _ the vote occurs on the amendment. The

10698 gentleman from New Jersey requested a roll call vote. The

10699 clerk will call the roll.

10700 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

10701 *Mr. Latta. No.

10702 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

10703 Mr. Griffith?

10704 *Mr. Griffith. No.

10705 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

10706 Mr. Bilirakis?

10707 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

10708 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

10709 Mr. Hudson?

10710 *Mr. Hudson. No.

10711 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

10712 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

10713 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

10714 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

10715 Mr. Palmer?

10716 *Mr. Palmer. No.

10717 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

10718 Mr. Dunn?

10719 *Mr. Dunn. No.

10720 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

10721 Mr. Crenshaw?
10722 [No response.]
10723 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
10724 *Mr. Joyce. No.
10725 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
10726 Mr. Weber?
10727 *Mr. Weber. No.
10728 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
10729 Mr. Allen?
10730 *Mr. Allen. No.
10731 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
10732 Mr. Balderson?
10733 *Mr. Balderson. No.
10734 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
10735 Mr. Fulcher?
10736 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
10737 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
10738 Mr. Pfluger?
10739 [No response.]
10740 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?
10741 *Mr. Pfluger. Pfluger, no.
10742 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
10743 Mrs. Harshbarger?
10744 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
10745 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

10746 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
10747 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
10748 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
10749 Mrs. Cammack?
10750 [No response.]
10751 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
10752 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
10753 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
10754 Mr. James?
10755 *Mr. James. No.
10756 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
10757 Mr. Bentz?
10758 *Mr. Bentz. No.
10759 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
10760 Mrs. Houchin?
10761 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
10762 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
10763 Mr. Fry?
10764 [No response.]
10765 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
10766 *Ms. Lee. No.
10767 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
10768 Mr. Langworthy?
10769 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
10770 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

10771 Mr. Kean?

10772 *Mr. Kean. No.

10773 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

10774 Mr. Rulli?

10775 *Mr. Rulli. No.

10776 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

10777 Mr. Evans?

10778 *Mr. Evans. No.

10779 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

10780 Mr. Goldman?

10781 *Mr. Goldman. No.

10782 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

10783 Mrs. Fedorchak?

10784 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

10785 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

10786 Mr. Pallone?

10787 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

10788 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

10789 Ms. DeGette?

10790 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

10791 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

10792 Ms. Schakowsky?

10793 [No response.]

10794 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

10795 *Ms. Schakowsky. Oh, oh, aye.

10796 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
10797 Ms. Matsui?
10798 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
10799 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
10800 Ms. Castor?
10801 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
10802 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
10803 Mr. Tonko?
10804 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
10805 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
10806 Ms. Clarke?
10807 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
10808 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
10809 Mr. Ruiz?
10810 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
10811 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
10812 Mr. Peters?
10813 [No response.]
10814 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
10815 [No response.]
10816 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
10817 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
10818 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
10819 Ms. Kelly?
10820 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

10821 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
10822 Ms. Barragan?
10823 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
10824 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
10825 Mr. Soto?
10826 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
10827 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
10828 Ms. Schrier?
10829 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
10830 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
10831 Mrs. Trahan?
10832 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
10833 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
10834 Mrs. Fletcher?
10835 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
10836 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
10837 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
10838 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
10839 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
10840 Mr. Auchincloss?
10841 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
10842 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
10843 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
10844 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
10845 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

10846 Mr. Menendez?

10847 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

10848 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

10849 Mr. Mullin?

10850 [No response.]

10851 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

10852 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

10853 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

10854 Ms. McClellan?

10855 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

10856 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

10857 Chairman Guthrie?

10858 *The Chair. No.

10859 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

10860 *Mr. Joyce. [Presiding.] How is Mrs. Cammack recorded?

10861 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

10862 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

10863 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

10864 *Mr. Joyce. Is there anyone else who wishes to be

10865 recorded?

10866 The clerk will report the result.

10867 [Pause.]

10868 *The Clerk. Chairman Joyce, on that vote there were 21

10869 ayes and 28 noes.

10870 *Mr. Joyce. The amendment is not agreed to.

10871 Are there any further amendments?

10872 For what purpose does Ms. McClellan seek recognition?

10873 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the
10874 desk labeled _

10875 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.

10876 *Ms. McClellan. Labeled CAT6_Censorship.

10877 *Mr. Joyce. Could you repeat that, please?

10878 *Ms. McClellan. It is CAT6_Censorship.

10879 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.

10880 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan,
10881 CAT6_Censorship.

10882 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

10883

10884 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

10885

10886 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. This amendment
10887 allows us to show our commitment to the First Amendment by
10888 ensuring that the committee remains just as committed to
10889 investigating any instances of censorship by the FCC as it is
10890 concerned with finding waste, fraud, and abuse within the
10891 Federal Government because weaponizing this independent
10892 agency against the news media to settle the scores of the
10893 President is the epitome of abuse, and a threat to First
10894 Amendment freedoms of speech and the press.

10895 In just over a month the Trump Administration has taken
10896 unprecedented steps to use the FCC as a pawn in misguided and
10897 partisan attacks on broadcast networks and diversity, equity,
10898 and inclusion. Under Chairman Carr's leadership, the FCC has
10899 exceeded its authority to undermine press freedom by reviving
10900 rightfully dismissed cases against ABC, CBS, and NBC without
10901 new evidence; targeting public broadcasters with baseless
10902 allegations; threatening to revoke broadcast licenses based
10903 on the content of the newscasts; launching investigations
10904 into local radio stations for daring to report on ICE
10905 activity in their local community; threatening an
10906 investigation into the business decisions of a private
10907 company to enforce _ to support diversity, equity, and
10908 inclusion initiatives.

10909 These actions are not only an abuse of power, they are
10910 an affront to the First Amendment and they also fall well

10911 outside of the FCC's jurisdiction and directly violate the
10912 Communications Act, which explicitly prohibits the FCC from
10913 censoring broadcast material or interfering with free
10914 expression. These censorship efforts will impact local
10915 stations and local communities, which are the ones that
10916 actually hold the FCC license.

10917 And local broadcast stations are critical resources for
10918 seniors, veterans, and countless Americans who rely on them
10919 in lifesaving emergency situations, local news, and community
10920 engagement. And any effort to intimidate these entities into
10921 doing anything other than reporting the news as they see it
10922 is an overreach for the FCC.

10923 What is worse, Chairman Carr takes these actions against
10924 some of the same entities that President Trump is suing as a
10925 private citizen. As we know here in this committee, the FCC
10926 isn't in the executive branch. It is not supposed to do the
10927 bidding of the President. It is an independent agency that
10928 answers to Congress, hence its inclusion in the oversight
10929 plan that we are considering today.

10930 And I just heard my Republican colleagues say they feel
10931 strongly about ensuring protection of the First Amendment
10932 rights. I know they feel strongly about ensuring government
10933 agencies don't overstep their constitutional authority. I
10934 have heard them in the past lament threats to local
10935 broadcasting, rail against government censorship, express

10936 outrage over the idea that the Federal Government could
10937 interfere in a private entity's business decisions. Yet here
10938 we have all of the above with the Trump Administration in how
10939 it approaches the FCC.

10940 In Virginia we have the Declaration of Rights on the
10941 wall in the General Assembly in which it says, "Freedom of
10942 the press is one of the greatest bulwarks of liberty and can
10943 never be restrained but by despotic governments.'" That was
10944 written by George Mason.

10945 Thomas Jefferson said, "Our liberty depends on the
10946 freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without
10947 being lost.'" Essentially, our founding fathers thought that
10948 a free press acts as a vital safeguard against government
10949 overreach and is crucial for an informed citizenry in a
10950 democracy.

10951 So this amendment will affirm that commitment by
10952 explicitly stating that this commission _ this committee will
10953 vigorously investigate any instance in which the FCC, any of
10954 its officers, employees, or agents engage in or facilitate
10955 censorship. That includes any attempt to directly or
10956 indirectly influence, suppress, or alter the content or
10957 expressive conduct of private entities in a way that violates
10958 the Constitution.

10959 And so I urge my colleagues to support one of the core
10960 tenets of our democracy: a fundamental liberty enshrined in

10961 the Constitution as the First Amendment, the right to free
10962 speech and the right to free press, and I urge support for
10963 this amendment so that we know there will be no weaponization
10964 of a Federal agency regulating broadcast entities being
10965 weaponized to control or suppress speech.

10966 Thank you, I yield back.

10967 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The chair
10968 recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Hudson.

10969 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the chair, and I have to tell you
10970 it is invigorating, this new emphasis on oversight. And I am
10971 just glad we have got this enthusiasm on both sides of the
10972 aisle. Unfortunately, this particular amendment is
10973 redundant.

10974 This oversight plan maintains this committee's oversight
10975 over the FCC, which is the primary regulator for the
10976 broadcast industry. Energy and Commerce Republicans support
10977 the First Amendment. The spirit of democracy requires that
10978 Americans should be able to express their opinions freely,
10979 and the First Amendment allows them to do so.

10980 We fundamentally disagree with censorship of views with
10981 which we disagree or, alternatively, with dismissing such
10982 views as misinformation. It is especially concerning when
10983 you consider who gets to be the authority determining what
10984 constitutes misinformation. Unfortunately, the Biden
10985 Administration had a terrifying record of coercing big tech

10986 companies to silence conservative voices or remove so-called
10987 misinformation, which was mostly just content they didn't
10988 like.

10989 For example, the last Administration coerced big tech
10990 platforms to label all content suggesting that COVID-19
10991 potentially originated in a lab and subsequently leaked as
10992 misinformation, and suppressed such posts. Many Federal
10993 agencies now believe this theory is at least plausible. But
10994 for the intervening months such discourse was not permitted
10995 on any social media platforms. On this issue and many others
10996 we believe in allowing people to exchange ideas and have open
10997 discourse. This is fundamental to democracy.

10998 Our constituents can form their own opinions and
10999 determine what makes sense for them and their families. We
11000 believe that the decision by some platforms to leave more
11001 content online is the right approach. We will continue to
11002 monitor how companies choose to moderate content and censor
11003 American speech. We support the First Amendment, and will
11004 continue our efforts to ensure that all Americans' voices are
11005 heard and not controlled by powerful tech behemoths.

11006 I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to oppose
11007 it, as well. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

11008 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair recognizes
11009 the gentlelady from California, Ms. Matsui.

11010 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike

11011 the last word and speak in support of this amendment.

11012 We hear Republicans say they want to defend the First
11013 Amendment, yet the Trump Administration is hell bent on
11014 censoring dissent and bullying our media into being its
11015 mouthpiece.

11016 President Trump's own media biases have been clear for a
11017 long time. He likes a news outlet he can control, and he
11018 hates when people look for the truth. Trump is weaponizing
11019 the FCC to intimidate and silence broadcast media by
11020 initiating suspect investigations, often under dubious
11021 authority, into news outlets that dare to challenge Trump's
11022 viewpoint.

11023 I am especially alarmed by the attacks on our public
11024 media. I hear from my constituents on the phone and at town
11025 halls about how terrified they are at the thought of losing
11026 their beloved PBS and NPR stations. PBS and NPR have for
11027 decades provided people with free, community-supported access
11028 to local news, educational programing, and lifesaving
11029 emergency alerts. Unlike privately-owned media, these
11030 outlets are not beholden to stakeholders, government, or
11031 private. Eighty-two percent of voters, including seventy-two
11032 percent of Trump voters, value PBS for its children's
11033 programing and educational tools. Defending public media
11034 from censorship should be a bipartisan goal.

11035 We cannot allow Trump's FCC to run roughshod over the

11036 First Amendment and bully our media with baseless attacks.
11037 With that I yield the balance of my time.

11038 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The chair
11039 recognizes the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Pfluger.

11040 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to
11041 ask Ms. McClellan a question.

11042 I think this is very interesting, and I _ actually, I
11043 think this is going to be a bipartisan thing that this
11044 committee does, is try to get it right when it comes to
11045 censoring and, you know, the _ just how big _ how the tech
11046 companies and social media companies come in. So what I
11047 wanted to specifically ask is, last year would you have
11048 supported _ would this amendment have supported and would you
11049 have led efforts on an investigation into ABC, the 60 Minutes
11050 interview?

11051 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chair, I would answer that what
11052 this amendment focuses on is the FCC's effort _

11053 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes.

11054 *Ms. McClellan. _ to bully and intimidate the press.
11055 What this is getting at is looking _ you know, the FCC can
11056 investigate whatever it wants.

11057 *Mr. Pfluger. Sure, and they will.

11058 *Ms. McClellan. I am not finished.

11059 *Mr. Pfluger. Well, this is my time.

11060 *Ms. McClellan. Okay, fine.

11061 [Laughter.]

11062 *Ms. McClellan. You asked me a question. Do you want
11063 the answer?

11064 *Mr. Pfluger. Would you support that kind of an
11065 investigation from this oversight committee into the _ ABC's
11066 60 Minutes interview?

11067 *Ms. McClellan. I would not support any effort to
11068 investigate based on the content of speech that does not
11069 violate the First Amendment because I believe doing so
11070 engages in censorship. I believe doing so infringes on
11071 freedom of the press.

11072 *Mr. Pfluger. So no _

11073 *Ms. McClellan. I would _

11074 *Mr. Pfluger. _ in that particular interview?

11075 *Ms. McClellan. I would support an investigation into
11076 whether an entity violated the First Amendment.

11077 *Mr. Pfluger. Okay. Well, very good. I am proud that
11078 Mr. Carr is looking into these things, and believe that all
11079 of us, you know, here have a role to play when it comes to
11080 making sure that our media can have the ability to report.

11081 And it is not just the 60 Minutes interview that I
11082 believe he is probably looking into. It is the debate, the
11083 CBS debate, and a few other things. And First Amendment, I
11084 think, extends into this world of suppression. And if we
11085 remember, there was the Homeland Security Committee under

11086 Mayorkas came up with, you know, this fact-checker mechanism
11087 that they were going to check all of the facts, and this
11088 misinformation/disinformation board. And I am interested to
11089 know your thoughts on that, as well, on Mayorkas's proposal
11090 for a disinformation board.

11091 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chair, there is a big difference
11092 between investigating whether someone engaged in free speech,
11093 is misleading people, and providing an answer to that
11094 misinformation. That is not the same thing as infringing on
11095 their free speech. That is not the same as infringing on
11096 freedom of the press.

11097 And so if any Federal Government entity crosses the line
11098 into intimidating or punishing the press for the content of
11099 what they choose to report, other than something that the
11100 Supreme Court has said clearly violates _

11101 *Mr. Pfluger. The First Amendment?

11102 *Ms. McClellan. _ or is not protected speech by the
11103 First Amendment _

11104 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes, did that apply to the Twitter files,
11105 as well?

11106 *Ms. McClellan. I don't know.

11107 *Mr. Pfluger. The FBI intimidating Twitter, and telling
11108 them that they could not say certain things?

11109 *Ms. McClellan. Well, Twitter is not speech. Twitter
11110 is a platform.

11111 *Mr. Pfluger. Oh, okay.

11112 *Ms. McClellan. Twitter itself is a platform _

11113 *Mr. Pfluger. But the FBI, Biden Administration FBI
11114 telling Twitter not to produce certain tweets didn't violate
11115 the First Amendment?

11116 *Ms. McClellan. Twitter, as I _ first of all, as I
11117 understand what the FBI did _

11118 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes.

11119 *Ms. McClellan. _ it was not to compel Twitter to
11120 engage in or not engage in speech.

11121 *Mr. Pfluger. I think it was actually intimidation,
11122 which _ I know where you stand on that.

11123 But, well, Mr. Chair, thank you. I think it is going to
11124 be a great discussion for us on this committee. I yield
11125 back.

11126 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. The chair recognizes
11127 the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Landsman.

11128 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair, I would like to strike the
11129 last sentence and speak on this amendment.

11130 The _

11131 *Mr. Joyce. So recognized.

11132 *Mr. Landsman. What folks are tired of _ and this is
11133 across the board _ is the political retribution, the
11134 weaponizing of government. And what Ms. McClellan's
11135 amendment does is to say to _ that this committee is going to

11136 provide strong oversight as it relates to any attempt to
11137 continue this weaponization of government against political
11138 enemies. The political retribution in American politics has
11139 to end.

11140 I would like to yield the balance of my time to Ms.
11141 McClellan.

11142 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair _ or Mr. Landsman.

11143 First of all, I didn't hear anything from the other side
11144 of the aisle in their professment of how much they care about
11145 the First Amendment, about freedom of the press. And that is
11146 what I am talking about.

11147 And we can get into a debate about whether Twitter is a
11148 platform or speech, but the point is you have a President, an
11149 FCC, and probably other government entities in the future who
11150 are going to discriminate against ABC or other members of the
11151 press to keep them from criticizing the President or punish
11152 them for criticizing the President. And that is exactly what
11153 the founders argued against in a free America.

11154 What the purpose of freedom of speech is _ you can
11155 criticize your government. And if your government punishes
11156 you for it, that is the first step to tyranny. And that is
11157 what I see happening right now. When you threaten to take
11158 someone's license away because they published information
11159 critical of you, that is a violation of the First Amendment,
11160 and that is something that we should look at as part of our

11161 oversight responsibilities, just as much as the waste, fraud,
11162 and abuse that you all want to look at.

11163 I invite you _ I see all of you with your confused looks
11164 on your face. I invite you to read the Federalist Papers on
11165 the First Amendment. I invite you to read George Mason's
11166 writings on the importance of freedom of the press. I invite
11167 you to read Thomas Jefferson's professments on the importance
11168 of the freedom of the press. And you will understand why I
11169 am very concerned at an FCC, at a president, at a Pentagon
11170 that says I am going to punish you because you say things
11171 about me I don't like.

11172 I yield back.

11173 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields.

11174 *Mr. Landsman. I _

11175 *Mr. Joyce. The chair recognizes the _

11176 *Mr. Landsman. I yield _

11177 *Mr. Joyce. _ gentlelady from Florida, Mrs. Cammack.

11178 *Mr. Landsman. I yield back, for the record.

11179 *Mrs. Cammack. Wonderful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
11180 thank you again to our colleagues for a robust debate for the
11181 last 12 hours today. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
11182 word.

11183 And let's just start with _ I believe my colleague from
11184 Virginia is either confused _ because she is certainly
11185 contradicting herself. In answering Representative Pfluger's

11186 comment she said that she wasn't talking specifically about
11187 Twitter, she was talking about entities that would fall under
11188 the jurisdiction of the FCC. Yet here in your own amendment
11189 it says explicitly the committee will conduct oversight into
11190 how social media and other big technology and e-commerce
11191 companies are affecting interstate commerce, et cetera, et
11192 cetera, it goes on.

11193 So you _

11194 *Ms. McClellan. That is not my amendment, Mr. Chair.

11195 *Mrs. Cammack. Which amendment are we on, then?

11196 Oh, you guys just have given us so much. You have given
11197 us _ oh, this. That is your _ good, okay.

11198 Well, since we are on this, then, let's just talk about
11199 the equal time rule. So getting into the equal time rule,
11200 which, by the way, I really do look forward to this
11201 conversation. And for the record, for all the talk about
11202 democracy, we do not have a democracy. We have a
11203 constitutional republic. If we could just recognize that,
11204 that would be lovely.

11205 But it was _ you are talking about FCC, and not one
11206 mention within the FCC in your amendment, Representative,
11207 about Equal Time Rule, which requires that political
11208 candidates be provided equal opportunities to use broadcast
11209 stations. In other words, if one candidate for office is
11210 given access to a broadcast station, an equal opportunity

11211 must be provided to other candidates for that office. Yet we
11212 have seen where that has been violated for the last four
11213 years, yet eerily silent from the other side.

11214 I find it interesting that in answering or responding to
11215 Representative Pfluger's comments about whether or not it
11216 would be appropriate to have an investigation into, for
11217 example, the ABC interview, which had been proven widely to
11218 be doctored, biased, that that doesn't qualify as something
11219 worth looking into. If we are going beyond the partisan
11220 politics, why would that itself not qualify?

11221 I will yield to let you answer.

11222 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chair, what I said was I would not
11223 support an investigation into an entity that went beyond
11224 whether or not it violated a law or the constitution. That
11225 is what I said. I know we have been here a long time. I
11226 know folks are only halfway listening.

11227 But what my amendment says _ there is a difference
11228 between what the committee will investigate and what
11229 investigation I would personally want the committee to do if
11230 I were in the majority. I am not in the majority. You asked
11231 if I would support an investigation, and I gave you my
11232 personal answer as a member of the minority. The committee
11233 can do that. That falls within my amendment.

11234 But I am putting forth this amendment because what I see
11235 happening right now is the same thing that we see in

11236 authoritarian dictatorships, is the same thing that we saw
11237 King George do to colonists, and that is if a member of the
11238 press has the temerity to disagree with the president, to
11239 criticize the president, or say something he does not like,
11240 he threatens to take their license away, or the FCC threatens
11241 action to punish them. And if we continue seeing that and it
11242 gets worse, then yes, I think this committee should do
11243 something about it.

11244 I yield back.

11245 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields.

11246 *Voice. Mr. Chairman?

11247 *Mrs. Cammack. That is fine. I appreciate the
11248 response. However, I again go back to we have just witnessed
11249 four years of weaponization of every single Federal agency,
11250 including the explosive practice of switch-boarding, in which
11251 we saw Federal agencies, including the Biden FCC, put
11252 incredible pressure on private entities to comply with wholly
11253 unconstitutional, blatant violations of the First Amendment,
11254 and you had nothing to say about it.

11255 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chairman _

11256 *Mrs. Cammack. So _ no, I do not yield.

11257 *Ms. McClellan. Okay.

11258 *Mrs. Cammack. So the hypocrisy once again is shining
11259 bright and clear. The American people have absolutely spoken
11260 out loud and clear. They are sick and tired of the

11261 weaponization of government. This committee is serious about
11262 the oversight capabilities that we have and we will exercise.

11263 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady's time has expired.

11264 *Mrs. Cammack. Mr. Chairman, I yield.

11265 *Mr. Joyce. The chair recognizes the gentlelady from
11266 Massachusetts, Mrs. Trahan.

11267 *Mrs. Trahan. I move to strike the last word.

11268 I am not sure if on _ in Oversight the Subcommittee
11269 chose to bring a hearing for what you just described as
11270 weaponization of every single agency by the Biden
11271 Administration, but do I need to remind you all that you were
11272 in the majority? You could have done that. You could have
11273 actually called that hearing. We can't do it. I wish we
11274 could. We will soon.

11275 I yield my time to the gentlelady from Virginia.

11276 *Ms. McClellan. Yes, Mr. Chair, actually, Mrs. Trahan
11277 made my point, but I want to reiterate it. For the last two
11278 years you were in the majority and could have had whatever
11279 oversight hearing you wanted. I wasn't here before 2023, so
11280 I can't speak to what happened, whether or why it did.

11281 But here is what I did do. I sat in the Rotunda and
11282 heard the President of the United States say there would be
11283 no more weaponization of Federal Government agencies. Was
11284 that a lie?

11285 What I have noticed in my short time in Congress is many

11286 of the accusations made by Republicans are confessions. And
11287 so what I see happening is a president and his _ whatever
11288 Elon Musk is _ moving to take control of as much of the
11289 Federal Government as they can, moving to take control of our
11290 military leadership, moving to take control of the press in
11291 whatever form that it is so that they can push out their
11292 propaganda so that they can quash dissent. And that is
11293 authoritarian, leading to dictatorship. That is exactly what
11294 George Mason warned against when he wrote the Virginia
11295 Declaration of Rights which I quoted earlier today. And I am
11296 here to say I am not going to stay quiet about it.

11297 I yield back.

11298 *Mrs. Trahan. I yield my time to the gentlelady from
11299 New York.

11300 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you.

11301 You know, just because we say things or a person says
11302 something doesn't mean that it is true. And I have heard a
11303 lot of things about weaponization of every agency _ even the
11304 example on FBI and the Twitter files. I served as the vice
11305 ranking member for the Oversight Committee the entire last
11306 term. And all of these examples that are being provided went
11307 through the Oversight Committee investigation. And it was
11308 nothingburger after nothingburger led by James Comer week
11309 after week on this stuff.

11310 This idea that the FBI _ I know they say things, but we

11311 actually went through it. It would be concerning, wouldn't
11312 it? It would be concerning. These examples genuinely _
11313 please _ because after a year James Comer could not procure a
11314 single example of the FBI forcing Twitter's action. In fact,
11315 Twitter's own lawyers said in court, in their own testimony
11316 as a company that was alleged _ that people are alleging was
11317 so-called forced, their own lawyers said that they were never
11318 coerced or made by the FBI to do anything at all in court in
11319 front of a judge.

11320 And so, I mean, when we talk about the First Amendment,
11321 I am curious as to what my colleagues feel about this
11322 Administration having their own acting directors of
11323 Immigration and Customs Enforcement, for example, going on
11324 Fox News, threatening sitting Members of Congress _ myself _
11325 opening a Department of Justice investigation because I
11326 shared people's constitutional rights with my constituents.

11327 Where is the free speech verdict on that? I am going to
11328 get locked up for it? If you all do it, you better throw
11329 away the key. I will tell you that much.

11330 But genuinely, this idea that the majority Republicans
11331 are the bastions of free speech, eliminating the White House
11332 press corps today and their independence, and the President
11333 of the United States saying I am only going to pick the
11334 journalists that cover me, or who _ whatever Twitter accounts
11335 that they favor the most now, I mean, let's dispense with

11336 this, folks. This is enough.

11337 Thank you, I yield back.

11338 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. The chair
11339 recognizes the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Griffith.

11340 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11341 So it is not quite going to be six weeks. I understand
11342 they are not going to present all of the _ the other side is
11343 not going to present all their amendments. I am sitting here
11344 with _ you know, prepared for another 30. But I hear that is
11345 not going to happen.

11346 I will say this on this amendment, though, and this is
11347 where we have been the whole day. The document that we are
11348 dealing with covers all kinds of things in very general terms
11349 so that it is available to this committee to investigate what
11350 it needs to investigate. And we have gone down rabbit hole
11351 after rabbit hole after rabbit hole on specifics and details.
11352 It didn't need to happen, but here we are. And it is a part
11353 of the process. If the other side wants to bring all these
11354 issues up, we can.

11355 But let me make clear on the freedom of speech that I
11356 feel very strongly about freedom of speech. I would submit
11357 _ and I know the gentlelady from Virginia, who is my former
11358 colleague in the Virginia House of Delegates, knows some of
11359 this. But she referenced the Federalist Papers, and then she
11360 referenced George III.

11361 I want to reference George III and John Wilkes. I am
11362 probably the only Member of Congress who has a caricature of
11363 John Wilkes on the wall in his office. Now some of you are
11364 going, John Wilkes? Who in the heck is that? John Wilkes
11365 was a rabble rouser in London, and he wrote a newspaper
11366 called The North Briton. And he made a reference in North
11367 Briton 45 to the Earl of Bute, who was a North Briton. He
11368 was from Scotland, and might have participated in the
11369 Revolution of 45, or the rebellion of 45 by Bonnie Prince
11370 Charlie. And so he was making a slam on the Earl of Bute,
11371 who would be what we would call today the prime minister, and
11372 George III in attacking those policies.

11373 He would later be arrested, or attempted to be arrested,
11374 and the courts determined that because he was a member of
11375 Parliament at the time that he was writing these salacious
11376 things about the king and the Earl of Bute he could not be
11377 prosecuted. He was in touch with the Sons of Liberty, and
11378 thus is the basis of the freedom of speech _ and I could get
11379 into general warrants, but that is not the subject of this
11380 amendment. But he was also the basis for _ the Wilkesite
11381 rebellion of the 1760s was also the basis for our prohibition
11382 against general warrants, him and Mr. Otis.

11383 So just so that everybody knows, both sides of the aisle
11384 care about this issue, we just think that the document we
11385 currently have would allow us to have plenty of debate on

11386 this in our various subcommittees without us having to have
11387 been here for 12 or 13 hours.

11388 I yield back.

11389 *Mr. Palmer. Would the gentleman yield?

11390 *Mr. Griffith. I yield to the gentleman from _

11391 *Voice. Alabama.

11392 *Mr. Griffith. _ Alabama, Mr. Palmer.

11393 *Mr. Palmer. I just want to point out some real
11394 examples of political censorship and intimidation.

11395 In February of 2021 two House Democrats urged cable,
11396 satellite, and Internet programing distributors to drop Fox
11397 News, Newsmax, and One America News.

11398 In April of 2021 the Biden Administration met with
11399 Twitter to advocate that conservative users be shut down.

11400 In July of 2021 the White House confirmed that it was in
11401 regular touch with social media companies about monitoring
11402 content it deemed misinformation _ I could go on _ demanding
11403 that big tech companies this March 22 hand over information
11404 about how many social media users _ I could go on with this.

11405 The interesting thing is in this committee, in a markup,
11406 a resolution of inquiry.

11407 [Laughter.]

11408 *Mr. Bilirakis. Good move.

11409 *Mr. Palmer. A resolution of inquiry was marked up in
11410 the Energy and Commerce Committee. It was introduced by my

11411 friend, Buddy Carter. That would have forced the FCC to
11412 disclose any documents that detailed politically-motivated
11413 censorship, whether it was de-platforming other examples of
11414 censorship. And every Democrat on this committee voted
11415 against it. Every one of you voted against it. It is just
11416 interesting to me that all of a sudden now you are concerned
11417 about political censorship.

11418 I yield back.

11419 *Mr. Griffith. I yield back.

11420 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman yields. Is there any
11421 additional discussion on the amendment?

11422 If there is no further discussion _

11423 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call, please.

11424 *Mr. Joyce. _ the ranking member is requesting a roll
11425 call. Will the clerk please call the roll?

11426 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

11427 *Mr. Latta. No.

11428 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

11429 Mr. Griffith?

11430 *Mr. Griffith. No.

11431 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

11432 Mr. Bilirakis?

11433 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

11434 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

11435 Mr. Hudson?

11436 *Mr. Hudson. No.
11437 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
11438 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
11439 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
11440 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
11441 Mr. Palmer?
11442 *Mr. Palmer. No.
11443 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
11444 Mr. Dunn?
11445 [No response.]
11446 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
11447 [No response.]
11448 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
11449 *Mr. Dunn. No.
11450 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
11451 Mr. Crenshaw?
11452 [No response.]
11453 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
11454 *Mr. Joyce. No.
11455 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
11456 Mr. Weber?
11457 *Mr. Weber. No.
11458 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
11459 Mr. Allen?
11460 *Mr. Allen. No.

11461 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
11462 Mr. Balderson?
11463 *Mr. Balderson. No.
11464 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
11465 Mr. Fulcher?
11466 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
11467 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
11468 Mr. Pfluger?
11469 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
11470 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
11471 Mrs. Harshbarger?
11472 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
11473 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
11474 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
11475 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
11476 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
11477 Mrs. Cammack?
11478 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
11479 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
11480 Mr. Obernolte?
11481 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
11482 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
11483 Mr. James?
11484 *Mr. James. No.
11485 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

11486 Mr. Bentz?
11487 *Mr. Bentz. No.
11488 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
11489 Mrs. Houchin?
11490 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
11491 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
11492 Mr. Fry?
11493 *Mr. Fry. No.
11494 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
11495 Ms. Lee?
11496 *Ms. Lee. No.
11497 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
11498 Mr. Langworthy?
11499 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
11500 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
11501 Mr. Kean?
11502 *Mr. Kean. No.
11503 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
11504 Mr. Rulli?
11505 *Mr. Rulli. No.
11506 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
11507 Mr. Evans?
11508 *Mr. Evans. No.
11509 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
11510 Mr. Goldman?

11511 *Mr. Goldman. No.
11512 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
11513 Mrs. Fedorchak?
11514 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
11515 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
11516 Mr. Pallone?
11517 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
11518 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
11519 Ms. DeGette?
11520 [No response.]
11521 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
11522 [No response.]
11523 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
11524 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
11525 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
11526 Ms. Matsui?
11527 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
11528 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
11529 Ms. Castor?
11530 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
11531 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
11532 Mr. Tonko?
11533 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
11534 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
11535 Ms. Clarke?

11536 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
11537 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
11538 Mr. Ruiz?
11539 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
11540 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
11541 Mr. Peters?
11542 [No response.]
11543 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
11544 [No response.]
11545 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
11546 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
11547 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
11548 Ms. Kelly?
11549 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
11550 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
11551 Ms. Barragan?
11552 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
11553 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
11554 Mr. Soto?
11555 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
11556 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
11557 Ms. Schrier?
11558 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
11559 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
11560 Mrs. Trahan?

11561 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
11562 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
11563 Mrs. Fletcher?
11564 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
11565 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
11566 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
11567 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
11568 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
11569 Mr. Auchincloss?
11570 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
11571 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
11572 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
11573 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
11574 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
11575 Mr. Menendez?
11576 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
11577 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
11578 Mr. Mullin?
11579 [No response.]
11580 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
11581 [No response.]
11582 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?
11583 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
11584 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
11585 Chairman Guthrie?

11586 *The Chair. No.

11587 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

11588 *Mr. Joyce. Has everyone been recorded? Does anyone
11589 seek recognition?

11590 The clerk will report the result.

11591 [Pause.]

11592 *The Clerk. Chairman Joyce, on that vote there were 19
11593 ayes and 29 noes.

11594 *Mr. Joyce. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
11595 any further amendments?

11596 *Mr. Pallone. Trahan was next, Mrs. Trahan.

11597 *Mr. Joyce. For what purpose does Mrs. Trahan seek
11598 recognition?

11599 *Mrs. Trahan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
11600 desk.

11601 *Mr. Joyce. The clerk will report the amendment.

11602 Which amendment is that, Mrs. Trahan?

11603 *Mrs. Trahan. HE12.

11604 *The Clerk. An amendment to draft oversight plan, HE12.

11605 *Mr. Joyce. Without objection, the reading of the
11606 amendment is dispensed with.

11607

11608

11609 [The amendment of Mrs. Trahan follows:]

11610

11611 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

11612

11613 *Mr. Joyce. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
11614 minutes in support of her amendment.

11615 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am offering
11616 this amendment to make it clear that this committee has a
11617 responsibility to provide oversight of Medicare's drug
11618 pricing negotiation to ensure that Americans are getting the
11619 best deal possible on their prescription medication.

11620 Now, I know that my colleagues are put out and maybe
11621 even a bit annoyed by these amendments, but these are
11622 important debates. These are debates that our constituents
11623 want us to have because the times that we find ourselves
11624 living in are dramatically different than when we adopted the
11625 committee's oversight plan last Congress.

11626 Now, because the Inflation Reduction Act _ because of
11627 the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare finally has the power
11628 to negotiate drug prices on behalf of American patients, a
11629 long-overdue, common-sense policy that people across the
11630 country overwhelmingly support and saves our government
11631 money. For too long pharmaceutical companies dictated prices
11632 with no accountability, forcing seniors and hard-working
11633 families to pay exorbitant costs for lifesaving medications.

11634 Now the largest pharmaceutical customer in the country,
11635 Medicare, can leverage its bargaining power to secure lower
11636 drug prices, just like private insurers and other countries
11637 have done for years, and pass those savings onto American

11638 taxpayers. This is what the American people have been
11639 demanding because they are tired of choosing between putting
11640 food on the table, heating their homes, and affording the
11641 medications that they need to survive.

11642 Now it is up to Congress to build on this progress, to
11643 not only ensure that we are lowering drug prices _ and that
11644 remains our priority _ but that we are expanding the
11645 portfolio of drugs being negotiated so that more people see
11646 more savings when they are at the pharmacy counter. Our
11647 focus must be on lowering health care costs and expanding
11648 access to affordable medications, not rolling back or walking
11649 away from policies that finally put patients first. This is
11650 a moment to listen to the American people and make sure
11651 Medicare's ability to negotiate remains strong so that no one
11652 is forced to make the impossible decision between their
11653 health and their financial security.

11654 The Inflation Reduction Act's Medicare price
11655 negotiation, inflation rebates, and out-of-pocket caps are
11656 already driving down costs for seniors, but we must ensure
11657 that these policies are implemented effectively and deliver
11658 the savings patients deserve. Strong oversight by this
11659 committee will also help identify opportunities to expand
11660 these benefits to more Americans, including those with
11661 private insurance, so everyone can access affordable
11662 medications.

11663 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I
11664 yield back the balance of my time.

11665 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Is anyone seeking recognition
11666 for discussion?

11667 The gentleman from Georgia you recognized for five
11668 minutes.

11669 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

11670 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

11671 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I speak in
11672 opposition to the amendment.

11673 Since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the
11674 IRA, or the Biden and congressional Democrats' drug pricing
11675 control scheme, seniors have seen fewer choices in affordable
11676 prescription medications and skyrocketing premiums. It is
11677 also anticipated seniors will have less access to innovative
11678 and lifesaving drugs.

11679 In 2024, year _ in 2024, year over year, Medicare Part D
11680 premiums jumped by over 20 percent, while the number of plans
11681 that exited the Part D program decreased by more than 10
11682 percent. In some areas, such as California, individual plan
11683 premiums jumped by almost 60 percent. More consequentially,
11684 the law has already had chilling effects on research and
11685 development of new therapies.

11686 Mr. Chairman, I have said and I continue to say _ and
11687 please hear me clearly _ in 10 years in the Georgia state

11688 legislature and 10 years in Congress, this is the worst
11689 legislation I have ever seen.

11690 More consequences. The law has already had chilling
11691 effects on research and development of new therapies. Since
11692 the law's passing in August of 2022, there have already been
11693 40 research programs discontinued and 22 drugs canceled. In
11694 oncology alone, six drugs have already been discontinued,
11695 coupled with cuts to several research programs. The evidence
11696 is clear that price controls don't work and have drastic
11697 consequences and only hurt patients.

11698 Extending these policies to commercial markets will
11699 further exacerbate the challenges created by the IRA that
11700 only lead to continued price increases for patients at the
11701 drug counter. It will also lead to patient delays in
11702 receiving lifesaving care and overall reductions in access to
11703 life-preserving and lifesaving medications.

11704 We have already made bipartisan solutions to hold
11705 pharmacy middlemen, PBMs, accountable in increasing
11706 transparency. We can and we should work to ensure these
11707 policies become law, in addition to pursuing bipartisan,
11708 market-based policy solutions that will lower costs without
11709 sacrificing lifesaving innovations.

11710 This amendment does nothing to accomplish either of
11711 these, and I urge members to vote no.

11712 And I yield back.

11713 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
11714 further discussion?

11715 The gentleman from Florida, you are recognized for five
11716 minutes.

11717 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield to the
11718 gentlelady from Washington.

11719 *Ms. Schrier. I just was listening to this conversation
11720 about drug pricing, what our patients want, what have been
11721 great decisions. And I will tell you that what I hear from
11722 my constituents is that \$35 insulin has been a lifesaver. I
11723 get thank yous all the time, and I don't believe one of you
11724 voted for that.

11725 I am going to now yield to my colleague, Lori Trahan,
11726 from Massachusetts.

11727 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you. I am just happy to get so
11728 many things out on the record today, because I think if I go
11729 back the 12 hours when we started, I heard we are gutting
11730 Medicare to the tune of nearly \$1 trillion, and now we are
11731 going to roll back the savings that we have passed on to
11732 patients who need lifesaving medication.

11733 So they can expect their \$35 insulin to go back up. We
11734 will stop _ Medicare will stop negotiating drug prices so
11735 that they can afford their medicine at the lifesaving
11736 counter, and there will be no expanded portfolio or more
11737 people who will get the benefit of affordable prescriptions.

11738 That is great. That gives me all I need not only to _ that
11739 gives me all I need. Thank you.

11740 [Laughter.]

11741 *Mr. Soto. And I reclaim the time. On the night where
11742 we saw a vote to cut \$880 billion from Medicaid, you are
11743 going to attack the IRA. I find that to be very interesting.

11744 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. Chairman?

11745 *The Chair. Does the gentleman yields back? The
11746 gentleman yields back?

11747 *Mr. Soto. The gentleman yields back.

11748 *The Chair. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized
11749 for five minutes.

11750 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield my time
11751 to the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter.

11752 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, again, let me
11753 explain. A \$35 co-pay on insulin is great for patients, but
11754 it does nothing for the cost of the drug. It still continues
11755 to go up. It is not going to address the cost of the drug to
11756 the insurance company and ultimately to the patient.

11757 Yes, a 30 _ if we can cap co-pay _

11758 *Voice. [Inaudible.]

11759 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am reclaiming
11760 my time.

11761 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

11762 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Again _

11763 *The Chair. The committee will come to order. The
11764 committee will come to order.

11765 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. _ a \$35 co-payment is great.

11766 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

11767 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. But it does nothing for the
11768 cost of the drug. The drug continues to go up. And that is
11769 not the problem. The problem is the middlemen, the PBMs that
11770 are causing the drugs to go up.

11771 And I yield back.

11772 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
11773 from Alabama, does _

11774 *Mr. Palmer. I yield, Mr. Chairman.

11775 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
11776 further discussion?

11777 The gentleman from Massachusetts.

11778 *Mr. Auchincloss. The gentleman from Georgia makes a
11779 good point that the pharmacy benefit managers play a
11780 massively distorting role as the middlemen of drug pricing,
11781 and they have caused the drug list prices to inflate to the
11782 detriment of the people who pay co-pays based on that list
11783 price, which is why it is so disappointing that we were
11784 within 12 hours of passing bipartisan PBM reform at the end
11785 of the last Congress that the gentleman from Georgia worked
11786 so hard and so diligently to get to the finish line, and then
11787 Elon Musk tweeted one mean thing about it, and Speaker

11788 Johnson flinched, the health insurance lobby flexed, and
11789 Speaker Johnson got scared.

11790 Let's hope that Speaker Johnson doesn't get scared this
11791 time around, and actually works to lower health care prices
11792 for Americans _ not just prescription drugs, but also the
11793 care for at-home care for seniors, for perinatal care for new
11794 mothers _ by not cutting Medicaid.

11795 I yield back.

11796 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
11797 further discussion?

11798 The gentlelady from Washington.

11799 *Ms. Schrier. I will just note, as somebody with type 1
11800 diabetes who relies on insulin, I heard from my
11801 endocrinologist that when we dropped insulin prices to \$35 a
11802 month for seniors, the insulin-making companies independently
11803 dropped prices for each _ one of each type of insulin, long-
11804 acting, short-acting, you name it, so that the out-of-pocket
11805 cost to consumers would be \$35. They saw the writing on the
11806 wall that we were coming after them, and they made those
11807 changes.

11808 So yes, it did change the price of those medicines and
11809 it does save lives.

11810 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
11811 further discussion?

11812 Seeing none _

11813 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call, please.

11814 *The Chair. _ the vote occurs on the amendment. The
11815 gentleman from New Jersey requested a roll call. The clerk
11816 will report _ will call the roll.

11817 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

11818 *Mr. Latta. No.

11819 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

11820 Mr. Griffith?

11821 *Mr. Griffith. No.

11822 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

11823 Mr. Bilirakis?

11824 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

11825 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

11826 Mr. Hudson?

11827 *Mr. Hudson. No.

11828 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

11829 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

11830 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

11831 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

11832 Mr. Palmer?

11833 *Mr. Palmer. No.

11834 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

11835 Mr. Dunn?

11836 [No response.]

11837 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

11838 *Mr. Dunn. No.
11839 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
11840 Mr. Crenshaw?
11841 [No response.]
11842 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
11843 *Mr. Joyce. No.
11844 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
11845 Mr. Weber?
11846 *Mr. Weber. No.
11847 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
11848 Mr. Allen?
11849 *Mr. Allen. No.
11850 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
11851 Mr. Balderson?
11852 *Mr. Balderson. No.
11853 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
11854 Mr. Fulcher?
11855 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
11856 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
11857 Mr. Pfluger?
11858 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
11859 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
11860 Mrs. Harshbarger?
11861 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
11862 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

11863 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
11864 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
11865 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
11866 Mrs. Cammack?
11867 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
11868 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes on.
11869 Mr. Obernolte?
11870 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
11871 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
11872 Mr. James?
11873 *Mr. James. No.
11874 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
11875 Mr. Bentz?
11876 *Mr. Bentz. No.
11877 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
11878 Mrs. Houchin?
11879 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
11880 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
11881 Mr. Fry?
11882 *Mr. Fry. No.
11883 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
11884 Ms. Lee?
11885 *Ms. Lee. No.
11886 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
11887 Mr. Langworthy?

11888 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
11889 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
11890 Mr. Kean?
11891 *Mr. Kean. No.
11892 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
11893 Mr. Rulli?
11894 *Mr. Rulli. No.
11895 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
11896 Mr. Evans?
11897 *Mr. Evans. No.
11898 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
11899 Mr. Goldman?
11900 *Mr. Goldman. No.
11901 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
11902 Mrs. Fedorchak?
11903 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
11904 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
11905 Mr. Pallone?
11906 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
11907 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
11908 Ms. DeGette?
11909 [No response.]
11910 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
11911 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
11912 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

11913 Ms. Matsui?
11914 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
11915 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
11916 Ms. Castor?
11917 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
11918 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
11919 Mr. Tonko?
11920 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
11921 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
11922 Ms. Clarke?
11923 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
11924 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
11925 Mr. Ruiz?
11926 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
11927 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
11928 Mr. Peters?
11929 [No response.]
11930 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
11931 [No response.]
11932 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
11933 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
11934 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
11935 Ms. Kelly?
11936 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
11937 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

11938 Ms. Barragan?
11939 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
11940 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
11941 Mr. Soto?
11942 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
11943 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
11944 Ms. Schrier?
11945 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
11946 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
11947 Mrs. Trahan?
11948 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
11949 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
11950 Mrs. Fletcher?
11951 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
11952 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
11953 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
11954 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
11955 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
11956 Mr. Auchincloss?
11957 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
11958 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
11959 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
11960 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
11961 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
11962 Mr. Menendez?

11963 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

11964 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

11965 Mr. Mullin?

11966 [No response.]

11967 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?

11968 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.

11969 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

11970 Ms. McClellan?

11971 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

11972 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

11973 Chairman Guthrie?

11974 *The Chair. No.

11975 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

11976 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll call?

11977 Seeing no one seeking to answer the roll call, the clerk

11978 will report.

11979 [Pause.]

11980 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were

11981 20 ayes and 29 noes.

11982 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

11983 For what purpose does the gentleman from Florida seek

11984 recognition?

11985 *Mr. Soto. Mr. Chair, to present amendment HE14.

11986 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

11987 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan, HE14.

11988 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
11989 amendment is dispensed with.

11990 [The amendment of Mr. Soto follows:]

11991

11992 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

11993

11994 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
11995 minutes in support of the amendment.

11996 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11997 You know, I care about affordable health coverage for
11998 all Americans, both my constituents and yours. And so this
11999 amendment is continuing on that theme, but this time with the
12000 ACA, making sure that the health coverage continues to be
12001 affordable.

12002 You know, in Florida a lot of people may be surprised to
12003 know we have the largest Obamacare exchange in the nation;
12004 4.6 million Floridians get their health care, private
12005 insurance, through the Affordable Care Act exchange. Texas
12006 and California also have giant Obamacare exchanges. In my
12007 district we have the second-most in the nation, and the top 5
12008 are all in Florida: 37,000 people getting their health care
12009 through the Obamacare exchange.

12010 And in 2021 we passed the premium tax credit. It was a
12011 smashing success. We saw people save thousands of dollars
12012 and many, many more people in places like Florida and Texas
12013 and California ended up getting private health care and
12014 lowering the uninsured rate.

12015 But this is the thing. This premium could go away.
12016 This premium tax credit could go away if we don't extend it
12017 before the end of the year. In fact, millions of Americans
12018 will see their new rates come out in May in Congress does

12019 nothing, which is why it is of critical importance as we see
12020 the CR coming up, because the bill is going to come due and
12021 it is going to be huge for folks.

12022 I was looking at the Kaiser Family Foundation's
12023 calculator, and a family of four, middle class, upper middle
12024 class making about 100 to \$125,000 a year, they could expect
12025 a \$13,000 increase in their payments. And if we are talking
12026 about now with Medicaid in Florida, if we see these drastic
12027 cuts of \$880 billion and that affects our CHIP program, where
12028 we have 2.4 million children on Kidcare, well, that also _
12029 now people are going to have to get both those _ and a family
12030 of four _ two kids _ in short, that is another 8 to 10 grand.
12031 And so when you look at _ we are talking about 8 to 10 to 12
12032 grand per family and increases that we could see before the
12033 end of the year, and the bill comes due and ends up being
12034 about 20 or \$30,000 for health insurance for a family of
12035 four.

12036 And then it gets even worse with nursing homes, because
12037 it is about 30 to 50 grand to pay for grandma, who no longer
12038 is getting covered by Medicaid, to make sure that she is
12039 covered in a nursing home.

12040 And inflation is one of the top issues, if not the top
12041 issue. So I would imagine 8 to 12 grand more that folks are
12042 going to be paying every year is going to be something that
12043 they are going to notice. We don't want the bill to come due

12044 for Florida families in May or for any other families.

12045 And so this is another fork in the road. We have an
12046 oversight plan where we could do something about it or it
12047 could be ignored. But the bill is still coming due. And so
12048 I hope I can get your support.

12049 And I yield back.

12050 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
12051 discussion?

12052 Seeing no further discussion _

12053 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call, please.

12054 *The Chair. _ the vote occurs on the amendment. A roll
12055 call vote has been requested by the gentleman from New
12056 Jersey. The clerk will call the roll.

12057 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

12058 *Mr. Latta. No.

12059 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

12060 Mr. Griffith?

12061 *Mr. Griffith. No.

12062 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

12063 Mr. Bilirakis?

12064 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

12065 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

12066 Mr. Hudson?

12067 *Mr. Hudson. No.

12068 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

12069 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

12070 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

12071 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

12072 Mr. Palmer?

12073 *Mr. Palmer. No.

12074 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

12075 Mr. Dunn?

12076 *Mr. Dunn. No.

12077 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

12078 Mr. Crenshaw?

12079 [No response.]

12080 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

12081 *Mr. Joyce. No.

12082 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

12083 Mr. Weber?

12084 *Mr. Weber. No.

12085 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

12086 Mr. Allen?

12087 [No response.]

12088 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?

12089 *Mr. Balderson. No.

12090 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

12091 Mr. Fulcher?

12092 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

12093 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

12094 Mr. Pfluger?
12095 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
12096 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
12097 Mrs. Harshbarger?
12098 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
12099 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
12100 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
12101 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
12102 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
12103 Mrs. Cammack?
12104 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
12105 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
12106 Mr. Obernolte?
12107 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
12108 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
12109 Mr. James?
12110 *Mr. James. No.
12111 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
12112 Mr. Bentz?
12113 *Mr. Bentz. No.
12114 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
12115 Mrs. Houchin?
12116 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
12117 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
12118 Mr. Fry?

12119 *Mr. Fry. No.
12120 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
12121 Ms. Lee?
12122 *Ms. Lee. No.
12123 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
12124 Mr. Langworthy?
12125 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
12126 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
12127 Mr. Kean?
12128 *Mr. Kean. No.
12129 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
12130 Mr. Rulli?
12131 *Mr. Rulli. No.
12132 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
12133 Mr. Evans?
12134 *Mr. Evans. No.
12135 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
12136 Mr. Goldman?
12137 *Mr. Goldman. No.
12138 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
12139 Mrs. Fedorchak?
12140 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
12141 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
12142 Mr. Pallone?
12143 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

12144 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
12145 Ms. DeGette?
12146 [No response.]
12147 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
12148 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
12149 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
12150 Ms. Matsui?
12151 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
12152 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
12153 Ms. Castor?
12154 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
12155 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
12156 Mr. Tonko?
12157 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
12158 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
12159 Ms. Clarke?
12160 *Ms. Clarke. No. Aye.
12161 [Laughter.]
12162 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
12163 Mr. Ruiz?
12164 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
12165 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
12166 Mr. Peters?
12167 [No response.]
12168 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

12169 [No response.]

12170 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

12171 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

12172 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

12173 Ms. Kelly?

12174 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

12175 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

12176 Ms. Barragan?

12177 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

12178 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

12179 Mr. Soto?

12180 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

12181 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

12182 Ms. Schrier?

12183 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

12184 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

12185 Mrs. Trahan?

12186 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

12187 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

12188 Mrs. Fletcher?

12189 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

12190 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

12191 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

12192 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

12193 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

12194 Mr. Auchincloss?
12195 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
12196 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
12197 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
12198 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
12199 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
12200 Mr. Menendez?
12201 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
12202 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
12203 Mr. Mullin?
12204 [No response.]
12205 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
12206 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
12207 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
12208 Ms. McClellan?
12209 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
12210 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
12211 Chairman Guthrie?
12212 *The Chair. No.
12213 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
12214 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll call?
12215 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
12216 *Mr. Allen. How is Allen from Georgia _
12217 *The Chair. Oh, excuse me. Cancel the report. Yes, so
12218 how is Mr. Allen reported?

12219 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not reported _ not recorded.
12220 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.
12221 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
12222 *The Chair. The clerk will report.
12223 [Pause.]
12224 *The Chair. I guess until they are reported the floor
12225 is open.
12226 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
12227 20 ayes and 29 noes.
12228 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.
12229 For what purpose does the _
12230 *Mr. Pallone. Schrier.
12231 *The Chair. Does the gentlelady from Washington have an
12232 amendment?
12233 *Ms. Schrier. Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. I have an
12234 amendment titled HE26.
12235 *The Chair. The clerk will report.
12236 *The Clerk. Amendment to draft oversight plan HE26.
12237 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
12238 amendment is dispensed with.
12239 [The amendment of Ms. Schrier follows:]
12240
12241 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****
12242

12243 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
12244 minutes in support of her amendment.

12245 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a
12246 pediatrician and a Member of Congress, I am always laser
12247 focused on the health, safety, and well-being of children and
12248 their families.

12249 Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known.
12250 And thanks to widespread vaccination, it was declared
12251 eradicated in the United States over 20 years ago. Now, fast
12252 forward to now, 2025, and measles has infected over 100
12253 people in Texas and New Mexico just in this past week. A
12254 majority of those cases are children. Nearly all are
12255 unvaccinated. Twenty percent have been hospitalized. And
12256 you know what? All of these could have been prevented.

12257 Make no mistake, this measles outbreak is the direct
12258 consequence of baseless anti-vaccine vaccine rhetoric, much
12259 of which has been propagated for decades by our Secretary of
12260 Health and Human Services, Robert F Kennedy, Jr., confirmed
12261 this month by Republican Senators, knowing full well what
12262 they were getting into.

12263 This kind of vaccine misinformation and doubt spread by
12264 Mr. Kennedy is beyond irresponsible. It is reckless. He
12265 continues to question settled science and scare parents, some
12266 of whom choose not to immunize their children, putting their
12267 children and others at risk for diseases that are absolutely

12268 preventable.

12269 I express serious concerns with his nomination to lead
12270 an agency that is charged with protecting our nation's health
12271 and making decisions based on sound science, and now that he
12272 is in I believe it is time to hold him accountable and _ to
12273 that mission. And my amendment mandates that this committee
12274 summon Secretary Robert F, Kennedy, Jr. to appear in person
12275 and testify every time there is an outbreak of more than
12276 three cases of vaccine-preventable illnesses, including but
12277 not limited to measles, mumps, meningitis, pertussis, polio,
12278 and varicella.

12279 His Senate confirmation for this position was a
12280 travesty. It was an embarrassment. Sadly, there will be
12281 tragic consequences to this, and he needs to be held
12282 accountable by answering to us here in this committee. I
12283 encourage all of my colleagues to vote yes on accountability.

12284 And I yield back.

12285 *The Chair. Is there a discussion on the amendment?

12286 The gentleman from Georgia, you are recognized for five
12287 minutes.

12288 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

12289 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

12290 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to speak
12291 in opposition to the amendment.

12292 The committee's oversight plan clearly states _ clearly

12293 states _ that the committee will conduct broad oversight over
12294 CDC. The oversight plan already includes broad public health
12295 oversight, so this amendment is unnecessary.

12296 And although I might add it is perhaps the most detailed
12297 amendment I have ever heard, and I am very impressed, I urge
12298 my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

12299 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
12300 further discussion?

12301 The gentlelady from Massachusetts.

12302 *Mrs. Trahan. I move to strike the last word in support
12303 of this amendment.

12304 *The Chair. You are recognized.

12305 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you.

12306 The head health director should be a trusted source of
12307 science-based information, someone the public can rely on
12308 during health crises. Instead, he has played a significant
12309 role in fueling vaccine conspiracy theories. Given the
12310 dangers of this disinformation, it is essential to call him
12311 in whenever a preventable disease outbreak occurs.

12312 And I really do credit my colleague from Washington for
12313 the detail in this amendment, because I think it is wholly
12314 actionable by our oversight committee.

12315 Everyone on this committee should agree that vaccines
12316 have saved lives for decades, protecting children and
12317 families from deadly diseases and preventing public health

12318 crises. The fact that we are still fighting against
12319 disinformation about something so fundamental to public
12320 health, it is not just frustrating, it is dangerous. Robert
12321 F. Kennedy, Jr.'s reckless spread of vaccine disinformation
12322 puts lives at risk, sowing distrust in proven science and
12323 endangering communities.

12324 And you don't have to take my word for it or my
12325 colleague's word for it. Look at the consequences of RFK,
12326 Jr.'s actions in Samoa. His dubiously titled anti-vaccine
12327 organization, the Children's Health Defense, had spent years
12328 amplifying discredited lies about vaccines, including the
12329 measles vaccine. When he visited the island nation in 2019,
12330 he did so with the goal of scaring parents away from the
12331 vaccine. Months later, a measles outbreak swept across the
12332 nation, infecting thousands and killing 83 individuals,
12333 almost all of whom were small children. That could happen in
12334 our country, and I think it would be responsible of the
12335 committee that, if it does, he has to sit at that table and
12336 answer for it.

12337 To this day Mr. Kennedy has refused any accountability
12338 for those tragic, preventable deaths, including during his
12339 testimony before the Senate just weeks ago when he said, "We
12340 don't know what was killing them.'" That is a lie, and it is
12341 one that was called out by Samoa's director general.

12342 You know, as a mother, I know I am not alone here. Many

12343 _ most of us have children. We would do anything to protect
12344 our kids. Every parent should have the confidence that when
12345 they take their child to the doctor, they are making the
12346 safest, most-informed decision possible, not one clouded by
12347 conspiracy theories and political opportunism.

12348 The politicization of vaccines is costing lives, and we
12349 cannot allow anyone, especially the HHS Secretary, to
12350 undermine decades of medical progress. The stakes are too
12351 high. We must stand up to disinformation and ensure that
12352 every family has access to the truth.

12353 Vaccines save lives, and spreading lies about them has
12354 deadly consequences. Mr. Kennedy must be held accountable by
12355 this committee and required to answer for his role in
12356 spreading misinformation when a preventable outbreak occurs
12357 on his watch.

12358 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I
12359 yield back.

12360 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
12361 further discussion?

12362 Seeing none _

12363 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call.

12364 *The Chair. _ the vote occurs on the amendment. The
12365 gentleman from New Jersey has requested a recorded vote, and
12366 the clerk will call the roll.

12367 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

12368 *Mr. Latta. No.
12369 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
12370 Mr. Griffith?
12371 *Mr. Griffith. No.
12372 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
12373 Mr. Bilirakis?
12374 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
12375 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
12376 Mr. Hudson?
12377 *Mr. Hudson. No.
12378 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
12379 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
12380 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
12381 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
12382 Mr. Palmer?
12383 *Mr. Palmer. No.
12384 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
12385 Mr. Dunn?
12386 *Mr. Dunn. No.
12387 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
12388 Mr. Crenshaw?
12389 [No response.]
12390 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
12391 *Mr. Joyce. No.
12392 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

12393 Mr. Weber?
12394 *Mr. Weber. No.
12395 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
12396 Mr. Allen?
12397 *Mr. Allen. No.
12398 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
12399 Mr. Balderson?
12400 *Mr. Balderson. No.
12401 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
12402 Mr. Fulcher?
12403 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
12404 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
12405 Mr. Pfluger?
12406 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
12407 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
12408 Mrs. Harshbarger?
12409 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
12410 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
12411 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
12412 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
12413 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
12414 Mrs. Cammack?
12415 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
12416 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
12417 Mr. Obernolte?

12418 *Mr. Oubernolte. No.
12419 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes no.
12420 Mr. James?
12421 *Mr. James. No.
12422 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
12423 Mr. Bentz?
12424 *Mr. Bentz. No.
12425 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
12426 Mrs. Houchin?
12427 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
12428 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
12429 Mr. Fry?
12430 *Mr. Fry. No.
12431 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
12432 Ms. Lee?
12433 *Ms. Lee. No.
12434 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
12435 Mr. Langworthy?
12436 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
12437 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
12438 Mr. Kean?
12439 *Mr. Kean. No.
12440 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
12441 Mr. Rulli?
12442 *Mr. Rulli. No.

12443 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
12444 Mr. Evans?
12445 *Mr. Evans. No.
12446 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
12447 Mr. Goldman?
12448 *Mr. Goldman. No.
12449 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
12450 Mrs. Fedorchak?
12451 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
12452 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
12453 Mr. Pallone?
12454 *Mr. Pallone. Votes aye.
12455 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
12456 Ms. DeGette?
12457 [No response.]
12458 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
12459 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
12460 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
12461 Ms. Matsui?
12462 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
12463 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
12464 Ms. Castor?
12465 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
12466 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
12467 Mr. Tonko?

12468 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

12469 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

12470 Ms. Clarke?

12471 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

12472 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

12473 Mr. Ruiz?

12474 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

12475 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

12476 Mr. Peters?

12477 [No response.]

12478 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

12479 [No response.]

12480 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

12481 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

12482 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

12483 Ms. Kelly?

12484 [No response.]

12485 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

12486 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

12487 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

12488 Mr. Soto?

12489 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

12490 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

12491 Ms. Schrier?

12492 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

12493 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
12494 Mrs. Trahan?
12495 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
12496 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
12497 Mrs. Fletcher?
12498 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
12499 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
12500 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
12501 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
12502 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
12503 Mr. Auchincloss?
12504 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
12505 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
12506 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
12507 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
12508 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
12509 Mr. Menendez?
12510 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
12511 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
12512 Mr. Mullin?
12513 [No response.]
12514 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
12515 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
12516 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
12517 Ms. McClellan?

12518 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

12519 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

12520 Chairman Guthrie?

12521 *The Chair. No.

12522 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

12523 *The Chair. The clerk will _ is there anyone seeking
12524 recognition to vote on the amendment?

12525 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

12526 [Pause.]

12527 *The Clerk. Chairman Carter, on that vote there were 19
12528 ayes and 29 noes.

12529 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

12530 So I will just announce it appears there is one more
12531 amendment to be offered, and then we will also have to vote
12532 on the plan. So we should have two more votes.

12533 So for what purpose the gentleman from New York seek
12534 recognition?

12535 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
12536 desk.

12537 *The Chair. The clerk will _ did you have the number of
12538 the amendment?

12539 *Mr. Tonko. It is the Alzheimer's research/Tonko
12540 amendment.

12541 *The Chair. Does the clerk have that amendment?

12542 The clerk will report.

12543 *The Clerk. Alzheimer research, offered by Mr. Tonko.

12544 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
12545 amendment is dispensed with.

12546 [The amendment of Mr. Tonko follows:]

12547

12548 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

12549

12550 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
12551 minutes in support of the amendment.

12552 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12553 My colleagues, my amendment is simple and self-
12554 explanatory. It would simply require this committee to
12555 examine the impact that the DOGE personnel cuts are having on
12556 our Federal research efforts to address Alzheimer's disease.

12557 Let me be clear. Our Federal research enterprise and,
12558 in particular, Alzheimer's-focused research, are programs
12559 that have long been championed by bipartisan members of this
12560 committee. I am indeed proud to have worked with my
12561 colleague and our chairman, Mr. Guthrie, on a number of
12562 pieces of Alzheimer's legislation over multiple congresses
12563 that have helped informed our Federal response on this
12564 devastating disease. Chair Guthrie has been a good friend
12565 and a steadfast leader in the fight to provide hope to those
12566 struggling with an Alzheimer's diagnosis. As the Energy and
12567 Commerce Committee, we literally built the Federal
12568 Alzheimer's research infrastructure together.

12569 These are programs that we developed, drafted, and
12570 debated right here in this very room. It is the type of
12571 serious, sustained, bipartisan work that every member of this
12572 committee should be proud of. The programs we have
12573 authorized have led to countless break-throughs that help us
12574 better understand Alzheimer's and related dementias, and have

12575 given millions across this nation _ and indeed, the world _
12576 hope that American ingenuity can one day rid the world of
12577 this terrible affliction.

12578 Again, this is something we should all feel
12579 institutional pride for in a bipartisan fashion. This is
12580 good work. This is the type of thing that we all come to
12581 Congress to accomplish. But at this moment I don't feel
12582 proud. I feel angry, white hot anger. Because instead of
12583 supporting American innovation and ingenuity, instead of
12584 working to provide hope to families across our nation,
12585 unelected bureaucrats led by Elon Musk are working at this
12586 very moment to tear that hope away.

12587 Just last week it was reported that almost one-tenth of
12588 the workers at the NIH's Center for Alzheimer's and Related
12589 Dementias, CARD, have been fired by Elon Musk and his DOGE
12590 team. Included among the reported cuts was the incoming
12591 director for the center, Kendall Van Keuren Jensen, widely
12592 recognized as a leading researcher in the field. Her
12593 research was particularly impactful on helping to enable
12594 early detection of Alzheimer's, one of our best hopes in
12595 delivering effective treatments.

12596 Furthermore, according to ABC News, one of those fired
12597 recently published a first-author paper in a high-impact
12598 journal, yet we are told they were being fired for poor
12599 performance. The outgoing director of CARD, Andrew

12600 Singleton, told colleagues in an email that the layoffs would
12601 _ and I quote _ "have a profound impact on the work we do to
12602 understand and treat this disease.'" This is not seeking out
12603 waste, fraud, or abuse. This is simply a meat cleaver.

12604 How am I supposed to explain these cuts to the family in
12605 Ballston Spa that I represent who are looking for any hope
12606 for an aging parent who has just received that heartbreaking
12607 diagnosis?

12608 How do I explain that this to our friends living with
12609 Parkinson's and other neurological disorders who understand
12610 that this research was also their hope?

12611 How am I supposed to explain these cuts to researchers
12612 at the University of Albany who are at this moment working to
12613 develop ground-breaking screening tools to help address early
12614 detection?

12615 I will close with a plea to my colleagues. This is not
12616 a partisan issue; it is an institutional one. None of you
12617 voted to bring this wanton cruelty to Alzheimer's patients,
12618 but you can vote today to say with one clear voice that the
12619 Energy and Commerce Committee wants to put an end to it.
12620 Let's stand up in a bipartisan fashion and put a stop to this
12621 utter nonsense. I ask you to support my amendment.

12622 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

12623 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
12624 recognizes himself for five minutes to speak on the

12625 amendment.

12626 I just want to say to my good friend from New York that
12627 we have worked diligently together, and a lot of times
12628 people, when _ I know all of us are home and talking to
12629 different groups of people _ they say, "Why can't you find
12630 things to work together on," and the things that we have
12631 worked together on just don't make the news at night because
12632 we are trying to get things solved and work together. And
12633 most of the issues that we work on in this committee are
12634 similar to the BOLD Act and the SUPPORT Act, and things that
12635 we have worked on together in Alzheimer's research.

12636 And even today's hearing _ and though it has been
12637 contentious and we have difference of opinions, fast
12638 difference of opinions, we have all been respectful to each
12639 other throughout the day, and I appreciate that. I want to
12640 tell the whole committee I appreciate that. And I will tell
12641 you we are going to continue.

12642 I buried my mother-in-law last year. I know that we
12643 have members on this committee who are taking care of their
12644 mother, and others that have experienced this, and we are
12645 going to continue to work on Alzheimer's. We are going to
12646 make sure it goes forward.

12647 And the amendment is not needed because I can commit to
12648 everyone _ I think everybody here _ it is not just the human
12649 cost of Alzheimer's, what it does to the person that has it,

12650 the family, the caretakers of the family, changing your whole
12651 life to try to accommodate somebody with it, I have seen it.
12652 And so we are going to continue to work on it. But also, it
12653 is estimated to cost the government over \$1 trillion a year
12654 after _ I think it is 2050. And I was telling someone, I
12655 said this is really going to affect my grandkids. Wait, it
12656 is my kids. I will be 84 in 2050.

12657 And so it is going to completely put an extra burden on
12658 _ so I will commit to you we are going to focus on
12659 Alzheimer's research, and I am looking forward to continuing
12660 to working together with you on this.

12661 *Mr. Tonko. Well, I appreciate that, Mr. Chair, but in
12662 the meantime there is a real concern that this time that is
12663 going to elapse could set back that research. And _

12664 *The Chair. I appreciate that.

12665 *Mr. Tonko. _ suffocating the hope. With that I yield
12666 back.

12667 *The Chair. I appreciate that, and I will yield to the
12668 gentleman from _ so the gentleman from Georgia doesn't need _
12669 I will yield back. Is there further discussion?

12670 *Mr. Pallone. Just a roll call.

12671 *The Chair. Seeing none, the vote is on the amendment.
12672 A roll call being requested, the clerk will call the roll.

12673 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

12674 *Mr. Latta. No.

12675 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
12676 Mr. Griffith?
12677 *Mr. Griffith. No.
12678 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
12679 Mr. Bilirakis?
12680 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
12681 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
12682 Mr. Hudson?
12683 *Mr. Hudson. No.
12684 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
12685 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
12686 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
12687 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
12688 Mr. Palmer?
12689 *Mr. Palmer. No.
12690 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
12691 Mr. Dunn?
12692 *Mr. Dunn. No.
12693 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
12694 Mr. Crenshaw?
12695 [No response.]
12696 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
12697 *Mr. Joyce. No.
12698 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
12699 Mr. Weber?

12700 *Mr. Weber. No.
12701 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
12702 Mr. Allen?
12703 *Mr. Allen. No.
12704 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
12705 Mr. Balderson?
12706 *Mr. Balderson. No.
12707 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
12708 Mr. Fulcher?
12709 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
12710 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
12711 Mr. Pfluger?
12712 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
12713 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
12714 Mrs. Harshbarger?
12715 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
12716 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
12717 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
12718 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
12719 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes on.
12720 Mrs. Cammack?
12721 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
12722 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
12723 Mr. Obernolte?
12724 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

12725 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
12726 Mr. James?
12727 *Mr. James. No.
12728 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
12729 Mr. Bentz?
12730 *Mr. Bentz. No.
12731 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
12732 Mrs. Houchin?
12733 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
12734 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
12735 Mr. Fry?
12736 *Mr. Fry. No.
12737 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
12738 Ms. Lee?
12739 *Ms. Lee. No.
12740 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
12741 Mr. Langworthy?
12742 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
12743 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
12744 Mr. Kean?
12745 *Mr. Kean. No.
12746 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
12747 Mr. Rulli?
12748 *Mr. Rulli. No.
12749 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

12750 Mr. Goldman?

12751 Excuse me. Mr. Evans?

12752 *Mr. Evans. No.

12753 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

12754 Mr. Goldman?

12755 *Mr. Goldman. No.

12756 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

12757 Mrs. Fedorchak?

12758 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

12759 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

12760 Mr. Pallone?

12761 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

12762 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

12763 Ms. DeGette?

12764 [No response.]

12765 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

12766 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

12767 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

12768 Ms. Matsui?

12769 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

12770 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

12771 Ms. Castor?

12772 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

12773 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

12774 Mr. Tonko?

12775 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

12776 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

12777 Ms. Clarke?

12778 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

12779 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

12780 Mr. Ruiz?

12781 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

12782 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

12783 Mr. Peters?

12784 [No response.]

12785 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

12786 [No response.]

12787 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

12788 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

12789 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

12790 Ms. Kelly?

12791 [No response.]

12792 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

12793 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

12794 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

12795 Mr. Soto?

12796 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

12797 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

12798 Ms. Schrier?

12799 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

12800 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
12801 Mrs. Trahan?
12802 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
12803 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
12804 Mrs. Fletcher?
12805 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
12806 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
12807 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
12808 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
12809 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
12810 Mr. Auchincloss?
12811 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
12812 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
12813 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
12814 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
12815 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
12816 Mr. Menendez?
12817 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
12818 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
12819 Mr. Mullin?
12820 [No response.]
12821 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
12822 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
12823 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
12824 Ms. McClellan?

12825 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

12826 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

12827 Chairman Guthrie?

12828 *The Chair. No.

12829 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

12830 *The Chair. Anyone seeking the roll call?

12831 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

12832 [Pause.]

12833 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
12834 19 ayes and 29 noes.

12835 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

12836 Is there anybody else seeking recognition for
12837 amendments?

12838 Seeing none, I first want to thank the clerk and the
12839 staff at the table, all the staff on both sides of the aisle
12840 for their hard work and for this committee _

12841 [Applause.]

12842 *The Chair. _ for this committee to set the standard.

12843 There has been fierce and passionate debate because
12844 people have different views on different things. That is
12845 exactly why we are here, but it has also been respectful the
12846 entire day, and it is very much appreciated.

12847 And now the question now occurs on approving the
12848 Committee on Energy Commerce's Authorization and Oversight
12849 Plan for the 119th Congress.

12850 All those in favor _ well, a roll call has been
12851 requested by the gentleman from New Jersey. The clerk will
12852 call the roll.

12853 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
12854 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
12855 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
12856 Mr. Griffith?
12857 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
12858 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
12859 Mr. Bilirakis?
12860 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
12861 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
12862 Mr. Hudson?
12863 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
12864 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
12865 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
12866 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
12867 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
12868 Mr. Palmer?
12869 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
12870 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
12871 Mr. Dunn?
12872 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
12873 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
12874 Mr. Crenshaw?

12875 [No response.]

12876 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

12877 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

12878 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

12879 Mr. Weber?

12880 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

12881 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

12882 Mr. Allen?

12883 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

12884 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

12885 Mr. Balderson?

12886 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

12887 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

12888 Mr. Fulcher?

12889 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

12890 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

12891 Mr. Pfluger?

12892 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

12893 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

12894 Mrs. Harshbarger?

12895 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

12896 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

12897 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

12898 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

12899 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

12900 Mrs. Cammack?
12901 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
12902 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
12903 Mr. Obernolte?
12904 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
12905 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
12906 Mr. James?
12907 *Mr. James. Aye.
12908 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
12909 Mr. Bentz?
12910 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
12911 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
12912 Mrs. Houchin?
12913 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
12914 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
12915 Mr. Fry?
12916 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
12917 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
12918 Ms. Lee?
12919 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
12920 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
12921 Mr. Langworthy?
12922 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
12923 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
12924 Mr. Kean?

12925 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
12926 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
12927 Mr. Rulli?
12928 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
12929 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
12930 Mr. Evans?
12931 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
12932 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
12933 Mr. Goldman?
12934 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
12935 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
12936 Mrs. Fedorchak?
12937 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
12938 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
12939 Mr. Pallone?
12940 *Mr. Pallone. No.
12941 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
12942 Ms. DeGette?
12943 [No response.]
12944 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
12945 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
12946 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
12947 *Voice. No.
12948 *Ms. Schakowsky. I am sorry, no.
12949 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky is off aye and on no.

12950 Ms. Matsui?
12951 *Ms. Matsui. No.
12952 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
12953 Ms. Castor?
12954 *Ms. Castor. No.
12955 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
12956 Mr. Tonko?
12957 *Mr. Tonko. No.
12958 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
12959 Ms. Clarke?
12960 *Ms. Clarke. No.
12961 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
12962 Mr. Ruiz?
12963 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
12964 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
12965 Mr. Peters?
12966 [No response.]
12967 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
12968 [No response.]
12969 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
12970 *Mr. Veasey. No.
12971 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
12972 Ms. Kelly?
12973 [No response.]
12974 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

12975 *Ms. Barragan. No.
12976 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
12977 Mr. Soto?
12978 *Mr. Soto. No.
12979 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.
12980 Ms. Schrier?
12981 *Ms. Schrier. No.
12982 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
12983 Mrs. Trahan?
12984 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
12985 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.
12986 Mrs. Fletcher?
12987 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
12988 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
12989 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
12990 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
12991 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
12992 Mr. Auchincloss?
12993 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
12994 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
12995 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
12996 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
12997 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
12998 Mr. Menendez?
12999 *Mr. Menendez. No.

13000 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
13001 Mr. Mullin?
13002 [No response.]
13003 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
13004 *Mr. Landsman. No.
13005 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.
13006 Ms. McClellan?
13007 *Ms. McClellan. No.
13008 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
13009 Chairman Guthrie?
13010 *The Chair. Aye.
13011 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
13012 *The Chair. Is there anyone here to answer the roll
13013 call that has not _ seeing none, the clerk will report.
13014 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
13015 29 ayes and 19 noes.
13016 *The Chair. With 29 ayes and 19 noes, the Committee on
13017 Energy and Commerce's Authorization and Oversight Plan for
13018 the 119th Congress has been adopted.
13019 And without objection, staff is authorized to make
13020 technical conforming changes to the plan considered by the
13021 Committee today. So ordered.
13022 Without objection, this committee is adjourned.
13023 [Whereupon, at 11:20 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]