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6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 2483, SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES

8 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025;

9 H.R. 1520, CHARLOTTE WOODWARD ORGAN TRANSPLANT DISCRIMINATION

10 PREVENTION ACT;

11 H.R. 2319, WOMEN AND LUNG CANCER RESEARCH AND PREVENTIVE

12 SERVICES ACT OF 2025;

13 H.R. 1669, TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO

14 REAUTHORIZE THE STOP, OBSERVE, ASK, AND RESPOND TO HEALTH AND

15 WELLNESS TRAINING PROGRAM;

16 H.R. 1082, SHANDRA EISENGA HUMAN CELL AND TISSUE PRODUCT

17 SAFETY ACT; AND

18 H.R. 2484, SENIORS' ACCESS TO CRITICAL MEDICATIONS ACT

19 TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

20 House of Representatives,

21 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

22 Washington, D.C.

23

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26 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:05 a.m. in

27 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie

28 [chair of the committee] presiding.

29 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Latta, Griffith,
30 Bilirakis, Hudson, Carter of Georgia, Palmer, Dunn, Crenshaw,
31 Joyce, Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger,
32 Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks, Cammack, Obernolte, James, Bentz,
33 Houchin, Fry, Lee, Langworthy, Kean, Rulli, Goldman,
34 Fedorchak; Pallone, DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor,
35 Tonko, Clarke, Ruiz, Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kelly,
36 Barragan, Soto, Schrier, Trahan, Fletcher, Ocasio-Cortez,
37 Auchincloss, Carter of Louisiana, Menendez, Mullin, Landsman,
38 and McClellan.

39

40 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
41 Jessica Donlon, General Counsel; Kristin Fritsch (Flukey),
42 Professional Staff Member; Andrew Furman, Professional Staff
43 Member; Seth Gold, Professional Staff Member; Sydney Greene,
44 Director of Finance and Logistics; Jay Gulshen, Chief
45 Counsel; Emily Hale, Staff Assistant; Brittany Havens, Chief
46 Counsel; Natalie Hellman, Professional Staff Member; Heidi
47 High, Senior Counsel; Calvin Huggins, Clerk; Megan Jackson,
48 Staff Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk; Sophie Khanahmadi,
49 Deputy Staff Director; Alex Khlopin, Clerk; Brayden
50 Lacefield, Special Assistant; Wayne Laufert, GPO Detailee;
51 John Lin, Senior Counsel; Molly Lolli (Brimmer), Counsel;
52 Joel Miller, Chief Counsel; Elaina Murphy, Professional Staff
53 Member; Kristen Pinnock, GAO Detailee; Gavin Proffitt,
54 Professional Staff Member; Seth Ricketts, Special Assistant;
55 Jake Riith, Staff Assistant; Dylan Rogers, Professional Staff
56 Member; Jackson Rudden, Staff Assistant; Chris Sarley, Member
57 Services/Stakeholder Director; Emma Schultheis, Clerk; Alan
58 Slobodin, Chief Investigative Counsel; Kaley Stidham, Press
59 Assistant; Joanne Thomas, Counsel; Matt VanHyfte,
60 Communications Director; Sarah Meier, Deputy General Counsel;
61 Lydia Abma, Minority Policy Analyst; Shana Beavin, Minority
62 Professional Staff Member; Keegan Cardman, Minority Staff
63 Assistant; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director and
64 General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff Director;

65 Perry Hamilton, Minority Member Services and Outreach
66 Manager; Una Lee, Minority Chief Counsel, HE; Gayle Mauser,
67 Minority Health Advisor; Emma Roehrig, Minority Staff
68 Assistant; Andrew Souvall, Minority Director of
69 Communications, Outreach, and Member Services; and Hannah
70 Treger, Minority Intern.

71

72 *The Chair. The committee will come to order, and the
73 chair will recognize himself for an opening statement.

74 Today's markup is yet another important opportunity for
75 our committee to advance legislation that supports the most
76 vulnerable Americans. By reauthorizing key programs to
77 combat substance use disorder and safeguarding seniors'
78 access to prescription drugs, we reaffirm our commitment to
79 strengthening our health care system and expanding access to
80 care for patients and their families.

81 Last Congress each of the six bills being considered
82 today advanced through this committee unanimously and passed
83 the House with strong bipartisan support. Our members
84 devoted countless hours collaborating with health care
85 providers, policy experts, and patients to develop these
86 pieces of bipartisan legislation, and I look forward to
87 moving all of them forward once again.

88 The SUPPORT Act for Patients and Communities
89 Reauthorization Act, which I am co-leading with Congresswoman
90 Pettersen, has received widespread support from over 160
91 vital substance use disorder treatment and recovery
92 organizations, as well as patient-provider advocacy groups.
93 This legislation reauthorizes key public support programs
94 focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery for patients
95 with substance use disorder that were established in the
96 original SUPPORT Act which was signed into law in 2018.

97 Similarly, the SOAR to Health and Wellness Act, led by
98 Representatives Carter and Cohen, will continue vital
99 resources so local communities can help support individuals
100 who have experienced trafficking.

101 Another important measure, the Charlotte Woodward --
102 wave your hand; welcome -- welcome back, I should say.

103 [Applause.]

104 *The Chair. You sat through the long markup the other
105 day. We are glad to have you back and have this move forward
106 today. So thank you for your patience and your persistence.
107 We really appreciate you very, very much.

108 So this has been -- this -- the bill that you are here
109 to support is led by Representatives Dingell, Issa, Wasserman
110 Schultz, and ensures access to living -- lifesaving care by
111 preventing discrimination against individuals with
112 disabilities, including Down syndrome, with the organ
113 transplant system.

114 The Shandra Eisenga Act -- Human Cell and Tissue Product
115 Safety Act, led by representatives Moolenaar and Dingell,
116 will support provider and patient education and awareness, as
117 well as strengthen standards and oversight related to tissue
118 transplants to prevent future outbreaks and preventable
119 tragedies.

120 In addition, the Women and Lung Cancer Research and
121 Preventive Service Act aims to accelerate research to improve

122 early detection methods and expand access to preventive
123 services to address the rising rates of lung cancer.

124 Lastly, the Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act,
125 led by Representatives Harshbarger and Wasserman Schultz,
126 increases access to care by allowing Medicare beneficiaries
127 to receive their prescriptions either by mail or by having a
128 family member or a caregiver pick up the medication on their
129 behalf.

130 All of these bills reflect our commitment to improving
131 Americans' health, protecting the most vulnerable, and
132 strengthening our health care system. I am grateful today to
133 all of my colleagues who have supported this legislation.
134 Thank you for all your hard work, and I look forward to
135 advancing these important bills out of committee.

136 I will now recognize the gentleman from New Jersey,
137 Representative Pallone, the ranking member, for five minutes
138 for an opening statement.

139 I yield back my time and recognize the chair.

140 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

141 Today committee Republicans are bringing up six health
142 bills that we were supposed to mark up earlier this month.
143 Republicans continue to schedule committee markups as if
144 these are normal times, but they are anything but normal.
145 The daily chaos and illegal activity that we are seeing from
146 the Trump Administration is not business as usual. And yet

147 committee Republicans are looking to move the SUPPORT Act
148 today while the Trump Administration is simultaneously
149 dismantling the very agency that is responsible for
150 supporting substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery.

151 A few weeks ago the Trump Administration fired hundreds
152 of staff across the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
153 Services Administration, or SAMHSA. The Administration
154 refuses to tell us exactly how many people were fired, but we
155 know that key senior officials, including directors of the
156 Center for Mental Health Services, the Center for Substance
157 Use Prevention, and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
158 were reportedly terminated.

159 The Administration is eliminating entire offices,
160 including the offices responsible for collecting data on
161 mental health and substance use and helping people locate
162 treatment services. By eliminating these offices, the
163 Administration is making it harder for people seeking
164 treatment to find care.

165 And the Trump Administration is also taking back
166 essential funding that states rely on for mental health and
167 substance use programs through block grants. This committee
168 has taken a lot of bipartisan action over the last decade to
169 combat the drug overdose crisis, but it is deeply
170 disappointing to watch as Republicans silently stand by as
171 the Trump Administration slashes \$1 billion in mental health

172 and substance use funding. These dollars were already
173 promised to states, and rescinding them arbitrarily will
174 wreak havoc on their efforts to address the overdose crisis.

175 Now, some states will not be able to fill the funding
176 gap. Providers will go unpaid and Americans will suffer.
177 And yet this does not seem to matter to the Trump
178 Administration or to congressional Republicans. So let me be
179 clear. These funding decisions will have disastrous and
180 deadly consequences on the millions of Americans impacted by
181 substance use disorder.

182 And to make matters worse, a leaked internal budget
183 proposal showed that the Trump Administration intends to
184 eliminate eight of the programs that the SUPPORT Act
185 reauthorizes. This includes programs to train first
186 responders who respond to opioid overdose calls, provide
187 residential treatment to pregnant and postpartum women, and
188 support people in long-term recovery, among others.

189 So again, it is Congress's job to ensure that the
190 Department of Health and Human Services and SAMHSA can
191 continue their critical work, and that authorized programs
192 are not being arbitrarily and illegally slashed. The SUPPORT
193 Act reauthorizes important programs to address substance use,
194 but it will not support -- but -- I can't -- frankly, Mr.
195 Chairman, I can't support the reauthorization of the SUPPORT
196 Act because I have no confidence that my Republican

197 colleagues will actually stand up to President Trump and
198 prevent him from taking additional illegal actions that
199 undermine the SUPPORT Act.

200 To date committee Republicans have not conducted any
201 oversight of this Administration, and that is a glaring
202 dereliction of their duty, in my opinion. And it is long
203 past time for Republicans to begin conducting the oversight
204 necessary to ensure that these programs are faithfully
205 implemented.

206 Once again, congressional Republicans are showing that
207 they are willing to overlook just about anything, including
208 creating chaos across the Federal Government and decimating
209 programs they claim to care about in order to appease this
210 unhinged administration. Even worse, reports suggest that my
211 Republican colleagues want to pass a bill to codify these
212 cuts. Republicans are literally turning their backs on the
213 American people while communities continue to battle the
214 opioid epidemic to fund tax cuts -- all of this, obviously,
215 to fund tax cuts for billionaires.

216 And so my Republican colleagues are also moving the
217 SUPPORT Act while simultaneously undertaking massive efforts
218 to gut Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for the billionaires
219 and big corporations. Medicaid is the single largest payer
220 in the country for behavioral health services, covering 40
221 percent of all Americans with opioid use disorder. The cuts

222 being proposed will leave billions of Americans with
223 substance use disorder without access to lifesaving care, and
224 so many other Americans doing their best to get by with very
225 little. So I believe if my Republican colleagues want to
226 actually support substance use disorder response efforts,
227 they will stop all efforts to cut Medicaid.

228 We will see what happens, Mr. Chairman. But in any
229 case, I can't support the reauthorization of the SUPPORT Act
230 for all these reasons, and I yield back the balance of my
231 time.

232 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back, and
233 the chair reminds members that, pursuant to the committee
234 rules, all members' opening statements will be made part of
235 the record.

236 Are there further opening statements?

237 Seeing none on the Republican side, any on the Democrat
238 side?

239 Seeing none -- oh, excuse me, the gentleman from New
240 York, you are recognized for three minutes.

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

242 Following the firings of probationary workers at SAMHSA,
243 I heard from about 50 SAMHSA employees who were fired and
244 reached out to me with concern for the communities that they
245 serve. For weeks I reached out to the Administration and
246 still have received no answers on which divisions were

247 impacted and how the work at SAMHSA will continue. As of
248 this month we have lost 50 percent of SAMHSA staff, and it is
249 not HHS and it is not the Trump Administration who shared
250 that with Congress. We only have confirmation from the press
251 and from the former SAMHSA employees. That, I believe, is
252 totally unacceptable.

253 Currently we have not received answers from HHS to key
254 questions. How many people remain at the Office of Recovery?
255 What about the 988 hotline? What about the center for Mental
256 Health Services? What about the Center for Substance Use
257 Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the
258 regional offices? What programs have they had to cut in
259 local communities? Naloxone access and suicide prevention?

260 As the Energy and Commerce Committee that has
261 jurisdiction over SAMHSA, how do we not have these answers?
262 This affects every community in the country, and our first
263 action should be finding out these answers. If the
264 Administration refuses to come in, then let's bring in the
265 fired employees. These people are some of the most dedicated
266 public servants who did this work for all of the right
267 reasons, and they have served an incredible need. That need
268 is even growing.

269 On behalf of all Americans, I thank all of the fired
270 SAMHSA employees for their service to our nation. You
271 deserved better. And frankly, all Americans deserve better.

272 Our loved ones should have access to effective addiction
273 treatment, to prevention and recovery support, to behavioral
274 health support and services. The recent actions of this
275 Trump Administration are betraying the goal of access to
276 behavioral health treatment and support.

277 Like everyone on this committee, I support the programs
278 in this package, but it is completely disingenuous and,
279 frankly, outrageous that Republicans are here today trying to
280 pat themselves on the back as doing something meaningful for
281 those struggling with addiction while the entire agency we
282 are offering programs for is being dismantled. The people
283 doing the work we are authorizing have all been fired, and
284 the Administration is proposing even more draconian cuts for
285 mental health and substance use programs in the 2026 budget.
286 Give me a break. It is like we are trying to heal a bullet
287 wound with a Band-Aid.

288 So I am regrettably going to have to vote no, and would
289 respectfully ask my Republican colleagues to pause today's
290 markup and instead focus our intention on responding to what
291 is an actual crisis at SAMHSA.

292 With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

293 *The Chair. Thank you, and the gentleman yields back.
294 Any Republican members? Any further Democrat members want to
295 speak?

296 If the committee would indulge me for a minute -- it

297 reminded me when I saw Mr. Tonko speak -- we were elected
298 together in 2008, along with Gerry Connolly, and I just want
299 to bring the attention -- I think some of you saw that Gerry
300 may be having to step down, and I just want to say the
301 thoughts and prayers of this committee and all of us are --
302 what a wonderful man he is, and we are -- all thoughts and
303 prayers are with him right now. So God bless him.

304 So having said that, I will -- seeing no further opening
305 statements, the chair calls up H.R. 2483, and asks the clerk
306 to report.

307 *The Clerk. H.R. 2483, a bill to reauthorize certain
308 programs that provide for opioid --

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

312 So ordered.

313 [The bill follows:]

314

315 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

316

317 *The Chair. And we will discuss the AINS. So the chair
318 has an amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk,
319 and the chair -- clerk will report the amendment.

320 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
321 H.R. 2483.

322 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
323 amendment is dispensed with.

324 [The amendment of The Chair follows:]

325

326 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

327

328 *The Chair. And the chair is recognized for five
329 minutes in support of the amendment. And I want to recognize
330 myself to speak on the AINS, which makes technical changes to
331 the underlying bill.

332 For far too long, Americans have witnessed the
333 unprecedented rise in drug overdoses and substance use
334 disorders, creating an imminent need for prevention,
335 treatment, and recovery services. The SUPPORT for Patients
336 and Communities Reauthorization Act has longstanding priority
337 for me and all the members of this committee, and this bill
338 would reauthorize essential public health programs focus on
339 prevention, treatment, and recovery for patients with
340 substance use disorder.

341 Last Congress we had opportunities to hear from experts
342 on the importance of this legislation, along with countless
343 family members affected by substance use disorder. I
344 remember hearing from a father who had the strength to
345 testify before the committee about the passing of his
346 daughter following an opioid overdose and the foundation that
347 he and his wife established in her name. Too many of our
348 constituents have similar stories, and these stories matter,
349 these patients matter, and these families matter.

350 I am very proud of the bipartisan work that went into
351 crafting this vital legislation which includes priorities for
352 members on both sides of the aisle. We also received support

353 from more than 100 advocacy organizations who use their
354 collective voice to prioritize prevention, expand treatment
355 options, and enhance recovery services for individuals with
356 substance use disorder. The Senate is prepared to take
357 action on this bill, and I am glad that our bipartisan
358 efforts will bring much-needed support to the states'
359 organizations and families fighting this epidemic.

360 Our efforts should not stop here. We should build off
361 this momentum to continue helping families with substance use
362 disorder and co-occurring behavioral health conditions like
363 serious mental illness, suicidal prevention, gambling
364 addiction, among others. Our constituents are counting on
365 us, and I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill
366 and -- the amendment and the underlying bill.

367 And I yield back and recognize the ranking member for
368 five minutes to speak on the AINS.

369 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and, you know, I
370 don't want to take away from your efforts to be bipartisan,
371 but I am sure you heard from both my opening statement and
372 what Mr. Tonko said that we cannot support moving the SUPPORT
373 Act while the Trump Administration decimates SAMHSA. I mean,
374 literally, firing hundreds of workers, leaving entire offices
375 without staff, cutting essential funding to states for mental
376 health and substance use services, and dismantling the
377 agency's entire structure.

378 So I have to ask you, Chairman, the Trump Administration
379 intends to cut many of the programs in the SUPPORT Act,
380 including the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers, which is
381 a program that you led the reauthorization for. So what are
382 you going to do to hold the Trump Administration accountable
383 and ensure that these programs are actually funded?
384 Otherwise, I don't see the point of moving the bill today.
385 What are you going to do to address these concerns?

386 *The Chair. Will the gentleman yield?

387 *Mr. Pallone. Yes.

388 *The Chair. So thanks for that. And we are -- these
389 are bipartisan priorities. It is the priorities of all of us
390 to make sure these are implemented and move forward. If the
391 Administration can present to us a way they can do it more
392 efficiently and better, I think we are all open to government
393 efficiency, we want to hear from them.

394 But what I will tell you, we are going to use our
395 oversight because now we are talking about what -- you know,
396 proposals that are not out yet, proposals that may come out
397 soon, but we want to make sure that we pass the legislation
398 we need to pass. And we will have oversight to make sure it
399 is done effectively, and if they can do it more efficiently,
400 I support that. But we are going to make sure that these
401 services are there. We will have oversight of that.

402 *Mr. Pallone. Well, is that a commitment to holding a

403 hearing and having the Secretary testify as to why he is
404 proposing these changes? I would like that commitment from
405 you.

406 *The Chair. Well, we are -- we do -- like in every time
407 a budget is presented, we have secretaries testify, and we
408 have plans to do that.

409 *Mr. Pallone. Right. But, I mean, that is not the same
410 thing as holding a hearing specifically on SAMHSA. That is
411 what I am asking about.

412 I mean, look, you guys on the Republican side, you know,
413 constantly talk about how you want to address this. If the
414 kinds of things that we are hearing happen, I would expect
415 you to have a hearing and ask the Secretary to testify about
416 these SAMHSA cuts. That is what I am asking for.

417 *The Chair. Well, so I know that in previous hearings
418 you have talked about these NIH issues and other things that
419 they had, and so we plan to have them before us so we can
420 talk about any -- everything. You can ask any questions on
421 any of your concerns, not just SAMHSA.

422 But we do expect him to testify.

423 *Mr. Pallone. Well, can I ask you, do you think that
424 the President has the authority to simply cut programs or not
425 fund programs that Congress has provided funding for like
426 SAMHSA? What is your view on that?

427 *The Chair. Our work is to put this into law and have

428 oversight. If they can do it more efficiently, they can and
429 -- see their legal basis for doing it. But we will conduct
430 oversight. One of -- my commitment is what we have in this
431 bill we want implemented, and make a difference in people's
432 lives, and we will conduct oversight to make sure that
433 happens.

434 *Mr. Pallone. But you see, I disagree strongly with
435 your response at this level. I do think that what the
436 President is doing is simply cutting these programs and not
437 funding these programs the way Congress has provided for, and
438 I don't think that he has the authority to do that. I think
439 we do need more accountability because the Administration's
440 actions are illegal. The courts, in most cases, have
441 overturned a lot of their actions. And Congress, as a
442 co-equal branch of government, has to conduct oversight over
443 whether these actions are lawful or not, in addition to
444 whether or not he wants to reorganize.

445 But look, I would just urge my -- you, Mr. Chairman, and
446 my Republican colleagues to join us and support Democratic
447 amendments that would address this Administration's unlawful
448 and harmful cuts to SAMHSA which we are going to propose
449 today. The dismantling of the agency without congressional
450 approval and unauthorized cuts to the Mental Health and
451 Substance Use Abuse Block grants and the programs we
452 authorized in support, all these actions by the

453 Administration, I think, are illegal. And these amendments
454 that we are going to propose would provide much-needed
455 oversight of the Trump Administration, which, unfortunately,
456 so far my Republican colleagues are not willing to do that
457 oversight, even as the Administration, you know, makes these
458 changes.

459 So again, I am going to continue to ask for your support
460 for what I consider a real oversight that would come from
461 these amendments. And with that I yield back the balance of
462 my time, Mr. Chairman.

463 *The Chair. Thank you.

464 The gentleman yields back. Is there further discussion
465 or -- further discussion?

466 The gentlelady from Colorado is recognized for five
467 minutes to discuss the AINS.

468 *Ms. DeGette. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

469 As I said in the last time we attempted to mark up these
470 bills, I think it is disgraceful that we are considering just
471 one piece of the bipartisan, bicameral health care package
472 that was included in the CR last fall and then stripped out
473 unceremoniously by Elon Musk and leaving the rest behind.

474 When Democrats offered an opportunity to move the
475 package in this committee on April 8, the Republicans voted
476 it down.

477 And I want to speak on behalf of every dedicated

478 advocate who has tirelessly worked on bipartisan legislation
479 that we all care about like the Give Kids a Chance Act to
480 improve the reach of the Special Diabetes Program,
481 reauthorize the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, and so many
482 other bills that I haven't really been able to ascertain why
483 we are not taking up.

484 Now, every -- earlier this month, the majority of this
485 committee voted against every single one of these priorities,
486 and I don't know why. I don't know why we just can't take
487 the health package that this committee passed in a bipartisan
488 way, pass it out of committee, put it on the floor. We all
489 agreed on it.

490 So let me talk about this bill for a minute, the SUPPORT
491 Act reauthorization, which I and most people on this
492 committee did support as part of the December health care
493 package. I am confused that we are working on the SUPPORT
494 Act while the Administration is actively working
495 independently of Congress to undermine its aims. Meanwhile,
496 as Mr. Pallone just said, Republicans on this committee
497 aren't remotely interested in holding a hearing conducting
498 oversight on the reckless and unlikely -- unlawful activities
499 of DOGE and of President Biden -- or President Biden --
500 President Trump.

501 Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and RFK, Jr. have now, as Mr.
502 Tonko said, gutted SAMHSA and hollowed out its workforce.

503 The agency is now reduced to about half of what it was before
504 Donald Trump took office. We don't know how many dedicated
505 public servants the agency lost because RFK's Department of
506 Health and Human Services, the least transparent in my 28
507 years in the U.S. Congress, refuses to tell us.

508 SAMHSA had been succeeding in President Biden's final
509 years in office. Overdose deaths declined by 17 percent.
510 Overdose deaths declined by 17 percent. He inherited a drug
511 crisis from Donald Trump, where overdoses were increasing 31
512 percent from year to year. So now, because of DOGE and RFK,
513 Jr.'s actions, that progress seems to be reversing, and it
514 seems to be undermining the very programs that the SUPPORT
515 Act reauthorization seeks to do.

516 So I don't know. It truly is fiddling while Rome burns.
517 Why are we marking up this legislation while we are not
518 having any desire to see if the underlying programs are
519 actually being carried out by the Administration?

520 So it is not just the Administration undermining the
521 SUPPORT Act and its goals as -- at the same time as we mark
522 up the legislation today. They are also working to cut
523 Medicaid, which is the dominant payer for behavioral health
524 services including substance abuse disorder services
525 nationwide. Thirty-five percent of all Medicaid recipients
526 have a mental illness, including substance use disorder. So
527 when we cut Medicaid, that imperils their care. In fact, a

528 major impediment to making substance use disorder care
529 accessible to everybody is 10 states' refusals to expand
530 Medicaid.

531 So let me be clear. The SUPPORT Act is good
532 legislation. I expect most of us will vote for it today.
533 But while the majority is holding a bipartisan deal hostage,
534 refuses to hold the Administration accountable or provide any
535 oversight whatsoever, and actively guts -- works to gut
536 Medicaid, which is the backbone of substance disorder -- use
537 disorder treatment, I have got to say we have got to get back
538 to regular order to be true to our words and to stand up
539 truly in actions, not just in words for our constituents.

540 And I yield back.

541 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back, and
542 the chair will recognize the gentlelady from Iowa, Dr.
543 Miller-Meeks, for five minutes to speak on the AINS.

544 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
545 last word.

546 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

547 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

548 I am proud to see the Energy and Commerce Committee
549 marking up the SUPPORT Act, which has had tremendous impact
550 on opioid and mental health epidemic in America.

551 And let me also say that the number of overdose deaths
552 reached their zenith under the Biden Administration. And, in

553 fact, let's be true to our words and stop saying things like
554 some people are trying to gut Medicaid, which we know is not
555 happening and is not true and is a myth.

556 So having said that, I would like to highlight a
557 bipartisan initiative I have been working on for two years to
558 complement this bill's efforts. According to the CDC we lost
559 more than 110,000 Americans to drug overdose deaths in 2022.
560 It is estimated that 75 percent of these deaths involved
561 opioids, meaning that 226 Americans died every day to
562 opioids. While many cases of drug-related deaths are
563 poisoning, where the individual does not know that the
564 product they are about to use is laced with another substance
565 like fentanyl or synthetic fentanyl, more needs to be done to
566 prevent addiction, including minimizing unnecessary exposure
567 to opioids.

568 Ninety percent of acute pain patients receive opioids to
569 manage their pain whether or not they need them. Between
570 2011 and 2019, opioid prescriptions decreased by 40 percent
571 from approximately 250 million to 150 million prescriptions
572 dispensed. This is a true across -- this is true across most
573 payor audiences: Medicaid, private, and cash payments.
574 However, among Medicare patients opioid prescribing has
575 actually increased.

576 Furthermore, Medicare's share of opioid prescribing
577 during this time has increased substantially from

578 approximately 20 percent of the country's opioid
579 prescriptions in 2011 to 35 percent in 2019. This represents
580 a 75 percent increase in just under a decade. We clearly
581 have work to do in Medicare to make sure that patients have
582 access to effective pain relief agents while also not
583 unnecessarily exposing them to narcotic painkillers.

584 One way to do this would be to increase access to non-
585 opioid, pain management medications or other entities, which
586 I am seeking to accomplish with my legislation, the
587 Alternatives to Pain Act. This legislation, which I thank
588 Congresswoman Barragan for co-leading, would decrease
589 barriers to accessing non-opioid pain management alternatives
590 that are FDA approved. I ask that the chair commit to
591 working with me on this legislation to continue the great
592 opioid use reduction work this committee has accomplished.

593 I fully support the SUPPORT Act, and thank you, Mr.
594 Chair, I yield back --

595 *Mr. Joyce. Will the gentlelady yield?

596 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I will yield.

597 *Mr. Joyce. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

598 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to add my support for
599 this important legislation before the subcommittee today.

600 The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act is a
601 comprehensive and bipartisan piece of legislation that
602 provides support and builds on previous success. This

603 legislation also includes a provision that mirrors the Mental
604 Health Improvement Act which I co-introduced with
605 Representative Sykes last Congress reauthorizing section
606 756(f) of the Public Health Service Act which provides
607 important grant funding for our behavioral health force.

608 Investments like these in workforce development are
609 crucial as communities across our country work to tackle the
610 scourge of addiction and the devastation that it leaves
611 behind in its wake. We worked extensively on this bill last
612 Congress, including when this subcommittee went to
613 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where we heard powerful and
614 important testimony from my constituents.

615 And I would again like to thank Mike Straley, Chief
616 Ceravola, and Dr. Crawford for their input and for sharing
617 their firsthand knowledge and experiences with opioids and
618 with the addiction crisis that we are currently facing.

619 We must continue this important work now by passing this
620 bill through committee and getting it to President Trump for
621 his signature into law. I urge the support of this bill, and
622 I yield back to the gentlelady.

623 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

624 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The -- is
625 there anyone seeking further discussion?

626 The gentlelady from New York, Ms. Clarke, you are
627 recognized for five minutes to discuss the AINS.

628 *Ms. Clarke. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I move
629 to strike the last word.

630 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

631 *Ms. Clarke. The leaders of this committee, along with
632 a bicameral group of congressional leaders, negotiated a
633 bipartisan end-of-year package which would have included this
634 common-sense legislation, as a number of other -- as well as
635 a number of other bills being considered at today's markup.
636 Members of both parties were ready and willing to pass this
637 package of bills, most of which went through the regular
638 order in December of 2024.

639 However, I am perplexed that we are even in a position
640 to take these bills up today, bills that should have been
641 passed by both chambers of Congress and signed into law at
642 the end of last year. Unfortunately, our colleagues across
643 the aisle, whether due to fear or blind fealty, killed the
644 bipartisan bill negotiated by the leaders of this committee
645 and many others on the orders of one man, Elon Musk. One
646 tweet from the world's richest man and Donald Trump's biggest
647 financial supporter, and Republican shriveled up -- right up,
648 and meekly allowed a weaker bill to pass.

649 And now we are expected to sit here today and pretend
650 everything is normal. It is not. It is not. Republicans
651 want to use markups like this one to show the American people
652 they are addressing the opioid epidemic and fighting to

653 protect access to quality, affordable health care, but won't
654 say a word about the nonsensical decision to cut tens of
655 thousands of employees at the Department of Health and Human
656 Services.

657 We can no longer sit back, excuse me, and trade support
658 for each other's bills, let House GOP leadership use that
659 bipartisan support to fill up the suspension calendar with
660 only Republican bills, and then simply hope that Elon Musk or
661 whichever billionaire is calling the shots for Republican
662 leadership on a given day will deem to permit Democratic
663 bills to move forward.

664 I am done waiting on Republican leadership to magically
665 grow the backbone they have been lacking since Donald Trump
666 rose to power.

667 I am done letting my support for common-sense
668 legislation at the committee level be used as cover to
669 advance Republican priorities while Democratic bills and
670 priorities are routinely ignored and subject to the whims of
671 the oligarch class.

672 We can no longer act like it is business as usual here
673 in Washington, D.C. That time is over. We are in a crisis,
674 and it is past time we start acting like it, which is why,
675 even though I support these bills, I will be voting no. This
676 time has come. The time has come to put an end to the
677 business-as-usual approach we have taken to this point.

678 And with that, Mr. Chairman, thank you, and I yield back
679 the balance of my time.

680 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone
681 seeking further discussion?

682 The gentleman from California, Mr. Obernolte, is
683 recognized for five minutes.

684 *Mr. Obernolte. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
685 word and speak in --

686 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

687 *Mr. Obernolte. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support
688 of the SUPPORT Act. This is a bipartisan bill that contains
689 many of the policy priorities that have been passed by this
690 committee over the last 12 months. And I would like to thank
691 you for including my bill, the 988 Lifeline Cybersecurity
692 Responsibility Act in this package.

693 As I think everyone on the dais here knows, the 988
694 Lifeline has saved, unquestionably, thousands of lives since
695 it has been instituted. It has fielded over 10 million calls
696 in its short lifetime. And yet that lifeline has been taken
697 down recently by a cybersecurity attack. This provision in
698 the bill would shore up the cybersecurity of the Lifeline by
699 improving coordination and communication between various
700 reporting entities. This is a common-sense piece of
701 legislation, and I would like to thank you for including it.

702 And just to make the point, this is -- most of the bills

703 we are considering today are bipartisan, they are common
704 sense. Folks, this is not a referendum on one support for
705 the Trump Administration. I have served on this committee in
706 the majority and the minority in the White House, and I think
707 we need to focus on voting on the policy, and focus on the
708 things we can agree on, and it really hurts my heart to see
709 some of the bickering that is going on here, and I wish we
710 would just be able to focus on the things we can accomplish
711 together.

712 With that I yield back.

713 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
714 seeking further discussion?

715 The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Menendez, is
716 recognized for five minutes to speak on the AINS.

717 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman, and I want to join
718 the ranking member and so many of my colleagues on the
719 Democratic side of the aisle who agree we want to work on
720 issues together in a bipartisan way. But what is challenging
721 for us is the silence and the refusal to demonstrate the harm
722 that this Administration is causing with respect to HHS, with
723 respect to the restructuring and limiting of SAMHSA.

724 And you -- it is almost like living in dual realities,
725 right, where you can see what this Administration is doing
726 and not say a word, and then come to committee and say we
727 should do things on a bipartisan basis, but that would be

728 sending more legislation to the Administration to be chopped
729 up and disregarded. And that is what we find so challenging
730 in this moment, is there were a whole host of bills, as other
731 members have spoken to, that were agreed to on a bipartisan
732 basis that, because one person objected to, we walked away
733 from. And now we are back with only one bill from that
734 health package. And we just want to know why, and why we
735 can't work together again on that full set of bills, and why
736 we have to be stuck with just one bill that we are worried
737 this Administration won't implement. And that is the
738 challenging moment that we are in.

739 And I think we would just like to see our colleagues
740 across the aisle join us to call out the harm that this
741 Administration is doing to so many bipartisan things that
742 have already been passed into law because I think that is
743 what the American people really want us to do. And when I
744 was home for the last two weeks that was the clear message
745 that was sent to me, and I just wish our friends across the
746 aisle heard it, as well.

747 And with that I yield back.

748 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
749 further discussion on the Republican side?

750 Seeing none, any further discussion on the Democrat
751 side?

752 Seeing none, are there any amendments?

753 The gentleman from New Jersey --

754 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Tonko, do you have an amendment?

755 *The Chair. Does Mr. Tonko -- for what does the
756 gentleman from New York seek recognition?

757 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

758 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

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

760 As a committee we have worked together hand in hand on a
761 bipartisan basis to pass the SUPPORT Act. And I believe --

762 *The Chair. I am sorry, Mr. Tonko.

763 Would you call up the amendment? We need the --

764 *Mr. Tonko. It is AMD_01_xml.

765 *Mr. Griffith. And Mr. Chairman, may I reserve a point
766 of order at this time?

767 *The Chair. A point of order is --

768 *Mr. Griffith. Reserved.

769 *The Chair. The gentleman reserves a point of order.

770 *Voice. Can he describe the amendment?

771 *The Chair. Can you describe the amendment so we can --

772 *Voice. He has to read out --

773 *The Chair. Do you have the amendment? Can you report
774 the amendment?

775 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
776 a substitute to H.R. 2483, offered by Mr. Tonko. At the end
777 of the --

778 *The Chair. Without objection, the amendment -- reading
779 of the amendment is dispensed with.

780 We want to make sure we got -- which amendment, what
781 number amendment do you have?

782 *Mr. Tonko. Oh, AMD_01_xml.

783 *Voice. Got it.

784 *The Chair. Okay. Without objection, the reading of
785 the amendment is dispensed with.

786 [The amendment of Mr. Tonko follows:]

787

788 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

789

790 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized in -- for
791 five minutes in support of his amendment.

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

793 As a committee we have worked together hand in hand on a
794 bipartisan basis to pass the SUPPORT Act. And I do believe
795 we all understand the importance of SAMHSA to our nation's
796 overdose crisis as well as the behavioral health crisis.

797 The expertise and funding that flows through SAMHSA are
798 lifesaving. Every community in this nation has experienced
799 the overdose crisis and the mental health crisis. Every
800 member should know the value of SAMHSA to their district in
801 terms of lives saved. Every state has SAMHSA funding that
802 supports the response to these crises. In New York, in
803 Georgia, in Kentucky, in every state our communities benefit
804 from this funding. Whether it is training providers on
805 evidence-based addiction medical treatment or providing
806 lifesaving naloxone, or launching prevention or recovery
807 efforts, or supporting 988, we get it: SAMHSA is working to
808 save lives.

809 I think everyone in this room likes what SAMHSA does,
810 which is why I am baffled. Why are we allowing SAMHSA to be
811 decimated? Why are we sitting here discussing anything else
812 other than how do we stop the gutting of SAMHSA? Fifty
813 percent of staff at SAMHSA were just fired, a billion dollars
814 of lifesaving funding was just yanked away from states. The

815 Administration has said that this funding was terminated due
816 to its connection to the COVID-19 pandemic, but nothing in
817 the law limits these dollars to COVID purposes or for only
818 during a public health emergency.

819 Congress recognized that the impacts of the pandemic
820 would reach well beyond an emergency period, and chose not to
821 condition the funding on whether there was an active public
822 health emergency in place. So the Administration's decision
823 to terminate these grants goes against congressional intent,
824 and is wreaking havoc on state and local opioid response
825 efforts. This was funding that Congress approved and wanted
826 to be used for the overdose and behavioral health. By
827 revoking the availability of these funds, the money remaining
828 will be returned to the Treasury and will not necessarily be
829 reinvested into actions to address the addiction and
830 behavioral crisis. This is tragic.

831 We need to ensure that the Trump Administration reverses
832 course on this immediately. Everyone in this room should be
833 demanding that this recklessness be stopped, and stopped
834 today. States need more time to allocate these resources,
835 given the important need. These are critical funds
836 supporting mental health, addiction prevention, treatment and
837 recovery. These funds can and should be fully invested in a
838 systematic way.

839 The pandemic caused massive trauma to many Americans of

840 all ages for many different reasons. While the pandemic may
841 be over, the mental health and addiction reverberations are
842 not. These funds are crucial for states and communities in
843 continuing to care for these Americans. We need to finish
844 the job, or real impacts will be felt.

845 In New York State alone, more than 350 organizations
846 across the state are impacted by the canceled health grant
847 funding. For SAMHSA in particular, this funding directly
848 supported mental health treatment providers, SUD treatment
849 providers, crisis centers, and 988 call centers. Among just
850 32 organizations that responded to a survey in New York,
851 8,200 New Yorkers will lose access to care as a result of the
852 early COVID-19 grant cuts.

853 Let's remember that 350 organizations were impacted by
854 the full health cuts in New York State so that the loss of
855 services and access is even wider. Several organizations
856 have already reported suspending or shutting down programs,
857 many of which are critical lifelines for individuals in
858 treatment. These disruptions threaten to derail recovery,
859 worsen health outcomes, and in some cases may even be life-
860 threatening.

861 Reports of staff layoffs have also begun to surface. In
862 my district I recently heard that the Troy Drug Free
863 Community Coalition was notified that they lost their
864 funding, and that obligated grant funds have been terminated

865 effective immediately, and that any further expenditures
866 related to these contracts will not be reimbursable. Do we
867 really want to cut off funding for drug-free communities?

868 In New York organizations have overwhelmingly stated
869 that the early termination of Federal COVID grants would lead
870 to significant cuts, starting with prevention services,
871 outpatient programs including medication-assisted treatment,
872 and on track along with residential and crisis stabilization
873 services are also at risk. Do we really want to cut funding
874 for MAT, for MAT?

875 What about residential and crisis stabilization
876 services? Do we want to cut funding for existing recovery
877 community services such as recovery community centers and
878 youth clubhouses? Do we want to cut funding for transitional
879 housing to help provide short-term housing and case
880 management for individuals leaving residential treatment, or
881 correctional facilities who cannot otherwise access permanent
882 housing? Do we want to cut care coordination and the
883 provision of transportation assistance to ensure access to
884 treatment, recovery, and other basic services? Do we want to
885 cut these programs? I don't think so. Because of all of
886 these being cuts being made, the nation will -- are -- is
887 getting impacted because of these clawbacks.

888 When do we come together on a bipartisan basis and say
889 enough? This is not acceptable. We should be ashamed that

890 as a committee we have not all come together to demand that
891 these senseless cuts immediately be restored. I ask all of
892 my colleagues to support my amendment to restore the states'
893 ability to access this lifesaving funding so it can reach our
894 communities, as intended by Congress. If we want to call it
895 a crisis, let us act accordingly.

896 With that I yield back.

897 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
898 recognizes the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter, for five
899 minutes.

900 Oh, the gentleman -- Mr. Griffith?

901 Okay, the gentleman from Virginia is recognized for five
902 minutes.

903 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find this
904 amendment kind of interesting. I am sitting here looking at
905 the language, and it -- as it reads -- and I look for my
906 colleague to tell me if I am reading it wrong -- as it reads,
907 all of these good things in the SUPPORT Act won't come into
908 play unless the president and the administrative branch of
909 government takes action to release other funds. So as I
910 understand it, because we don't like the cutting of funds or
911 the withholding of programs by the administration -- and I am
912 not saying that is accurate, I am just saying that is what is
913 purported -- we are going to refuse to allow the SUPPORT Act
914 to go forward unless we agree -- we are giving the Secretary

915 this power.

916 Why would we give the Secretary the power to do exactly
917 what he wants to do, and then gut another program that it is
918 Congress's will, I believe, to have become law? This just
919 seems to me to be illogical, Mr. Chairman, that we would give
920 the Secretary the power to gut a congressional intent.

921 It is one of my concerns in Congress in general that
922 over the last decades, long before any of us got here,
923 started, we keep giving the Secretary the power to do this or
924 the Secretary to make this determination or to do that. And
925 whenever you do it, whichever party is in control of the
926 White House gets to say what they want done and what they
927 don't want done. It seems to me we ought to look -- make
928 these congressional actions.

929 And so I can't support this amendment, just from a basic
930 philosophical standpoint that we are giving the Secretary not
931 only the power over this bill, but encouraging them to not
932 pass or not to deal with our bill because they can control
933 the life of the SUPPORT Act by refusing to do what the
934 gentleman wants them to do. So it seems to me to be
935 illogical. I --

936 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

937 *Mr. Griffith. I will yield because, if I read it
938 wrong, I invite her to tell me.

939 *Ms. DeGette. So my -- so some of us are a little

940 confused about what you are saying, and -- because we also
941 agree that if Congress says that the administration should do
942 something in legislation, then they should do it.

943 So would you agree with Mr. Pallone's suggestion that we
944 do oversight to see if, in fact, the Secretary of HHS has
945 overstepped his authority by rescinding some of these
946 programs and expenditures that Congress has made?

947 *Mr. Griffith. It is interesting you ask that question
948 because when Mr. Pallone was making the point I thought about
949 last year, when the White House was controlled by a different
950 party. And to his credit, the then-secretary of HHS, when I
951 raised concerns in our regular hearing and the chairman said
952 we are going to have our regular hearing with the Secretary
953 as we normally do on budget, et cetera, where you can talk
954 about all kinds of things, I brought up a problem I was very
955 concerned with with OOR, as you will recall.

956 *Ms. DeGette. Yes.

957 *Mr. Griffith. And he agreed to come to a special
958 oversight meeting while he was here in that regular meeting.

959 So I think step one is to have our regular meeting with
960 the Secretary, as we would with any administration, and then
961 we can ask that administration representative -- in this case
962 the Secretary of HHS -- to come back for an oversight
963 hearing. I hope he will agree to that. I think that is
964 appropriate, and I think we should conduct oversight over all

965 agencies within our jurisdiction.

966 *Ms. DeGette. If I may, I sent a letter, along with all
967 the other Democrats on the Health Subcommittee, back in
968 January asking the Secretary to meet with us. And then we
969 made an effort to get him to meet with us again before this
970 last recess, and we have heard zero back. So if you can,
971 help us to -- if you can, help to ensure we get this meeting
972 soon.

973 And I say this in all -- as you know, Mr. Griffith, I
974 say this in all honesty and non-partisanship, is I am really
975 worried about these cuts, particularly at NIH, FDA, CDC, but
976 also like with the SUPPORT Act and SAMHSA. I am worried
977 about those. So the sooner we can get the Secretary in here,
978 I think the better it would be for the health of our
979 Americans. So I appreciate you indulging.

980 *Mr. Griffith. And I would say to the gentlewoman that
981 we need to look in the mirror, and we need to look across
982 time, and stop giving so much power to the executive branch
983 by allowing Secretary to do this or the --

984 *Ms. DeGette. I agree.

985 *Mr. Griffith. -- Secretary to do that. That is where
986 we get into problems. And just as I was frustrated when
987 there was a Democrat administration because they wouldn't
988 answer my questions -- and because, as we give this power
989 away, we don't have the ability to call these people in as

990 much because we have given the power away.

991 *Ms. DeGette. Amen.

992 *Mr. Griffith. And unfortunately, this amendment gives
993 more power to the Secretary. I know it wasn't the intent of
994 the sponsor of the amendment, but that is what the -- what it
995 does. And I just think, as a body -- not looking at Rs and
996 Ds, but as a body -- we need to stop giving so much power to
997 any executive branch, no matter who is in the White House.

998 *Ms. DeGette. Amen.

999 *Mr. Griffith. I yield back.

1000 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

1001 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
1002 recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey for five minutes,
1003 Mr. -- Ranking Member Pallone.

1004 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support Mr.
1005 Tonko's amendment because I think it is necessary, given all
1006 the things that the Democrats have already discussed today.

1007 I mean, I appreciate the gentleman's -- from Virginia's
1008 comments, but I don't think it matters. Look, you know, the
1009 bottom line is the secretaries don't have the authority to do
1010 anything. I mean, the decision to cut, to freeze the funds
1011 that are already obligated, decisions to fire people, these
1012 are all being made by Elon Musk, right? He comes in with
1013 DOGE, he tells them what to do. Who knows if RFK even knows
1014 what is going on there. He is just dictated to by Elon Musk,

1015 in my opinion. But you know, I appreciate your comments, but
1016 I don't think it really matters.

1017 What really matters here is what Mr. Tonko is trying to
1018 do. We know that we have had these obligated funds that were
1019 going to go to the states, the block grants. They were
1020 illegally frozen. Funds are obligated. You don't have the
1021 right to say that -- take them back once they are obligated.
1022 It is a contract, okay? So again, this gets into the whole
1023 issue of what is happening here, and what is legal and what
1024 isn't, which is why we need an oversight hearing.

1025 The same thing with -- you know, the -- Chairman Guthrie
1026 said, well, maybe some of these things have some rational
1027 basis. Well, I don't know how anything can -- you know, how
1028 cutting a block grant to states and then, you know, not
1029 spending the money on SAMHSA and treatment has any rational
1030 basis or has any reorganization nature that is actually going
1031 to help people that have substance abuse disorders.

1032 But again, if you believe that, which I don't, but if
1033 you do, then you should have a hearing. We should have a
1034 hearing on whether or not these taken-back obligated funds is
1035 legal or not, whether or not there is any rational basis for
1036 cutting the funds and firing people. That is why we need a
1037 hearing. And I don't hear anything coming from the chair or
1038 from the gentleman from Virginia specifically saying that we
1039 are going to have this hearing. A budget hearing is one

1040 thing. You might be able to ask a question maybe, but we
1041 really need a hearing on this issue, and drag the Secretary
1042 in here, and make him explain what the rationale is. He
1043 doesn't explain the rationale. He just says we are doing it
1044 because DOGE tells him he has to. He doesn't give any
1045 reason. He -- I have never heard any reason for -- from him
1046 about any of these cuts at HHS.

1047 But in any case, I will yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1048 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
1049 recognizes the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter, for five
1050 minutes.

1051 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in
1052 opposition to this amendment.

1053 And, you know, I appreciate my colleagues' interest in
1054 supporting individuals with substance use disorder and mental
1055 health conditions, but this amendment would unnecessarily
1056 delay the implementation of this critical bill, a bill that I
1057 think it is worth noting was -- garnered wide bipartisan
1058 support just last Congress -- in fact, unanimous from this
1059 committee, unanimous from this committee -- and is currently
1060 being supported by over 160 stakeholder organizations.

1061 The funding that is in question from the American Rescue
1062 Plan Act, that was appropriated over four years ago, over
1063 four years ago, and we need to be focused on targeting
1064 spending to address our nation's problems. And it is clear

1065 that the excess spending from the American Rescue Plan Act
1066 was too much to actually be spent in a meaningful fashion.
1067 On the other hand, the approach taken by the original SUPPORT
1068 Act and this reauthorization is targeted to meet programmatic
1069 needs.

1070 My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have talked
1071 a lot about not getting this critical bill done in December,
1072 but now want to add an unnecessary administrative delay. I
1073 don't get it. I don't understand that we should reject this
1074 amendment, which would unnecessarily prevent much-needed
1075 resources from reaching our communities.

1076 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I
1077 yield back.

1078 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1079 further discussion on the amendment?

1080 *Mr. Pallone. We are going to ask for a roll call --

1081 *The Chair. Okay.

1082 *Mr. Pallone. -- on all these.

1083 *The Chair. Is there any further?

1084 Seeing none, the question now occurs on the amendment.
1085 A roll call vote has been requested, and the clerk will call
1086 the roll.

1087 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1088 *Mr. Latta. No.

1089 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

1090 Mr. Griffith?
1091 *Mr. Griffith. No.
1092 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
1093 Mr. Bilirakis?
1094 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
1095 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
1096 Mr. Hudson?
1097 [No response.]
1098 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1099 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
1100 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
1101 Mr. Palmer?
1102 *Mr. Palmer. No.
1103 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
1104 Mr. Dunn?
1105 [No response.]
1106 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
1107 [No response.]
1108 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1109 *Mr. Joyce. No.
1110 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
1111 Mr. Weber?
1112 *Mr. Weber. No.
1113 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
1114 Mr. Allen?

1115 [No response.]

1116 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?

1117 *Mr. Balderson. No.

1118 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

1119 Mr. Fulcher?

1120 [No response.]

1121 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?

1122 [No response.]

1123 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

1124 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

1125 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

1126 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

1127 [No response.]

1128 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

1129 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

1130 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

1131 Mr. Obernolte?

1132 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

1133 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

1134 Mr. James?

1135 *Mr. James. No.

1136 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

1137 Mr. Bentz?

1138 [No response.]

1139 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?

1140 [No response.]

1141 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

1142 *Mr. Fry. No.

1143 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

1144 Ms. Lee?

1145 *Ms. Lee. No.

1146 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

1147 Mr. Langworthy?

1148 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

1149 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

1150 Mr. Kean?

1151 *Mr. Kean. No.

1152 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

1153 Mr. Rulli?

1154 [No response.]

1155 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

1156 [No response.]

1157 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

1158 *Mr. Goldman. No.

1159 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

1160 Mrs. Fedorchak?

1161 [No response.]

1162 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

1163 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1164 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

1165 Ms. DeGette?
1166 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1167 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1168 Ms. Schakowsky?
1169 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1170 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1171 Ms. Matsui?
1172 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1173 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1174 Ms. Castor?
1175 [No response.]
1176 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?
1177 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1178 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1179 Ms. Clarke?
1180 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1181 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1182 Mr. Ruiz?
1183 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1184 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1185 Mr. Peters?
1186 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1187 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1188 Mrs. Dingell?
1189 [No response.]

1190 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
1191 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
1192 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1193 Ms. Kelly?
1194 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1195 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1196 Ms. Barragan?
1197 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1198 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1199 Mr. Soto?
1200 [No response.]
1201 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?
1202 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1203 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1204 Mrs. Trahan?
1205 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1206 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1207 Mrs. Fletcher?
1208 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1209 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1210 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1211 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1212 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1213 Mr. Auchincloss?
1214 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

1215 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1216 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1217 [No response.]
1218 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
1219 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1220 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1221 Mr. Mullin?
1222 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1223 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1224 Mr. Landsman?
1225 [No response.]
1226 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?
1227 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1228 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1229 Chairman Guthrie?
1230 *The Chair. No.
1231 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
1232 *The Chair. So how is Dr. Dunn recorded?
1233 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn is not recorded.
1234 *Mr. Dunn. Not -- no.
1235 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn votes --
1236 *The Chair. How is the gentleman --
1237 *The Clerk. -- no.
1238 *The Chair. -- from Texas recorded, Mr. Crenshaw?
1239 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.

1240 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
1241 *The Chair. Mr. Allen?
1242 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.
1243 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
1244 *The Chair. Mr. Fulcher.
1245 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher votes no.
1246 *The Chair. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
1247 *The Chair. Dr. Miller-Meeks?
1248 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
1249 *The Clerk. Dr. Miller-Meeks votes no.
1250 *The Chair. Mrs. Fedorchak?
1251 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
1252 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
1253 *The Chair. Mr. Soto?
1254 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto is not recorded.
1255 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
1256 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1257 *The Chair. Is there anyone seeking to answer the roll
1258 call?
1259 [Pause.]
1260 *The Chair. The clerk shall report.
1261 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
1262 20 ayes and 24 noes.
1263 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.
1264 Will the clerk -- are there any further amendments?

1265 For what purpose does the gentlelady from

1266 Massachusetts --

1267 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
1268 amendment at the desk titled Trahan_009.

1269 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

1270 *Mr. Griffith. And Mr. Chairman, if I could reserve a
1271 point of order.

1272 *The Chair. A point of order is reserved.

1273 The clerk will report.

1274 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
1275 a substitute to H.R. 2483, offered by Mrs. Trahan of
1276 Massachusetts.

1277 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
1278 amendment is dispensed with.

1279 [The amendment of Mrs. Trahan follows:]

1280

1281 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1282

1283 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Massachusetts is
1284 recognized for five minutes in support of her amendment.

1285 *Mrs. Trahan. After years of relentless escalation, we
1286 are finally seeing the first signs of progress in reducing
1287 overdose deaths. That is welcome news, but let's be clear
1288 about why it is happening. Many public health experts agree
1289 that this decline is largely due to the increased
1290 availability of naloxone, or Narcan. It is not because the
1291 crisis has ended; it is because we have made it easier for
1292 people to access the tools that can reverse an overdose in
1293 real time.

1294 That is why my amendment is so important. It makes
1295 clear that no restructuring of HHS and no reduction in FDA
1296 staffing should be allowed to delay, disrupt, or defund the
1297 FDA's work on overdose reversal and treatment. It protects
1298 the research, the review, and the approval of new
1299 formulations of naloxone, whether they are over the counter,
1300 long acting, or faster acting. It safeguards access to
1301 medications for opioid use disorder, and it preserves the
1302 FDA's ability to carry out the oversight and regulatory work
1303 that ensures these treatments are safe, effective, and
1304 available when people need them.

1305 This is not theoretical. We are watching this
1306 Administration push forward a reorganization of HHS with zero
1307 hearings, zero transparency, and no clear plan to protect

1308 essential public health work. Meanwhile, critical positions
1309 at the FDA, positions that support efforts to combat opioid
1310 addiction, are being eliminated or left vacant. We simply
1311 cannot afford to backslide at this moment.

1312 This amendment doesn't tie the administration's hands.
1313 It doesn't block reform. It just demands accountability. It
1314 says if you are going to make structural changes that affect
1315 the FDA, you need to certify that those changes won't slow
1316 down approvals for overdose treatments, won't drain resources
1317 from addiction treatment review, and won't undermine public
1318 health strategies that are finally saving lives.

1319 Over the past few years we have seen a troubling uptick
1320 in illicit fentanyl laced with xylazine, a combination that
1321 today's Narcan simply cannot reverse. This highlights the
1322 urgent need for future iterations of Narcan and medication to
1323 treat opioid use disorder to be effective against the unknown
1324 substances flooding our drug supply. We need to be able to
1325 respond quickly to these evolving threats, but gutting our
1326 regulatory agencies like the FDA will make that impossible.
1327 If we reduce FDA's capacity to swiftly approve new treatments
1328 or maintain rigorous oversight, we risk reversing the hard-
1329 won progress we have made in addressing this crisis. And we
1330 cannot afford to take steps backward when lives are on the
1331 line.

1332 As policy-makers, it is our responsibility to ensure

1333 that the FDA and other regulatory bodies can continue their
1334 vital work without being undermined by arbitrary cuts or
1335 reorganization. Now, everyone on this committee should be
1336 committed to protecting the tools and resources necessary to
1337 save lives and address the opioid crisis head on, so I urge
1338 my colleagues to support this amendment so we can preserve
1339 our ability to respond effectively to the evolving challenges
1340 that we face.

1341 Thank you, I yield back.

1342 *The Chair. The gentlewoman yields back, and the chair
1343 recognizes gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter, for five
1344 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1345 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, as we all know,
1346 the SUPPORT Act for Patients and Communities Reauthorization
1347 Act of 2025 continues critical support for individuals
1348 battling addiction, and marks a significant step toward --
1349 step forward in addressing the national opioid epidemic,
1350 something that we all agree on, something we all understand
1351 needs to be done. That is why I am having trouble
1352 understanding.

1353 Again, this amendment would unnecessarily delay the
1354 implementation of this critical bill. Why would we want to
1355 do that? Just as I asked on the last bill. I support access
1356 to lifesaving overdose reversal medications, as we all do. I
1357 don't think there is any question about that. In fact, many

1358 provisions included in the SUPPORT Act continue resources for
1359 states, first responders, treatment providers, and community
1360 organizations to access and administer opioid overdose
1361 reversal medications.

1362 My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have talked
1363 a lot about not getting this done in December, which I
1364 understand. But now they want to add an unnecessary
1365 administrative delay. I don't understand that. We should
1366 reject this amendment which would prevent much-needed
1367 resources from reaching our communities. I urge my
1368 colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back.

1369 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1370 further discussion on the amendment?

1371 Roll call. Seeing none, the -- no further discussion,
1372 the vote occurs on the amendment. There is a roll call vote
1373 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

1374 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1375 *Mr. Latta. No.

1376 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

1377 Mr. Griffith?

1378 *Mr. Griffith. No.

1379 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

1380 Mr. Bilirakis?

1381 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

1382 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

1383 Mr. Hudson?
1384 [No response.]
1385 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1386 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
1387 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
1388 Mr. Palmer?
1389 *Mr. Palmer. No.
1390 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
1391 Mr. Dunn?
1392 [No response.]
1393 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
1394 [No response.]
1395 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1396 *Mr. Joyce. No.
1397 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
1398 Mr. Weber?
1399 *Mr. Weber. No.
1400 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
1401 Mr. Allen?
1402 [No response.]
1403 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
1404 *Mr. Balderson. No.
1405 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
1406 Mr. Fulcher?
1407 [No response.]

1408 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?
1409 [No response.]
1410 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
1411 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
1412 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
1413 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1414 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
1415 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
1416 Mrs. Cammack?
1417 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
1418 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
1419 Mr. Obernolte?
1420 [No response.]
1421 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
1422 *Mr. James. No.
1423 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
1424 Mr. Bentz?
1425 [No response.]
1426 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
1427 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
1428 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
1429 Mr. Fry?
1430 *Mr. Fry. No.
1431 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
1432 Ms. Lee?

1433 *Ms. Lee. No.
1434 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
1435 Mr. Langworthy?
1436 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
1437 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
1438 Mr. Kean?
1439 *Mr. Kean. No.
1440 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
1441 Mr. Rulli?
1442 [No response.]
1443 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
1444 [No response.]
1445 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
1446 *Mr. Goldman. No.
1447 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
1448 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1449 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
1450 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
1451 Mr. Pallone?
1452 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1453 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1454 Ms. DeGette?
1455 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1456 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1457 Ms. Schakowsky?

1458 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1459 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1460 Ms. Matsui?
1461 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1462 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1463 Ms. Castor?
1464 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1465 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1466 Mr. Tonko?
1467 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1468 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1469 Ms. Clarke?
1470 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1471 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1472 Mr. Ruiz?
1473 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1474 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1475 Mr. Peters?
1476 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1477 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1478 Mrs. Dingell?
1479 [No response.]
1480 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
1481 [No response.]
1482 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?

1483 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1484 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1485 Ms. Barragan?
1486 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1487 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1488 Mr. Soto?
1489 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1490 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1491 Ms. Schrier?
1492 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1493 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1494 Mrs. Trahan?
1495 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1496 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1497 Mrs. Fletcher?
1498 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1499 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1500 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1501 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1502 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1503 Mr. Auchincloss?
1504 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1505 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1506 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1507 [No response.]

1508 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
1509 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1510 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1511 Mr. Mullin?
1512 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1513 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1514 Mr. Landsman?
1515 [No response.]
1516 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?
1517 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1518 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1519 Chairman Guthrie?
1520 *The Chair. No.
1521 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
1522 *The Chair. Mr. Clerk, how is Dr. Dunn recorded?
1523 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn is not recorded.
1524 *Mr. Dunn. No.
1525 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw.
1526 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn votes no.
1527 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw.
1528 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.
1529 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
1530 *The Chair. Mr. Allen?
1531 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.
1532 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

1533 *The Chair. Mr. Obernolte?
1534 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.
1535 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
1536 *The Chair. Mr. Fulcher?
1537 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
1538 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
1539 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?
1540 *The Chair. Mr. Veasey?
1541 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.
1542 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1543 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1544 *The Chair. Is there any others seeking the roll call?
1545 The clerk will report.
1546 [Pause.]
1547 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 21
1548 ayes and 25 noes.
1549 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
1550 further amendments?
1551 Are there any further amendments?
1552 The gentlelady from Florida, the gentlelady, Ms. Castor,
1553 do you have a -- okay, I am sorry.
1554 Oh, okay. Okay, Ms. Kelly. I thought you said Castor.
1555 Okay, I am sorry. I knew which one, I was just pointing to
1556 the wrong one.
1557 The gentlelady from Illinois, Ms. Kelly, you are

1558 recognized to --

1559 *Ms. Kelly. I have an --

1560 *The Chair. For what purpose does gentlelady from
1561 Illinois seek recognition?

1562 *Ms. Kelly. I have an amendment at the desk.

1563 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

1564 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, could the gentlelady please
1565 specify the amendment?

1566 *Ms. Kelly. Sure, it is H2483_SUPPORT2025-FCD-
1567 AMD_11_xml.

1568 *Mr. Griffith. And Mr. Chairman, if I could reserve a
1569 point of order.

1570 *The Chair. A point of order has been reserved by
1571 gentleman from Virginia.

1572 The clerk will report.

1573 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
1574 a substitute to H.R. 2483, offered by Ms. Kelly.

1575 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
1576 amendment is dispensed with.

1577 [The amendment of Ms. Kelly follows:]

1578

1579 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1580

1581 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
1582 minutes in support of the amendment.

1583 *Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1584 My amendment makes clarifying changes to the underlying
1585 bill to put a stop to Elon Musk's Department of Government
1586 Efficiency from unlawfully restructuring HHS and its vital
1587 agencies.

1588 These are far from normal times. We are now meeting a
1589 third time on health care bills that should have advanced
1590 months ago under an agreement reached by this committee and
1591 leadership last year. We cannot allow some to push forward a
1592 reckless and illegal plan to dismantle essential public
1593 health agencies without congressional input. Despite these
1594 repeated attempts, they have yet to offer a coherent path
1595 forward. Their most current attempt, which was leaked,
1596 details their sweeping and unauthorized reorganization of
1597 HHS, including the elimination of multiple key programs under
1598 the SUPPORT Act and reckless reduction in force of personnel,
1599 none of which were previously reviewed or approved by
1600 Congress.

1601 The reorganization plans put forward by the Trump
1602 Administration without proper due process and an astonishing
1603 lack of transparency have raised significant concerns about
1604 the stability and effectiveness of the agencies tasked with
1605 protecting the health and well-being of Americans. The

1606 proposed changes that include illegally eliminating the total
1607 number of public service jobs to 20,000, or cutting about 25
1608 percent of employees, threatens to destabilize these
1609 essential functions at a time when they are most needed.

1610 This amendment does not oppose modernization, but
1611 demands thoughtful reorganization with clear oversight.
1612 Congress has a duty to hold the Trump Administration
1613 accountable, particularly when proposals like dismantling
1614 SAMHSA threaten to deepen the ongoing mental health and
1615 substance use crises. Eliminating the directors of critical
1616 agencies such as the Center for Mental Health Services, the
1617 Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and the Office of
1618 Minority Health would jeopardize vital services, reduce
1619 expert guidance, and slow coordination across programs.
1620 These cuts represent just a fraction of the broader risk
1621 posed by the proposed overhaul.

1622 And now, under the guise of cutting waste, fraud, and
1623 abuse, the shut-down of regional offices like San Francisco,
1624 Boston, New York, Seattle, and our very own region 5 in
1625 Chicago, they all have something in common. These closures
1626 will cause major disruptions, delays, and a sharp decline in
1627 essential services.

1628 I want to thank the staff of Ranking Member Pallone for
1629 working with me on this language.

1630 I also urge my colleagues, particularly my Republican

1631 colleagues, to join in the call for greater accountability
1632 for this Administration. The American people deserve a
1633 government that works without compromising essential services
1634 in the pursuit of a misguided agenda. This amendment is a
1635 step toward that goal.

1636 As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain
1637 Trust, I will continue to work on course-correcting the
1638 harmful impacts of these reckless decisions and ensure that
1639 health equity is at the center of Federal health policy.

1640 Thank you, and I yield back.

1641 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Does the
1642 gentleman from Georgia seek recognition to speak on the
1643 amendment?

1644 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I speak in
1645 opposition to this amendment, and I truly am confused here.

1646 This amendment would unnecessarily delay the
1647 implementation of this critical bill, which everyone seems to
1648 agree should have been implemented earlier, should have been
1649 implemented last year. I am not understanding why we are
1650 delaying these things here.

1651 It is my understanding that many of the programs
1652 outlined in the amendment have not been impacted by the HHS
1653 reduction in force. This amendment would simply result in
1654 delaying the allocation of important resources for
1655 prevention, treatment, and recovery for individuals suffering

1656 from substance use disorder. I don't think anyone on this
1657 committee wants to see that happen.

1658 These patients deserve our help, and getting the support
1659 for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act signed into
1660 law is one way we can assist these individuals and families.
1661 That is why I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment,
1662 and I yield --

1663 *The Chair. Would the gentleman yield to me?

1664 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Yes --

1665 *The Chair. The chairman.

1666 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. -- I yield.

1667 *The Chair. I just want to say real quick I have been
1668 kind of rattled today with the news of Gerry, and so I texted
1669 him to let him know we are all praying for him.

1670 And my last text to him -- laughter through tears is the
1671 best emotion, they always say, but the last time I texted him
1672 was Valentine's Day, I noticed, to warn him about getting a
1673 Valentine's gift for his wife because the year before he had
1674 forgotten until the last minute. His staff said, "You got
1675 something for Smitty?" "Everybody knows Smitty. She is a
1676 wonderful lady. Takes a beautiful box that somebody had
1677 given him, wrapped it up, gives it to his wife. She opens it
1678 up and says, "Thanks for the Valentine's gift. Was this a
1679 regift?" "

1680 And only Gerry could tell it the way -- Gerry's drama,

1681 as we know -- he is like, "oh, of course not, you know I love
1682 you, I would never do that to you.''

1683 And she says, "Well, why do the cookies say a Matsui
1684 Valentine?''

1685 [Laughter.]

1686 *The Chair. So he regifted Doris's cookies, and he
1687 said, "Well, Doris put her name on the cookies. Why would
1688 she do that?''

1689 So anyway, he was out. So anyway, so that is -- so I am
1690 sorry, I am a little rattled on Gerry, but let's keep him in
1691 our prayers.

1692 I will yield back to the gentleman from Georgia.

1693 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I yield.

1694 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1695 further discussion on the amendment?

1696 Mr. Tonko? Are you -- we were elected together with
1697 Gerry, so Mr. Tonko --

1698 *Mr. Tonko. That is right.

1699 *The Chair. -- you are recognized --

1700 *Mr. Tonko. That was quite the class.

1701 *The Chair. Yes.

1702 *Mr. Tonko. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to
1703 strike the last word.

1704 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

1705 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you.

1706 Since day one this Administration has launched a
1707 relentless assault on the very programs that states depend on
1708 to keep our communities running. This isn't streamlining
1709 government; it is sabotaging the systems that support
1710 everyday Americans. We are watching a slow-motion demolition
1711 of our government's ability to serve the American people.
1712 And if we don't stop it now, we will all pay the price in
1713 delayed benefits, weakened security, and crippled services.

1714 AHA is no exception to this reckless mentality. The
1715 whole reason Congress moved SAMHSA into an independent agency
1716 was to ensure that behavioral health was prioritized despite
1717 the longstanding stigma. Instead, AHA would take us back to
1718 the time that behavioral health is tucked away in another
1719 agency and de-prioritized. The firing of 50 percent of
1720 SAMHSA staff, which means a huge loss in capacity and
1721 expertise, coupled with the looming budget cuts makes clear
1722 that behavioral health is not a priority for this
1723 Administration.

1724 I beg my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.
1725 Let's reverse course. We have reauthorized SAMHSA through
1726 this very committee multiple times with bipartisan support.
1727 We have an obligation to protect SAMHSA's mission and all of
1728 our constituents who SAMHSA -- which can't -- SAMHSA serves.
1729 I urge everyone to do the right thing and support this
1730 amendment. Folks are counting on us doing the right thing,

1731 the compassionate thing, the sensible thing.

1732 And with that I yield back.

1733 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Does anyone
1734 else seek recognition?

1735 *Mr. Pallone. We ask for a roll call.

1736 *The Chair. Seeing none, we shall vote on the
1737 amendment, and a roll call has been requested.

1738 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1739 *Mr. Latta. No.

1740 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

1741 Mr. Griffith?

1742 *Mr. Griffith. No.

1743 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

1744 Mr. Bilirakis?

1745 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

1746 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

1747 Mr. Hudson?

1748 [No response.]

1749 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

1750 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

1751 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

1752 Mr. Palmer?

1753 *Mr. Palmer. No.

1754 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

1755 Mr. Dunn?

1756 [No response.]
1757 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
1758 [No response.]
1759 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1760 *Mr. Joyce. No.
1761 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
1762 Mr. Weber?
1763 *Mr. Weber. No.
1764 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
1765 Mr. Allen?
1766 *Mr. Allen. No.
1767 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
1768 Mr. Balderson?
1769 *Mr. Balderson. No.
1770 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
1771 Mr. Fulcher?
1772 [No response.]
1773 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?
1774 [No response.]
1775 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
1776 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
1777 Mr. Pfluger?
1778 [No response.]
1779 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
1780 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

1781 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
1782 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1783 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
1784 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
1785 Mrs. Cammack?
1786 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
1787 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
1788 Mr. Obernolte?
1789 [No response.]
1790 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
1791 *Mr. James. No.
1792 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
1793 Mr. Bentz?
1794 [No response.]
1795 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
1796 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
1797 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
1798 Mr. Fry?
1799 *Mr. Fry. No.
1800 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
1801 Ms. Lee?
1802 *Ms. Lee. No.
1803 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
1804 Mr. Langworthy?
1805 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

1806 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
1807 Mr. Kean?
1808 *Mr. Kean. No.
1809 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
1810 Mr. Rulli?
1811 [No response.]
1812 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
1813 [No response.]
1814 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
1815 *Mr. Goldman. No.
1816 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
1817 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1818 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
1819 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
1820 Mr. Pallone?
1821 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1822 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1823 Ms. DeGette?
1824 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1825 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1826 Ms. Schakowsky?
1827 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1828 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1829 Ms. Matsui?
1830 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

1831 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1832 Ms. Castor?
1833 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1834 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1835 Mr. Tonko?
1836 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1837 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1838 Ms. Clarke?
1839 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1840 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1841 Mr. Ruiz?
1842 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1843 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1844 Mr. Peters?
1845 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1846 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1847 Mrs. Dingell?
1848 [No response.]
1849 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
1850 [No response.]
1851 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
1852 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1853 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1854 Ms. Barragan?
1855 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

1856 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1857 Mr. Soto?
1858 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1859 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1860 Ms. Schrier?
1861 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1862 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1863 Mrs. Trahan?
1864 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1865 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1866 Mrs. Fletcher?
1867 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1868 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1869 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1870 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1871 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1872 Mr. Auchincloss?
1873 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1874 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1875 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1876 [No response.]
1877 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
1878 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1879 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1880 Mr. Mullin?

1881 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1882 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1883 Mr. Landsman?
1884 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.
1885 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1886 Ms. McClellan?
1887 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1888 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1889 Chairman Guthrie?
1890 *The Chair. No.
1891 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
1892 *The Chair. How is Mr. Hudson recorded?
1893 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson is not recorded.
1894 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
1895 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
1896 *The Chair. How is Mr. Dunn recorded?
1897 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.
1898 *Mr. Dunn. No.
1899 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
1900 *The Chair. How is Mr. Joyce recorded?
1901 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is recorded as no.
1902 *The Chair. Okay. Mr. Veasey?
1903 *Mr. Veasey. How am I recorded?
1904 *The Chair. How is Mr. Veasey recorded?
1905 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

1906 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
1907 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1908 *The Chair. How is Mr. Obernolte recorded?
1909 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.
1910 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
1911 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?
1912 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.
1913 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
1914 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
1915 *The Chair. Anybody else?
1916 All right, the clerk will report the roll call.
1917 [Pause.]
1918 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 22
1919 ayes and 26 noes.
1920 *The Chair. Could you repeat that, please?
1921 *The Clerk. Yes, sir. There were 21 ayes and 26 noes.
1922 *The Chair. The noes have it. The amendment is not
1923 agreed to.
1924 I now recognize Ms. Caster for the purposes of
1925 presenting an amendment.
1926 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
1927 Chairman, I am going to call this the whistling past the
1928 graveyard amendment.
1929 The first 100 days of the Trump Administration have been
1930 extremely costly.

1931 *The Chair. Ms. Castor --

1932 *Ms. Castor. I will call up the --

1933 *The Chair. -- you need to call the amendment up first.

1934 *Ms. Castor. -- whistling past the graveyard amendment,
1935 please. It is SUPPORT2025-FCD-AMD_14.

1936 *The Clerk. Amendment to the nature -- amendment to the
1937 amendment in the nature of a substitute to 2483, offered by
1938 Ms. Castor.

1939 *The Chair. And a reservation on a point of order is
1940 recognized and will be held by me.

1941 Ms. Castor --

1942 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you.

1943 *The Chair. -- you are recognized to speak on your
1944 amendment.

1945 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the -- I
1946 am going to title this the whistling past the graveyard
1947 amendment because that is what is happening with our
1948 Republican colleagues today on a very important topic.

1949 The first 100 days of the Trump Administration have been
1950 so costly and chaotic. We have watched Elon Musk take a
1951 chainsaw to so much of what makes America great, and that
1952 includes all of our progress on bolstering Americans' health,
1953 everything across the health enterprise, scientific research.
1954 Long-time health experts that have devoted their lives to
1955 public service and finding treatments and cures have been

1956 unceremoniously fired without any reason at all.
1957 Congressionally-directed funding has been illegally frozen.
1958 That is -- those are dollars that go to our research
1959 institutes, post-docs, people trying to find the cures for
1960 cancer, Alzheimer's, ALS, or more.

1961 Did you all know that they have, in many places, frozen
1962 clinical trials? That is going to cost lives. Inspectors
1963 general were fired. They are the ones who help root out
1964 waste, fraud, and abuse. Personal data and information is
1965 being inappropriately accessed. They are doing great harm to
1966 everything we do to help people save money and protect their
1967 health and protect the public health.

1968 And now the President and the Republicans are charging
1969 ahead with their plan to make America more expensive and less
1970 healthy. But it gets worse because two weeks ago the HHS
1971 Secretary Kennedy proposed a budget for Health and Human
1972 Services. It is a -- if you haven't seen it, it is a 64-page
1973 document that is simply a gut punch to patients, to
1974 researchers, to providers, and families all across America.
1975 It is a breathtaking betrayal of everything that we have
1976 worked on in this committee to build to keep Americans
1977 healthy and well: cancer research, Alzheimer's, ALS, and
1978 mental health and substance use disorders.

1979 Particularly important to today's debate, their budget
1980 proposes eliminating the experts and initiatives at the

1981 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
1982 SAMHSA. Instead of funding proven initiatives built by this
1983 committee and partners and experts all across America over
1984 decades to battle America's opioid epidemic, overdose and
1985 suicide crisis, mental health emergencies, the President and
1986 Republicans have different priorities. Their priority is to
1987 make sure that billionaires get a tax cut, that the wealthy
1988 and the well-connected get more and more and more, that
1989 Medicaid people, our neighbors who we love the most who rely
1990 on Medicaid, they are on their own. But the billionaires,
1991 maybe they will have another yacht or another special place
1992 for their vacation.

1993 Okay, so in this budget specifically, here is what they
1994 want to -- they propose to eliminate: training for first
1995 responders, youth prevention and recovery efforts,
1996 residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum
1997 women, comprehensive opioid recovery centers, peer support
1998 and community-based initiatives, evidence-based research into
1999 trauma-informed care, and grants to help individuals living
2000 with substance use disorders live independently and
2001 participate in the workplace.

2002 This is incredibly costly. It is -- it really is a
2003 betrayal of so much of the progress that we have made for
2004 patients especially that grapple with behavioral health
2005 needs. And for what? To scrape together every penny to be

2006 found to give massive tax breaks and giveaways to
2007 billionaires.

2008 So my amendment is simple. It says this version of the
2009 SUPPORT Act could not go into effect until the Trump
2010 Administration and Republicans in Congress halt all of the
2011 damage that they are doing to our health enterprise, because
2012 this committee does not operate in a vacuum. As much as the
2013 SUPPORT Act needs to be reauthorized, how do my Republican
2014 colleagues expect it to work under proposals where no one
2015 will be home to actually do that work? You are whistling
2016 past the graveyard in more ways than one.

2017 I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this
2018 amendment, and I yield back.

2019 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. I recognize
2020 the gentleman from Alabama.

2021 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you.

2022 *The Chair. Yes.

2023 *Mr. Palmer. It is interesting. I reserve the last
2024 word -- strike the last word.

2025 It is interesting --

2026 *The Chair. And what would that word be? Just teasing.
2027 [Laughter.]

2028 *Mr. Palmer. Well, I --

2029 *The Chair. The gentleman may proceed.

2030 *Mr. Palmer. I was concerned that you didn't know who I

2031 was there for a moment, but it kind of threw me off.

2032 *The Chair. Well, I was trying to decide you or
2033 Georgia, and I went with you. But you are, by right,
2034 recognized to have five minutes.

2035 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, sir, and I move to strike the
2036 last word.

2037 I just think it is interesting that so many of my
2038 Democratic colleagues are opposing a Federal program for
2039 substance abuse while they supported President Biden's wide-
2040 open border that allowed fentanyl to flow across our borders
2041 in unprecedented amounts, killing over 100,000 Americans.

2042 I also think it is interesting that they would use the
2043 terminology "whistling past the graveyard," when there are
2044 American citizens buried in graveyards all across the country
2045 -- Laken Riley, Ruby Garcia, Rachel Morin, I could go on --
2046 that were killed by people who crossed our borders illegally.
2047 I have not heard a single Democratic member of this committee
2048 acknowledge the success of President Trump in securing our
2049 border and interdicting illegal drugs.

2050 I just -- I think it is interesting, Mr. Chairman, that
2051 we are having this discussion about a program that they
2052 supported just a few months ago.

2053 It is also interesting that they keep raising this issue
2054 of tax cuts for billionaires. Mr. Chairman, do you have any
2055 idea how many billionaires there are in the United States at

2056 any given time? It is somewhere between 750 and 800. In the
2057 last election there were 135 billionaires that were actively
2058 engaged in the election: 82 of those supported the
2059 Democratic candidate, Kamala Harris, that would be 62.8
2060 percent; 53 supported President Trump. So I would think, if
2061 you want to look at it proportionately, it is the Democratic
2062 Party that has a billionaire problem, not the Republicans.

2063 I yield back.

2064 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. I now recognize
2065 Ms. Matsui.

2066 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for
2067 yielding. I move to strike the last word in support of the
2068 Castor amendment, the whistling past the graveyard amendment.

2069 The SUPPORT Act reauthorizes critical programs at HRSA,
2070 SAMHSA, and CDC to address the opioid overdose epidemic.
2071 While it would have been better if support was already signed
2072 into law, as it could have been as part of the end-of-the-
2073 year package, it is timely we are discussing it right now.

2074 Last month Secretary Kennedy renewed the declaration of
2075 a nationwide public health emergency due to the opioid
2076 crisis. Yet at the very same time, Kennedy and the Trump
2077 Administration are actively attacking and dismantling the
2078 Federal health infrastructure, the very infrastructure we
2079 need to fight the opioid crisis and implement the programs in
2080 this bill.

2081 Earlier this month HHS announced drastic restructuring,
2082 including massive personnel cuts, the consolidation of 28
2083 divisions into 15, and the closing of 5 regional offices.
2084 Secretary Kennedy announced that 10,000 full-time employees
2085 would be terminated. This is on top of around 10,000 jobs
2086 already eliminated. In total, almost a quarter of HHS has
2087 been indiscriminately fired. Some employees only learned
2088 their jobs were terminated when they tried to use their
2089 badges to access their workplace. Shameful. Is this how we
2090 treat civil servants dedicated to public service?

2091 As Members of Congress, we should be receiving briefings
2092 on such an extreme overhaul of agencies in our jurisdiction,
2093 yet there is little to no transparency from the
2094 Administration on which employees these layoffs affect. In
2095 the one briefing HHS offered to our staff, they said the RIF
2096 impacted personnel, not programs, and all critical programs
2097 would continue. But how can that be true when at SAMHSA
2098 directors of the Center for Mental Health Services, Center
2099 for Substance Abuse Prevention, and Substance Use Treatment
2100 were terminated? Entire offices were eliminated.

2101 How is SAMHSA to carry out its essential work to improve
2102 substance use disorder and mental health treatment services,
2103 including implementing the programs in this bill, when it is
2104 in a tailspin due to losing key leadership?

2105 To top this off, the Administration's leaked HHS budget

2106 has given us a window into their thinking, and it seems their
2107 slash-and-burn strategy is not limited to personnel after
2108 all. Their wish includes entirely eliminating multiple
2109 SUPPORT Act programs, including youth prevention and
2110 recovery, first responder training, comprehensive opioid
2111 recovery centers, and residential treatment for pregnant and
2112 postpartum women.

2113 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Guthrie, as this is your bill, I hope
2114 your office has had better luck contacting the Administration
2115 to find out who will be around to implement the SUPPORT Act,
2116 and whether HHS plans to ignore Congress's direction to carry
2117 on these programs.

2118 So I can't pretend we are in the same place we were last
2119 year. It is hard to understand why we are even discussing
2120 the SUPPORT Act when the Administration is planning to
2121 eliminate multiple programs that this bill seeks to
2122 reauthorize.

2123 As Members of Congress, especially on E&C, we need to
2124 have oversight over the programs we all care about. We need
2125 to know the impacts of these reckless and aggressive cuts.
2126 That is why I support this amendment and I urge my colleagues
2127 to do the same.

2128 With that I yield the balance of my time.

2129 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields. I now recognize the
2130 gentleman from Georgia for five minutes.

2131 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise once again
2132 in opposition to this amendment. Just like all the other
2133 amendments, this amendment would unnecessarily delay the
2134 implementation of this critical bill, a critical bill that we
2135 all agree needs to be done, needs to be passed.

2136 It is my understanding, again, that none of the programs
2137 outlined in the amendment have been impacted by the HHS
2138 reduction in force. Yet this amendment would simply result
2139 in delaying the allocation of important resources for
2140 prevention, treatment, and recovery for individuals suffering
2141 from substance use disorder.

2142 These patients deserve our help, and getting the support
2143 for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act signed into
2144 law is one way we can fully assist these individuals and
2145 families. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

2146 And I want to yield right now to the gentleman from
2147 Alabama, Mr. Palmer.

2148 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

2149 Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out that SAMHSA is
2150 not being eliminated. It is being merged into a newly-formed
2151 administration for a healthy America. This is part of the
2152 Trump Administration's efforts to make government more
2153 transparent, more effective in meeting the needs of the
2154 American public, and less costly.

2155 So I keep hearing my Democratic colleagues say that this

2156 program, this agency is being eliminated, when the fact of
2157 the matter is it is being merged into a new administration
2158 for a healthy America.

2159 Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into the record an
2160 article from Behavioral Health that makes that point, that it
2161 is being merged into a new administration.

2162 *The Chair. Without objection, the gentleman --

2163 *Mr. Palmer. I yield back to the gentleman from
2164 Georgia.

2165 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And I yield.

2166 *The Chair. Oh, without objection that is entered into
2167 the record.

2168 [The information follows:]

2169

2170 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2171

2172 *The Chair. And I now recognize -- the gentlemen have
2173 yielded back, and I now recognize the ranking member for his
2174 five minutes.

2175 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask
2176 unanimous consent also to enter into the record three
2177 documents which I mentioned before, but they all point out --
2178 well, let me start with that. Is there an objection?

2179 *The Chair. Well, tell us what they are.

2180 *Mr. Pallone. We mentioned it already. One -- these
2181 are all documents that talk about the extent of Trump's and
2182 DOGE's cuts to HHS in terms of both the amount of money, in
2183 terms of the staff.

2184 *The Chair. And I see that one of them is from
2185 Politico. And one -- what are the other two?

2186 *Mr. Pallone. Politico -- what is this?

2187 *Voice. Washington Post.

2188 *Mr. Pallone. Oh, Washington Post. And what is this?
2189 I think this one is from -- I don't know what publication it
2190 is. You could look at it before and decide, but I would like
2191 to enter them into --

2192 *The Chair. Without objection?

2193 Hearing none, they are submitted for the record.

2194

2195

2196

2197 [The information follows:]

2198

2199 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2200

2201 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you. But what I was trying to
2202 point out in response here is that it is clear that HHS is
2203 making major cuts in funding not only in terms of what Mr.
2204 Tonko mentioned before, in terms of money that is going to
2205 the states that was obligated in block grants, but also in
2206 the various programs in SAMHSA.

2207 And while the gentleman is saying that SAMHSA is, you
2208 know, being, you know, put in a different area of HHS, the
2209 bottom line is that many of these programs are being
2210 eliminated completely. Regardless of how SAMHSA is being
2211 reorganized, many of the programs are completely eliminated,
2212 and the level of cuts is about \$40 billion, one-third of the
2213 department's discretionary budget. And that includes a
2214 significant number of cuts in SAMHSA and overdose treatment
2215 and substance abuse treatment programs.

2216 And again, as I pointed out in my opening remarks, there
2217 is nothing in here that suggests that somehow this
2218 reorganization is going to, you know, end up with more
2219 treatment. I mean, less money, less people, less treatment.
2220 And the Secretary, who is doing most of the speaking here,
2221 doesn't suggest in any way a rational basis for all this, or
2222 suggest in any way that the result of these changes and
2223 reorganization is going to mean a better program or one that
2224 helps people reduce overdoses or reduce dependence on drugs.

2225 I am not -- I wouldn't argue that it is important to

2226 stop the flow of drugs into the country, but that is not what
2227 we are discussing today. We are discussing what is within
2228 our jurisdiction, which is SAMHSA treatment programs, a
2229 program -- educational programs, ways of helping people that
2230 are using drugs. I mean, it is certainly better if the drugs
2231 aren't available, but as you know, the drugs continue to be
2232 available, you know, with whatever means. People get them.

2233 So to me, this idea that you would oppose an amendment
2234 by Ms. Castor that requires the Secretary to halt all efforts
2235 to eliminate programs reauthorized by the SUPPORT Act, your
2236 opposition doesn't make any sense. All we are really saying
2237 here is that these cuts, these layoffs, all these things
2238 should cease. And if they don't, there really isn't any
2239 point in our reauthorizing this bill. What is the point?
2240 The Secretary continues to make the cuts, the money doesn't
2241 flow to the states, and the people suffer. Or, as Ms. Castor
2242 said, people die. I mean, we really are talking about people
2243 who are going to die here because of these cuts.

2244 But with that I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2245 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Do I have
2246 anybody else on the Republican side that wishes to speak?

2247 Seeing none, I recognize the gentleman from New Jersey,
2248 Mr. Menendez.

2249 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you. I just want to quickly
2250 respond to the comment that my colleague from Alabama

2251 mentioned about an administration's impact on the health, and
2252 specifically the mental health of Americans. And this is,
2253 again, the silence of Republicans, because imagine the mental
2254 health of parents who send their children to a Head Start
2255 program, who hear the President is thinking about cutting
2256 that program. Imagine the mental health of Federal judges
2257 who are constantly attacked by this Administration because
2258 they disagree with the court's ruling. Imagine the mental
2259 health of Federal employees who one day are told they are
2260 being let go, who then are rehired, who have no certainty,
2261 and many of whom live in our districts. Imagine the mental
2262 health of Ukrainians here under UE4 or TPS who were sent an
2263 email saying that they were going to have to self-deport, and
2264 then the Administration admitted that email was sent by
2265 accident.

2266 Every single day this Administration is causing immense
2267 harm to all of our constituents, not just those that
2268 Democrats represent, but all of our constituents. And that
2269 is why the Republican silence with respect to the harm that
2270 this Administration is causing is so difficult for us to
2271 comprehend.

2272 So we should speak out when an Administration is hurting
2273 our constituents, we should speak out when they are impacting
2274 their mental health. But it seems to me that you all will be
2275 silent in this moment, and that is just what frustrates so

2276 many of us not just here, but throughout the country.

2277 With that I yield back.

2278 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
2279 further --

2280 *Mr. Palmer. May I respond?

2281 *The Chair. You would need to get somebody to ask for
2282 time and yield to you.

2283 The gentleman from -- where are you from, Florida?
2284 South Carolina.

2285 *Mr. Fry. Oh my goodness.

2286 *The Chair. Sorry. I will never --

2287 [Laughter.]

2288 *Mr. Fry. I get extra minutes for that one.

2289 I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

2290 *Mr. Palmer. I think that my colleagues on the
2291 Republican side and I have great compassion for people and
2292 their mental health. What I don't understand is my
2293 Democratic colleagues' idea that there is not a single
2294 Federal employee that doesn't need to be employed. I mean, I
2295 was laid off three times. The last time I had \$500 in the
2296 bank. So I understand that, and I understand what people are
2297 going through.

2298 But I also think that we have got \$37 trillion in debt,
2299 and what a crushing blow that is going to be to future
2300 generations of Americans when that comes due. You want to

2301 talk about a mental health crisis? You will have one then.

2302 The other thing is I think it is patently unfair to
2303 attack us on our motives. We are trying to do what is best
2304 for the country. We are trying to make some difficult but
2305 necessary decisions. I mean, I have sat here the entire
2306 hearing, listening to my Democratic colleagues talk about --
2307 that we are eliminating SAMHSA when that is just not true.
2308 There is a reorganization taking place, enrolling these -- a
2309 lot of these agencies into one administration within the
2310 Department of Health and Human Services.

2311 I just think when you talk about mental health issues,
2312 you need to think about some of the people who lost loved
2313 ones to drug overdoses as a result of the border not being
2314 secured, being left wide open, the number of families who
2315 lost loved ones killed, murdered, or killed by a drunk driver
2316 or someone who is here illegally because the border was left
2317 wide open.

2318 I just think that we need to stick to facts, and we need
2319 to focus on these things together. I really do think that we
2320 are facing a fiscal crisis in the country. You keep talking
2321 about tax cuts for billionaires. That is a total
2322 misrepresentation of what is going on here. We are trying to
2323 get our fiscal house in order. We are focused on the future
2324 of the country, what is best for our children and
2325 grandchildren.

2326 So, I mean, you can continue this type of dialog if you
2327 want to, and it is not going to get us anywhere. It is going
2328 to make things harder, make it harder for us to get things
2329 done, the things we need to get done.

2330 I mean, we could go back and talk about the mental
2331 health of President Biden, his mental acuity. I think in
2332 some respects that is unfair. That is what is in the past.
2333 I think he was mistreated by his own party.

2334 But let's focus on what we need to do, and let's quit
2335 exaggerating things, and try to get some things done that
2336 matter for the American people.

2337 I yield back to the gentleman from South Carolina.
2338 Thank you for yielding.

2339 *Mr. Fry. I yield back to the chairman from New Mexico.
2340 [Laughter.]

2341 *The Chair. Fair point. The gentleman yields back, and
2342 I recognize the gentlelady from California for five minutes.

2343 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going
2344 to speak, but I feel compelled to say something responsive to
2345 what my colleague just talked about because the hypocrisy is
2346 just hard to just sit and listen to without saying anything.

2347 My colleague wants to talk about fiscal responsibility
2348 and the debt. Yet under this President, under this
2349 Administration, with House Republicans, they are the ones who
2350 helped blow up the debt, and they want to do it again. They

2351 are looking to add trillions and trillions of dollars to the
2352 debt. Don't take my word for it. Just go look at the clip
2353 that Senator Rand Paul had on the Senate floor the other day.
2354 So don't come and lecture us about the debt when that is
2355 exactly what you are doing.

2356 And two, why? Why are you doing it? Who are you going
2357 to help? It is not people who need mental health services.
2358 It is billionaire donors. Oh, and my colleague made a
2359 comment how Democrats have a problem with billionaires. I
2360 will just remind the American people Elon Musk spent almost a
2361 quarter billion dollars to elect this President. And what
2362 did he get in return? He has gotten complete control over
2363 the White House, over cutting programs. Even House
2364 Republicans have yielded their power, have yielded their
2365 oversight power on the billionaire Elon Musk. So don't tell
2366 us we have the problem. The problem -- and the American
2367 people see it -- is House Republicans bending the knee, it is
2368 House Republicans giving in and saying we are going to let
2369 this billionaire do whatever he wants.

2370 I have been to town halls in my district. I have been
2371 to town halls in Republican districts. And this is a concern
2372 of the American people. And don't be gaslighted when
2373 Republicans say they are not giving tax cuts to the
2374 billionaires, because that is exactly what is happening. It
2375 is in writing. These proposals are out there.

2376 And the next week in this committee we are going to have
2377 a hearing on where we are going to find \$880 billion to cut.
2378 Why? So they could give tax cuts to their billionaire
2379 friends. And what do you have to touch to get there? The
2380 math tells you you have got to touch Medicaid. You have got
2381 to touch health care for people that are disabled, people
2382 that need it. And many of these people are already working.
2383 You have got to do it.

2384 So I am looking forward to having this conversation, but
2385 this is really corruption at its finest in government right
2386 now, in selling, basically, power away to a billionaire who
2387 has a seat at the cabinet meeting tables when he is not even
2388 a cabinet member, who won't come into the Congress to be held
2389 accountable. As a matter of fact, there is no oversight.
2390 Every day we see House Republicans not lowering to bring
2391 costs down, which is exactly what the American people thought
2392 they were going to get, but prices are going up. And House
2393 Republicans in the Congress, what are they doing? They are
2394 passing rules so we can't have any oversight, so we can't
2395 have any inquiries.

2396 So don't be fooled by the rhetoric. Go look at the
2397 actions. Go look at the actions. And with that said, there
2398 should be an investment in mental health services.

2399 Okay, my colleague also wants to talk about immigration.
2400 Let's talk about that just for a second. U.S. citizens are

2401 being deported from this country. You don't think that the
2402 American people, even U.S. citizens, are having mental health
2403 impacts on what is happening in this country right now? U.S.
2404 citizens.

2405 So don't come and lecture us about mental health when
2406 you are standing silently, saying nothing, doing nothing
2407 because you are too afraid and because a billionaire is
2408 making these calls and you are okay with that, and you are
2409 saying, well, this guy is rich, so he must know what he is
2410 doing.

2411 And nobody thinks that one Federal worker shouldn't be
2412 laid off? That is a total lie. Like, total
2413 misrepresentation. That is not what they are doing. This
2414 was a sledgehammer approach, saying we are just going to cut
2415 all these employees, we are not going to do any review, we
2416 are not going to look at any programs, we are just going to
2417 take the sledgehammer approach.

2418 And with that said, I yield back.

2419 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. I don't see
2420 anybody on the Republican side that wishes to speak. Seeing
2421 none, is there anyone else?

2422 Ms. McClellan of Virginia.

2423 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to
2424 also comment on this notion that Democrats don't want
2425 layoffs.

2426 What we don't want is for the administration to put in
2427 the hands of an unvetted billionaire with no Federal
2428 Government experience hiring a group of people with no
2429 Federal Government experience who have no idea what the
2430 agencies do where they are instituting mass layoffs to go in
2431 and give people 15 minutes notice that they are being fired,
2432 fire by accident the workforce that prevents the spread of
2433 Ebola, and then laugh about it in a cabinet meeting and say,
2434 oops, mistakes were made.

2435 The private sector doesn't operate like that. No other
2436 institution treats people like that. They go through and
2437 figure out, agency by agency or department by department,
2438 what functions are essential and which ones are not. None of
2439 that happened here. And all of these firings impact our
2440 state and local partners.

2441 In Virginia the firings at HHS, over a fourth of its
2442 workforce, trickled down and impacted firings at our
2443 department of health, our local departments of health,
2444 putting programs that keep people in rural Virginia, urban
2445 Virginia, and everywhere in between healthy and safe at risk.
2446 They happened at the same time that the Administration
2447 illegally dismantles the Department of Education and says,
2448 well, the functions that they do dealing with students with
2449 disabilities or providing services to at-risk students will
2450 just be done by the Department of HHS which has no expertise

2451 or training or experience dealing with children with
2452 disabilities.

2453 And who is going to do it? One-fourth of their
2454 workforce is being fired. It is the haphazard, cavalier --
2455 in some cases downright cruel -- way that our Federal
2456 employees first were traumatized, which is what Russell
2457 Vought said he wanted to do, and he has done it. They have
2458 been traumatized, dehumanized, thrown away like trash, with
2459 no regard not only for the impact on them and their families,
2460 but the impact on the critical services like addressing
2461 substance abuse disorders that we are trying to address.

2462 And I think what the -- what -- I won't speak on the
2463 whole -- I won't speak for the whole Democratic Party, but
2464 what I want to see is some compassion, some thought, some
2465 foresight, and some honesty about what DOGE and Elon Musk and
2466 the least qualified Secretary of Health and Human Services I
2467 have ever seen in my lifetime are doing not just to our
2468 workforce, but to the vital services the American people want
2469 us to provide as a Federal Government to keep them alive.
2470 That is what we want to see.

2471 And to say, well, we are doing this because we have to
2472 get the debt under control -- it was the first Trump
2473 Administration that blew a hole in the debt, adding over \$8
2474 trillion to it. And it was your side of the aisle that voted
2475 for a budget plan that would increase the debt even more. So

2476 let's talk about what is really happening, and let's try to
2477 throw a little bit of compassion in as we try to figure out
2478 how to keep Americans safe. Thank you.

2479 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Are there any
2480 further speakers?

2481 Seeing none, let's move to a vote on the amendment, and
2482 we have a roll call requested.

2483 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

2484 *Mr. Latta. No.

2485 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

2486 Mr. Griffith?

2487 *Mr. Griffith. No.

2488 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

2489 Mr. Bilirakis?

2490 [No response.]

2491 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

2492 [No response.]

2493 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2494 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

2495 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

2496 Mr. Palmer?

2497 *Mr. Palmer. No.

2498 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

2499 Mr. Dunn?

2500 [No response.]

2501 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
2502 [No response.]
2503 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
2504 *Mr. Joyce. No.
2505 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
2506 Mr. Weber?
2507 *Mr. Weber. No.
2508 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
2509 Mr. Allen?
2510 *Mr. Allen. No.
2511 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
2512 Mr. Balderson?
2513 *Mr. Balderson. No.
2514 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
2515 Mr. Fulcher?
2516 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
2517 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
2518 Mr. Pfluger?
2519 [No response.]
2520 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
2521 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
2522 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
2523 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
2524 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
2525 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.

2526 Mrs. Cammack?
2527 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
2528 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
2529 Mr. Obernolte?
2530 [No response.]
2531 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
2532 *Mr. James. No.
2533 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
2534 Mr. Bentz?
2535 *Mr. Bentz. No.
2536 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
2537 Mrs. Houchin?
2538 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
2539 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
2540 Mr. Fry?
2541 *Mr. Fry. No.
2542 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
2543 Ms. Lee?
2544 *Ms. Lee. No.
2545 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
2546 Mr. Langworthy?
2547 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
2548 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
2549 Mr. Kean?
2550 *Mr. Kean. No.

2551 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
2552 Mr. Rulli?
2553 [No response.]
2554 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
2555 [No response.]
2556 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
2557 *Mr. Goldman. No.
2558 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
2559 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2560 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
2561 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
2562 Mr. Pallone?
2563 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2564 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
2565 Ms. DeGette?
2566 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2567 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
2568 Ms. Schakowsky?
2569 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
2570 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
2571 Ms. Matsui?
2572 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2573 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2574 Ms. Castor?
2575 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2576 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
2577 Mr. Tonko?
2578 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2579 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
2580 Ms. Clarke?
2581 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
2582 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
2583 Mr. Ruiz?
2584 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2585 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
2586 Mr. Peters?
2587 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2588 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2589 Mrs. Dingell?
2590 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2591 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2592 Mr. Veasey?
2593 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2594 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2595 Ms. Kelly?
2596 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2597 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
2598 Ms. Barragan?
2599 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2600 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

2601 Mr. Soto?

2602 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2603 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

2604 Ms. Schrier?

2605 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2606 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

2607 Mrs. Trahan?

2608 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2609 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

2610 Mrs. Fletcher?

2611 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2612 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

2613 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

2614 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

2615 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

2616 Mr. Auchincloss?

2617 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

2618 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

2619 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

2620 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

2621 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

2622 Mr. Menendez?

2623 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

2624 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

2625 Mr. Mullin?

2626 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
2627 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
2628 Mr. Landsman?
2629 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
2630 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
2631 Ms. McClellan?
2632 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
2633 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
2634 Chairman Guthrie?
2635 *The Chair. No.
2636 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
2637 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis?
2638 *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis, no.
2639 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
2640 Mr. Hudson?
2641 *Mr. Hudson. Votes no.
2642 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
2643 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?
2644 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.
2645 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
2646 *The Chair. Dr. Dunn?
2647 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn is not recorded.
2648 *Mr. Dunn. No.
2649 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn votes no.
2650 *The Chair. Obernolte?

2651 *The Clerk. Mr. --

2652 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.

2653 *The Chair. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

2654 Seeing none, the clerk will report -- no other -- seeing
2655 no other present to -- for the roll call, the clerk will
2656 report.

2657 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
2658 24 ayes and 27 noes.

2659 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
2660 further amendments?

2661 The gentlelady from Texas, Mrs. Fletcher. For what
2662 purpose do you seek recognition?

2663 *Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at
2664 the desk.

2665 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

2666 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, could the gentlelady please
2667 specify her amendment?

2668 *Mrs. Fletcher. Yes, I have an amendment specified
2669 H2483-AMD_01_XML.

2670 *Mr. Griffith. And if I could reserve a point of order,
2671 Mr. Chairman.

2672 *The Chair. A point of order is observed by the
2673 gentleman from Virginia.

2674 The clerk will report.

2675 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of

2676 a substitute to H.R. --

2677 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
2678 amendment is dispensed with.

2679 [The amendment of Mrs. Fletcher follows:]

2680

2681 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2682

2683 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Texas is recognized
2684 for five minutes in support of the amendment.

2685 *Mrs. Fletcher. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have
2686 this important amendment on an issue that is squarely before
2687 this committee today and that will be again and again.

2688 But before I get into that amendment, I do want to
2689 associate myself with the comments from Ranking Member
2690 Pallone and Oversight Ranking Member Clarke because we cannot
2691 remove the work that this committee is doing from the context
2692 that we are doing it in, which is what my colleagues on the
2693 other side of the aisle keep suggesting we do today.

2694 This isn't bickering, as Mr. Obernolte suggested. It is
2695 objecting. It is objecting to using this committee and this
2696 Congress in a charade that obscures what the Trump
2697 Administration is doing, what it is actually doing: cutting
2698 the programs that we are authorizing and cutting the funding
2699 that we are appropriating to make them possible.

2700 And on this bill, for example, we just heard from
2701 Representative Castor we know that the White House Office of
2702 Management and Budget has shared its budget proposal
2703 eliminating the SUPPORT Act programs that we are here talking
2704 about reauthorizing. And so, you know, it is really
2705 important that we understand the bigger context in which this
2706 is happening. And these cuts are continuing, and that is
2707 what my amendment is about.

2708 My amendment is about cuts to Medicaid. And more than
2709 70 million people in every state in this country rely on
2710 Medicaid to receive the health care they need, including
2711 mental health care.

2712 In my home state of Texas, Medicaid provides health care
2713 to more than 3.8 million people. And Texas has very narrow
2714 eligibility for Medicaid coverage. Adults under 65 who are
2715 not disabled or raising a child are ineligible for Medicaid
2716 no matter how much they make, no matter how low their income
2717 is. And those that do qualify, the formula is based on the
2718 Federal poverty level, as we all know.

2719 And as a reminder, what is the Federal poverty level
2720 this year? For a single person it is income of \$15,650 a
2721 year. For a family of four it is \$32,150.

2722 So many people in Texas don't even qualify for Medicaid.
2723 But for the people who do, it is children, adults with
2724 disabilities, people living in nursing homes, and moms who
2725 have just given birth. And I should add, as we look ahead to
2726 the proposals we anticipate coming to this committee, 57
2727 percent of the adults in Texas -- of those adults I just
2728 identified -- who receive Medicaid are working.

2729 Despite Texas's narrow limits, in my district more than
2730 85,000 of my constituents rely on Medicaid, and more than
2731 60,000 of them are children. And I have looked at the most
2732 recent tables. I am sorry that many of my Republican

2733 colleagues from Texas are not in here to hear this, but many
2734 of -- most of my Republican colleagues on this committee from
2735 Texas have more constituents relying on Medicaid in their
2736 districts than I do. And of course, Mr. Chairman, I looked
2737 at Kentucky's 2nd district. And as I am sure you know, there
2738 are more than 211,000 people in that district relying on
2739 Medicaid.

2740 This matters. This matters to the people who are
2741 relying on Medicaid for their critical health care, including
2742 their mental health care. It matters to the people that we
2743 are here to represent. They are relying on Medicaid for
2744 access to treatments, for access to the devices and the care
2745 that we spend so much time on this committee working on,
2746 trying to enable, trying to make possible. And there is just
2747 no way that you can cut billions of dollars from Medicaid
2748 without hurting all of our constituents.

2749 And you don't have to just take my word for it. The CBO
2750 said so on March 5. I have the letter from the CBO here,
2751 responding to a request from Ranking Member Pallone and Mr.
2752 Boyle. I would like to submit it for the record. This says
2753 that you cannot cut from the budget from our committee
2754 without cutting Medicaid.

2755 I would like to submit that for the record, Mr.
2756 Chairman.

2757 *The Chair. Without objection, so ordered.

2758 [The information follows:]

2759

2760 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2761

2762 *Mrs. Fletcher. It is just -- there is not a single
2763 congressional district that is going to come out unscathed
2764 from cuts to Medicaid. Our constituents depend on us to
2765 stand up for them in this room and in this body.

2766 So I have an amendment at the desk in this markup to
2767 ensure that we do that by preventing the Department of Health
2768 and Human Services from taking actions that would reduce
2769 eligibility, reduce enrollment, reduce covered benefits,
2770 increase cost sharing, or reduce Federal funding for medical
2771 assistance for people eligible for Medicaid or CHIP.

2772 Simply put, it prohibits the administration from making
2773 cuts to the Medicaid program, and I hope that my colleagues
2774 on both sides of the aisle understand the damage this is
2775 going to do to all of our constituents, to people across this
2776 country, and to the work that we have been doing on this
2777 committee to help get people get access to the health care,
2778 the treatments that they need, including mental health care.

2779 So I hope that everyone on this committee can come
2780 together to protect the people we represent, and with that I
2781 would --

2782 *Mr. Pallone. Would the gentlewoman yield to me? Would
2783 the gentlewoman --

2784 *Mrs. Fletcher. Yes, yes, I will --

2785 *Mr. Pallone. You mentioned --

2786 *Mrs. Fletcher. -- yield to --

2787 *Mr. Pallone. The gentlewoman mentioned the OMB budget
2788 that proposes to cut eight of the SUPPORT Act programs, and I
2789 would like to submit that for the record, Mr. Chairman, if I
2790 could.

2791 *The Chair. Yes, the budget?

2792 Without objection, so ordered.

2793 [The information follows:]

2794

2795 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2796

2797 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you. I yield back to the
2798 gentlewoman.

2799 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, and I yield back, Mr.
2800 Chairman.

2801 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
2802 from Pennsylvania, Dr. Joyce, is recognized for five minutes
2803 on the amendment.

2804 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
2805 word.

2806 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

2807 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Chairman, I speak in opposition to the
2808 amendment. And while I appreciate my colleague's interest in
2809 supporting individuals with substance use disorder and mental
2810 health conditions, this amendment is unnecessary.

2811 The SUPPORT Act that we are considering today proposes
2812 no changes to Medicaid. As evidenced by the bill under
2813 consideration today, Republicans have made it clear that this
2814 committee will continue to focus on substance use disorder.
2815 This work will build on the inroads Congress made last year,
2816 which includes reforms to lift the IMD exclusion for
2817 substance use disorder treatment in Medicaid and to expand
2818 access to Medicaid's coverage of addiction treatments,
2819 including policies to suspend coverage for beneficiaries
2820 while they are incarcerated so that the coverage can resume
2821 immediately upon their reentry into the community.

2822 We have made it clear that we want Medicaid programs to
2823 focus on the most vulnerable populations among us, including
2824 those with substance use disorders.

2825 Again, I will note that today's bill does not make any
2826 changes to Medicaid, and this amendment is unnecessary.

2827 I yield back.

2828 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair --
2829 the ranking member wants his own time, so I will yield to the
2830 ranking member.

2831 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The -- a lot of
2832 discussion in the context of this amendment is about
2833 Medicaid. And, you know, it has been reported, Mr. Chairman,
2834 that next week we are going to consider -- and I don't know
2835 that it has been officially noticed, but it has been reported
2836 that next week we will consider the majority's reconciliation
2837 bill in the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has been
2838 instructed to cut at least 880 billion in Federal funding.
2839 And the Congressional Budget Office has made clear there is
2840 no way to get to this number without hundreds of billions of
2841 dollars in devastating cuts to Medicaid. This is what Mrs.
2842 Fletcher said.

2843 But the problem that I have is that House Republicans
2844 continue to claim that there will not be cuts to Medicaid, or
2845 that these cuts won't result in people, including their own
2846 constituents, losing benefits. The Speaker has essentially

2847 said that, and so has President Trump, and even a lot of
2848 Members of Congress on the Republican side.

2849 So Chairman, you said in the press, and I quote, that
2850 "there is an opportunity to not take away any benefits," so
2851 I wanted to ask you. Does this mean that the reconciliation
2852 bill, which is likely going to be released next week, will
2853 not cut benefits for the working-class Americans who rely on
2854 Medicaid for their health care? Are you basically taking the
2855 position that we are not going to cut Medicaid benefits?
2856 That is my question.

2857 *The Chair. Well, we are still working as a committee
2858 as -- on the Republican side -- on what the reconciliation
2859 bill -- working with other Members of the House and the -- in
2860 the White House. And we are set -- if -- you know, Medicaid
2861 is scheduled to grow from about a \$700 billion program to a
2862 \$1 trillion program, and we believe there is opportunity in
2863 the growth to Medicaid. But we will still -- I will tell you
2864 we will still spend more money each and every year on
2865 Medicaid over the next 10 years.

2866 *Mr. Pallone. Well, you know, I do appreciate your
2867 honesty, I think, in that you have suggested that there may
2868 be Medicaid cuts. And so I appreciate you being honest in
2869 saying that. Although obviously, I oppose the Medicaid cuts,
2870 but at least you are suggesting that there may be and being
2871 honest about it. I don't know what the Speaker or the

2872 President are doing, because they are suggesting otherwise.

2873 But given the breadth of the cuts anticipated by this
2874 committee that I think will happen to Medicaid, when do you
2875 expect we will actually see the text of the bill? Will the
2876 Democrats and the American public be afforded only the 36
2877 hours prior to the markup, or are we going to have more time?
2878 When will we get this text?

2879 *The Chair. I don't believe that I have ever used the
2880 word "cut." I do say that there is an opportunity to
2881 restrain the growth and modernize the program. We are still
2882 working through. We are trying to -- we will, obviously,
2883 meet the notice requirements of the committee, and we would
2884 look forward to hopefully getting to the point we are ready
2885 to go forward.

2886 *Mr. Pallone. Well, I would hope that we get more than
2887 the 36 hours. I know that that is all that is required. But
2888 I think, given the magnitude of this -- however you describe
2889 it, as cuts or not cuts -- we should be able to see the text
2890 more than 36 hours. So I would ask that that be the case.
2891 We will see.

2892 You know, I expect this bill is going to cut people off
2893 their health coverage, decimate the benefits they receive,
2894 balloon Americans' out-of-pocket costs of medical debt, and
2895 slash payments to an already-strapped Medicaid provider
2896 program, and gut access to care. And so I do want to stress

2897 that however you call it, the bottom line is that we are
2898 going to see cuts to Medicaid and people thrown off their
2899 health care coverage.

2900 And so I think it is important that this document get
2901 out well before the committee reconciliation markup. I know
2902 that some members have suggested that next week would be a
2903 hearing, but I want everyone to understand there is not a
2904 hearing. This is going straight to markup, and so there is
2905 not going to be a hearing, all the more reason why I think we
2906 should get the bill well before the 36 hours.

2907 And the bottom line is that all this is being done, all
2908 these cuts are being proposed just to pay for tax cuts for
2909 billionaires and large corporations. That is what it is all
2910 about.

2911 But in any case, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2912 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair --
2913 any Republican members seeking recognition?

2914 The gentleman from Florida, Mr. Soto, is recognized for
2915 five minutes to speak on the amendment.

2916 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise to oppose
2917 cuts to CHIP. Kid care is what it is known in Florida.
2918 About 50 percent of kids under 6 years old in my district are
2919 on this program.

2920 It has been 100 days since President Trump took office
2921 as of today. And I know what you are thinking. It has felt

2922 like a year. He is garnered the lowest approval rating of
2923 any President in 80 years, which is not a surprise because he
2924 wrecked a good economy in 100 days. And the reasons are
2925 obvious: international trade and tourism critical to places
2926 like central Florida are in decline because he is attacking
2927 our allies; his tariffs are causing costs to rise;
2928 unemployment is up; retirement plans are down; and some of
2929 our workforce is being deported. In Florida, about a third
2930 of our workforce are immigrants in tourism, agriculture,
2931 construction, and service industry. And Trump is barreling
2932 us towards a recession, the most avoidable recession in my
2933 lifetime.

2934 Back home in the district for the last two weeks I heard
2935 from small businesses who are seeing less customers,
2936 manufacturers and theme parks who are seeing their workers
2937 deported and hotels with bookings dropping like a rock. It
2938 is no wonder a majority of Americans have already lost faith
2939 in President Trump in record time.

2940 Now, add in your proposal to cut Medicaid by \$880
2941 billion. That markup is coming next week. Massive cuts to
2942 kid care. Massive cuts to nursing home care. That will mean
2943 \$4 billion for Florida's Medicaid program next year. That is
2944 about a 10 percent cut to the program, kicking off seniors
2945 and nursing home -- seniors and kids during what could
2946 potentially be a recession. You will see kids get kicked off

2947 kid care.

2948 You know, I visited our state capitol last week, and
2949 they are dumbfounded about the prospect of having to cut that
2950 much from the state budget. And for what? For tax cuts for
2951 billionaires and a \$20 trillion addition to the national
2952 debt. And if there is a recession, God forbid, that will
2953 leave us broke and unable to be able to handle it to get us
2954 out of it.

2955 All of this considered, I am supporting this amendment
2956 because this gives us an opportunity to all say no, we are
2957 not going to cut kid care, we are not going to cut nursing
2958 home care for seniors, we are not going to do this for
2959 billionaire tax cuts and a massive increase in the national
2960 debt. And this amendment gives you the opportunity to stop
2961 these Medicaid cuts, too.

2962 And I yield back.

2963 *Mr. Joyce. [Presiding.] The gentleman yields. For
2964 what purpose does the gentlewoman from Virginia wish to be
2965 recognized?

2966 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2967 While this bill may not include cuts to Medicaid as the
2968 -- as Mr. Pallone, Ranking Member Pallone, has pointed out,
2969 the math doesn't work for this committee to reach the \$880
2970 billion that it has been told to cut without cuts to
2971 Medicaid. The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed

2972 that.

2973 And we have seen Republican proposals floated that would
2974 impose per capita caps, eliminate the 90 percent Federal
2975 matching rate for Medicaid expansion, and implement
2976 burdensome work reporting requirements. And I want to focus
2977 a bit on what happens if we eliminate the 90 percent Federal
2978 matching rate and how it relates to addressing mental health
2979 and substance use disorders. Medicaid is the largest payer
2980 for behavioral health services, including treatment for
2981 substance use disorders, and covers nearly 40 percent of
2982 Americans living with an opioid use disorder.

2983 Now, in Virginia there are over 133,000 Medicaid
2984 beneficiaries with an identified substance use disorder.
2985 Virginia is one of nine states that have trigger laws that
2986 state all of the individuals covered under expansion would
2987 immediately lose access to their health care, and therefore
2988 substance use treatment, if cuts to Medicaid include cuts to
2989 that 90 percent match. In rural areas community health
2990 centers play a critical role in treating substance use
2991 disorders, and cuts to Medicaid could close rural hospitals.
2992 When we expanded Medicaid in Virginia, a big reason why
2993 Republicans in rural areas supported it was because it would
2994 keep their hospitals open, and we have seen estimates that
2995 every hospital west of Charlottesville, Virginia could close
2996 if we unwind Medicaid expansion. Our community health

2997 centers serve patients at over 200 service sites in Virginia,
2998 44 percent in rural areas that would be at risk if Medicaid
2999 is unwound.

3000 And so I think it is important to look at this bill in
3001 the larger context of what is happening in this Congress,
3002 what is happening with this Administration. And the goal
3003 here, I think we all agree, is we want more Americans to be
3004 healthy. And Medicaid patients actually are healthier than
3005 private-pay patients in many cases because they are connected
3006 to medical homes for the first time sometimes in their life.
3007 And when they show up for medical visits, they are often less
3008 expensive than private-pay providers.

3009 So let's look at the big picture and look at what -- as
3010 we pass a bill to address the opioid and substance use
3011 disorder, let's look at what would happen and how useless
3012 this bill will be if there are Medicaid cuts that come out of
3013 this committee as early as next week that unwinds the very
3014 services being used to provide opioid or substance use
3015 disorder treatment to 40 percent of Americans.

3016 Thank you, and I yield back.

3017 *Mr. Joyce. The gentlelady yields. Is there any
3018 further discussion?

3019 Seeing no further discussion, a roll call vote has been
3020 requested. The clerk will call the roll.

3021 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3022 *Mr. Latta. No.
3023 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
3024 Mr. Griffith?
3025 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3026 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3027 Mr. Bilirakis?
3028 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
3029 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
3030 Mr. Hudson?
3031 [No response.]
3032 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
3033 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
3034 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
3035 Mr. Palmer?
3036 [No response.]
3037 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
3038 *Mr. Dunn. No.
3039 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
3040 Mr. Crenshaw?
3041 [No response.]
3042 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
3043 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
3044 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
3045 Mr. Joyce?
3046 *Mr. Joyce. No.

3047 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
3048 Mr. Weber?
3049 [No response.]
3050 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
3051 *Mr. Allen. No.
3052 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
3053 Mr. Balderson?
3054 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3055 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
3056 Mr. Fulcher?
3057 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, no.
3058 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
3059 Mr. Pfluger?
3060 [No response.]
3061 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
3062 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
3063 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
3064 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3065 [No response.]
3066 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
3067 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
3068 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
3069 Mr. Obernolte?
3070 [No response.]
3071 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

3072 *Mr. James. No.
3073 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
3074 Mr. Bentz?
3075 *Mr. Bentz. No.
3076 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
3077 Mrs. Houchin?
3078 [No response.]
3079 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3080 *Mr. Fry. No.
3081 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
3082 *Mrs. Houchin. How --
3083 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
3084 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
3085 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
3086 Ms. Lee?
3087 *Ms. Lee. No.
3088 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
3089 Mr. Langworthy?
3090 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3091 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3092 Mr. Kean?
3093 *Mr. Kean. No.
3094 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
3095 Mr. Rulli?
3096 [No response.]

3097 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
3098 [No response.]
3099 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
3100 *Mr. Goldman. No.
3101 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
3102 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3103 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
3104 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
3105 Mr. Pallone?
3106 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3107 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3108 Ms. DeGette?
3109 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3110 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3111 Ms. Schakowsky?
3112 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3113 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3114 Ms. Matsui?
3115 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3116 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3117 Ms. Castor?
3118 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3119 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3120 Mr. Tonko?
3121 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

3122 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3123 Ms. Clarke?
3124 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3125 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3126 Mr. Ruiz?
3127 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3128 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3129 Mr. Peters?
3130 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3131 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3132 Mrs. Dingell?
3133 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3134 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3135 Mr. Veasey?
3136 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3137 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3138 Ms. Kelly?
3139 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3140 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3141 Ms. Barragan?
3142 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3143 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3144 Mr. Soto?
3145 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3146 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

3147 Ms. Schrier?
3148 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3149 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3150 Mrs. Trahan?
3151 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3152 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3153 Mrs. Fletcher?
3154 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3155 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3156 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3157 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3158 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3159 Mr. Auchincloss?
3160 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3161 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3162 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3163 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3164 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3165 Mr. Menendez?
3166 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3167 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3168 Mr. Mullin?
3169 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3170 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3171 Mr. Landsman?

3172 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3173 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
3174 Ms. McClellan?
3175 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
3176 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
3177 Chairman Guthrie?
3178 *The Chair. No.
3179 How is Mr. Weber --
3180 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
3181 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Weber?
3182 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is not recorded.
3183 *Mr. Weber. Weber, aye -- votes no.
3184 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
3185 *The Chair. Hudson, Mr. Hudson?
3186 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
3187 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3188 *The Chair. Dr. Miller-Meeks?
3189 *The Clerk. Dr. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.
3190 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I don't think so, no.
3191 *The Clerk. Dr. Miller-Meeks votes no.
3192 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.
3193 *The Chair. Obernolte.
3194 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
3195 *The Chair. You guys all voted already, right?
3196 *Voice. We are good.

3197 *The Chair. Is anybody else seeking recognition for the
3198 roll call?

3199 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

3200 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
3201 24 ayes and 26 noes.

3202 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Is there a
3203 further amendment?

3204 Are there further amendments?

3205 The gentlelady from Massachusetts, Mrs. Trahan, you are
3206 -- for what purpose do you seek recognition?

3207 *Mrs. Trahan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
3208 desk titled Trahan_011.

3209 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

3210 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, I would reserve a point of
3211 order.

3212 *The Chair. There is a point of order reserved by the
3213 gentleman from Virginia.

3214 The clerk will report the amendment.

3215 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
3216 a substitute to H.R. --

3217 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
3218 amendment is dispensed with.

3219

3220

3221

3222 [The amendment of Mrs. Trahan follows:]

3223

3224 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3225

3226 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Massachusetts is
3227 recognized for five minutes for support of the amendment.

3228 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3229 My amendment narrowly focuses on the health and well-
3230 being of millions of Americans who depend on Medicaid for
3231 lifesaving substance use disorder and mental health services.

3232 Now, as has been said, my Republican colleagues are
3233 pushing to cut 880 billion from programs under our
3234 committee's jurisdiction. We know that those details will
3235 not be shared with us or the American people until, you know,
3236 hours before we are back in this room next week. But we know
3237 that such reduction, or that level of reduction would
3238 severely impact families and children who rely on Medicaid
3239 for essential care.

3240 We know Medicaid serves as a lifeline for individuals
3241 battling addiction and mental health conditions. It provides
3242 coverage for a significant portion of those seeking
3243 treatment, ensuring the services are accessible, regardless
3244 of income. The proposed cuts threatened to dismantle these
3245 vital services, potentially leaving countless individuals
3246 without the support that they need to recover and lead
3247 fulfilling lives.

3248 And I know what my colleagues are going to say, because
3249 this markup is, you know, it has just been an exercise in
3250 avoiding the \$880 billion elephant in the room. But you can

3251 appreciate the position that we are in, passing a bill that
3252 is largely bipartisan only to have the rug pulled out from
3253 under the people we represent next week.

3254 This amendment ensures that any funding reductions do
3255 not compromise the coverage of substance use disorder and
3256 mental health treatments, or restrict the eligibility of
3257 individuals requiring these essential services.

3258 Now, my Republican colleagues want Americans to believe
3259 that cutting Medicaid is about rooting out waste. But in
3260 reality, it means eliminating coverage for people who are
3261 just trying to recover. Protecting these services isn't just
3262 about coverage, it is about making sure that people can
3263 actually get the care that helps them get back on their feet.
3264 It is about real lives, real families, and making sure that
3265 we don't abandon people when they are at their most
3266 vulnerable.

3267 And I just want to be clear about this. You know, if
3268 House Republicans move forward with these level of cuts, they
3269 are threatening the very foundation of our country's response
3270 to the opioid and mental health crises. Medicaid is what
3271 makes treatment possible for millions of people. Gutting it
3272 will mean fewer treatment beds, longer wait times, more
3273 people slipping through the cracks, and more preventable
3274 deaths. It means more empty seats at the dinner table.
3275 Lives lost not because we couldn't help, but because

3276 Republicans in Congress chose not to.

3277 Every member of this committee should vote to protect
3278 the core programs that we oversee. I urge my colleagues to
3279 support this amendment because it is proactive. We don't
3280 want to lose ground in the fight against addiction, and so we
3281 have to keep Medicaid strong for the people who need it most.

3282 Thank you, I yield back.

3283 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
3284 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter,
3285 for five minutes.

3286 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, while I
3287 appreciate my colleague's interest in supporting individuals
3288 with substance use disorder and mental health conditions,
3289 this amendment once again is unnecessary.

3290 The SUPPORT Act we are considering today proposes no
3291 changes whatsoever to Medicaid. As evidenced by the bill
3292 under consideration today, Republicans have made clear that
3293 this committee will continue to focus on substance use
3294 disorder. This work will build on the inroads Congress made
3295 last year which includes reforms to lift the IMD exclusion
3296 for substance use disorder treatment to Medicaid and to
3297 expand access to Medicaid's coverage of addiction treatments,
3298 including policies to suspend coverage for beneficiaries
3299 while they are in incarceration, so that the coverage can
3300 resume immediately upon their reentry into the community.

3301 We have made it clear that we want the Medicaid program
3302 to focus on the most vulnerable populations among us,
3303 including those with substance use disorders. Again, I will
3304 note that today's bill does not make any changes whatsoever
3305 to Medicaid. And this amendment, again, is unnecessary.

3306 I yield back.

3307 *Mrs. Trahan. Will the gentleman yield?

3308 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I yield.

3309 *Mrs. Trahan. I -- this has kind of played out all day,
3310 where we say it is unnecessary because of the bill before us
3311 that we all -- you know, many of us -- support. I don't see
3312 the problem with voting for an amendment that would safeguard
3313 the very bill that we are passing from future threats that
3314 could be coming. Maybe they won't. Maybe you are right, and
3315 you are not going to touch Medicaid for people who are
3316 struggling with substance use disorder and mental health.
3317 But why wouldn't you give the assurance to the American
3318 people by voting on that amendment and safeguarding that
3319 coverage for folks?

3320 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my
3321 time, if we tried, Mr. Chairman, to guard against everything
3322 that might happen, we would be here forever.

3323 We have made commitments that this is not going to
3324 happen, so I just find it unnecessary to have this amendment
3325 once again as I found the others unnecessary as well.

3326 And I yield back.

3327 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
3328 there further discussion?

3329 The gentleman from New York, for what purpose do you
3330 seek recognition?

3331 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

3332 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

3333 *Mr. Tonko. Well, listening to the comments, House
3334 Republicans are seeking massive, devastating cuts targeted
3335 squarely at our most vulnerable communities and putting vast
3336 numbers of children, seniors, and people with disabilities at
3337 risk of losing their Medicaid coverage. These reckless cuts
3338 are so much more than just numbers on a page. They threaten
3339 the lives, they threaten the livelihoods of real people
3340 across America. In my district of New York 20, Medicaid
3341 insures more than 192,000 individuals. Millions of Americans
3342 would suffer if Trump and Musk achieved their goal of
3343 slashing these programs.

3344 Medicaid is also the single largest payer for behavioral
3345 health services, so that any cuts would mean gutting access
3346 to health care for mental health and substance use disorders.
3347 Is that is that really what we want to cut?

3348 Repealing Medicaid expansion would rip coverage away
3349 from millions of insured individuals, individuals that are
3350 struggling with addiction and behavioral health needs as we

3351 speak.

3352 Additionally, Medicaid coverage can play an integral
3353 role in preventing a mental health crisis and in preventing
3354 substance use disorder.

3355 So if Medicaid cuts were put in place, states would be
3356 forced to take on more of the burden and shift further
3357 resources away from other services, including prevention,
3358 including treatment, and including recovery. So we must stop
3359 Medicaid from being decimated so that our loved ones living
3360 with the disease of addiction or living with a mental health
3361 disorder can access needed care.

3362 This is about doing preventative therapy here. It is
3363 making certain we make a statement and make a vote certain
3364 that these programs won't be at risk. These are people that
3365 are very vulnerable with these cuts.

3366 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

3367 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
3368 further discussion?

3369 *Mr. Pallone. Can we have a roll call?

3370 *The Chair. Seeing none, the question is on the
3371 amendment, and the clerk will call the roll.

3372 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3373 *Mr. Latta. No.

3374 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

3375 Mr. Griffith?

3376 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3377 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3378 Mr. Bilirakis?
3379 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
3380 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
3381 Mr. Hudson?
3382 *Mr. Hudson. No.
3383 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3384 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
3385 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
3386 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
3387 Mr. Palmer?
3388 [No response.]
3389 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
3390 *Mr. Dunn. No.
3391 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
3392 Mr. Crenshaw?
3393 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
3394 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
3395 Mr. Joyce?
3396 [No response.]
3397 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
3398 [No response.]
3399 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
3400 *Mr. Allen. No.

3401 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
3402 Mr. Balderson?
3403 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3404 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
3405 Mr. Fulcher?
3406 *Mr. Fulcher. No.
3407 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
3408 Mr. Pfluger?
3409 [No response.]
3410 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
3411 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
3412 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
3413 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3414 [No response.]
3415 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
3416 [No response.]
3417 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
3418 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
3419 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
3420 Mr. Obernolte?
3421 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
3422 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
3423 Mr. James?
3424 *Mr. James. No.
3425 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

3426 Mr. Bentz?
3427 *Mr. Bentz. No.
3428 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
3429 Mrs. Houchin?
3430 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
3431 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
3432 Mr. Fry?
3433 *Mr. Fry. No.
3434 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
3435 Ms. Lee?
3436 *Ms. Lee. No.
3437 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
3438 Mr. Langworthy?
3439 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3440 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3441 Mr. Kean?
3442 *Mr. Kean. No.
3443 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
3444 Mr. Rulli?
3445 [No response.]
3446 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
3447 [No response.]
3448 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
3449 *Mr. Goldman. No.
3450 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

3451 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3452 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
3453 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
3454 Mr. Pallone?
3455 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3456 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3457 Ms. DeGette?
3458 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3459 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3460 Ms. Schakowsky?
3461 [No response.]
3462 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui?
3463 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3464 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3465 Ms. Castor?
3466 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3467 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3468 Mr. Tonko?
3469 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3470 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3471 Ms. Clarke?
3472 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3473 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3474 Mr. Ruiz?
3475 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3476 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3477 Mr. Peters?
3478 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3479 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3480 Mrs. Dingell?
3481 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3482 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3483 Mr. Veasey?
3484 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3485 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3486 Ms. Kelly?
3487 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3488 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3489 Ms. Barragan?
3490 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3491 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3492 Mr. Soto?
3493 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3494 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3495 Ms. Schrier?
3496 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3497 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3498 Mrs. Trahan?
3499 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3500 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

3501 Mrs. Fletcher?
3502 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3503 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3504 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3505 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3506 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3507 Mr. Auchincloss?
3508 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3509 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3510 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3511 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3512 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3513 Mr. Menendez?
3514 [No response.]
3515 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin?
3516 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3517 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3518 Mr. Landsman?
3519 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3520 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
3521 Ms. McClellan?
3522 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
3523 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
3524 Chairman Guthrie?
3525 *The Chair. No.

3526 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
3527 *The Chair. Mr. Palmer?
3528 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
3529 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.
3530 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
3531 *The Chair. Mr. Weber?
3532 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes no.
3533 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
3534 *The Chair. Dr. Joyce?
3535 *The Clerk. Dr. --
3536 *Mr. Joyce. No.
3537 *The Clerk. Dr. Joyce votes no.
3538 *The Chair. Mr. Balderson, are you seeking --
3539 *Mr. Menendez. Chairman?
3540 *The Chair. Mr. Menendez?
3541 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez is not recorded.
3542 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3543 *The Clerk. Mr. --
3544 *The Chair. Ms. Schakowsky?
3545 *The Clerk. -- Menendez votes aye.
3546 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky, aye.
3547 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3548 *The Chair. Can you see anyone present for the roll
3549 call?
3550 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

3551 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
3552 24 ayes and 26 noes.

3553 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Is there
3554 further -- are there further amendments?

3555 The gentlelady -- for what purpose does gentlelady from
3556 New York, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, seek recognition?

3557 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at
3558 the desk.

3559 *The Chair. The clerk will report.
3560 What amendment? Can you name the amendment?

3561 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. It is H2483.

3562 *Voice. We have got to get more than that, she has got
3563 to --

3564 *The Chair. Okay, what is it?

3565 *Voice. Underscore three?

3566 *The Chair. Is it "_3' "?

3567 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Yes, yes.

3568 *The Chair. Okay, "_3' ".

3569 *Mr. Griffith. And Mr. Chairman, I will continue to
3570 reserve --

3571 *The Chair. The clerk will report. The gentleman from
3572 Virginia Reserves a point of order.

3573 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
3574 a substitute to H.R. 2483, offered by --

3575 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

3576 amendment is dispensed with.

3577 [The amendment of Ms. Ocasio-Cortez follows:]

3578

3579 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3580

3581 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from New York is
3582 recognized for five minutes in support of her amendment.

3583 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3584 This amendment would require HHS, Health and Human
3585 Services, to examine the impact on coverage, access to care,
3586 and health outcomes among pregnant women, parents, and
3587 infants if Medicaid expansion funding to states is reduced or
3588 if enrollment of such individuals decreases following changes
3589 to Federal requirements that may make it more difficult for
3590 people to enroll.

3591 And I know that around many of our conversations around
3592 Medicaid there have been a lot of commitments that are made
3593 that no one will be cut from Medicaid. I don't know if \$880
3594 billion in cuts necessarily squares with -- I mean, we know
3595 that the math doesn't square with everyone being able to
3596 preserve their Medicaid coverage and people being eligible
3597 being able to preserve their Medicaid coverage. So I think
3598 it is important for us to assess what those health outcomes
3599 and impacts would be, especially among some of our most
3600 vulnerable people, like pregnant women, parents, and also
3601 infants that could be affected.

3602 Now, we have heard throughout this markup -- we heard
3603 just recently with Congresswoman Trahan's amendment -- that
3604 we don't need any of these amendments, to take our word, that
3605 the word has been given that Medicaid is going to be

3606 protected, to -- that to trust us that no one is going to be
3607 affected by this. But as a woman, the word was given to me
3608 that my rights would not be taken away by the Supreme Court,
3609 and that wasn't true. As an American the word was given that
3610 our -- you know, our First Amendment protections would be in
3611 place for everyone, including green card holders and people
3612 who are lawfully here in this country. That didn't end up to
3613 be true.

3614 So I think we should ensure that if the word here is
3615 that we will be deliberative and -- in assessing who would be
3616 affected and to ensure that people would be protected, then I
3617 think we should make those assessments. We know that 96 to
3618 98 percent of people who currently rely on Medicaid are
3619 either working, taking care of a family member, in school,
3620 retired, or can't work due to an extreme disability. And we
3621 have also known from increased paperwork requirements that
3622 were eventually overturned or rescinded in Arkansas and
3623 states like Georgia, tens of thousands of people were kicked
3624 off of Medicaid rolls who were eligible due to clerical
3625 errors and other administrative errors. We also know that
3626 when the State of Georgia implemented these increased
3627 paperwork requirements, 90 percent of that spending went to
3628 administration of this paperwork instead of actually giving
3629 health care to people who are eligible for it.

3630 So I think it is important that we assess the impacts of

3631 rescinding Medicaid expansion and adding bureaucratic
3632 paperwork requirements on top of people who are already
3633 proven to be eligible, and that is what this amendment seeks
3634 to accomplish. Thank you.

3635 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. [Presiding.] The gentlelady
3636 yields. The chair recognizes himself for five minutes.

3637 Again, nothing in this bill touches Medicaid. Nothing
3638 in this bill touches Medicaid. That wasn't actually the case
3639 when we marked this bill up in committee for the first time
3640 two years ago. But it is the case now.

3641 There was bipartisan agreement to support Medicare and
3642 Medicaid care by lifting the IMD exclusion, improving access
3643 to care for foster youth in crisis, and supporting care for
3644 those in incarceration and reentering their communities. Why
3645 aren't those in the bill today? We actually got them signed
3646 into law. They don't need to be in the bill today.

3647 Medicaid funding for substance use disorder treatment is
3648 a bipartisan issue. So to say that we need to study funding
3649 cuts when there are none in this bill and when we have
3650 already worked to actually increase Medicaid spending for
3651 substance use disorder in our original committee product is
3652 just unnecessary.

3653 And I yield back. Is anyone wanting to speak on this
3654 bill? On this amendment, excuse me.

3655 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

3656 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Any Republicans?
3657 If not a roll call bill -- a roll call vote has been
3658 requested. The clerk will call the roll.
3659 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
3660 *Mr. Latta. No.
3661 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
3662 Mr. Griffith?
3663 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3664 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3665 Mr. Bilirakis?
3666 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
3667 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
3668 Mr. Hudson?
3669 *Mr. Hudson. No.
3670 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3671 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
3672 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
3673 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
3674 Mr. Palmer?
3675 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3676 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
3677 Mr. Dunn?
3678 *Mr. Dunn. No.
3679 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
3680 Mr. Crenshaw?

3681 [No response.]

3682 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

3683 *Mr. Joyce. No.

3684 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

3685 Mr. Weber?

3686 *Mr. Weber. No.

3687 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

3688 Mr. Allen?

3689 *Mr. Allen. No.

3690 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

3691 Mr. Balderson?

3692 *Mr. Balderson. No.

3693 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

3694 Mr. Fulcher?

3695 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, no.

3696 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

3697 Mr. Pfluger?

3698 [No response.]

3699 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

3700 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

3701 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

3702 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

3703 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

3704 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

3705 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

3706 Mr. Obernolte?
3707 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
3708 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
3709 Mr. James?
3710 *Mr. James. No.
3711 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
3712 Mr. Bentz?
3713 *Mr. Bentz. No.
3714 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
3715 Mrs. Houchin?
3716 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
3717 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
3718 Mr. Fry?
3719 *Mr. Fry. No.
3720 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
3721 Ms. Lee?
3722 *Ms. Lee. No.
3723 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
3724 Mr. Langworthy?
3725 [No response.]
3726 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
3727 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3728 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3729 Mr. Kean?
3730 *Mr. Kean. No.

3731 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
3732 Mr. Rulli?
3733 [No response.]
3734 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
3735 [No response.]
3736 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
3737 *Mr. Goldman. No.
3738 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
3739 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3740 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
3741 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
3742 Mr. Pallone?
3743 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3744 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3745 Ms. DeGette?
3746 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3747 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3748 Ms. Schakowsky?
3749 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3750 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3751 Ms. Matsui?
3752 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3753 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3754 Ms. Castor?
3755 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3756 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3757 Mr. Tonko?
3758 [No response.]
3759 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?
3760 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3761 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3762 Mr. Ruiz?
3763 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3764 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3765 Mr. Peters?
3766 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3767 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3768 Mrs. Dingell?
3769 [No response.]
3770 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
3771 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3772 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3773 Ms. Kelly?
3774 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3775 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3776 Ms. Barragan?
3777 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3778 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3779 Mr. Soto?
3780 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

3781 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3782 Ms. Schrier?
3783 [No response.]
3784 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan?
3785 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3786 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3787 Mrs. Fletcher?
3788 [No response.]
3789 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?
3790 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3791 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3792 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3793 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3794 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3795 Mr. Auchincloss?
3796 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3797 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3798 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3799 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3800 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3801 Mr. Menendez?
3802 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3803 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3804 Mr. Mullin?
3805 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

3806 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3807 Mr. Landsman?
3808 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3809 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
3810 Ms. McClellan?
3811 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
3812 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
3813 Chairman Guthrie?
3814 *The Chair. No.
3815 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
3816 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Crenshaw --
3817 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.
3818 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.
3819 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
3820 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Tonko?
3821 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko is not recorded.
3822 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3823 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3824 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Ms. Schrier?
3825 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier --
3826 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3827 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3828 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Anybody else?
3829 [Pause.]
3830 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Are we okay?

3831 *Voice. Yes.

3832 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Okay, the clerk will report the
3833 results.

3834 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 23
3835 ayes and 26 noes.

3836 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The amendment is not agreed to.
3837 Are there further amendments?

3838 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Virginia. For
3839 what purpose does she seek recognition?

3840 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have an
3841 amendment at the desk labeled SUPPORT2025-AMD_8.

3842 *Mr. Griffith. And Mr. Chairman, if I could reserve a
3843 point of order.

3844 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentleman from Virginia
3845 reserves --

3846 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. --

3847 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. -- a point of order.

3848 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you --

3849 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Would the clerk please report
3850 the bill? The amendment, excuse me.

3851 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
3852 a substitute to H.R. 2483, offered by Ms. McClellan.

3853 At the end of the bill, add the following. Prohibition
3854 of certain removals of employees for Centers for Disease
3855 Control --

3856 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Without objection, the reading
3857 of the amendment is dispensed with.

3858 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

3859

3860 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3861

3862 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And the gentlelady is
3863 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

3864 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3865 This amendment addresses mass layoffs at the CDC, would
3866 prevent implementation of further layoffs or similar actions
3867 that would result in cuts to over 3 percent of the agency's
3868 employees within a 60-day period.

3869 And before I go any further, I do want to take a quick
3870 point of personal privilege to wish my daughter, Samantha, a
3871 happy 10th birthday today, and that is because we both almost
3872 died when she was born by emergency C-section after my
3873 placenta ruptured. And that experience furthered my
3874 commitment to addressing the horrendous maternal mortality
3875 crisis in this country, and that led me to further understand
3876 the intersection between substance use disorder and maternal
3877 mortality.

3878 Now, thanks to CDC data and analysis relied upon by the
3879 Virginia Department of Health specifically from the Pregnancy
3880 Risk Assessment Monitoring System, or PRAMS, I came to
3881 understand that the underlying causes of maternal death, many
3882 of which are preventable -- an accidental overdose is a
3883 leading cause of pregnancy-associated death and is the
3884 leading cause of death for White women in Virginia for
3885 pregnancy-associated deaths. But now the entire PRAMS team
3886 is gone as part of the cuts to nearly one-quarter of the

3887 workforce announced earlier this month by Secretary Kennedy
3888 at the Department of Health and Human Services.

3889 The PRAMS team was part of the 2,400 employees cut at
3890 the CDC, and a recently leaked HHS budget document indicates
3891 that CDC funding could be further cut by over 40 percent on
3892 top of these firings. And the devastating impacts of these
3893 cuts have become clear as the CDC divisions not only support
3894 addressing the maternal mortality crisis and the substance
3895 abuse crisis, but workforce safety, injury prevention, HIV,
3896 and more.

3897 Now, following Secretary Kennedy's announcement I
3898 introduced a bill to prevent these reckless workforce cuts at
3899 HHS, and that is because I find it unfathomable and deeply
3900 hypocritical for the Trump Administration to claim that it
3901 wants to make Americans healthier and safer while dismantling
3902 the very agencies, workforce, and programs that do that. I
3903 am perplexed that we are authorizing public health programs
3904 here today as critically important, as much as I support
3905 them, and yet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle
3906 have remained silent about the firing of the very staff
3907 needed to carry them out. So this amendment would prevent
3908 the CDC from implementing further mass layoffs.

3909 Now, in addition to its critical role in addressing the
3910 maternal mortality crisis, the CDC provides critical public
3911 health information, including on substance abuse disorders.

3912 It monitors trends to better understand and respond to the
3913 epidemic, advances research by collecting and analyzing data
3914 on opioid overdoses, improves data quality to better identify
3915 areas that need assistance, and to evaluate prevention
3916 efforts through the Division of Overdose Prevention. That is
3917 on top of all of the other important, critically important,
3918 roles the CDC plays protecting Americans from infectious
3919 diseases, and et cetera.

3920 Now, it is clear that Secretary Kennedy, Elon Musk, and
3921 DOGE don't understand how the CDC or any of our agencies
3922 function, the critical role they play in addressing the
3923 interconnected crises like maternal mortality and the opioid
3924 crisis, the critically important partnership they provide to
3925 our state, local, non-profit, public, and community-based
3926 health systems. And these attacks on the CDC's workforce
3927 have severe long-term consequences. They are not only
3928 destroying today's workforce, but they are damaging the
3929 pipeline for the next generation of public health
3930 professionals. This is not leadership. This is not making
3931 Americans healthier again.

3932 And on this day that I am reminded of how fragile life
3933 is for pregnant and postpartum women, I ask that you support
3934 this amendment to help stop the gutting of critically
3935 important partners to ensuring we address the intersection
3936 between maternal mortality and the opioid crisis.

3937 Thank you, and I yield back.

3938 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady yields. The
3939 chair now recognizes himself for five minutes. Again, I rise
3940 in opposition to this amendment.

3941 First, this amendment is largely tangential to the
3942 discussion here today. Republicans are here to talk about
3943 the critically important policies included in this previously
3944 bipartisan bill, a bill that would provide crucial resources
3945 for prevention, treatment, and recovery for patients
3946 suffering from our -- from substance use disorder, patients
3947 that are our constituents, our friends, our family members.
3948 But it seems all the other side wants to talk about is
3949 Federal agency employment. Our constituents, our friends,
3950 our family members deserve more than this political theater.

3951 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and I
3952 yield back.

3953 Is anyone else seeking to speak on this bill?

3954 *Mr. Pallone. I ask for a roll call.

3955 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. A roll call vote has been
3956 requested. The clerk will call the roll.

3957 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3958 *Mr. Latta. No.

3959 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

3960 Mr. Griffith?

3961 *Mr. Griffith. No.

3962 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3963 Mr. Bilirakis?
3964 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
3965 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
3966 Mr. Hudson?
3967 *Mr. Hudson. No.
3968 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3969 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
3970 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
3971 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
3972 Mr. Palmer?
3973 *Mr. Palmer. No.
3974 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
3975 Mr. Dunn?
3976 *Mr. Dunn. No.
3977 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
3978 Mr. Crenshaw?
3979 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
3980 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
3981 Mr. Joyce?
3982 *Mr. Joyce. No.
3983 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
3984 Mr. Weber?
3985 *Mr. Weber. No.
3986 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

3987 Mr. Allen?

3988 *Mr. Allen. No.

3989 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

3990 Mr. Balderson?

3991 *Mr. Balderson. No.

3992 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

3993 Mr. Fulcher?

3994 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, no.

3995 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

3996 Mr. Pfluger?

3997 [No response.]

3998 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

3999 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

4000 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

4001 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

4002 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. How did Miller-Meeks vote?

4003 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.

4004 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.

4005 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.

4006 Mrs. Cammack?

4007 [No response.]

4008 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

4009 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

4010 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

4011 Mr. James?

4012 [No response.]

4013 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?

4014 *Mr. Bentz. No.

4015 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

4016 Mrs. Houchin?

4017 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

4018 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

4019 Mr. Fry?

4020 [No response.]

4021 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

4022 *Ms. Lee. No.

4023 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

4024 Mr. Langworthy?

4025 [No response.]

4026 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?

4027 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

4028 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

4029 Mr. Kean?

4030 *Mr. Kean. No.

4031 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

4032 Mr. Rulli?

4033 [No response.]

4034 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

4035 [No response.]

4036 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

4037 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4038 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4039 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4040 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4041 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
4042 Mr. Pallone?
4043 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4044 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4045 Ms. DeGette?
4046 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4047 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4048 Ms. Schakowsky?
4049 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4050 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4051 Ms. Matsui?
4052 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4053 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4054 Ms. Castor?
4055 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4056 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4057 Mr. Tonko?
4058 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4059 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4060 Ms. Clarke?
4061 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

4062 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4063 Mr. Ruiz?
4064 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4065 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4066 Mr. Peters?
4067 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4068 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4069 Mrs. Dingell?
4070 [No response.]
4071 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
4072 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4073 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4074 Ms. Kelly?
4075 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4076 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4077 Ms. Barragan?
4078 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4079 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4080 Mr. Soto?
4081 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4082 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4083 Ms. Schrier?
4084 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4085 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4086 Mrs. Trahan?

4087 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4088 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4089 Mrs. Fletcher?
4090 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4091 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4092 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4093 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4094 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4095 Mr. Auchincloss?
4096 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4097 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4098 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4099 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4100 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4101 Mr. Menendez?
4102 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4103 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4104 Mr. Mullin?
4105 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4106 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4107 Mr. Landsman?
4108 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4109 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4110 Ms. McClellan?
4111 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

4112 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4113 Chairman Guthrie?
4114 *The Chair. No.
4115 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
4116 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mrs. Cammack recorded?
4117 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.
4118 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
4119 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
4120 *Mrs. Cammack. [Inaudible.] Come on, for the record.
4121 *Voice. I think we are good.
4122 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Anyone else?
4123 The clerk will report the roll.
4124 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there are 23
4125 ayes and 25 noes.
4126 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The amendment is not agreed to.
4127 Are there further amendments?
4128 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized.
4129 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have an
4130 amendment at the desk labeled SUPPORT2025-AMD_9.
4131 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The clerk will report the
4132 amendment.
4133 Have you have got a number?
4134 *Mr. Griffith. And Mr. Chairman, if I could reserve
4135 an --
4136 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And the gentleman from Virginia

4137 reserves.

4138 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
4139 a substitute to H.R. 2483, offered by Ms. McClellan.

4140 At the end of the bill add the following. Section --
4141 prohibit --

4142 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Without objection, the reading
4143 of the amendment is dispensed with.

4144 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

4145

4146 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4147

4148 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And the gentlelady is
4149 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

4150 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4151 This amendment would prevent the Substance Abuse and
4152 Mental Health Services Administration from implementing
4153 further harmful and irresponsible mass layoffs. And rather
4154 than being political theater, this is an effort to keep the
4155 very constituents, friends, and family who perform the
4156 important work that keep our constituents, friends, and
4157 family safe and healthy.

4158 SAMHSA leads efforts to address our nation's mental
4159 health crises, including focused initiatives to reduce the
4160 rates of suicide and drug overdose. But on March 7 Secretary
4161 Kennedy announced that SAMHSA would essentially cease to
4162 exist as employees are fired or absorbed into a consolidated
4163 and smaller office. And without an agency dedicated to
4164 behavioral health addressing suicide, overdose, and youth
4165 mental health, they are likely to be prioritized -- unlikely
4166 -- they are less likely to be prioritized.

4167 On April 1 Secretary Kennedy fired nearly half of
4168 SAMHSA's remaining staff, including its director for the
4169 Center for Mental Health Services. Secretary Kennedy also
4170 fired the entire Office of Population Surveys. This is the
4171 team that oversees the National Survey on Drug Use and
4172 Health, our only national survey focused specifically on drug

4173 use and mental health. Now, I don't know who, if anybody,
4174 will take on these crucial tasks of tracking drug use and
4175 mental health across the country.

4176 In recent years we have made progress in reducing
4177 overdose deaths in large part due to SAMHSA's programs
4178 addressing substance use. But overdose deaths remain the
4179 leading cause of death for younger adults, underscoring the
4180 need to ensure that this progress continues. And I remind
4181 you, overdose deaths are one of the leading causes of death
4182 for pregnancy-related deaths, including the number-one cause
4183 of death for White women. The reckless firing of SAMHSA
4184 staff without cause deals a devastating blow to our efforts
4185 to prevent overdose deaths and related maternal deaths.

4186 SAMHSA also administers grants to support the 988
4187 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In its first year, 988
4188 received 4 million calls, a 33 percent increase in people
4189 reaching out for help. But in February a quarter of the 988
4190 Lifeline team at SAMHSA was fired, and these critical mental
4191 health programs are not effective without a workforce to
4192 implement them.

4193 SAMHSA's Pregnant and Postpartum Women Substance Use
4194 Disorder Treatment Program, which funds parent-child
4195 residential treatment and critical workforce training
4196 programs, would be nearly eliminated with approximately 92
4197 percent in cuts.

4198 In Virginia SAMHSA grants fund programs like tackling
4199 substance use, mental illness, grief, trauma, and challenges
4200 faced by individuals with mental health or substance use
4201 concerns, many of whom lack stable housing. The Henrico Area
4202 Mental Health and Development Services receives SAMHSA
4203 funding for their programs, which serve constituents in my
4204 district, including supportive permanent housing programs for
4205 pregnant and parenting women. And a participant shared in
4206 the local press that this program helped her maintain
4207 sobriety and secure stable housing, which allowed her to be
4208 reunited with her child.

4209 And as we have stated, these attacks on SAMHSA are not
4210 happening in isolation. But combined with the proposed
4211 drastic cuts to Medicaid mandated by a plan that tells this
4212 committee to find \$880 billion in cuts would devastate
4213 Virginians and Americans receiving treatment for substance
4214 use disorders, particularly in rural areas whose access to
4215 substance use disorder treatment through community health
4216 centers depend on Medicaid to stay open.

4217 So when you combine these workforce cuts to funding
4218 freezes to Medicaid cuts, we are going to have a very
4219 difficult time actually addressing the opioid and substance
4220 use disorder crisis in this country and the related crises
4221 like maternal mortality. So I urge support for this
4222 amendment to prevent the further gutting of SAMHSA at this

4223 critical time.

4224 Thank you, and I yield back.

4225 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The chair recognizes himself
4226 for five minutes. I rise in favor of this amendment. Just
4227 kidding. I am seeing if you all are paying attention. Geez.
4228 I rise in opposition to this amendment.

4229 First, this amendment is largely tangential to the
4230 discussion here today. Republicans are here to talk about
4231 the critically important policies included in this bipartisan
4232 bill, a bill that would provide crucial resources for
4233 prevention, treatment, and recovery for patients suffering
4234 from substance use disorder, patients that are our
4235 constituents, our friends, our family members.

4236 But it seems all the other party wants to talk about is
4237 Federal agency employment. Our constituents, our friends,
4238 our family members deserve more than this political theater,
4239 and I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I
4240 yield back.

4241 Is anyone seeking to speak on this amendment?

4242 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call.

4243 *Mrs. Trahan. I --

4244 *Mr. Pallone. Trahan.

4245 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The chair recognizes the
4246 gentlelady from Massachusetts.

4247 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield to the

4248 congresswoman from Virginia.

4249 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Would the chair
4250 yield for a question?

4251 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Sure.

4252 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chair, without Federal employees
4253 how are we going to put into effect the act that we are
4254 addressing in this committee?

4255 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. As the gentlelady well knows,
4256 we have Federal employees, and we are going to have Federal
4257 employees. We will have enough to handle this situation, as
4258 we will with almost any situation.

4259 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think part of
4260 what I am taking issue with is you are saying that Democrats
4261 only care about Federal employees. I think the point is that
4262 Federal employees are critically important to implementing
4263 the policies that Congress puts in place. And your remarks
4264 denigrating our concern for Federal employees, that is --
4265 there is a disconnect there for me, and I just did not want
4266 to let that go.

4267 We cannot implement these policies without a sufficient
4268 workforce. We cannot have a sufficient workforce if we
4269 traumatize them, if we fire them and then traumatize the
4270 rest. And that is what is happening. That is what is
4271 happening right now.

4272 I have literally received texts from Federal employees

4273 saying, "Help us.'" I have literally seen Federal employees
4274 themselves -- I was on a call with one this weekend who
4275 dedicated 20 years of her life serving people in a health
4276 care-related agency summarily fired. And it has affected her
4277 mental health as she now questions -- you know, I don't think
4278 people understand how much of your identity for many people
4279 your job becomes, especially after 20 years when you dedicate
4280 your life to serving the public.

4281 So yes, we are concerned with our Federal employees,
4282 because without them no one would be there to do the job that
4283 Congress says is important on any policy. And to be attacked
4284 for only caring about Federal employees, I don't only care
4285 about Federal employees, but I care about them a great deal.

4286 And I would just ask the chairman and my colleagues on
4287 the other side of the aisle to recognize the humanity and
4288 show a little compassion for people who have dedicated their
4289 lives to serving our friends, our family, and our
4290 constituents.

4291 I yield back.

4292 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady yields.

4293 Is any other member wanting to be recognized on this?

4294 Hearing none, a roll call vote has been requested. The
4295 clerk will call the roll.

4296 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4297 *Mr. Latta. No.

4298 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
4299 Mr. Griffith?
4300 [No response.]
4301 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
4302 *Mr. Griffith. No.
4303 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
4304 Mr. Bilirakis?
4305 [No response.]
4306 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
4307 [No response.]
4308 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
4309 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
4310 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
4311 Mr. Palmer?
4312 *Mr. Palmer. No.
4313 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
4314 Mr. Dunn?
4315 [No response.]
4316 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
4317 [No response.]
4318 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
4319 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
4320 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
4321 Mr. Joyce?
4322 *Mr. Joyce. No.

4323 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
4324 Mr. Weber?
4325 *Mr. Weber. No.
4326 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
4327 Mr. Allen?
4328 [No response.]
4329 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
4330 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4331 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
4332 Mr. Fulcher?
4333 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
4334 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
4335 Mr. Pfluger?
4336 [No response.]
4337 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
4338 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4339 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4340 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4341 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes. Oh, no, I mean, no.
4342 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
4343 Mrs. Cammack?
4344 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
4345 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
4346 Mr. Obernolte?
4347 [No response.]

4348 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
4349 *Mr. James. No.
4350 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
4351 Mr. Bentz?
4352 *Mr. Bentz. No.
4353 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4354 Mrs. Houchin?
4355 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
4356 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
4357 Mr. Fry?
4358 [No response.]
4359 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
4360 *Ms. Lee. No.
4361 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
4362 Mr. Langworthy?
4363 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
4364 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
4365 Mr. Kean?
4366 *Mr. Kean. No.
4367 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
4368 Mr. Rulli?
4369 [No response.]
4370 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
4371 [No response.]
4372 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

4373 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4374 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4375 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4376 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4377 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
4378 Mr. Pallone?
4379 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4380 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4381 Ms. DeGette?
4382 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4383 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4384 Ms. Schakowsky?
4385 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4386 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4387 Ms. Matsui?
4388 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4389 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4390 Ms. Castor?
4391 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4392 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4393 Mr. Tonko?
4394 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4395 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4396 Ms. Clarke?
4397 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

4398 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4399 Mr. Ruiz?
4400 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4401 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4402 Mr. Peters?
4403 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4404 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4405 Mrs. Dingell?
4406 [No response.]
4407 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
4408 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4409 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4410 Ms. Kelly?
4411 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4412 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4413 Ms. Barragan?
4414 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4415 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4416 Mr. Soto?
4417 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4418 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4419 Ms. Schrier?
4420 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4421 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4422 Mrs. Trahan?

4423 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4424 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4425 Mrs. Fletcher?
4426 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4427 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4428 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4429 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4430 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4431 Mr. Auchincloss?
4432 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4433 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4434 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4435 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4436 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4437 Mr. Menendez?
4438 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4439 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4440 Mr. Mullin?
4441 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4442 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4443 Mr. Landsman?
4444 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4445 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4446 Ms. McClellan?
4447 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

4448 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4449 Chairman Guthrie?
4450 *The Chair. No.
4451 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
4452 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Mr. Hudson?
4453 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
4454 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
4455 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis?
4456 *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes no.
4457 *The Chair. Dr. Dunn?
4458 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
4459 *Mr. Dunn. No.
4460 *The Chair. Dr. Dunn?
4461 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn votes no.
4462 *Mr. Griffith. How is Griffith recorded?
4463 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith is recorded as no.
4464 *The Chair. Okay. Do you have any others to be
4465 recorded?
4466 Seeing none -- how is Mrs. Cammack recorded?
4467 *Mrs. Cammack. I am sorry --
4468 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is recorded as no.
4469 *The Chair. Dr. Miller-Meeks?
4470 *The Clerk. Dr. Miller-Meeks is recorded as no.
4471 *The Chair. Okay, does anyone -- Mrs. Dingell, how is
4472 she recorded?

4473 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

4474 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

4475 *The Chair. Anybody seeking recognition for the roll
4476 call?

4477 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

4478 [Pause.]

4479 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
4480 24 ayes and 24 noes.

4481 *The Chair. With a tie, the amendment is not agreed to.
4482 Are there further amendments?

4483 For what purpose does the gentlelady from California,
4484 Ms. Barragan, seek recognition?

4485 *Ms. Barragan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
4486 desk titled 09.BARRAG_017.

4487 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

4488 *Mr. Griffith. And if I could reserve a point of order,
4489 Mr. Chairman --

4490 *The Chair. The gentleman from Virginia reserves a
4491 point of order.

4492 The clerk will report.

4493 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
4494 a substitute to H.R. 2483, offered by Ms. Barragan of
4495 California.

4496 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
4497 amendment is dispensed with.

4498 [The amendment of Ms. Barragan follows:]

4499

4500 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4501

4502 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from California is
4503 recognized for five minutes in support of her amendment.

4504 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
4505 I heard my colleague say that he was looking for an amendment
4506 or would support amendments that were bipartisan, that were
4507 about substance abuse, and that were for our friends, our
4508 constituents, and our family members. Those were his words.
4509 This is that amendment.

4510 This amendment will include Tyler's Law in the SUPPORT
4511 Act, a bipartisan bill sponsored by my colleagues,
4512 Representative Ted Lieu and cosponsored -- co-led, rather, by
4513 Representative Latta, cosponsored by Mrs. Miller-Meeks,
4514 cosponsored by Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Crenshaw, and other
4515 Republicans on -- Democrats on both sides of the aisle.

4516 Tyler's Law would provide guidance to hospitals to test
4517 for fentanyl when an overdose patient comes into the
4518 emergency room. Tyler's law is named for Tyler Shamash, a
4519 teenager who lost his life to a fentanyl overdose because he
4520 was not tested for fentanyl when he checked into the
4521 emergency room. Now, Tyler's mother, Julie, has been a
4522 fierce advocate for this bill and has shared her son's story
4523 so that others don't have to go through the same tragedy.

4524 Unfortunately, Tyler and Julie's story is just one
4525 example of how fentanyl has devastated our families and
4526 communities. Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are

4527 responsible for more than two-thirds of lives lost to
4528 overdose.

4529 Earlier this year, in February, my Republican colleagues
4530 in this committee held a hearing focused on how fentanyl is
4531 the deadliest drug threat in the history of the United
4532 States, and discussed what Congress can do to combat our
4533 country's illegal drug crisis. And just earlier this month
4534 President Trump released his drug policy priorities, which
4535 lists reducing the number of drug overdose deaths with a
4536 focus on fentanyl as the first priority. Under the priority,
4537 it says, and I am quoting, "To combat the drug crisis and the
4538 opioid epidemic, largely driven by fentanyl, the
4539 Administration will expand access to overdose prevention
4540 education and lifesaving opioid overdose reversal
4541 medications. We will raise awareness about overdose
4542 prevention through public health and educational campaigns.'`

4543 Yet in his budget that was leaked two weeks ago, Trump
4544 proposed slashing several programs focused on prevention and
4545 recovery for substance use disorders, including the Youth
4546 Prevention and Recovery Program that is funded by the SUPPORT
4547 Act, legislation that Congress passed and Trump himself had
4548 signed into law.

4549 Now, part of the Youth Prevention and Recovery Program
4550 is aimed at raising awareness of the risks of fentanyl among
4551 youth. If Republicans are serious about fighting the

4552 overdose crisis in our country, they would not stay silent
4553 when the Trump Administration rips away the critical tools
4554 that help lower the number of deaths from overdose.

4555 This is not a political game. It was said a little
4556 while ago that this was a political show. This is not a
4557 political show. And we can show that this is not just
4558 political smoke and mirrors if every member of this committee
4559 takes meaningful steps toward preventing overdose deaths from
4560 fentanyl by supporting this straightforward, bipartisan
4561 amendment that is for our friends, our constituents, and our
4562 family members, and is about substance abuse.

4563 I yield back.

4564 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
4565 from Ohio, Mr. Latta, is recognized for five minutes.

4566 *Mr. Latta. Oh, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I move to
4567 strike the last word.

4568 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4569 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. I appreciate the
4570 gentlelady speaking to the importance of this bipartisan
4571 legislation in this amendment.

4572 Currently, many drug screenings that are available in
4573 emergency rooms only test for certain drug classes and do --
4574 and often do not include synthetic opioids like fentanyl.
4575 This is -- this, unfortunately, turned fatal for 19-year-old
4576 Tyler Shamash. The night before Tyler died from consuming

4577 fentanyl he was sent to the hospital with a suspected
4578 overdose. The hospital staff conducted the routine drug
4579 screening. It came back negative. After he passed away,
4580 Tyler's family found out the screening did not detect
4581 fentanyl because it is a synthetic opioid. Had the drug
4582 screening detected fentanyl, he may have been able to receive
4583 a higher level of care instead of the sober living room where
4584 he passed away.

4585 This amendment would take the language of Tyler's Law,
4586 which directs HHS to conduct a study on the frequency in
4587 which hospitals test for fentanyl and patients experiencing
4588 overdose, and inserts it in an underlying text. While I
4589 support this policy, I must oppose the amendment because it
4590 does not receive proper committee consideration.

4591 We are here today to consider the SUPPORT Act and
4592 several other bills that have previously gone through
4593 significant regular order in this committee. Those must be
4594 sent to the President's desk, and this is the most secure
4595 path forward. It is my desire that Tyler's Law will receive
4596 the same consideration this Congress because I believe this
4597 is common-sense policy that can save lives.

4598 And Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment and I yield
4599 back.

4600 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
4601 further discussion?

4602 Seeing none --

4603 *Mr. Pallone. We ask for a roll call --

4604 *The Chair. -- the question occurs on the amendment. A
4605 roll call being requested, the clerk will call the roll.

4606 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4607 *Mr. Latta. No.

4608 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

4609 Mr. Griffith?

4610 *Mr. Griffith. No.

4611 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

4612 Mr. Bilirakis?

4613 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

4614 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

4615 Mr. Hudson?

4616 [No response.]

4617 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

4618 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

4619 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

4620 Mr. Palmer?

4621 *Mr. Palmer. No.

4622 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

4623 Mr. Dunn?

4624 [No response.]

4625 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

4626 [No response.]

4627 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
4628 *Mr. Joyce. No.
4629 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
4630 Mr. Weber?
4631 *Mr. Weber. No.
4632 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
4633 Mr. Allen?
4634 *Mr. Allen. No.
4635 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
4636 Mr. Balderson?
4637 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4638 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
4639 Mr. Fulcher?
4640 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
4641 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
4642 Mr. Pfluger?
4643 [No response.]
4644 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
4645 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4646 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4647 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4648 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
4649 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
4650 Mrs. Cammack?
4651 [No response.]

4652 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte?
4653 [No response.]
4654 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
4655 [No response.]
4656 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
4657 *Mr. Bentz. No.
4658 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4659 Mrs. Houchin?
4660 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
4661 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
4662 Mr. Fry?
4663 [No response.]
4664 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
4665 *Ms. Lee. No.
4666 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
4667 Mr. Langworthy?
4668 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
4669 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
4670 Mr. Kean?
4671 *Mr. Kean. No.
4672 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
4673 Mr. Rulli?
4674 [No response.]
4675 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
4676 [No response.]

4677 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
4678 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4679 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4680 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4681 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4682 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
4683 Mr. Pallone?
4684 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4685 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4686 Ms. DeGette?
4687 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4688 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4689 Ms. Schakowsky?
4690 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4691 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4692 Ms. Matsui?
4693 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4694 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4695 Ms. Castor?
4696 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4697 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4698 Mr. Tonko?
4699 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4700 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4701 Ms. Clarke?

4702 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
4703 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4704 Mr. Ruiz?
4705 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4706 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4707 Mr. Peters?
4708 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4709 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4710 Mrs. Dingell?
4711 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4712 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4713 Mr. Veasey?
4714 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4715 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4716 Ms. Kelly?
4717 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4718 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4719 Ms. Barragan?
4720 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4721 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4722 Mr. Soto?
4723 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4724 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4725 Ms. Schrier?
4726 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

4727 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4728 Mrs. Trahan?
4729 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4730 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4731 Mrs. Fletcher?
4732 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4733 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4734 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4735 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4736 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4737 Mr. Auchincloss?
4738 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4739 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4740 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4741 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4742 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4743 Mr. Menendez?
4744 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4745 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4746 Mr. Mullin?
4747 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4748 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4749 Mr. Landsman?
4750 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4751 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

4752 Ms. McClellan?

4753 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

4754 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

4755 Chairman Guthrie?

4756 *The Chair. No.

4757 Mr. Hudson?

4758 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

4759 *The Chair. Mr. Hudson?

4760 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.

4761 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

4762 *The Chair. Dr. Dunn?

4763 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.

4764 *The Chair. Tell him to stay close.

4765 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

4766 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?

4767 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.

4768 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

4769 *The Chair. Tell him to stay close.

4770 *The Chair. How is Mrs. Cammack recorded?

4771 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

4772 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

4773 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

4774 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

4775 [Pause.]

4776 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24

4777 ayes and 24 noes.

4778 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

4779 Are there any further amendments?

4780 Seeing none, if there are no further -- and there is no
4781 further discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment in the
4782 nature of substitute -- we are going to adopt the AINS.

4783 And I know you probably want a -- do you want a roll
4784 call?

4785 *Mr. Pallone. Not on the AINS.

4786 *The Chair. Not on the AINS? Okay, so we are going to
4787 adopt the AINS.

4788 So if no further discussion, the vote occurs on the
4789 amendment in the nature of a substitute.

4790 All those shall signify by saying aye.

4791 All those opposed, no.

4792 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

4793 *Mr. Pallone. We request a roll call on final --

4794 *The Chair. The question is -- the question now occurs
4795 on adopting H.R. 2483, as amended, and a roll call vote has
4796 been asked. So a roll call has been requested, so the clerk
4797 shall call the roll.

4798 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4799 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

4800 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

4801 Mr. Griffith?

4802 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
4803 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
4804 Mr. Bilirakis?
4805 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
4806 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
4807 Mr. Hudson?
4808 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
4809 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
4810 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
4811 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
4812 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
4813 Mr. Palmer?
4814 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
4815 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
4816 Mr. Dunn?
4817 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
4818 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
4819 Mr. Crenshaw?
4820 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
4821 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
4822 Mr. Joyce?
4823 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
4824 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
4825 Mr. Weber?
4826 *Mr. Weber. Yes.

4827 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
4828 Mr. Allen?
4829 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
4830 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
4831 Mr. Balderson?
4832 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
4833 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
4834 Mr. Fulcher?
4835 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
4836 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
4837 Mr. Pfluger?
4838 [No response.]
4839 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
4840 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
4841 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
4842 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4843 [No response.]
4844 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
4845 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
4846 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
4847 Mr. Obernolte?
4848 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
4849 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
4850 Mr. James?
4851 [No response.]

4852 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
4853 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
4854 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
4855 Mrs. Houchin?
4856 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
4857 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
4858 Mr. Fry?
4859 [No response.]
4860 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
4861 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
4862 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
4863 Mr. Langworthy?
4864 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
4865 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
4866 Mr. Kean?
4867 *Mr. Kean. Yes. Yes.
4868 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
4869 Mr. Rulli?
4870 [No response.]
4871 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
4872 [No response.]
4873 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
4874 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
4875 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
4876 Mrs. Fedorchak?

4877 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
4878 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
4879 Mr. Pallone?
4880 *Mr. Pallone. No.
4881 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
4882 Ms. DeGette?
4883 *Ms. DeGette. No.
4884 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
4885 Ms. Schakowsky?
4886 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye. Oh, no.
4887 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
4888 Ms. Matsui?
4889 *Ms. Matsui. No.
4890 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
4891 Ms. Castor?
4892 *Ms. Castor. No.
4893 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
4894 Mr. Tonko?
4895 *Mr. Tonko. No.
4896 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
4897 Ms. Clarke?
4898 *Ms. Clarke. No.
4899 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
4900 Mr. Ruiz?
4901 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

4902 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4903 Mr. Peters?
4904 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4905 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4906 Mrs. Dingell?
4907 *Mrs. Dingell. Pass.
4908 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell passes.
4909 Mr. Veasey?
4910 *Mr. Veasey. No.
4911 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
4912 Ms. Kelly?
4913 *Ms. Kelly. No.
4914 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.
4915 Ms. Barragan?
4916 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4917 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4918 Mr. Soto?
4919 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4920 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4921 Ms. Schrier?
4922 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4923 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4924 Mrs. Trahan?
4925 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4926 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

4927 Mrs. Fletcher?
4928 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
4929 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
4930 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4931 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
4932 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
4933 Mr. Auchincloss?
4934 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4935 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4936 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4937 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4938 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4939 Mr. Menendez?
4940 *Mr. Menendez. No.
4941 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
4942 Mr. Mullin?
4943 *Mr. Mullin. No.
4944 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
4945 Mr. Landsman?
4946 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4947 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4948 Ms. McClellan?
4949 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4950 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4951 Chairman Guthrie?

4952 *The Chair. Aye.

4953 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

4954 *The Chair. Mrs. Dingell, how is Mrs. Dingell recorded?

4955 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell is recorded as a pass.

4956 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

4957 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell is off pass, on aye.

4958 *The Chair. Dr. Miller-Meeks?

4959 *The Clerk. Dr. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.

4960 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.

4961 *The Clerk. Dr. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

4962 *The Chair. Anybody else seeking recognition for the

4963 purpose of the roll?

4964 The clerk will report.

4965 And we will break and come back after votes for the

4966 other bills. We will do her bill. Is she next? We will

4967 make a call and bring her up next. We will do that. You are

4968 next. You are next.

4969 The clerk will report.

4970 [Pause.]

4971 *Voice. There is two amendments on the next one.

4972 *The Chair. She is next.

4973 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were

4974 36 ayes and 13 noes.

4975 *The Chair. The bill is agreed to. The ayes have it,

4976 and the bill is agreed to.

4977 The committee will be in recess until 10 minutes after
4978 the final vote.

4979 [Recess.]

4980 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. [Presiding.] The committee will
4981 come to order.

4982 The chair calls up H.R. 1520, and asks the clerk to
4983 report.

4984 *The Clerk. H.R. 1520, a bill to prohibit
4985 discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability
4986 in cases of organ transplants. Be it enacted by the Senate
4987 and the House of Representatives of the United States of
4988 America and Congress assembled --

4989 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Without objection, the first
4990 reading of the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be
4991 open for amendment at any point.

4992 So ordered.

4993 [The bill follows:]

4994

4995 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4996

4997 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Does anyone seek to be
4998 recognized on the bill?

4999 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida,
5000 Representative Cammack, for five minutes.

5001 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am so proud
5002 to see our bill, the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant
5003 Discrimination Prevention Act, included in today's markup.
5004 This is a long time coming.

5005 This legislation is named in honor of Charlotte
5006 Woodward, a remarkable young woman who is here with us today,
5007 with Down syndrome who received a lifesaving heart transplant
5008 more than 12 years ago. Charlotte is here with us today, as
5009 I mentioned.

5010 [Applause.]

5011 *Mrs. Cammack. And one day she is going to be a Member
5012 of Congress. That is what I am putting my money on.

5013 But her presence here today is a powerful reminder that
5014 every life has value and potential, regardless of disability.
5015 Unfortunately, too many families have been told otherwise.

5016 Bobbi and Josh Sarmiento, constituents of mine from
5017 Ocala, Florida, lost their infant son, Baby Zion, who was
5018 born with Down syndrome and in need of a heart transplant.
5019 At just six months old, Baby Zion was denied that chance.
5020 His family was told that his life didn't hold the same value
5021 simply because of his disability. They were told by doctors,

5022 hospital systems, and others that they couldn't "waste a
5023 heart.'" That is unacceptable. That is why this bill
5024 matters. It ensures that individuals with disabilities are
5025 not denied access to organ transplants based solely on their
5026 diagnosis. It provides a path for families to seek timely
5027 intervention through HHS.

5028 The text before us is identical to the version that
5029 passed this very committee and the House last Congress with
5030 broad bipartisan support.

5031 I extend my gratitude to my colleague and friend,
5032 Congresswoman Dingell, for her steadfast leadership, courage,
5033 and collaboration on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to
5034 support this bill once again.

5035 Mr. Chairman, I yield.

5036 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady yields. Is
5037 there any further discussion on the bill?

5038 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Michigan,
5039 Representative Dingell, for five minutes.

5040 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
5041 strike the last word.

5042 Is that okay? Thank you. In strong support of H.R.
5043 1520, the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination
5044 Act bill.

5045 As co-chair of the bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, I am
5046 proud to co-lead this bill alongside my dear friend, Kat

5047 Cammack. I thank her for her partnership on this vital bill
5048 named after the incredible Charlotte Woodward, who I have had
5049 the great privilege of getting to know.

5050 And by the way, for all of you, she has sat more
5051 patiently through the markups of this committee than the
5052 members of this committee.

5053 [Applause.]

5054 *Mrs. Dingell. But it is because she cares.

5055 For new members of the committee, you just heard from
5056 Kat her story. She was born with Down syndrome and a heart
5057 condition. Due to this heart condition, she successfully
5058 underwent a lifesaving heart transplant in 2012. And in the
5059 years since she has become a tremendous advocate, sharing her
5060 story to educate and advocate for others with disabilities.

5061 And Charlotte, you have taught so many you can do and be
5062 whatever you want to be if you try to achieve that dream.

5063 In Charlotte's honor this important bill prohibits
5064 discrimination against people with disabilities in the organ
5065 transplant system. Specifically, it prohibits eligible
5066 individuals from being denied a lifesaving transplant
5067 procedure based solely on their disability status. It is
5068 unthinkable that people with disabilities are passed over for
5069 lifesaving transplants based on discriminatory and subjective
5070 assumptions about their ability to comply with post-operative
5071 care. With this legislation, we can take action to ensure

5072 that all Americans, regardless of disability status, receive
5073 equitable access to the care they need.

5074 Thank you to Chairman Guthrie and all my colleagues.
5075 Kat and I are happy that we are finally going to be able to
5076 move this bill for Charlotte out of the committee.

5077 I urge all my colleagues to support this important bill,
5078 and yield back the balance of my time.

5079 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields. Is there any
5080 further discussion on this bill?

5081 *Mr. Pallone. Amendments?

5082 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Any amendments?

5083 Hearing none, the question now occurs --

5084 *Voice. Mr. Chairman?

5085 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Sorry?

5086 *Mr. Pallone. Who do you want to go first, Carter,
5087 Trahan?

5088 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Who do you want?

5089 *Mr. Pallone. Schakowsky, I guess.

5090 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Okay, the chair recognizes the
5091 gentlelady from Illinois, Representative Schakowsky, for an
5092 amendment.

5093 *Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have an
5094 amendment at the desk. It is 3 -- no, 6 -- what?

5095 *Voice. Two.

5096 *Ms. Schakowsky. Two. I will get it.

5097 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The clerk will report the
5098 amendment.

5099 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1520, offered by Ms.
5100 Schakowsky. At the end of the bill, add the following --

5101 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. With --

5102 *The Clerk. Section, conditional effectiveness. This
5103 act shall be made effectively only if the Secretary of Health
5104 and Human Services, acting on the Secretary's own initiative
5105 or at the initiative of the United States DOGE service,
5106 commonly referred to as the Department of Government
5107 Efficiency --

5108 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Without objection, the reading
5109 of the amendment is dispensed with.

5110 [The amendment of Ms. Schakowsky follows:]

5111

5112 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5113

5114 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And the gentlelady from
5115 Illinois is recognized for five minutes in support of the
5116 amendment.

5117 *Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank all
5118 of you. I am happy to join in the legislation that will be
5119 coming up that is certainly a bipartisan one. I hope this
5120 would be, as well.

5121 We have seen a lot of noes from the colleagues on the
5122 Republican side, and I am hoping that we could move forward.
5123 I wanted to bring up a piece of legislation that is
5124 represented by the --

5125 *Voice. Administration for community --

5126 *Ms. Schakowsky. -- administration for community --

5127 *Voice. Living.

5128 *Ms. Schakowsky. -- for community living. This is a
5129 piece of legislation that has been around for many years that
5130 helps senior citizens for a number of different kinds of
5131 activities in their life. This is something that would help
5132 them with their transportation, with their --

5133 *Mr. Pallone. Do you really want to send that?

5134 *Voice. Meals on Wheels.

5135 *Ms. Schakowsky. -- Meals on Wheels. Everybody knows
5136 about Meals on Wheels that helps people that need some food
5137 to be delivered.

5138 And so this is a bill that has been around for a very

5139 long time. And guess what? Now most of the people that have
5140 worked there for years and years have been fired. And I am
5141 very concerned about that, and it looks like this is going to
5142 be now taken away, the workers are not being able to work
5143 right now, and it just seems to me that this is something
5144 that has been so helpful to older Americans. This is not one
5145 of the huge bills. It is significant, but it is something
5146 that has been so helpful. And now these people are out of
5147 work, out of a job.

5148 But let's not talk about them. Let's talk about the
5149 seniors. We have heard too much today about, oh, this is
5150 just about another job for somebody. No, this is something
5151 that has made a life for many older Americans. Think about
5152 the wheels -- the Meals on Wheels and how important that is
5153 when those get delivered. And so I am hoping that something
5154 like that, that has been working so well, that is so
5155 important to older Americans could be in the yes category.

5156 And with that I yield back.

5157 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady yields. The
5158 chair now recognizes himself for five minutes.

5159 I rise in opposition to this amendment. This bill
5160 ensures access to lifesaving care by preventing
5161 discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Do my
5162 friends on the other side of the aisle really want to delay
5163 the implementation of this important policy based on a

5164 proposed reorganization that we are still awaiting more
5165 details on?

5166 This amendment is an attempt to play political games
5167 that would, unfortunately, have a very real-world impact on
5168 patients and our constituents, patients who deserve our help
5169 and support by getting this bill signed into law in a timely
5170 fashion with no delays.

5171 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I
5172 yield back.

5173 Any further discussion on this amendment?

5174 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from California for
5175 five minutes.

5176 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5177 I support the bill, but this amendment here would stop
5178 this Administration's efforts to dismantle the Administration
5179 on Community Living, which administers essential programs for
5180 older constituents and constituents with disabilities.

5181 Last week I visited ACC Senior Services, an agency in my
5182 district supporting seniors to age in place. One of the
5183 major programs they support is Meals on Wheels. Often these
5184 meals aren't just a source of nutrition; they are a source of
5185 companionship for seniors who don't see another person all
5186 day. I listened to older constituents and volunteers alike
5187 who shared that these programs were life-changing.

5188 My district also houses one of the University Centers

5189 for Excellence in Developmental Disability at UC Davis Mind
5190 Institute. In my district and across the country these
5191 programs help to train clinical and community service
5192 providers, researchers, and people with developmental
5193 disabilities and their families to help them better support
5194 the people in their lives with disabilities. They provide
5195 resources to help people with disabilities engage in the
5196 community.

5197 One of my constituents wrote me to share that these
5198 programs have changed her life and her family's life. They
5199 are terrified this Administration slashes resources and will
5200 not only hurt their families, but families in the future who
5201 are struggling to navigate their children's disability and
5202 help them integrate into the community.

5203 Now, my Republican colleagues will say that this
5204 Administration didn't cut any of these programs when they
5205 dismantled the Administration for Community living, but
5206 again, there is no staff left to administer these programs.
5207 If the experts have been dismissed, how do we expect these
5208 critical functions to continue uninterrupted?

5209 And though my colleagues would like to ignore it, the
5210 evidence is in the leaked budget memo. The programs I
5211 mentioned and more, programs that support older Americans and
5212 people with disabilities in all our districts are on the
5213 Administration's chopping block. We cannot sit idly by and

5214 let the Administration callously play with the lives of
5215 millions of Americans served by ACL.

5216 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I
5217 yield the balance of my time.

5218 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady yields. Is
5219 there any further discussion?

5220 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida,
5221 Representative Cammack, for five minutes.

5222 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
5223 strike the last word.

5224 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Without objection.

5225 *Mrs. Cammack. I am just at a loss. I am at a complete
5226 loss. The word spoken directly before I was recognized was
5227 to stop playing games with people's lives. What do you think
5228 that you are doing by including amendments that have
5229 absolutely nothing to do with what we are talking about in
5230 this bill?

5231 This is an anti-discrimination bill preventing hospital
5232 systems from discriminating against individuals with
5233 disabilities. We all support seniors, but this amendment
5234 that you have introduced is about seniors and has nothing to
5235 do with the actual underlying text of the bill that we are
5236 here to debate.

5237 Our constituents are expecting better of us as
5238 Americans, not Republicans versus Democrats. And we all just

5239 sat here and clapped for Ms. Charlotte Woodward, who has been
5240 here patiently not just for hours today, but hours weeks ago.
5241 And let us not forget last year, when she sat in this room
5242 for hours, and has been fighting tirelessly to get this
5243 legislation across the finish line.

5244 There is a time and a place. I would respect all of my
5245 colleagues so much more if you could put the politics aside
5246 and recognize that we are all trying to do something for the
5247 disability community. We can get this done in a bipartisan
5248 manner. So let's put the politics aside and let's focus on
5249 the issue at hand. If you want to introduce this amendment
5250 as a standalone bill, I will welcome the debate. But there
5251 is a time and a place, and it is not right now.

5252 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield.

5253 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady yields. Is
5254 there any further discussion on this amendment?

5255 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

5256 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Hearing none, a roll call vote
5257 has been requested. The clerk will report -- will record the
5258 -- will report the -- will call the roll.

5259 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5260 *Mr. Latta. No.

5261 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

5262 Mr. Griffith?

5263 *Mr. Griffith. No.

5264 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
5265 Mr. Bilirakis?
5266 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
5267 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
5268 Mr. Hudson?
5269 *Mr. Hudson. No.
5270 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
5271 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
5272 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
5273 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
5274 Mr. Palmer?
5275 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer, no.
5276 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
5277 Mr. Dunn?
5278 *Mr. Dunn. No.
5279 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
5280 Mr. Crenshaw?
5281 [No response.]
5282 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5283 [No response.]
5284 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
5285 *Mr. Weber. Hell, no.
5286 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
5287 Mr. Allen?
5288 [No response.]

5289 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
5290 *Mr. Balderson. No.
5291 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
5292 Mr. Fulcher?
5293 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
5294 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
5295 Mr. Pfluger?
5296 [No response.]
5297 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
5298 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
5299 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
5300 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5301 [No response.]
5302 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
5303 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
5304 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no
5305 Mr. Obernolte?
5306 [No response.]
5307 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
5308 [No response.]
5309 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
5310 [No response.]
5311 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
5312 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
5313 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

5314 Mr. Fry?

5315 *Mr. Fry. No.

5316 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

5317 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Bless you.

5318 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

5319 *Ms. Lee. No.

5320 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

5321 Mr. Langworthy?

5322 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

5323 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

5324 Mr. Kean?

5325 *Mr. Kean. No.

5326 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

5327 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

5328 [No response.]

5329 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

5330 *Mr. Goldman. No.

5331 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

5332 Mrs. Fedorchak?

5333 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

5334 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

5335 Mr. Pallone?

5336 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

5337 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

5338 Ms. DeGette?

5339 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
5340 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
5341 Ms. Schakowsky?
5342 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
5343 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
5344 Ms. Matsui?
5345 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5346 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5347 Ms. Castor?
5348 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
5349 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5350 Mr. Tonko?
5351 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5352 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5353 Ms. Clarke?
5354 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
5355 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
5356 Mr. Ruiz?
5357 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
5358 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
5359 Mr. Peters?
5360 [No response.]
5361 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
5362 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
5363 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

5364 Mr. Veasey?
5365 [No response.]
5366 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
5367 [No response.]
5368 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
5369 [No response.]
5370 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
5371 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
5372 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
5373 Ms. Schrier?
5374 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
5375 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5376 Mrs. Trahan?
5377 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
5378 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
5379 Mrs. Fletcher?
5380 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
5381 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
5382 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
5383 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
5384 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
5385 Mr. Auchincloss?
5386 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
5387 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
5388 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

5389 [No response.]

5390 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

5391 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

5392 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

5393 Mr. Mullin?

5394 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

5395 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

5396 Mr. Landsman?

5397 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

5398 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

5399 Ms. McClellan?

5400 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

5401 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

5402 Chairman Guthrie?

5403 *The Chair. No.

5404 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

5405 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mr. Crenshaw --

5406 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is --

5407 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. -- recorded?

5408 *The Clerk. -- not recorded.

5409 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.

5410 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

5411 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Dr. Joyce recorded?

5412 *The Clerk. Dr. Joyce votes no.

5413 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mr. Allen recorded?

5414 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.

5415 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

5416 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mr. Obernolte recorded?

5417 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

5418 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mr. Bentz recorded?

5419 *Mr. Bentz. Bentz votes no.

5420 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

5421 *Mr. Peters. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

5422 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mr. Peters recorded?

5423 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters is not recorded.

5424 *Mr. Peters. Mr. Peters votes aye.

5425 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

5426 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mr. Veasey recorded?

5427 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

5428 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

5429 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

5430 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Anybody else?

5431 The clerk will report the results.

5432 [Pause.]

5433 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 21

5434 ayes and 25 noes.

5435 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The amendment is not agreed to.

5436 Are there further amendments?

5437 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Washington, Dr.

5438 Schrier, for five minutes.

5439 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
5440 amendment at the desk titled --

5441 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. You have an amendment?

5442 *Ms. Schrier. Amendment No. 1.

5443 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The clerk will report.

5444 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1520, offered by Ms.
5445 Schrier. Add at the end the following new section.

5446 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Without objection, the reading
5447 of the amendment is dispensed with.

5448 [The amendment of Ms. Schrier follows:]

5449

5450 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5451

5452 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And the gentlelady is
5453 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

5454 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5455 As a pediatrician, I know firsthand the importance of
5456 vaccines in protecting people from devastating, preventable
5457 infectious diseases, including measles, which is continuing
5458 to spread in our country. Vaccines are especially critical
5459 to protecting people with compromised immune systems, and
5460 this includes people like Charlotte who have received organ
5461 transplants.

5462 My amendment to the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant
5463 Discrimination Prevention Act states the importance of
5464 vaccination for transplant recipients who have weakened
5465 immune systems and are at higher risk of getting sick from
5466 vaccine-preventable diseases for the rest of their lives.

5467 Imagine for a moment a person receiving a lung
5468 transplant, then getting infected with measles because of
5469 someone whose parent opted not to vaccinate, and then dying,
5470 despite getting this transplant. And this is a very real
5471 possibility. Measles is already spreading, as I mentioned,
5472 very widely in this country. It is one of the most
5473 contagious diseases known. And thanks to widespread
5474 vaccination, it is also one of the most preventable. In
5475 fact, it was declared eradicated from this country over 20
5476 years ago, but has made a resurgence.

5477 And the reason for that resurgence -- and now measles
5478 has infected about 900 people this year alone, and this is 3
5479 times the number of cases last year -- the reason is that
5480 people are listening to people like our HHS Secretary, RFK,
5481 Jr. A majority of those 900 people are children, nearly all
5482 are unvaccinated. Over 10 percent have been hospitalized, 3
5483 have died, and every one of these cases could have been
5484 prevented.

5485 Now, let's imagine for a second that maybe some of my
5486 colleagues don't know a person getting an organ transplant,
5487 so this doesn't quite hit home, although we have all just had
5488 the privilege of meeting Charlotte.

5489 Thank you for being here, Charlotte and Mrs. Woodward.

5490 Now, consider other people with suppressed immune
5491 systems like people with cancer, on chemotherapy, or people
5492 on immunosuppressants for MS or rheumatoid arthritis or
5493 inflammatory bowel disease, people who are born with immune
5494 disorders. Most of us have friends with at least one of
5495 these. And every time a parent falls under the influence of
5496 our new HHS Secretary, RFK, Jr. and decides not to vaccinate
5497 their child, it puts these people, along with infants who are
5498 too young to have been vaccinated, at high risk.

5499 Americans, in our souls, we are good people. We look
5500 after our neighbors in fires and hurricanes. We show up, and
5501 we rescue, and we feed, and house. And I look at getting

5502 vaccinated as the same sort of thing. You are looking out
5503 for your friends and your neighbors and people like
5504 Charlotte. And I just want to encourage parents out there to
5505 not listen to the noise or the propaganda, and to vaccinate
5506 their children because vaccinations are safe and effective
5507 and could have prevented every one of these 900 cases.

5508 This amendment simply makes clear that, as we support
5509 organ transplantation and fight against discrimination in
5510 terms of choosing who gets those organs, that we also support
5511 immunizing communities to protect those vulnerable patients.

5512 I encourage my colleagues to vote for this amendment,
5513 and I yield back.

5514 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The chair recognizes himself
5515 for five minutes. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

5516 This bill ensures access to lifesaving care by
5517 preventing discrimination against individuals with
5518 disabilities. This amendment is not related to the
5519 underlying bill at hand. While I understand and appreciate
5520 my colleague's support to ensure access to vaccines, this
5521 amendment is an attempt to play political games that would,
5522 unfortunately, have a very real-world impact on patients and
5523 our constituents, patients who deserve our help and support
5524 by getting this bill signed into law in a timely fashion with
5525 no delays.

5526 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I

5527 yield back.

5528 Any further discussion on this amendment?

5529 *Mr. Pallone. I would ask for a roll call.

5530 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. A roll call vote?

5531 I am sorry --

5532 *Mrs. Cammack. I --

5533 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady from Florida is
5534 recognized.

5535 *Mrs. Cammack. I had a question for the amendment
5536 sponsor, just a point of clarification.

5537 Because I don't have the text of your amendment, because
5538 I guess it was just filed in the last few minutes, is your
5539 amendment requiring organ transplant recipients to have a
5540 vaccine, a particular vaccine?

5541 *Ms. Schrier. No, not at all. It was filed --

5542 *Mrs. Cammack. To be vaccinated?

5543 *Ms. Schrier. No, not at all. It was filed several
5544 weeks ago, and it is expressing a sense of Congress that as
5545 we are looking out for our communities, we are looking out
5546 for patients, as we are addressing the well-being of people
5547 who have received organ transplants, that we also recognize
5548 that one of the ways that we all can do our part as a
5549 community to protect them is for ourselves to get vaccinated.
5550 And that is just creating a circle of protection around
5551 people like Charlotte.

5552 And Charlotte's mom is nodding right now, but -- people
5553 probably in this room right now who might take medications
5554 that leave them immunosuppressed, or people like me who have
5555 type 1 diabetes and would be at higher risk for getting sick,
5556 it is part of all of our collective responsibilities. It is
5557 a sense of Congress.

5558 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you for clarifying. But, I mean,
5559 I think you will find that pretty much everyone is pro-choice
5560 when it came -- when it comes to vaccines. And again, I
5561 don't think that your amendment has anything to do with the
5562 underlying text of the bill, that this is -- again, you are
5563 not -- it is not germane to the conversation that we are
5564 having about anti-discrimination efforts for organ transplant
5565 recipients.

5566 So --

5567 *Ms. Schrier. Just --

5568 *Mrs. Cammack. With that I yield.

5569 *Ms. Schrier. Just for clarification -- and thank you
5570 for yielding -- when you use the word "pro-choice" in a
5571 context such as vaccination, that is the problem, that
5572 schools require vaccinations in order to protect people.

5573 And I am sorry to keep doing this to you, Charlotte, but
5574 to protect people like Charlotte, to protect the kiddo in my
5575 son's class who has leukemia. It is to protect one another.
5576 That is why this is a requirement. That is why our current

5577 Secretary of Health and Human Services, RFK, Jr., is such a
5578 danger to our public health, even though he is charged with
5579 protecting our public health, because he is looking at all of
5580 this as though it is just an individual choice. It is not
5581 individual. This is a collective decision. And schools, in
5582 their wisdom, require that children come to school vaccinated
5583 so they don't put their other friends in danger.

5584 *Mrs. Cammack. Mr. Chairman?

5585 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady is recognized.

5586 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5587 Again, I just want to reiterate you have made my point
5588 that your amendment has nothing to do with the underlying
5589 text of the bill that we are here considering. We are trying
5590 to prevent discrimination against individuals with
5591 disabilities as it relates to organ transplants. I am happy
5592 to have the discussion and the debate regarding vaccines with
5593 you at any other time, but there is a time and a place.

5594 Mr. Chairman, I yield my time back to you. Thank you.

5595 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentlelady yields. Is
5596 there any further discussion on this amendment?

5597 Hearing none, a recorded vote has been requested. The
5598 clerk will call the roll.

5599 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5600 [No response.]

5601 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

5602 *Mr. Griffith. No.
5603 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
5604 Mr. Bilirakis?
5605 *Mr. Bilirakis. No. Oh, this is the -- sorry. I vote
5606 no. No.
5607 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
5608 [Laughter.]
5609 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
5610 *Mr. Hudson. No.
5611 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
5612 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
5613 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
5614 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
5615 Mr. Palmer?
5616 *Mr. Palmer. No.
5617 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
5618 Mr. Dunn?
5619 *Mr. Dunn. No.
5620 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
5621 Mr. Crenshaw?
5622 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
5623 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
5624 Mr. Joyce?
5625 *Mr. Joyce. No.
5626 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

5627 Mr. Weber?

5628 *Mr. Weber. No way.

5629 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

5630 Mr. Allen?

5631 [No response.]

5632 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?

5633 *Mr. Balderson. No.

5634 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

5635 Mr. Fulcher?

5636 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

5637 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

5638 Mr. Pfluger?

5639 [No response.]

5640 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

5641 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

5642 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

5643 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

5644 [No response.]

5645 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

5646 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

5647 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

5648 Mr. Obernolte?

5649 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

5650 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

5651 Mr. James?

5652 [No response.]

5653 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?

5654 *Mr. Bentz. No.

5655 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

5656 Mrs. Houchin?

5657 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

5658 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

5659 Mr. Fry?

5660 *Mr. Fry. No.

5661 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

5662 Ms. Lee?

5663 *Ms. Lee. No.

5664 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

5665 Mr. Langworthy?

5666 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

5667 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

5668 Mr. Kean?

5669 *Mr. Kean. No.

5670 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

5671 Mr. Rulli?

5672 *Mr. Rulli. No.

5673 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

5674 Mr. Evans?

5675 [No response.]

5676 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

5677 *Mr. Goldman. No.
5678 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
5679 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5680 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
5681 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
5682 Mr. Pallone?
5683 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
5684 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
5685 Ms. DeGette?
5686 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
5687 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
5688 Ms. Schakowsky?
5689 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
5690 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
5691 Ms. Matsui?
5692 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5693 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5694 Ms. Castor?
5695 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
5696 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5697 Mr. Tonko?
5698 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5699 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5700 Ms. Clarke?
5701 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

5702 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
5703 Mr. Ruiz?
5704 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
5705 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
5706 Mr. Peters?
5707 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
5708 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
5709 Mrs. Dingell?
5710 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
5711 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
5712 Mr. Veasey?
5713 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
5714 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
5715 Ms. Kelly?
5716 [No response.]
5717 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
5718 [No response.]
5719 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
5720 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
5721 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
5722 Ms. Schrier?
5723 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
5724 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5725 Mrs. Trahan?
5726 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

5727 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
5728 Mrs. Fletcher?
5729 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
5730 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
5731 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
5732 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
5733 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
5734 Mr. Auchincloss?
5735 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
5736 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
5737 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
5738 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
5739 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
5740 Mr. Menendez?
5741 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
5742 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
5743 Mr. Mullin?
5744 [No response.]
5745 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman?
5746 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
5747 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
5748 Ms. McClellan?
5749 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
5750 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
5751 Chairman Guthrie?

5752 *The Chair. No.

5753 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

5754 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Mr. Latta reported?

5755 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

5756 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.

5757 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

5758 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Allen?

5759 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not recorded.

5760 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes no.

5761 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

5762 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Anybody else?

5763 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

5764 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin --

5765 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Mullin?

5766 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

5767 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Anyone else?

5768 *Ms. Barragan. How is Barragan recorded?

5769 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Ms. Barragan?

5770 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.

5771 *Ms. Barragan. Yes.

5772 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

5773 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The clerk will report the

5774 result.

5775 [Pause.]

5776 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 23

5777 ayes and 26 noes.

5778 *The Clerk. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
5779 further amendments?

5780 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an
5781 amendment at the desk.

5782 *Mr. Pallone. Carter. Carter.

5783 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. He has an amendment on this?

5784 *Voice. Yes.

5785 *Mr. Pallone. Yes.

5786 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. For what purpose does the
5787 gentleman from Louisiana seek recognition?

5788 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an
5789 amendment at the desk.

5790 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The clerk will report the
5791 amendment.

5792 *The Clerk. Could the gentleman please specify his
5793 amendment?

5794 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. H1520-AMD_01.

5795 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1520, offered by Mr.
5796 Carter of Louisiana. Add at the end the following new
5797 section.

5798 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Without objection, the reading
5799 of the amendment is dispensed with.

5800

5801

5802 [The amendment of Mr. Carter of Louisiana follows:]

5803

5804 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5805

5806 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. And the gentleman is recognized
5807 for five minutes in support of the amendment.

5808 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, my amendment,
5809 H.R. 1520, the -- to the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant
5810 Discrimination Prevention Act, would prohibit HHS from
5811 cutting Medicaid for people with disabilities by reducing
5812 their eligibility, cutting enrollment, slashing their
5813 benefits, or increasing their out-of-pocket costs. It would
5814 also prevent reductions if -- in Federal Medicaid funding for
5815 people with disabilities.

5816 I wish that these types of cuts were something no member
5817 of this committee would ever have to imagine supporting. Yet
5818 Republicans are actively supporting plans to rip Medicaid
5819 from the hands of people who rely on it most. Congressional
5820 Republicans have made their plans to cut Medicaid by at least
5821 \$880 billion very clear. Under their plan this committee
5822 will be forced to make cuts to Medicaid that would be
5823 devastating to millions of children and adults with
5824 disabilities who rely on Medicaid. Republicans are saying
5825 that the cuts they are planning won't impact people with
5826 disabilities, but we know that is untrue. And the disability
5827 community has made it clear that they know it isn't true, and
5828 they are frightened.

5829 Over half of Medicaid spending is on people with -- who
5830 are eligible for Medicaid because of old age or disabilities,

5831 and that does not even capture the many people with Medicaid
5832 coverage who qualify for Medicaid under other eligibility
5833 pathways. In fact, people with Medicaid who have
5834 disabilities qualify because of eligibility pathways like the
5835 Medicaid expansion established by the Affordable Care Act,
5836 ACA, not the "disability pathway." "

5837 Yet Republicans include -- including those on this
5838 committee, are falsely referring to this diverse eligibility
5839 group as abled body, while spinning false narratives about
5840 fraud, waste, and abuse for which we all support rooting out.
5841 The reality is that there -- that no one is so able bodied as
5842 to need health care, and there is no way to protect people
5843 with disabilities from hundreds of billions of dollars in
5844 cuts to Medicaid.

5845 Medicaid is the reason that people with disabilities can
5846 access home and community-based services that enable them to
5847 live in their homes and communities with the support they
5848 need, including bathing, medication management, and food
5849 preparation. These are the types of services no other payer
5850 typically covers, and will be cut if Republicans gut Medicaid
5851 funding.

5852 I hope and pray that my colleagues will join me in
5853 supporting this amendment. It is imperative that we protect
5854 Americans with disability from cuts to Medicaid, and to do so
5855 not just in word but also in deed.

5856 I yield back.

5857 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. The gentleman yields. The
5858 chair now recognizes himself for five minutes.

5859 I oppose this amendment because this bill has nothing to
5860 do with reducing Medicaid coverage for people with
5861 disabilities.

5862 This committee has a rich history of supporting Medicaid
5863 care for people with disabilities. This committee worked in
5864 a bipartisan way last Congress to invest billions of dollars
5865 in new funding for people with disabilities and home and
5866 community-based services. I know that bill didn't get done
5867 in December, but I am confident if we continue to work
5868 together on these issues we will get it done this Congress.
5869 We have made clear that we want the Medicaid program to focus
5870 on the most vulnerable populations among us, including
5871 supporting people with disabilities.

5872 Again, I will note that today's bill does not make any
5873 changes to Medicaid, and this amendment is unnecessary.

5874 And I yield back.

5875 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, will you yield?

5876 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Is there any further discussion
5877 on --

5878 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, will you yield?

5879 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I will yield.

5880 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Is that a commitment, sir,

5881 that we will not cut Medicaid to the most vulnerable people
5882 who need it most?

5883 I have heard it said before, but I think the American
5884 people need and deserve to hear it said as many times as
5885 possible.

5886 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. It is not our intention to cut
5887 Medicaid to the most vulnerable population. It is our
5888 intention to stabilize it, to save it, to secure it.

5889 *The Chair. Would the gentleman yield?

5890 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I yield.

5891 *The Chair. Will you yield?

5892 There has -- there is no proposal that I have seen
5893 anywhere that anybody that is eligible for Medicaid that is
5894 disabled will have -- lose their benefit.

5895 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Is there any further
5896 discussion?

5897 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call, please.

5898 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Hearing none, a roll call vote
5899 has been requested. The clerk will call the roll.

5900 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5901 [No response.]

5902 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

5903 *Mr. Griffith. No.

5904 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

5905 Mr. Bilirakis?

5906 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
5907 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
5908 Mr. Hudson?
5909 *Mr. Hudson. No.
5910 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
5911 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
5912 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
5913 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
5914 Mr. Palmer?
5915 *Mr. Palmer. No.
5916 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
5917 Mr. Dunn?
5918 *Mr. Dunn. No.
5919 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
5920 Mr. Crenshaw?
5921 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
5922 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
5923 Mr. Joyce?
5924 *Mr. Joyce. No.
5925 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
5926 Mr. Weber?
5927 *Mr. Weber. No.
5928 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
5929 Mr. Allen?
5930 *Mr. Allen. No.

5931 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
5932 Mr. Balderson?
5933 *Mr. Balderson. No.
5934 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
5935 Mr. Fulcher?
5936 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
5937 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
5938 Mr. Pfluger?
5939 [No response.]
5940 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
5941 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
5942 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
5943 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5944 [No response.]
5945 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
5946 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
5947 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
5948 Mr. Obernolte?
5949 [No response.]
5950 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
5951 [No response.]
5952 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
5953 *Mr. Bentz. No.
5954 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
5955 Mrs. Houchin?

5956 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
5957 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
5958 Mr. Fry?
5959 *Mr. Fry. No.
5960 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
5961 Ms. Lee?
5962 *Ms. Lee. No.
5963 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
5964 Mr. Langworthy?
5965 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
5966 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
5967 Mr. Kean?
5968 *Mr. Kean. No.
5969 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
5970 Mr. Rulli?
5971 *Mr. Rulli. No.
5972 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
5973 Mr. Evans?
5974 [No response.]
5975 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
5976 *Mr. Goldman. No.
5977 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
5978 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5979 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
5980 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

5981 Mr. Pallone?
5982 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
5983 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
5984 Ms. DeGette?
5985 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
5986 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
5987 Ms. Schakowsky?
5988 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
5989 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
5990 Ms. Matsui?
5991 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5992 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5993 Ms. Castor?
5994 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
5995 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5996 Mr. Tonko?
5997 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5998 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5999 Ms. Clarke?
6000 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
6001 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
6002 Mr. Ruiz?
6003 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6004 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6005 Mr. Peters?

6006 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6007 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6008 Mrs. Dingell?
6009 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
6010 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6011 Mr. Veasey?
6012 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
6013 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6014 Ms. Kelly?
6015 [No response.]
6016 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
6017 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
6018 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6019 Mr. Soto?
6020 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
6021 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6022 Ms. Schrier?
6023 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6024 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6025 Mrs. Trahan?
6026 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6027 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6028 Mrs. Fletcher?
6029 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6030 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

6031 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

6032 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

6033 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

6034 Mr. Auchincloss?

6035 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

6036 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

6037 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

6038 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

6039 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

6040 Mr. Menendez?

6041 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

6042 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

6043 Mr. Mullin?

6044 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

6045 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

6046 Mr. Landsman?

6047 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

6048 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

6049 Ms. McClellan?

6050 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

6051 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

6052 Chairman Guthrie?

6053 *The Chair. No.

6054 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

6055 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Mr. Latta?

6056 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

6057 *Mr. Latta. Latta, no.

6058 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

6059 *The Chair. Anyone on your side?

6060 Anyone seeking recognition?

6061 No, we are all good, so the clerk will report.

6062 [Pause.]

6063 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 23
6064 ayes and 25 noes.

6065 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
6066 further amendments?

6067 The gentleman from Louisiana, for what purpose do you
6068 seek recognition?

6069 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an
6070 amendment at the desk, H.R. 1520-FCD-AMD_0 --

6071 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

6072 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, if I could preserve a
6073 point of order.

6074 *The Chair. Oh, reserve -- a point of order is
6075 reserved. Is there a -- the clerk will report.

6076 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1520 --

6077 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
6078 amendment is dispensed with.

6079

6080

6081 [The amendment of Mr. Carter of Louisiana follows:]

6082

6083 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6084

6085 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
6086 minutes in support of his amendment.

6087 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, my amendment to
6088 H.R. 1520, the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant
6089 Discrimination Prevention Act, is simply a sense of Congress
6090 reiterating the importance of immunocompromised children,
6091 such as organ transplant recipients or cancer patients, to
6092 continue to have access to medical care and treating
6093 physicians.

6094 There are no coverage mandates in this amendment and no
6095 poison pills. This is about supporting our children
6096 humanely, especially those with vulnerable health status.
6097 Unfortunately, due to recent illegal actions by the
6098 President, a mother with young children with stage four
6099 cancer was unable to coordinate or even alert treating
6100 physicians before their swift removal from Louisiana to
6101 Honduras last week. This is unconscionable. We are talking
6102 about a sick child and a terrified mother who were
6103 potentially coerced into an unimaginable situation.

6104 It is also about being reported that ICE was unaware of
6105 the child's medical needs, and still did -- was aware,
6106 rather, of the children's -- the child's need, and did
6107 nothing to ensure the child -- or to make sure that this U.S.
6108 citizen had even the basic care necessary before the
6109 transport. They sure could ensure that they had a ticket and

6110 a plane ready rapidly to transport one woman and three
6111 children, but they didn't have time to ask the question of
6112 the health of the children or to allow due process when her
6113 lawyer was in the waiting room.

6114 For my colleagues who prioritize -- priorities side with
6115 the illegal removal of U.S. citizens from the country without
6116 due process, let me explain what stage four metastatic cancer
6117 is. It is the most severe stage of cancer with the highest
6118 risk of mortality. Children with stage four cancer are
6119 typically treated at specialized children's cancer centers,
6120 where they have access to the most up-to-date treatment
6121 available.

6122 And what is even more shocking? That is at least the
6123 second time the Trump Administration has deported a child
6124 suffering from cancer. Last month a U.S. citizen and a 10-
6125 year-old child with brain cancer was deported from Texas to
6126 Mexico. Don't look away. Don't be fooled. Don't act as if
6127 this is normal.

6128 This amendment is about compassion for our neighbor, our
6129 children, our citizens. Take note today who will vote
6130 against reinforcing a basic sentiment, and hold them
6131 accountable.

6132 In closing, this language doesn't change any of the
6133 provisions or the timelines within this needed legislation.
6134 It merely makes it better. This is simply saying that we,

6135 this committee, supports the immunocompromised population and
6136 agree with the basic tenet that children's medical care
6137 deserves a constant, collaborative environment with their
6138 treated -- treating physicians.

6139 I have heard said multiple times today that there is no
6140 intention to cut Medicaid. But may I remind you of what many
6141 of you have heard many times before? The road to hell is
6142 paved with good intentions. Let's not let this be another
6143 one of those good intentions that took us to hell, or any of
6144 our loved ones, or our citizens, or our children that are
6145 suffering from cancer who may be deported, even though they
6146 are U.S. citizens, without taking into account that this
6147 child will probably die without the needed attention, medical
6148 attention that I dare say they will only get in America as a
6149 U.S. citizen.

6150 I yield back my time.

6151 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
6152 from Georgia is recognized.

6153 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in
6154 opposition to this amendment.

6155 First I want to recognize Charlotte Woodward again for
6156 being here.

6157 And I want to thank you for being here. Charlotte, I
6158 grew up with an aunt who had Down syndrome. She was very
6159 special to me, and I want to shout out her name. Her name

6160 was Jean Ford, and she was a very, very special person and a
6161 very special part of my life for so many years. Charlotte, I
6162 also want to apologize to you for -- on behalf of this whole
6163 committee. We pride ourselves on being bipartisan. In fact,
6164 I often say this is the most bipartisan committee in
6165 Congress, and I still feel like it is. But today we seem to
6166 be struggling with that. We are better than this, I will
6167 tell you that. We must -- we have got to move this
6168 legislation. And Charlotte, just hang with us. I promise
6169 you, we are getting there. I promise you we will be there in
6170 just a little while.

6171 With that said, while I appreciate my colleague's
6172 prioritization of health care access, this amendment does not
6173 have anything whatsoever to do with the underlying text of
6174 this bill, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

6175 The Charlotte Woodward Act -- Organ Transplant
6176 Discrimination Act would prohibit discrimination against
6177 people with disabilities in the organ transplant system. We
6178 as a legislative body need to stay focused on the task at
6179 hand. We should not delay the passage of this bill any more
6180 than what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have
6181 done.

6182 And I yield back.

6183 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
6184 further discussion?

6185 Seeing none, the question is on the amendment. A roll
6186 call has been requested. The clerk will call the roll.
6187 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
6188 [No response.]
6189 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
6190 *Mr. Griffith. No.
6191 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
6192 Mr. Bilirakis?
6193 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
6194 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
6195 Mr. Hudson?
6196 *Mr. Hudson. No.
6197 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
6198 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
6199 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
6200 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
6201 Mr. Palmer?
6202 [No response.]
6203 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
6204 *Mr. Palmer. No.
6205 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
6206 Mr. Dunn?
6207 [No response.]
6208 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
6209 [No response.]

6210 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6211 *Mr. Joyce. No.
6212 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
6213 Mr. Weber?
6214 *Mr. Weber. No.
6215 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
6216 Mr. Allen?
6217 *Mr. Allen. No.
6218 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
6219 Mr. Balderson?
6220 *Mr. Balderson. No.
6221 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
6222 Mr. Fulcher?
6223 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
6224 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
6225 Mr. Pfluger?
6226 [No response.]
6227 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
6228 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
6229 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
6230 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6231 [No response.]
6232 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
6233 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
6234 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

6235 Mr. Obernolte?
6236 [No response.]
6237 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
6238 [No response.]
6239 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
6240 *Mr. Bentz. No.
6241 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
6242 Mrs. Houchin?
6243 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
6244 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
6245 Mr. Fry?
6246 *Mr. Fry. No.
6247 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
6248 Ms. Lee?
6249 *Ms. Lee. No.
6250 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
6251 Mr. Langworthy?
6252 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
6253 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
6254 Mr. Kean?
6255 *Mr. Kean. No.
6256 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
6257 Mr. Rulli?
6258 *Mr. Rulli. No.
6259 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

6260 Mr. Evans?
6261 [No response.]
6262 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
6263 [No response.]
6264 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak?
6265 [No response.]
6266 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
6267 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6268 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6269 Ms. DeGette?
6270 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6271 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6272 Ms. Schakowsky?
6273 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6274 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6275 Ms. Matsui?
6276 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6277 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6278 Ms. Castor?
6279 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6280 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6281 Mr. Tonko?
6282 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
6283 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6284 Ms. Clarke?

6285 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
6286 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
6287 Mr. Ruiz?
6288 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6289 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6290 Mr. Peters?
6291 [No response.]
6292 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
6293 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
6294 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6295 Mr. Veasey?
6296 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
6297 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6298 Ms. Kelly?
6299 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
6300 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
6301 Ms. Barragan?
6302 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
6303 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6304 Mr. Soto?
6305 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
6306 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6307 Ms. Schrier?
6308 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6309 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

6310 Mrs. Trahan?
6311 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6312 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6313 Mrs. Fletcher?
6314 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6315 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
6316 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6317 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
6318 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
6319 Mr. Auchincloss?
6320 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
6321 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
6322 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6323 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
6324 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
6325 Mr. Menendez?
6326 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6327 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6328 Mr. Mullin?
6329 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6330 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
6331 Mr. Landsman?
6332 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
6333 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
6334 Ms. McClellan?

6335 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
6336 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
6337 Chairman Guthrie?
6338 *The Chair. No.
6339 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
6340 *The Chair. How is Mr. Latta --
6341 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
6342 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.
6343 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
6344 *The Chair. Dr. Dunn?
6345 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.
6346 *The Clerk. Dr. Dunn votes no.
6347 *The Chair. Crenshaw?
6348 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw is no.
6349 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
6350 *The Chair. Mr. Goldman?
6351 *Mr. Goldman. Goldman, no.
6352 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6353 *The Chair. Mrs. Fedorchak?
6354 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
6355 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
6356 *The Chair. Is Mr. Weber recorded?
6357 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is recorded as no.
6358 *The Chair. Mr. Peters?
6359 *Mr. Peters. Votes aye.

6360 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

6361 *The Chair. Is anyone else -- for the vote?

6362 Seeing none --

6363 *Voice. Obernolte is coming.

6364 *The Chair. How is Mr. Obernolte recorded?

6365 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.

6366 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

6367 *The Chair. Is there any other person present asking
6368 for the roll call?

6369 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

6370 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 23
6371 ayes and 26 noes.

6372 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
6373 further amendments?

6374 Seeing no further amendments, is there further
6375 discussion?

6376 Seeing none, in the honor of Ms. Charlotte Woodward, who
6377 has been here for two days, I will -- in her honor I will ask
6378 -- the question will now occur on adopting H.R. 1520, and I
6379 will, in honor of Charlotte Woodward, ask the clerk to call
6380 the roll.

6381 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6382 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

6383 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

6384 Mr. Griffith?

6385 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
6386 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
6387 Mr. Bilirakis?
6388 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
6389 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
6390 Mr. Hudson?
6391 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
6392 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
6393 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
6394 [No response.]
6395 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
6396 [No response.]
6397 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
6398 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
6399 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
6400 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
6401 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
6402 Mr. Crenshaw?
6403 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
6404 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
6405 Mr. Joyce?
6406 *Mr. Joyce. Charlotte, in your honor, aye.
6407 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
6408 Mr. Weber?
6409 *Mr. Weber. Ditto, you bet.

6410 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
6411 Mr. Allen?
6412 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
6413 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
6414 Mr. Balderson?
6415 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
6416 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
6417 Mr. Fulcher?
6418 [No response.]
6419 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?
6420 [No response.]
6421 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
6422 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
6423 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
6424 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6425 [No response.]
6426 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
6427 *Mrs. Cammack. It is about damn time, yes.
6428 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
6429 Mr. Obernolte?
6430 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
6431 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
6432 Mr. James?
6433 [No response.]
6434 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?

6435 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
6436 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
6437 Mrs. Houchin?
6438 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
6439 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
6440 Mr. Fry?
6441 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
6442 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
6443 Ms. Lee?
6444 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
6445 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
6446 Mr. Langworthy?
6447 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
6448 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
6449 Mr. Kean?
6450 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
6451 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
6452 Mr. Rulli?
6453 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
6454 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
6455 Mr. Evans?
6456 [No response.]
6457 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
6458 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
6459 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

6460 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6461 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
6462 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
6463 Mr. Pallone?
6464 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6465 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6466 Ms. DeGette?
6467 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6468 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6469 Ms. Schakowsky?
6470 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6471 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6472 Ms. Matsui?
6473 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6474 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6475 Ms. Castor?
6476 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6477 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6478 Mr. Tonko?
6479 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
6480 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6481 Ms. Clarke?
6482 *Ms. Clarke. No.
6483 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
6484 Mr. Ruiz?

6485 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6486 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6487 Mr. Peters?
6488 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6489 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6490 Mrs. Dingell?
6491 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
6492 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6493 Mr. Veasey?
6494 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
6495 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6496 Ms. Kelly?
6497 [No response.]
6498 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
6499 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
6500 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6501 Mr. Soto?
6502 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
6503 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6504 Ms. Schrier?
6505 [No response.]
6506 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan?
6507 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6508 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier?
6509 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

6510 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6511 Mrs. Trahan?
6512 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6513 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6514 Mrs. Fletcher?
6515 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6516 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
6517 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6518 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
6519 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
6520 Mr. Auchincloss?
6521 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
6522 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
6523 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6524 [No response.]
6525 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
6526 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6527 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6528 Mr. Mullin?
6529 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6530 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
6531 Mr. Landsman?
6532 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
6533 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
6534 Ms. McClellan?

6535 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

6536 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

6537 Chairman Guthrie?

6538 *The Chair. Aye.

6539 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

6540 *The Chair. How is Mr. Carter recorded?

6541 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

6542 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Carter votes aye.

6543 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

6544 *The Chair. Is anyone on either side?

6545 Seeing no one here to answer the roll, the clerk will
6546 report.

6547 [Pause.]

6548 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 46
6549 ayes and 1 no.

6550 *The Chair. With 46 ayes and 1 no, the bill is agreed
6551 to.

6552 [Applause.]

6553 *Mrs. Cammack. Can we take a selfie? A full-blown
6554 committee selfie -- actually get something done.

6555 *The Chair. Unanimous consent, we will all take a
6556 selfie.

6557 *Mrs. Cammack. I appreciate it, Mr. Chairman.

6558 *The Chair. However you want to do it.

6559 *Mrs. Cammack. All right, we are going to do it --

6560 *The Chair. You are the Millennial. I can't figure it
6561 out. Not even a Millennial. She is Gen X.

6562 *Mrs. Cammack. All right, we are going to do one high.
6563 You are all going to -- all right.

6564 [Laughter.]

6565 *The Chair. These are Gen Xers know how to do that. I
6566 don't.

6567 [Applause.]

6568 *The Chair. It is all your great example of
6569 citizenship. Thank you very much. Thank you. I appreciate
6570 it. Thank you.

6571 Feel free if you guys want to take pictures. We will
6572 indulge, for sure. That is great. That is great. Thank
6573 you.

6574 The chair now calls up H.R. 2319, and asks the clerk to
6575 report.

6576 *The Clerk. H.R. 2319, a bill to direct the Secretary
6577 of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate
6578 the status of research on --

6579 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
6580 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
6581 amendment at any point.

6582 So ordered.

6583

6584

6585 [The bill follows:]

6586

6587 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6588

6589 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
6590 bill?

6591 Seeing none, are there any amendments?

6592 For what purpose does the gentlelady from California
6593 seek recognition?

6594 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
6595 desk.

6596 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

6597 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, can the gentlelady please
6598 specify her amendment?

6599 *Ms. Matsui. It is 231901.

6600 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 2319, offered by --

6601 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
6602 amendment is dispensed with.

6603 [The amendment of Ms. Matsui follows:]

6604

6605 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6606

6607 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from California is
6608 recognized for five minutes to discuss her amendment.

6609 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6610 First I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Boyle, for
6611 introducing this important bill which focuses on researching
6612 lung cancer in women and underserved populations.

6613 Unfortunately, in the context of what is happening at
6614 NIH, I am worried the kinds of research discussed in this
6615 bill might not even be possible. The Administration has been
6616 attacking NIH on all fronts. First they attempted to
6617 illegally cut indirect costs to researchers, which would have
6618 resulted in a \$4 billion cut across the agency. They
6619 announced the massive layoffs across HHS, with around 1,200
6620 jobs cut at NIH. They have canceled hundreds of millions of
6621 dollars in active research grants because they allegedly did
6622 not serve the priorities of this Administration. This
6623 includes anything the Administration deemed DEI, DEI-related,
6624 taboo words being flagged, including women and underserved
6625 populations.

6626 And now the leaked HHS budget revealed that the
6627 Administration is planning drastic cuts to NIH overall budget
6628 and disruptive reorganization of institutes. The document
6629 proposes a 40 percent cut to NIH, reducing the budget from 47
6630 billion to \$27 billion. NIH's 27 institutes and centers
6631 would be consolidated into just 8. Some institutes are being

6632 eliminated altogether. This includes a National Institute on
6633 Minority Health and Health Disparities. The real-world
6634 impacts of aggressively and indiscriminately restructuring
6635 NIH, eviscerating its annual budget, and eliminating critical
6636 research are absolutely devastating.

6637 Unfortunately, it has become a trend for this
6638 Administration to attack science and public health. And they
6639 are not just targeting attacks on our efforts to tackle
6640 health disparities. There are attacks on basic science that
6641 impacts all of us. In my district a UC Davis study on
6642 factors that influence the development of dementia was cut by
6643 NIH. Why? Because it focused on a diverse population. A
6644 pediatric cancer study focused on precision oncology was
6645 terminated because it focused on reducing cancer disparities
6646 in Hispanic and Black children.

6647 Again, this isn't about DEI. These projects are seeking
6648 answers about some of our most pressing health issues and
6649 focused on the populations that are actually the most
6650 vulnerable. Examining health outcomes in different racial,
6651 ethnic, or gender groups to optimize every patient's health
6652 isn't a liberal scam; it is just good science.

6653 But these terminated grants are just the beginning if
6654 the Administration is successful. The threats of these cuts
6655 are injecting uncertainty into the research ecosystem. The
6656 United States has long been at the forefront of scientific

6657 innovation and research. This Administration's actions are
6658 jeopardizing our leadership. We are losing a whole
6659 generation of scientists because of the uncertainty around
6660 NIH funding. Grad schools are rescinding offers and telling
6661 current students they don't have the funding to sustain them.
6662 In fact, my own granddaughter, who was looking forward to
6663 starting a PhD program this fall, has had her future plans
6664 impacted by the Administration's chaos.

6665 And as the Administration dismantles our global
6666 leadership in science, other countries, both friend and foe,
6667 are waiting to fill the vacuum created. We are at risk of
6668 brain drain with all our talented, bright minds leaving the
6669 United States and seeking education and opportunity abroad in
6670 countries that still prioritize and protect science.

6671 So while I support this bill, I think if my Republican
6672 colleagues are supportive of the research goals of this bill,
6673 or really research on any of the issues they care about, they
6674 should be speaking up about the extreme attacks of the
6675 Administration on the NIH and science more broadly. My
6676 amendment would provide real accountability on the impacts of
6677 these attacks. And with that I urge my colleagues to support
6678 my amendment.

6679 And I yield back the balance of my time.

6680 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
6681 further discussion?

6682 The gentleman from Georgia.

6683 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in
6684 opposition to this amendment.

6685 This bill aims to accelerate research, improve early
6686 detection methods, and expand access to preventative services
6687 to address the rising rates of lung cancer. These are
6688 important policy goals, very important, particularly if you
6689 have lung cancer. So let's keep the focus on the bill at
6690 hand, and avoid political posturing over a guidance that is
6691 currently caught up in the courts.

6692 Look, if my friends on the other side of the aisle want
6693 to continue to review these -- this bill for changes and pull
6694 it from the markup today, that is fine. Let's just pull it.
6695 If you all still want to make changes to it, we are happy to
6696 entertain that discussion. We will pull it today, we will do
6697 it some other time.

6698 I remind you, it is one of your colleagues who is the
6699 sponsor of this bill. However, let me just remind you that
6700 this will remain Republicans' position that patients deserve
6701 our help and support by getting this bill signed into law in
6702 a timely fashion with no delays.

6703 I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I
6704 yield back.

6705 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
6706 further discussion?

6707 The gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Auchincloss, you
6708 are recognized.

6709 *Mr. Auchincloss. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
6710 last word.

6711 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

6712 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you.

6713 Our Republican colleagues keep encouraging us to focus
6714 on the bills at hand and ignore the context of the situation
6715 that we are in. And frankly, ignoring the context of today
6716 would be reckless for us.

6717 The Republicans are putting forward reasonable bills
6718 right now, much of whom are bipartisan and thoughtful.
6719 Actually, the Administration just issued an executive order
6720 on drug pricing that had some reasonable ideas in there,
6721 whether it was regarding 340B or examining PBMs'
6722 relationships with brokers. The challenge is we look at
6723 these policies, and it is hard to take them seriously or
6724 substantively when we also see the Secretary of Health and
6725 Human Services and his top aides engaged in corrupt, chaotic,
6726 and incompetent behavior that undermines the public health
6727 and safety of Americans right now.

6728 We have RFK, a committed, lifelong conspiracist and
6729 quack, surrounded by individuals who are running businesses
6730 on the side that are actually regulated and reimbursed by the
6731 agencies they are in charge of. So understanding that

6732 context, we have to be drawing attention to the fact that our
6733 Republican colleagues are refusing to do anything about it.
6734 They are rubber-stamping actions by the Secretary and his
6735 henchmen that are degrading our gold standard regulatory
6736 culture and institution at the Food and Drug Administration,
6737 that are undercutting science at the National Institutes of
6738 Health, and that is turning CMS into an institution meant to
6739 cater, frankly, to Brad Smith's own side businesses, or
6740 Calley Means's own side businesses. These are things that
6741 need to be addressed by our colleagues on the other side of
6742 the aisle for us to take seriously their policy proposals.

6743 And as we are doing this, as we are undercutting basic
6744 research, as we are harassing and bullying the immigrant
6745 scientists who make up so much of our eds and meds
6746 enterprise, as we are degrading regulatory clarity and
6747 predictability for our biotech enterprise, the country that
6748 is taking advantage of this is China. And this I know my
6749 Republican colleagues care about, because I served with them
6750 on the Select Committee on China for the last two years, and
6751 Republicans actually issued a report on China in the 116th
6752 Congress that called for doubling United States science and
6753 technology spending, which I think is a great idea. I would
6754 love to do it. Let's work on that.

6755 Right now you are doing the exact opposite. China has
6756 been spending hundreds of billions of dollars on its eds and

6757 meds research, on commercialization, on manufacturing. And
6758 they are watching us right now in a massive effort of
6759 counterproductive, self-defeating actions that are going to
6760 delay new cures, that are going to erode America's global
6761 standing, and that are -- is going to give China the lead in
6762 biotech, quantum, AI, cyber, the areas that help define our
6763 national security and standards of living for our
6764 constituents going forward.

6765 On that I yield back the balance of my time.

6766 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
6767 further discussion on the Republican side?

6768 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Virginia, Ms.
6769 McClellan, is recognized.

6770 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
6771 the last word.

6772 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

6773 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you.

6774 This amendment is actually directly related to this
6775 underlying bill. The bill requires HHS to conduct an
6776 interagency review of the status of and identify research
6777 related to women in underserved populations with lung cancer.
6778 Part of that -- that study needs to be comprehensive, or else
6779 what is the point?

6780 And part of -- one of the issues that is impacting
6781 research related to lung cancer -- as well as other cancers,

6782 pediatric disease, maternal health, mental health, and
6783 Alzheimer's disease -- is the President's attempt to put a
6784 cap on the indirect costs of NIH grants, which is not a new
6785 idea.

6786 In speaking with a former Republican colleague of yours
6787 before I got here, this idea has been floated around Congress
6788 before and has been thoroughly rejected on a bipartisan
6789 basis. And whether the courts strike down the President
6790 unilaterally doing it or not, my guess is it is probably
6791 coming back because the Heritage Foundation is the one that
6792 keeps coming up with this idea. And so far everything the
6793 President has done has been in line with the Heritage
6794 Foundation's ideas.

6795 But the -- that cap has a direct result on the ability
6796 of research institutions to do the research because it is --
6797 they use shared resources that cannot be allocated to one
6798 particular clinical trial or one particular research project.
6799 And while some universities have the endowments or other
6800 sources to make up that funding, others don't.

6801 And I have talked to a lot of research institutions in
6802 Virginia and asked directly, "Can you give me an example of a
6803 clinical trial you are currently doing that you are worried
6804 will have to stop if this cap takes effect?" And the first
6805 example I got was a clinical trial related to treatments for
6806 metastatic brain tumors. Metastatic brain tumors are not the

6807 ones formed from brain cancer. It is when other cancers like
6808 lung cancer or kidney cancer or any other metastasize,
6809 leading to brain tumors. And ultimately, it is the brain
6810 tumor that kills that person, not the underlying original
6811 organ failure that was subject to the cancer. That is
6812 exactly what happened with my father.

6813 And so, if we are going to research the status of
6814 research related to women in underserved populations with
6815 lung cancer, that also has to include the effect of actions
6816 of the Administration or this Congress on the ability of that
6817 research to happen. And so this amendment is directly
6818 related to this bill. It shouldn't delay it. It should be
6819 -- I don't understand why we wouldn't want a comprehensive
6820 study.

6821 And if we are not going to adopt this amendment, which
6822 -- I am under no illusions about where the math is here -- I
6823 would hope that my colleagues would at least want to ask
6824 those questions of the research institutions in their states
6825 and get a better idea about the real-world implications of
6826 the cap on indirect costs that the President unilaterally
6827 imposed.

6828 And with that I yield.

6829 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
6830 discussion on the Republican side?

6831 Not seeing any, the gentlelady from Washington seeks

6832 recognition.

6833 You are recognized for five minutes to speak on the
6834 amendment.

6835 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted
6836 to sort of double click on what my colleague, Representative
6837 McClellan, just said about these cuts to NIH research
6838 funding.

6839 And, you know, these were very cleverly labeled cuts to
6840 indirect spending, which, to the casual consumer of those
6841 words, sounds like fluff, sounds like extra stuff. It sounds
6842 like overhead. But let me just explain exactly what indirect
6843 costs are, and maybe that starts with explaining what direct
6844 costs are.

6845 Let's say you are a major university, and you are doing
6846 research. The direct costs are the costs associated only
6847 with that research project, only with getting the patients,
6848 bringing them in, the -- say the chemotherapeutic agents that
6849 you are trying out. That is direct costs.

6850 Now, indirect costs, if you are at a whole university,
6851 then we are talking about the building, maybe a lab that you
6852 use for multiple studies. Maybe it is the refrigerator you
6853 use for multiple studies. Maybe it is the pathologist who
6854 looks at samples for multiple studies. Maybe it is the
6855 infusion center. And so when we are talking about indirect
6856 costs, these are important costs, they are just not ones that

6857 are isolated to just one project.

6858 And so -- and I also want to clarify that a, for
6859 example, 50 to 70 percent indirect cost means that for every
6860 \$1 spent on research, \$0.50 to \$0.70 is spent on indirect
6861 costs.

6862 And so I just want to really kind of condemn the
6863 language that is used to insinuate that these are unimportant
6864 costs that can be trimmed. This is not fat. This is what
6865 funds our research institutions, our universities, and
6866 scientific advancement in this country.

6867 And I also want to agree with my colleague, Mr.
6868 Auchincloss, about how, by gutting research in this country,
6869 which has always been the -- at the forefront of the world's
6870 research, it is the reason that people come here to the
6871 United States to our institutions from all around the world
6872 to study and advance science and technology, we are now
6873 yielding that to China. And, you know, this Administration
6874 should be ashamed at itself for undermining U.S. excellence
6875 and yielding that ground to an adversary.

6876 So with that I want to support this amendment, and I
6877 yield back.

6878 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
6879 further discussion?

6880 Seeing none, the --

6881 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call.

6882 *The Chair. -- question now occurs on adopting the
6883 amendment. The question -- a roll call has been recorded --
6884 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

6885 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6886 [No response.]

6887 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

6888 *Mr. Griffith. No.

6889 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

6890 Mr. Bilirakis?

6891 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

6892 *The Chair. Bilirakis.

6893 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

6894 Mr. Hudson?

6895 *Mr. Hudson. No.

6896 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

6897 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

6898 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

6899 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

6900 Mr. Palmer?

6901 *Mr. Palmer. No.

6902 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

6903 Mr. Dunn?

6904 *Mr. Dunn. No.

6905 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

6906 Mr. Crenshaw?

6907 [No response.]

6908 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

6909 *Mr. Joyce. No.

6910 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

6911 Mr. Weber?

6912 *Mr. Weber. No.

6913 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

6914 Mr. Allen?

6915 *Mr. Allen. No.

6916 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

6917 Mr. Balderson?

6918 *Mr. Balderson. No.

6919 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

6920 Mr. Fulcher?

6921 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

6922 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

6923 Mr. Pfluger?

6924 [No response.]

6925 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

6926 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

6927 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

6928 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

6929 [No response.]

6930 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

6931 [No response.]

6932 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte?
6933 [No response.]
6934 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
6935 [No response.]
6936 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
6937 *Mr. Bentz. No.
6938 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
6939 Mrs. Houchin?
6940 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
6941 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
6942 Mr. Fry?
6943 *Mr. Fry. No.
6944 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
6945 Ms. Lee?
6946 *Ms. Lee. No.
6947 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
6948 Mr. Langworthy?
6949 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
6950 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
6951 Mr. Kean?
6952 *Mr. Kean. No.
6953 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
6954 Mr. Rulli?
6955 *Mr. Rulli. No.
6956 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

6957 Mr. Evans?
6958 [No response.]
6959 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
6960 *Mr. Goldman. No.
6961 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6962 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6963 [No response.]
6964 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
6965 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6966 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6967 Ms. DeGette?
6968 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6969 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6970 Ms. Schakowsky?
6971 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6972 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6973 Ms. Matsui?
6974 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6975 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6976 Ms. Castor?
6977 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6978 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6979 Mr. Tonko?
6980 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
6981 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

6982 Ms. Clarke?
6983 [No response.]
6984 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
6985 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6986 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6987 Mr. Peters?
6988 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6989 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6990 Mrs. Dingell?
6991 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
6992 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6993 Mr. Veasey?
6994 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
6995 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6996 Ms. Kelly?
6997 [No response.]
6998 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
6999 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7000 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7001 Mr. Soto?
7002 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7003 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7004 Ms. Schrier?
7005 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
7006 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

7007 Mrs. Trahan?
7008 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
7009 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7010 Mrs. Fletcher?
7011 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7012 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7013 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
7014 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
7015 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
7016 Mr. Auchincloss?
7017 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
7018 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
7019 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
7020 [No response.]
7021 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
7022 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
7023 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
7024 Mr. Mullin?
7025 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
7026 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
7027 Mr. Landsman?
7028 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
7029 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
7030 Ms. McClellan?
7031 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

7032 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
7033 Chairman Guthrie?
7034 *The Chair. No.
7035 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
7036 *The Chair. Mr. Latta?
7037 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
7038 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.
7039 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
7040 *The Chair. Mr. Goldman?
7041 *Mr. Goldman. No --
7042 *The Chair. You -- Mrs. Fedorchak?
7043 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
7044 *The Chair. So -- all right.
7045 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
7046 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?
7047 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
7048 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
7049 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?
7050 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
7051 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
7052 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking recognition for --
7053 to answer the roll call?
7054 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
7055 [Pause.]
7056 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 21

7057 ayes and 25 noes.

7058 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Is there -
7059 - are there further amendments?

7060 The gentlelady from California, Ms. Barragan, what --
7061 for what purpose do you seek recognition?

7062 *Ms. Barragan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
7063 desk.

7064 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

7065 Name the amendment.

7066 *Ms. Barragan. It is titled H2319-AMD_01.

7067 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

7068 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 2319, offered by Ms.
7069 Barragan.

7070 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
7071 amendment is dispensed with.

7072 [The amendment of Ms. Barragan follows:]

7073

7074 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7075

7076 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
7077 minutes in support of her amendment.

7078 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7079 This amendment requires that the study established by
7080 the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services
7081 Act look at the impact of Medicaid coverage for people with
7082 lung cancer. It also requires a study to examine the role
7083 that Medicaid plays in access to clinical trials.

7084 Lung cancer is the third most common cancer in the
7085 country, and more people die from it than from any other form
7086 of cancer.

7087 My district in Los Angeles County suffers from some of
7088 the highest levels of traffic-related air pollution in the
7089 country, which increases the risk of lung cancer and other
7090 diseases.

7091 Medicaid covers the often overwhelming costs of cancer
7092 prevention and treatment such as physician visits, diagnostic
7093 tests, hospital stays, and other clinical services that
7094 patients need to be able to join a clinical trial. Medicaid
7095 doesn't just support patients, it fuels progress in research
7096 on lung cancer as it supports participation in clinical
7097 trials.

7098 It makes absolutely no sense to claim -- support better
7099 access to lung cancer prevention and treatment while you cut
7100 Medicaid. And yet every Republican on this committee voted

7101 for a budget resolution that lays the groundwork to cut at
7102 least \$880 billion from Medicaid.

7103 Medicaid increases access to cancer screenings and
7104 preventive services, leads to earlier stage diagnoses,
7105 ensures timely treatment, and boosts survival rates.

7106 Renee Scherck-Meyer from Milwaukee, Wisconsin is one of
7107 many who have expressed fear over Republican plans to gut
7108 Medicaid. Renee has incurable stage four breast cancer that
7109 has led to tumors in her brain, her liver, and lungs.
7110 Without Medicaid, Renee is afraid she will have to ration or
7111 forgo cancer treatment, forced with a lower chance of
7112 survival or higher risk of bankruptcy. Unfortunately, Renee
7113 is not alone in these fears. Medicaid covers 1 in 10 adults
7114 with a history of cancer and 1 in 3 children with cancer.

7115 As someone who has watched my sister fight and beat
7116 cancer, I know exactly how critical this care is and how
7117 devastating it would be to take it away. We should be
7118 working to expand Medicaid, not gut it.

7119 States have expanded their Medicaid program -- expanded
7120 their Medicaid programs -- have achieved better cancer
7121 survival rates compared to states that have refused to expand
7122 their Medicaid programs like Florida, Georgia, and South
7123 Carolina. States are able to expand their Medicaid program,
7124 thanks to the Affordable Care Act which guaranteed states
7125 enhanced Federal matching funds to support the expansion.

7126 And yet one of my Republicans' leaked budget schemes to cut
7127 Medicaid would slash these Federal matching funds. This
7128 would shift significant financial burdens onto the states,
7129 several of which have automatic trigger laws that would end
7130 their Medicaid expansion entirely if their Federal matching
7131 decreases. Estimates show that if Congress shrinks the
7132 enhanced Federal matching funds and the states are forced to
7133 eliminate their Medicaid expansion, people will lose their
7134 health insurance and the number of uninsured people will
7135 increase in every congressional district.

7136 Medicaid is not optional. It is a lifetime -- it is a
7137 lifeline. And unlike my colleagues across the aisle in this
7138 committee, I refuse to stand by while Republicans try to rip
7139 away the health care that millions of Americans desperately
7140 rely on. I urge every member of this committee to do what is
7141 right and to support this straightforward amendment.

7142 And with that said, just recently there was a cut in the
7143 program to actually fund lung cancer research, the Lung
7144 Cancer Research Project. And the White House is now seeking
7145 to cut that even more. So if we are talking about actually
7146 supporting lung cancer research, then let's actually do that
7147 and speak out when these programs are being cut.

7148 I yield back.

7149 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Does anybody
7150 -- the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter.

7151 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in
7152 opposition to the amendment. I know you find that hard to
7153 believe, but I do indeed rise in opposition --

7154 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7155 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. -- to this amendment.

7156 This bill aims to accelerate research, and improve early
7157 detection methods, and expand access to preventative services
7158 to address the rising rates of lung cancer. They are
7159 important policy goals, as we said before. Let's keep the
7160 focus on the bill at hand, please, ladies and gentleman.
7161 Let's stay focused. Let's avoid political posturing over an
7162 unrelated policy ask.

7163 Again, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle
7164 -- if they want to continue to review this bill for changes
7165 and pull it from the markup today, let's do that. Let's --
7166 we all got other things we can do. We are willing to do
7167 that, and we certainly understand if that is what you want to
7168 do. However, let me make clear that it still remains
7169 Republicans' position that patients deserve our help and
7170 support by getting this bill signed into law in a timely
7171 fashion with no delays.

7172 I urge my colleagues, I urge my colleagues to oppose
7173 this amendment, and I yield back.

7174 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
7175 from California, Mr. Mullin, seeks recognition.

7176 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7177 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7178 *Mr. Mullin. Supporting my California colleague,
7179 Representative Barragan's amendment, and want to make clear
7180 my strong opposition to the Trump Administration's illegal
7181 cuts to funding and personnel at NIH.

7182 These actions threaten to undo decades of lifesaving
7183 research on diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's, slowing
7184 progress when we can least afford it.

7185 In my district, home to top research institutions and a
7186 thriving biotech sector -- the birthplace, actually, of
7187 biotechnology -- over \$200 million in NIH funding has been
7188 awfully -- unlawfully rescinded. Slashing these investments
7189 will shutter labs, lay off thousands of researchers, and
7190 bring groundbreaking research to a halt right at the moment
7191 when we are poised to make once-in-a-generation advances
7192 against cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases.

7193 The U.S. leads global innovation, but these cuts invite
7194 other nations to surpass us, echoing some of my colleagues'
7195 concerns. Our competitors are rapidly investing in advanced
7196 technologies, and are eager to attract top scientists to
7197 dominate the next generation of breakthroughs. We hand them
7198 the advantage on a silver platter by gutting the NIH.
7199 Congress must stand firm against this shortsighted policy.
7200 Investing in medical research saves lives, strengthens our

7201 economy, and ensures our country remains a global leader in
7202 innovation.

7203 I urge my colleagues to protect NIH funding --

7204 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

7205 *Mr. Mullin. -- and reject these damaging cuts.

7206 I yield back.

7207 *Ms. DeGette. Will you yield?

7208 *Mr. Mullin. Yielding to my colleague.

7209 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you. Well, I just want to add to
7210 what you are saying about the importance of this research.

7211 And I would say to my friends on the other side of the
7212 aisle, I can surely understand why you are uncomfortable
7213 talking about the proposed cuts to Medicaid that we hear you
7214 are about to do -- try to do next week when you bring up the
7215 budget reconciliation bill.

7216 And I point out to you, Mr. Chairman, that these
7217 amendments are all germane to all of these bills, and the --
7218 and therefore they are not irrelevant. The reason they are
7219 all germane is when you look at issues like lung cancer or
7220 other types of cancer, so many Americans rely on their -- on
7221 payment for their treatment with Medicaid. So if we are
7222 taking people off of Medicaid, if we are limiting our
7223 expansion of Medicaid, if we are limiting the benefits people
7224 can do, it is going to affect millions of patients in this
7225 country.

7226 And so I can see -- you know, we sort of call it
7227 fiddling while Rome burns. It is great that these smaller
7228 bipartisan bills are up today, but they are really going to
7229 be meaningless if people can't get the services that you are
7230 talking about. And that is why we are trying to amend these
7231 bills to reassure our constituents and your constituents who
7232 rely on Medicaid that if they get lung cancer, if they get
7233 any of these other diseases, then they will be able to get
7234 the treatment that they need.

7235 So it is not like we are taking the focus away. We are
7236 surely not trying to make partisan remarks. We are just
7237 pointing out that people should not be under any
7238 misconception that if they -- if we vote for this bill, that
7239 it is going to get them the treatment that they need.

7240 I thank my colleague for yielding, and I yield back.

7241 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back?

7242 *Mr. Mullin. I yield back.

7243 *The Chair. Is there any further discussion?

7244 *Mr. Pallone. I want a roll call.

7245 *The Chair. Seeing none -- a roll call? There is --
7246 for the -- the gentlelady from Florida, for what purpose do
7247 you seek recognition?

7248 *Ms. Castor. To strike the last word.

7249 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

7250 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the

7251 Barragan amendment, but it was a -- it was in the recent
7252 debate on the last bill where -- I don't know if you heard
7253 it, I did -- like, blaring red sirens and flashing red lights
7254 when you said, Mr. Chairman, that there is no proposal that
7255 you have seen anywhere that anybody is eligible for Medicaid
7256 that is disabled will lose their benefit, and then went on to
7257 talking about restraining the growth of Medicaid.

7258 And throughout the debate today there has been reference
7259 to maybe a work requirement or per capita caps. You have
7260 certainly talked about that over the past few months as we
7261 barrel towards this horrendous markup next week. And people
7262 need to know what this coded language really means for their
7263 health care. And there is no better example than all of
7264 these letters that are pouring in from across the country
7265 opposing the Medicaid cuts.

7266 These are just a few samples from many aging and
7267 disability organizations pleading with this committee to not
7268 rip away their health care to give massive tax cuts to
7269 billionaires. They have consistently voiced their strong
7270 concerns with proposals like per capita caps, cutting the
7271 matching rate for states, the FMAP, and imposing work
7272 requirements. They are all policies that you have talked
7273 about, and people need to know what it really means. It
7274 means less care for the people we love the most.

7275 For example, the Alliance for Aging Research, this is a

7276 a long group of organizations that help millions of Americans
7277 every day. They say, "We are concerned about the negative
7278 impact these deep cuts will have on all Americans living with
7279 chronic disease and other disabilities, how devastating they
7280 will be on those with Alzheimer's disease and related
7281 diseases.'" They say, "Work requirements would take away
7282 coverage and have outsized impacts on this community, and
7283 they are problematic.'"

7284 The Disability and Aging Collaborative, representing
7285 400-plus aging, disability, and allied organizations from
7286 every state, 17 million people with disabilities and older
7287 adults, they said, "Medicaid is already lean and efficient.
7288 Funding cuts, caps, or changes that limit eligibility or make
7289 it harder to enroll in or maintain coverage threaten the
7290 longstanding Medicaid guarantee for people with disabilities,
7291 older adults, and their families. We strongly oppose any
7292 budget resolution that calls for or leads to Medicaid cuts,
7293 as well as any efforts to impose Medicaid per capita caps,
7294 block grants, work requirements, restrictions on eligibility,
7295 barriers to enrollment,'" because that is what they are.

7296 Just take a look at what happened in Arkansas a few
7297 years ago when they instituted work requirements. What
7298 happened was 18,000 people from that state were kicked off
7299 the rolls, and a Federal judge had to intervene to say you
7300 are not following the law and providing the care you need.

7301 And I don't want my Republican colleagues to fall into the
7302 same trap, but I think that it is fair for the rest of the
7303 world to know what is really going on here as we barrel
7304 towards this markup next week.

7305 And we will -- as Mr. -- as Ranking Member Pallone
7306 pointed out early, we are not going to have the text for the
7307 Medicaid cuts until maybe 10:00 p.m. on Monday night. And
7308 then you have to watch because then an amendment could come
7309 in, they could post the text, and then there are likely to be
7310 amendments and changes on that.

7311 So this is an all-hands-on-deck moment. This is a time
7312 when the sirens should be going off, the red lights are
7313 flashing. We have heard at home from millions of Americans.
7314 They don't think that it is worth ripping away care to the
7315 people we love the most to provide a massive tax cut to
7316 billionaires. But that is the coded language of the red
7317 alert that should be going out here today while, again, we --
7318 yes, we are focused. We are focused on this. You can say we
7319 are very focused on the health of the people we love the
7320 most, and we intend to fight for them today, tomorrow, next
7321 week, every single day.

7322 And I yield back my time.

7323 *The Chair. Thank you.

7324 The gentlelady yields back. Is there further
7325 discussion?

7326 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment. The roll
7327 call being requested, the clerk will call the roll.
7328 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
7329 *Mr. Latta. No.
7330 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
7331 *Mr. Griffith. No.
7332 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
7333 Mr. Bilirakis?
7334 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
7335 *The Chair. Bilirakis.
7336 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
7337 Mr. Hudson?
7338 *Mr. Hudson. No.
7339 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
7340 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
7341 [No response.]
7342 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
7343 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
7344 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
7345 Mr. Palmer?
7346 *Mr. Palmer. No.
7347 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
7348 Mr. Dunn?
7349 *Mr. Dunn. No.
7350 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

7351 Mr. Crenshaw?
7352 [No response.]
7353 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7354 *Mr. Joyce. No.
7355 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
7356 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw, no.
7357 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
7358 Mr. Weber?
7359 *Mr. Weber. No.
7360 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
7361 Mr. Allen?
7362 *Mr. Allen. No.
7363 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
7364 Mr. Balderson?
7365 *Mr. Balderson. No.
7366 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
7367 Mr. Fulcher?
7368 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
7369 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
7370 Mr. Pfluger?
7371 [No response.]
7372 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
7373 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
7374 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
7375 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

7376 [No response.]

7377 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

7378 [No response.]

7379 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

7380 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.

7381 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

7382 Mrs. Cammack?

7383 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

7384 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

7385 Mr. James?

7386 [No response.]

7387 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?

7388 *Mr. Bentz. No.

7389 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

7390 Mrs. Houchin?

7391 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

7392 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

7393 Mr. Fry?

7394 *Mr. Fry. No.

7395 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

7396 Ms. Lee?

7397 *Ms. Lee. No.

7398 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

7399 Mr. Langworthy?

7400 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

7401 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
7402 Mr. Kean?
7403 *Mr. Kean. No.
7404 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
7405 Mr. Rulli?
7406 [No response.]
7407 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
7408 [No response.]
7409 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
7410 *Mr. Goldman. No.
7411 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
7412 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7413 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
7414 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
7415 Mr. Pallone?
7416 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
7417 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
7418 Ms. DeGette?
7419 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7420 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7421 Ms. Schakowsky?
7422 *Ms. Schakowsky. Yes.
7423 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7424 Ms. Matsui?
7425 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

7426 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7427 Ms. Castor?
7428 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7429 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7430 Mr. Tonko?
7431 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7432 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7433 Ms. Clarke?
7434 [No response.]
7435 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
7436 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7437 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7438 Mr. Peters?
7439 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
7440 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7441 Mrs. Dingell?
7442 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
7443 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
7444 Mr. Veasey?
7445 [No response.]
7446 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
7447 [No response.]
7448 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
7449 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7450 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

7451 Mr. Soto?

7452 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

7453 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

7454 Ms. Schrier?

7455 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

7456 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

7457 Mrs. Trahan?

7458 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

7459 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

7460 Mrs. Fletcher?

7461 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

7462 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

7463 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7464 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

7465 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

7466 Mr. Auchincloss?

7467 [No response.]

7468 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?

7469 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes.

7470 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

7471 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7472 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7473 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7474 Mr. Menendez?

7475 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

7476 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
7477 Mr. Mullin?
7478 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
7479 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
7480 Mr. Landsman?
7481 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.
7482 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
7483 Ms. McClellan?
7484 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
7485 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
7486 Chairman Guthrie?
7487 *The Chair. No.
7488 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
7489 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll call?
7490 Is anybody on the Democrat side looking to answer the
7491 roll call?
7492 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
7493 [Pause.]
7494 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 21
7495 ayes and 25 noes.
7496 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Seeing --
7497 are there any further amendments, further discussion?
7498 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
7499 2319.
7500 All those in favor, say aye.

7501 All opposed, no.

7502 The ayes have it.

7503 The chair calls up H.R. 1669 and asks the clerk to
7504 report.

7505 *The Clerk. H.R. 1669, a bill to amend the public
7506 service --

7507 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7508 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
7509 amendment at any point.

7510 So ordered.

7511 [The bill follows:]

7512

7513 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7514

7515 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
7516 bill?

7517 Is there further discussion on the bill?

7518 Are there any amendments to the bill?

7519 No amendments. Seeing none -- there are no amendments
7520 to the bill?

7521 If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on
7522 the bill. The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 1669.

7523 All those in favor, say aye.

7524 Those opposed, no.

7525 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

7526 The chair calls up H.R. 1082, and asks the clerk to
7527 report.

7528 *The Clerk. H.R. 1082, a bill to require the Secretary
7529 of Health and Human --

7530 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7531 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
7532 amendment at any point.

7533 So ordered.

7534 [The bill follows:]

7535

7536 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7537

7538 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
7539 bill?

7540 The gentlelady from Michigan seeks recognition on the
7541 bill.

7542 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
7543 the last word in strong support of H.R. 1082, the Shandra
7544 Eisenga Human Cell and Tissue Product Safety Act. I am proud
7545 to lead this important bill alongside my good friend and
7546 colleague from Michigan, Representative John Moolenaar.

7547 Last summer I was contacted by the medical director of
7548 the Washtenaw County Tuberculosis Clinic who was treating a
7549 patient, Shandra Eisenga, for a severe post-surgical
7550 tuberculosis infection. Shandra was Representative
7551 Moolenaar's constituent being treated at a medical facility
7552 in my district. After a month battling a severe TB infection
7553 in the intensive care unit, Shandra unfortunately died.

7554 Since Shandra's passing, it has been discovered that her
7555 death was indeed linked to contaminated bone graft material
7556 produced by Aziyo Biologic. She was one of 36 patients who
7557 received material from the contaminated lot, and as of today
7558 this latest outbreak is linked to the deaths of 2 patients,
7559 including Shandra.

7560 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human
7561 Services to conduct research and education campaigns to
7562 prevent TB outbreaks caused by contaminated human cell and

7563 tissue product donations. Through the markup process we also
7564 included an important provision to allow the Federal
7565 Government to pursue civil penalties from providers who cause
7566 an outbreak of an infectious disease.

7567 Patients deserve to know the risks associated with
7568 tissue donations, and companies that make and distribute
7569 contaminated products must be held accountable for their
7570 actions.

7571 I just want you all to think about it. Ever gone, had
7572 an implant, gotten a bone graft? That material is not
7573 subject right now to what it should be subject to. You too
7574 could be exposed to TB. We need to fight that.

7575 I thank the Energy and Commerce Chair Guthrie and
7576 Ranking Member Pallone for fighting for this important piece
7577 of legislation. I want to thank Representative Moolenaar for
7578 being a great bipartisan partner.

7579 We owe it to Shandra, her family, and every other
7580 patient who has been affected by contaminated bone grafts to
7581 ensure we are doing everything to prevent these unnecessary
7582 tragedies from happening again. I urge my colleagues to vote
7583 yes on this important bill, and yield back the remainder of
7584 my time.

7585 *The Chair. Thank you.

7586 The gentlelady yields back. For what purpose does the
7587 gentleman from Texas, Mr. Crenshaw -- you are recognized for

7588 five minutes to speak on the bill.

7589 *Mr. Crenshaw. I move to -- Mr. Chairman, I move to
7590 strike the last word.

7591 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7592 *Mr. Crenshaw. I am happy we are marking up the Shandra
7593 Eisenga bill, a human cell and tissue product safety act
7594 today. Thank you, Representatives Moolenaar and Dingell, for
7595 sponsoring this.

7596 This bill is named for Shandra, who tragically passed
7597 away from tuberculosis in 2023, became sick after receiving a
7598 contaminated bone graft during surgery, something that no
7599 patient or family should ever have to go through. Now, these
7600 cells and tissue products can save lives, but we have to
7601 ensure that standards are clear, that providers and patients
7602 are educated on the risks and benefits.

7603 This bill will do a couple of key things. First, it
7604 will educate patients, providers, and industry. It will also
7605 ensure that the FDA has the most up-to-date guidance so that
7606 industry can properly screen for pathogens like tuberculosis.
7607 Second, the bill includes important bipartisan policies that
7608 I am proud to have worked on with Representative Barragan,
7609 policies that encourage innovation in regenerative medicine.

7610 You might also ask what regenerative medicine is. Well,
7611 it is when we use the human body to heal disease. And in
7612 some cases, we are quite literally using a patient's own

7613 body, their own cells, to cure that disease. It is a great
7614 medical miracle of our time. But in order to succeed, we
7615 have to make sure that the regulatory environment encourages
7616 innovation.

7617 So here is what the bill does. It encourages more FDA
7618 communication with innovators. And this bill also moves us
7619 closer to a new pathway so that we are not applying a one-
7620 size-fits-all regulation to some of the most life-changing
7621 cell therapies. This is something I plan to continue working
7622 on with the FDA because the wrong regulation can quite
7623 literally mean the difference between innovation that saves
7624 lives and patients that are left out in the cold with no
7625 options.

7626 And I ask everyone to vote in support of this bill.
7627 Thank you, and I yield back.

7628 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
7629 further discussion on the bill?

7630 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

7631 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
7632 1082.

7633 All those in favor, say aye.

7634 Those opposed, no.

7635 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

7636 The chair calls up H.R. 2484, and asks the clerk to
7637 report.

7638 *The Clerk. H.R. 2484, a bill to amend Title XVIII of
7639 the Social Security Act to establish --

7640 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7641 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
7642 amendment at any point.

7643 So ordered.

7644 [The bill follows:]

7645

7646 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7647

7648 *The Chair. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

7649 The gentlelady from Tennessee, for what purpose do you
7650 seek recognition?

7651 *Mrs. Harshbarger. To support the bill.

7652 *The Chair. You are recognized to speak on the bill.

7653 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7654 I urge my colleagues to support this important
7655 bipartisan legislation that I introduced with Representative
7656 Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and I want to thank Chairs Guthrie
7657 and Carter and Ranking Members Pallone and DeGette for
7658 working with me to advance this critical importance in the
7659 way Medicare seniors can obtain their Part D prescription
7660 drugs.

7661 This would provide continuation of pre-pandemic-era
7662 flexibilities for specialty physicians and other health care
7663 providers to be able to deliver oral medications to patients
7664 by mail, delivery, or courier, or it would allow a designated
7665 caregiver or family member to pick up these medications
7666 instead for the patients. It is critically important for the
7667 well-being of cancer patients and others with serious
7668 diseases who are too sick to pick up their medications in
7669 person, who live in rural areas distant from their
7670 physicians, or who simply do not have transportation.

7671 A version of this legislation was advanced out of the
7672 full Energy and Commerce Committee in the 118th Congress, and

7673 it was passed by the House without objection in September
7674 2024. The updated bill before us is a result of bipartisan,
7675 bicameral negotiations with the Senate Finance Committee and
7676 additional technical assistance from CMS toward the end of
7677 last year, as well as feedback from the health care
7678 stakeholder community.

7679 H.R. 2484 amends physicians self-referral law to permit
7680 Medicare patients to receive Medicare Part D prescription
7681 drugs via caregivers picking up drugs on the patient's behalf
7682 or via mail or couriers delivering those drugs to the
7683 patient, and this will begin on January 1, 2026, and continue
7684 for 5 years. These flexibilities would be permitted in
7685 instances when a provider prescribes a drug to be dispensed
7686 by a pharmacy that falls under the self-referral law's
7687 definition of an in-office ancillary service.

7688 While the bill does not modify any program requirements
7689 under Medicare Part D, it puts in place common-sense
7690 guardrails for these flexibilities by requiring within one
7691 year prior the Medicare beneficiary must have a face-to-face
7692 encounter with the prescriber, and only if the Medicare
7693 beneficiary has an ongoing pre-existing relationship with the
7694 prescriber. These health care flexibilities are safely
7695 managed by licensed pharmacy professionals and integrated
7696 within the specialty care team and patients' treatment plans.

7697 This approach, which is widely utilized in private

7698 commercial health insurance, has long insured patients
7699 receive coordinated, high-quality medical care, including
7700 patient education monitoring, real-time treatment
7701 adjustments, and medication safety measures.

7702 In addition, these practices are well resourced and
7703 qualified to handle the complex supply chain dynamics
7704 required of cancer and other sensitive specialty medications
7705 from acquisitions to proper storage and delivery. Medicare
7706 patients will benefit from these enhanced flexibilities that
7707 will allow them to better maintain access to care and regular
7708 uptake of their prescribed our medications.

7709 The legislation also provides that within three years
7710 after enactment the U.S. Government Accountability Office
7711 will conduct a study and issue a report to Congress on a
7712 number of metrics including the prescribers and pharmacies
7713 participating in these flexibility arrangements, their
7714 contracting features and business structures, and any changes
7715 in Part D drug prescribing and dispensing volumes. The very
7716 minimal cost of these reforms will be fully paid for and
7717 offset by transferring funds from the Medicare Improvement
7718 Fund.

7719 And I ask the committee's consent to include in the
7720 record copies of four letters of support for this bipartisan
7721 bill from the Community Oncology Alliance; from the non-
7722 profit medical association LUGPA; from the American Medical

7723 Association; and from the U.S. Oncology Network.

7724 Is that okay?

7725 *The Chair. Yes, ma'am. Without objection, so ordered.

7726 [The information follows:]

7727

7728 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7729

7730 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Okay. Thank you, sir.

7731 And I urge my colleagues to support this crucial
7732 bipartisan bill. We shouldn't be forcing patients,
7733 especially our seniors, to take an arduous journey or have
7734 their access to lifesaving medicines threatened. And the
7735 Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act will modernize
7736 Medicare, promote patient safety, and ensure that seniors,
7737 cancer patients, and those suffering from serious illness are
7738 able to receive the medications they need when they need
7739 them.

7740 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

7741 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back, and the chair
7742 recognizes the ranking member, the gentleman from New Jersey,
7743 for five minutes to speak on the bill.

7744 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7745 I supported this bill last Congress because I believed
7746 it was narrowly tailored to address a simple problem that is
7747 allowing for patients to be able to get their prescriptions
7748 mailed to them by their doctor. But I am concerned that
7749 recently I have heard from both pharmacists and other Members
7750 of Congress that the bill could actually incentivize
7751 significant consolidation and vertical integration in
7752 physician practice by drug wholesalers.

7753 So under this bill there could be further incentives for
7754 wholesale drug distributors to purchase physician practices

7755 and steer their providers to prescribe treatments based on
7756 whatever makes their doctor the most money. And I know
7757 members on both sides are troubled by the trend of greater
7758 consolidation in our health care system, so this raises
7759 concerns that H.R. 2484 would significantly weaken the Stark
7760 Law, paving the way for more fraud and abuse in the Medicare
7761 program.

7762 Patients deserve access to treatment that is medically
7763 appropriate for them, and the Stark Law ensures that patients
7764 receive care based on medical necessity and not based on
7765 whatever treatment makes their doctor the most money. So,
7766 given these new concerns that were not raised at the time
7767 that this bill was considered in the last Congress, I can't
7768 continue to support the bill that may result in greater
7769 consolidation in our health care system and thereby raise
7770 healthcare costs for seniors.

7771 And I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

7772 *The Chair. Thank you.

7773 The gentleman yields back. Is there any discussion?

7774 The gentleman from Georgia seeks five minutes for
7775 discussion.

7776 You are recognized.

7777 [Pause.]

7778 *The Chair. All right. The gentleman from Georgia does
7779 not seek recognition?

7780 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I do.

7781 *The Chair. You had recognition? Somebody -- does the
7782 gentleman from Florida seek recognition, and yield to the --

7783 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, I yield to the gentlelady from
7784 Tennessee.

7785 *The Chair. Thank you.

7786 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Thank you, Mr. Bilirakis.

7787 You know, I think there is some misunderstanding or
7788 misinformation from some of those entities from the largest
7789 PBMs in the country. They are worried about losing market
7790 share. That is the concerns that they are promoting, because
7791 this bill passed unanimously out of this committee and
7792 through the House. And whenever it draws scrutiny like that,
7793 you know, we must be doing something right with this bill.

7794 And it is a very simple bill. It deals with drug
7795 delivery, and it removes any barriers that these cancer
7796 patients may have to treatment and anybody with serious
7797 diseases from getting their treatment.

7798 And, you know, it may well upset these mega-companies
7799 with, you know, PBM financial affiliations. And we are here
7800 to do what is right, and to put the patients over profits,
7801 and that is what this bill does. It clarifies the Stark Law
7802 to where those patients will have uninhibited access to the
7803 drugs they need to provide the outcomes that they should have
7804 so they won't miss doses and the outcomes will end up being

7805 the best for that patient.

7806 And I yield back with that.

7807 *The Chair. The gentleman from Florida yields back?

7808 *Mr. Bilirakis. I yield back.

7809 *The Chair. The chair recognizes the gentleman from
7810 Massachusetts.

7811 Let me go to you first. The gentleman from California
7812 is pulling rank.

7813 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you.

7814 *The Chair. The gentleman from California has
7815 seniority, Dr. Ruiz.

7816 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, I appreciate that. It has been
7817 13 years to be able to be on this top dais, so I appreciate
7818 you calling me here.

7819 [Laughter.]

7820 *Mr. Ruiz. So, look, you know, I support this bill. I
7821 do have concerns about consolidations. I am -- but I don't
7822 have those concerns as much as others on this side. As a
7823 physician, I know it is very hard sometimes for our patients,
7824 especially underserved in communities, to be able to drive
7825 every day to get the medications from their doctors.

7826 But since we are on the topic of Medicare and access to
7827 the Medicare, one of the things that concerns me is the
7828 coming cuts to the Medicaid. A lot of people don't -- just
7829 don't link the Medicaid to Medicare, but many, many patients

7830 -- in fact, 12.2 million patients in the United States, 1.7
7831 million in California -- are dual eligible enrollees with
7832 Medicare and Medicaid.

7833 And we know that this committee has been instructed,
7834 through the Republican budget framework, to cut \$880 billion
7835 under the Energy and Commerce jurisdiction. And we have seen
7836 reports that if they zero out everything other than Medicaid,
7837 they would be able to cut 200 billion. That leaves 680
7838 billion left to find ways to cut from the Medicaid program.
7839 And, you know, we have heard different ways that they intend
7840 to do that. One is to create work requirements, the other is
7841 to cut the provider tax, or the MCO tax, which is sort of a
7842 matching fund that states use to help pay for the Medicaid
7843 program. The other is putting caps on -- per capita caps.
7844 Another way is reducing the Federal share of the Medicaid
7845 cost. All of these will end up with lowering the usage of
7846 Medicaid.

7847 So in other words, it is figuring out ways to cut the
7848 enrollment or cut the people who use Medicaid. In other
7849 words, it is a cut to Medicaid. And we can use different
7850 words and trickery, like saying, well, but we are not going
7851 to touch the benefits. No, because none of these are
7852 specifically about benefits. But you know that if you cut
7853 people off of Medicaid, they are not going to be able to
7854 enjoy those benefits.

7855 Nearly 30 percent of Medicaid dollars support Medicare
7856 enrollees. So any cuts to Medicaid will particularly hurt
7857 our dual-eligible constituents. Medicaid provides premium
7858 assistance for Medicare enrollees, helping over 10 million
7859 seniors and people with disabilities. Medicaid fills the gap
7860 in coverage and affordability that Medicare beneficiaries
7861 face, like out-of-pocket costs, long-term care stays, and
7862 transportation to medical appointments.

7863 So, you know, all these big cuts to Medicaid could lead
7864 to people getting kicked off their Medicaid coverage. Cuts
7865 would lead to fewer benefits, more out-of-pocket costs. And
7866 you ask how? Well, if you put more of the onus on states,
7867 they are going to start doing those cuts in eligibility.

7868 So I see I have ran over my time. The chairman has been
7869 very gracious in giving me --

7870 *The Chair. Thank you.

7871 *Mr. Ruiz. -- such extra time. I yield back, thank
7872 you.

7873 *The Chair. Thank you.

7874 The gentleman yields back. The gentleman -- anyone on
7875 this side of the aisle?

7876 The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for five
7877 minutes to speak on the bill.

7878 *Mr. Auchincloss. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
7879 last word.

7880 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7881 *Mr. Auchincloss. The Seniors' Access to Critical
7882 Medications Act is a well-intentioned and thoughtful bill,
7883 and this issue is really complicated. But I cannot support
7884 this bill as written for the simple reason that it fails what
7885 I think of in my head as the UnitedHealth Group test.

7886 What this bill does is it undermines conflict of
7887 interest laws, and it opens up the ability for a vertically
7888 integrated corporation to purchase physician practices,
7889 oncology clinics, as they are already doing, and then
7890 establish a centralized mailing facility, even out of state.
7891 And the problem with that is that for the last 50 years
7892 corporations like UnitedHealth have been taking advantage of
7893 exactly these types of well-intentioned laws and regulations
7894 to find choke points that they can take advantage of to
7895 inflate prices.

7896 And I worry that what will happen with this bill, as
7897 currently drafted, is it is going to induce more of the
7898 acquisition of oncology practices by the vertically
7899 integrated health insurers: UnitedHealth Group, Cigna, CVS.
7900 They are going to set up centralized mailing facilities, and
7901 they are going to continue their self-dealing and
7902 profiteering that has already now so badly hurt our
7903 independent pharmacists, that has so badly hurt our
7904 independent physicians' practices, and now could actually

7905 further hurt our oncology practices.

7906 So I am going to propose at a later time here, when it
7907 is appropriate, an amendment that I think would resolve some
7908 of these loopholes in this legislation, because I do want to
7909 get to the end state here. There is a real problem that this
7910 bill is addressing, which I appreciate. I think the bill is
7911 proposing some things that could make it more convenient for
7912 patients. I appreciate and respect that. But we have to be
7913 on guard against the insatiable appetite for vertical
7914 integration by the corporate health insurance companies, and
7915 I think this bill gives them a lane.

7916 I will yield back.

7917 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
7918 further discussion?

7919 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Well, I wanted the gentleman to
7920 yield, if he would.

7921 *The Chair. Would the gentleman yield? You have a --

7922 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes, I would.

7923 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Okay, all right. Thank you, sir.

7924 You know, I appreciate your concern, and I would be more
7925 than willing to work with you after this markup, but I think
7926 it is important to state this clearly for the record. You
7927 know, this legislation enjoys bipartisan support, doesn't
7928 alter any existing state laws, create new dispensing
7929 authorities for providers, or impact patient safety. All it

7930 does is it makes it easier for seniors to get the medications
7931 they need.

7932 And hey, you know that I worked with you on PBM
7933 legislation, and it is important to keep places from
7934 vertically integrating, but these are the very ones that are
7935 lobbying against this bill because it is going to cut into
7936 their profits. And it is something I have dealt with for
7937 almost 40 years.

7938 But like I say, I would be willing to talk to you after
7939 this markup.

7940 *Mr. Auchincloss. I appreciate that. I will claim back
7941 some of my time here.

7942 I do need to note that it is -- while we are focused
7943 here on the oncology element of this -- and again, I am
7944 recognizing a real problem that this bill is meant to
7945 address, and I think people -- I know that patients can
7946 appreciate the mail order optionality -- it actually applies
7947 to all of Part D, though. It is all Part D drugs, not just
7948 cancer drugs, right? And when you combine that really wide
7949 scope of drugs that are subject to this with the fact that it
7950 is -- a centralized mailing facility is now legalized, you
7951 can see the same playbook playing out here.

7952 I understand that the existing PBMs are the ones who are
7953 worried about this, and it is an odd place for me to be,
7954 trust me. I think that they and those who have concerns

7955 about this bill are arriving at it from a very different
7956 place. I just want us to be on guard against unintended
7957 consequences, of which there are so many in health care,
7958 particularly the prescription drug supply chain.

7959 I yield back, Mr. Chair.

7960 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
7961 further discussion on the Republicans?

7962 Seeing none, for the Democrat side?

7963 You -- okay, seeing no further discussion, are there any
7964 amendments?

7965 The gentlelady from Colorado is recognized. For what
7966 purpose does the gentlelady from Colorado have --

7967 *Ms. DeGette. I have a --

7968 *The Chair. -- recognition?

7969 *Ms. DeGette. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
7970 desk, HARSHB_002-AMD-01.

7971 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

7972 *Mr. Griffith. And if I could reserve a point of order.

7973 *The Chair. A point of order is reserved by the
7974 gentleman from Virginia.

7975 The clerk will report.

7976 *The Chair. Amendment to H.R. 2484, offered by Ms.
7977 DeGette of Colorado. Add at the end the following --

7978 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
7979 amendment is dispensed with.

7980 [The amendment of Ms. DeGette follows:]

7981

7982 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7983

7984 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
7985 minutes in support of her amendment.

7986 *Ms. DeGette. Well, I want to thank my colleague for
7987 offering this bill, my co-member of the congressional Diana
7988 caucus.

7989 [Laughter.]

7990 *Ms. DeGette. And I have an amendment that will make
7991 this bill, this excellent bill, even more excellent.

7992 Sixty-three percent of Americans are concerned about
7993 DOGE's access to sensitive information. And frankly, they
7994 are right to be worried. The Department of Health and Human
7995 Services is entrusted with sensitive health and personal
7996 information about more than 66 million Americans enrolled in
7997 Medicare. Just this week we found out that DOGE has
7998 illegally accessed sensitive personal information systems at
7999 HHS, including a CMS database containing the Social Security
8000 numbers, phone numbers, and medical records of patients and
8001 health care providers.

8002 But let me be clear. RFK, Jr. gave Elon Musk and his
8003 legion of young DOGE staffers access to your Social Security
8004 number, phone number, and medical records.

8005 Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter an article from
8006 Wired magazine into the record which shows that DOGE now has
8007 access to 19 sensitive systems at HHS.

8008 *The Chair. Without objection, so ordered.

8009 [The information follows:]

8010

8011 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8012

8013 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you. This includes HIGLAS, the
8014 central accounting system for CMS, and CMS's Integrated Data
8015 Repository Cloud, which contains medical records.

8016 I don't trust DOGE at all, but I really don't trust them
8017 to -- not to use people's sensitive information to interfere
8018 with their care. The only way to ensure the rogue DOGE
8019 enterprise cannot continue to interfere with Americans health
8020 care is by limiting access to sensitive Medicare data due to
8021 a -- data to apolitical civil servants who have demonstrated
8022 they are worthy of the public trust.

8023 So today, as -- this amendment is a version of my bill,
8024 the Data Of Government and health Entities must be Protected
8025 from Overreach by Unelected, Nonsecured Disruption, or DOGE
8026 POUND Act, as an amendment to H.R. 2484. This amendment
8027 would ensure that Elon Musk and his corrupt DOGE employees
8028 cannot interfere with Medicare beneficiaries' health care.
8029 It only makes sure that Medicare's sensitive systems are
8030 accessible only by trusted, apolitical civil servants.

8031 Be really honest. The American people did not elect
8032 Elon Musk, and they certainly do not trust Elon Musk with
8033 their personal health information.

8034 I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment,
8035 and I urge them to vote for the underlying bill, and I yield
8036 back.

8037 *The Chair. Is there a discussion on the amendment?

8038 Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

8039 Seeing none, the question occurs on the amendment -- a
8040 recorded vote?

8041 The gentleman requests a recorded vote, and the clerk
8042 will call the roll.

8043 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8044 *Mr. Latta. No.

8045 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

8046 *Mr. Griffith. No.

8047 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

8048 Mr. Bilirakis?

8049 [No response.]

8050 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

8051 Mr. Hudson?

8052 *Mr. Hudson. No.

8053 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

8054 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

8055 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

8056 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

8057 Mr. Palmer?

8058 *Mr. Palmer. No.

8059 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

8060 Mr. Dunn?

8061 *Mr. Dunn. No.

8062 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

8063 Mr. Crenshaw?

8064 [No response.]

8065 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

8066 *Mr. Joyce. No.

8067 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

8068 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw, no.

8069 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

8070 Mr. Weber?

8071 *Mr. Weber. No.

8072 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

8073 Mr. Allen?

8074 *Mr. Allen. No.

8075 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

8076 Mr. Balderson?

8077 *Mr. Balderson. No.

8078 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

8079 Mr. Fulcher?

8080 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

8081 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

8082 Mr. Pfluger?

8083 [No response.]

8084 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

8085 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

8086 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

8087 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

8088 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
8089 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
8090 Mrs. Cammack?
8091 [No response.]
8092 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
8093 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
8094 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
8095 Mr. James?
8096 [No response.]
8097 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
8098 *Mr. Bentz. No.
8099 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
8100 Mrs. Houchin?
8101 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
8102 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
8103 Mr. Fry?
8104 *Mr. Fry. No.
8105 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
8106 Ms. Lee?
8107 *Ms. Lee. No.
8108 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
8109 Mr. Langworthy?
8110 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
8111 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
8112 Mr. Kean?

8113 *Mr. Kean. No.
8114 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
8115 Mr. Rulli?
8116 [No response.]
8117 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
8118 [No response.]
8119 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
8120 *Mr. Goldman. No.
8121 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
8122 Mrs. Fedorchak?
8123 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
8124 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
8125 Mr. Pallone?
8126 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
8127 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
8128 Ms. DeGette?
8129 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
8130 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8131 Ms. Schakowsky?
8132 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
8133 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
8134 Ms. Matsui?
8135 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
8136 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8137 Ms. Castor?

8138 [No response.]

8139 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?

8140 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

8141 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

8142 Ms. Clarke?

8143 [No response.]

8144 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

8145 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

8146 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

8147 Mr. Peters?

8148 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

8149 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

8150 Mrs. Dingell?

8151 [No response.]

8152 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

8153 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

8154 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

8155 Ms. Kelly?

8156 [No response.]

8157 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

8158 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

8159 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

8160 Mr. Soto?

8161 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

8162 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

8163 Ms. Schrier?
8164 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
8165 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8166 Mrs. Trahan?
8167 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
8168 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8169 Mrs. Fletcher?
8170 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8171 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
8172 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
8173 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
8174 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
8175 Mr. Auchincloss?
8176 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
8177 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
8178 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
8179 [No response.]
8180 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
8181 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
8182 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
8183 Mr. Mullin?
8184 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
8185 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
8186 Mr. Landsman?
8187 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

8188 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
8189 Ms. McClellan?
8190 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
8191 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
8192 Chairman Guthrie?
8193 *The Chair. No.
8194 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to enter --
8195 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
8196 *The Chair. -- the roll call?
8197 Mr. Bilirakis?
8198 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.
8199 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
8200 *The Chair. Mr. --
8201 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
8202 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?
8203 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
8204 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
8205 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?
8206 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
8207 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
8208 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking recognition for the
8209 roll call?
8210 Anyone on your -- on the Democrat side?
8211 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
8212 [Pause.]

8213 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

8214 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair --

8215 *The Chair. Or was --

8216 *Mr. Landsman. I have an amendment at the --

8217 *The Chair. Oh, you have -- well, let's finish the
8218 amendment.

8219 *Mr. Landsman. All right. Thank you.

8220 *The Chair. Okay. The clerk will report.

8221 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 19
8222 ayes and 26 noes.

8223 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
8224 further amendments?

8225 Mr. Landsman.

8226 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have an
8227 amendment at the desk.

8228 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

8229 Would you state your amendment?

8230 *Mr. Landsman. It is 002. Does that help? Does that
8231 work?

8232 *Mr. Griffith. And if I could reserve a point of order
8233 on the --

8234 *The Chair. A point of order is reserved against the
8235 amendment -- on the amendment. Yes.

8236 The gentleman will report.

8237 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chairman, is that 002-PBM?

8238 *Voice. Yes, you got it.

8239 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman will report.

8240 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 2484, offered by Mr.

8241 Landsman.

8242 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
8243 amendment is recognized -- excuse me, the -- is dispensed
8244 with.

8245 [The amendment of Mr. Landsman follows:]

8246

8247 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8248

8249 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Ohio is recognized
8250 for five minutes in support of the amendment.

8251 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8252 My amendment would insert into the underlying bill our
8253 bipartisan, bicameral agreement that was included in the end-
8254 of-year funding bill that would rein in PBM practices under
8255 Medicaid -- Medicare, sorry -- Part D. This is a piece of
8256 legislation that we all support and is, obviously, germane to
8257 the underlying bill. The amendment is the language of our
8258 agreement, what was in the end-of-year spending bill,
8259 verbatim.

8260 Now, it will capture about \$400 million in savings. So
8261 this is money that was intended to support further expansions
8262 of Medicare. If or when this passes, we are saving Medicare
8263 and Medicare recipients -- seniors -- millions and millions
8264 of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars. And the worry
8265 is that, if we don't pass this now separate from the budget
8266 bill, those savings will be erased from Medicare, money that
8267 should have gone to seniors.

8268 A few weeks ago we were going to take up the PBM
8269 reforms. And Ranking Member Pallone got on record, and
8270 wanted to lay down a marker that the PBM reforms would be
8271 included, would be taken up on the House floor, and then we
8272 adjourned. Then we were going to come back and take up the
8273 PBM bills. That never happened.

8274 The other thing that didn't happen -- and I am new, so
8275 this was very, very surprising, maybe this happens all the
8276 time -- but it was also -- there was also a commitment that
8277 we would take up the PBM bills -- again, bipartisan support,
8278 we all want to get it done -- that we would take them up
8279 alongside of the bills we had already passed that morning.
8280 But last night we passed one of those bills, the TAKE IT DOWN
8281 bill. So we are already out of step with that commitment.

8282 So the question is -- I guess I would pull this if there
8283 was a commitment that we are going to take this up, it will
8284 be separate from the reconciliation bill. But I think it is
8285 better that we just pass it so that the PBM reforms that we
8286 all care about get done, that they get sent to the floor, and
8287 that the savings, the hundreds of millions of dollars for
8288 Medicare and seniors, stay with Medicare and seniors.

8289 So with that, Mr. Chair, I know you as a leading
8290 advocate for this, reforming the PBM practices and, really,
8291 the entirety of this committee, I urge all of our members to
8292 support this amendment, support the full end-of-year package
8293 which should have already become law, but we can take care of
8294 that now.

8295 Thank you, and I yield back.

8296 *The Chair. Thank you.

8297 The gentleman yields back. Is there any discussion?

8298 The gentleman from Georgia, for what purpose do you seek

8299 recognition?

8300 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

8301 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

8302 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I want to thank the gentleman,
8303 first of all, for his advocacy of PBM reform. I appreciate
8304 this very much. As everybody knows, nobody has worked harder
8305 for PBM reform than I have.

8306 And while I support the nature of this amendment, this
8307 would exceed the scope of the very -- of this very narrow
8308 policy, and that is why I oppose its inclusion. It has been
8309 said that there is a time and a place for everything. Well,
8310 and that is true. This is not the time nor the place for
8311 what we want to do in PBM reform and what we are going to do
8312 in PBM reform.

8313 We have worked across the aisle to support policies --
8314 excuse me -- we have worked across the aisle to support
8315 policies such as the amendment offered by my Democratic
8316 colleague. In fact, we unanimously passed out of the Energy
8317 and Commerce Committee last Congress, PBM policies in
8318 Medicare Part D and in Medicaid that would save seniors and
8319 vulnerable patients money at the pharmacy counter while
8320 ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent effectively. I hope to
8321 send this policy to the President's desk for his signature in
8322 the near future.

8323 Now, having said that, this would fundamentally change

8324 the nature of the underlying policy which has been negotiated
8325 in good faith over the course of 18 months. For that reason
8326 I would urge my colleagues to vote no on the amendment.

8327 And I yield back.

8328 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
8329 further discussion?

8330 The gentleman from New Jersey seeks -- you are
8331 recognized to speak on the amendment for five minutes.

8332 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick
8333 point, because in speaking against the amendments today Mr.
8334 Carter has said we need to move things forward in a timely
8335 fashion with no delays.

8336 With respect to PBM reform, how much longer do you want
8337 to wait? These are already delays that we have encountered
8338 because of this Administration. And I don't think we should
8339 wait any more, which is why I absolutely support Mr.
8340 Landsman's amendment so we can start to see the real progress
8341 that has already been agreed to by this committee, that was
8342 supposed to be put forth before the entire Congress, but
8343 which was pulled. And at that time there was no -- I didn't
8344 hear anything from our Republican colleagues about saying we
8345 need to get this done without delay, because that is exactly
8346 what happened, what we continue to have to deal with when we
8347 are here in committee.

8348 With that I yield back.

8349 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
8350 further discussion?

8351 Seeing none, the question now occurs on the amendment.

8352 All in favor will say aye.

8353 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call.

8354 *The Chair. Roll call. The roll call has been
8355 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

8356 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8357 *Mr. Latta. No.

8358 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

8359 *Mr. Griffith. No.

8360 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

8361 Mr. Bilirakis?

8362 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

8363 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

8364 Mr. Hudson?

8365 *Mr. Hudson. No.

8366 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

8367 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

8368 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

8369 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

8370 Mr. Palmer?

8371 [No response.]

8372 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

8373 *Mr. Dunn. No.

8374 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
8375 *Mr. Palmer. No.
8376 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
8377 Mr. Dunn?
8378 [No response.]
8379 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
8380 *Mr. Dunn. No.
8381 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
8382 Mr. Crenshaw?
8383 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
8384 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
8385 Mr. Joyce?
8386 *Mr. Joyce. No.
8387 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
8388 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw, no.
8389 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
8390 Mr. Weber?
8391 *Mr. Weber. No.
8392 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
8393 Mr. Allen?
8394 *Mr. Allen. No.
8395 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
8396 Mr. Balderson?
8397 *Mr. Balderson. No.
8398 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

8399 Mr. Fulcher?
8400 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
8401 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
8402 Mr. Pfluger?
8403 [No response.]
8404 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
8405 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
8406 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
8407 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
8408 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
8409 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
8410 Mrs. Cammack?
8411 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
8412 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
8413 Mr. Obernolte?
8414 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
8415 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
8416 Mr. James?
8417 [No response.]
8418 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
8419 *Mr. Bentz. No.
8420 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
8421 Mrs. Houchin?
8422 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
8423 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

8424 Mr. Fry?

8425 *Mr. Fry. No.

8426 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

8427 Ms. Lee?

8428 *Ms. Lee. No.

8429 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

8430 Mr. Langworthy?

8431 [No response.]

8432 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?

8433 *Mr. Kean. No.

8434 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

8435 Mr. Rulli?

8436 [No response.]

8437 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

8438 [No response.]

8439 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

8440 *Mr. Goldman. No.

8441 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

8442 Mrs. Fedorchak?

8443 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

8444 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

8445 Mr. Pallone?

8446 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

8447 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

8448 Ms. DeGette?

8449 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
8450 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8451 Ms. Schakowsky?
8452 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
8453 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
8454 Ms. Matsui?
8455 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
8456 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8457 Ms. Castor?
8458 [No response.]
8459 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?
8460 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
8461 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
8462 Ms. Clarke?
8463 [No response.]
8464 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
8465 [No response.]
8466 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
8467 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
8468 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
8469 Mrs. Dingell?
8470 [No response.]
8471 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
8472 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
8473 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

8474 Ms. Kelly?
8475 [No response.]
8476 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
8477 [No response.]
8478 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
8479 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
8480 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
8481 Ms. Schrier?
8482 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
8483 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8484 Mrs. Trahan?
8485 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
8486 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8487 Mrs. Fletcher?
8488 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8489 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
8490 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
8491 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
8492 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
8493 Mr. Auchincloss?
8494 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
8495 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
8496 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
8497 [No response.]
8498 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

8499 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

8500 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

8501 Mr. Mullin?

8502 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

8503 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

8504 Mr. Landsman?

8505 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

8506 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

8507 Ms. McClellan?

8508 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

8509 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

8510 Chairman Guthrie?

8511 *The Chair. No.

8512 Is anyone seeking --

8513 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

8514 *The Chair. Mr. Ruiz, Dr. Ruiz?

8515 *The Clerk. Dr. Ruiz is not recorded.

8516 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

8517 *The Clerk. Dr. Ruiz votes aye.

8518 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking recognition for the roll

8519 call?

8520 Ms. Barragan, how is she recorded?

8521 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.

8522 *Ms. Barragan. Yes.

8523 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

8524 *The Chair. Are there any others seeking recognition?

8525 The clerk will report.

8526 [Pause.]

8527 *The Chair. I am probably going to get the flu.

8528 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 19
8529 ayes and 25 noes.

8530 *The Chair. The amendment was not agreed to. Are there
8531 further amendments?

8532 The gentleman from Massachusetts, for what purpose do
8533 you seek recognition?

8534 *Mr. Auchincloss. Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer
8535 an amendment.

8536 *The Chair. The clerk will report. Would you state the
8537 amendment?

8538 *Mr. Auchincloss. I don't have the amendment.

8539 *The Chair. Do you have the amendment that he -- report
8540 if you have the amendment.

8541 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, is this AUCHIN_009?

8542 [No response.]

8543 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 2484, offered by Mr.
8544 Auchincloss of Massachusetts.

8545 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
8546 amendment is dispensed with.

8547

8548

8549 [The amendment of Mr. Auchincloss follows:]

8550

8551 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8552

8553 *The Chair. And the gentleman --

8554 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chair --

8555 *The Chair. -- from Massachusetts is recognized for
8556 five minutes to support the amendment.

8557 The gentleman from Virginia reserves a point of order.

8558 *Mr. Griffith. A point of order.

8559 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized --
8560 Massachusetts is recognized.

8561 *Mr. Auchincloss. Mr. Chairman, I -- the -- as I said
8562 earlier about the -- this bill, the Seniors' Access to
8563 Critical Medications Act, I think it is a well-intentioned
8564 bill that is solving an actual problem. But as proposed, it
8565 may unintentionally harm patient safety and could exacerbate
8566 anti-competitive market practices for Part D medications.

8567 The Stark Law prohibits physicians and physician
8568 practices from steering high-cost drugs to entities with
8569 which they have a financial interest while steering less
8570 financially beneficial drugs to traditional dispensing
8571 entities. The -- any erosion of the Stark Law is an opening
8572 for the health insurance corporations because steering is
8573 exactly what they have done best under vertical integration.

8574 So what my bill does is it basically closes the vertical
8575 integration loophole. It does that in four ways: one, it
8576 narrows the scope to apply just to cancer drugs and not all
8577 Part D drugs, as per the original bill's intent; two, it

8578 prohibits prescription dispensing by entities wholly owned by
8579 the prescribing physician or practice; three, it requires
8580 accreditation to dispense and mail specialty drugs and
8581 reporting on the practices of physician dispensers; and four,
8582 it restricts mail services to once per calendar year to
8583 ensure patients are seen in person to provide management
8584 care.

8585 Many of these drugs are complex, and managing those --
8586 the interplay between the medications, particularly for high-
8587 needs cancer patients, is a critical part of a pharmacist's
8588 job.

8589 Now, I recognize that the bill has a legislative record
8590 of passing this committee, so I will withdraw my amendment.
8591 However, I wanted to lodge not only my concerns with the bill
8592 as drafted, but also some, I think, relatively narrow,
8593 tightly-scoped improvements to the bill that could get more
8594 of us to yes, and prevent health insurers from taking
8595 advantage of its good intentions.

8596 I yield back the balance of my time.

8597 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
8598 further discussion?

8599 Seeing none, the -- if there is no further discussion,
8600 the vote occurs on the amendment.

8601 *Mr. Auchincloss. Chairman, I withdrew it.

8602 *The Chair. Oh, I am sorry. He withdrew it. So the

8603 gentleman has withdrawn his amendment. So the question
8604 occurs on adopting H.R. 2484, and a roll call has been
8605 requested, so the clerk will call the roll.

8606 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8607 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

8608 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

8609 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

8610 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

8611 Mr. Bilirakis?

8612 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

8613 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

8614 Mr. Hudson?

8615 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

8616 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

8617 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

8618 [No response.]

8619 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

8620 [No response.]

8621 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

8622 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

8623 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

8624 Mr. Crenshaw?

8625 [No response.]

8626 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

8627 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

8628 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
8629 Mr. Weber?
8630 *Mr. Weber. Yes.
8631 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
8632 Mr. Allen?
8633 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
8634 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
8635 Mr. Balderson?
8636 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
8637 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
8638 Mr. Fulcher?
8639 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
8640 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
8641 Mr. Pfluger?
8642 [No response.]
8643 *The Chair. That is the vote.
8644 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
8645 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
8646 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
8647 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
8648 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye, okay, yes.
8649 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
8650 Mrs. Cammack?
8651 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
8652 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

8653 Mr. Oubernolte?
8654 *Mr. Oubernolte. Aye.
8655 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes aye.
8656 Mr. James?
8657 [No response.]
8658 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
8659 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
8660 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
8661 Mrs. Houchin?
8662 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
8663 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
8664 Mr. Fry?
8665 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
8666 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry vote aye.
8667 Ms. Lee?
8668 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
8669 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
8670 Mr. Langworthy?
8671 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
8672 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
8673 Mr. Kean?
8674 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
8675 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
8676 Mr. Rulli?
8677 [No response.]

8678 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
8679 [No response.]
8680 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
8681 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
8682 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
8683 Mrs. Fedorchak?
8684 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
8685 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
8686 Mr. Pallone?
8687 *Mr. Pallone. No.
8688 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
8689 Ms. DeGette?
8690 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
8691 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8692 Ms. Schakowsky?
8693 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
8694 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
8695 Ms. Matsui?
8696 *Ms. Matsui. No.
8697 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
8698 Ms. Castor?
8699 [No response.]
8700 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?
8701 *Mr. Tonko. No.
8702 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.

8703 Ms. Clarke?
8704 [No response.]
8705 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
8706 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
8707 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
8708 Mr. Peters?
8709 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
8710 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
8711 Mrs. Dingell?
8712 [No response.]
8713 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
8714 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
8715 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
8716 Ms. Kelly?
8717 [No response.]
8718 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
8719 [No response.]
8720 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
8721 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
8722 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
8723 Ms. Schrier?
8724 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
8725 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8726 Mrs. Trahan?
8727 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

8728 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8729 Mrs. Fletcher?
8730 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8731 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
8732 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
8733 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
8734 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
8735 Mr. Auchincloss?
8736 [No response.]
8737 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Can I [inaudible]?
8738 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is off aye, and on no.
8739 Mr. Auchincloss?
8740 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
8741 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
8742 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
8743 [No response.]
8744 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
8745 *Mr. Menendez. No.
8746 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
8747 Mr. Mullin?
8748 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
8749 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
8750 Mr. Landsman?
8751 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.
8752 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

8753 Ms. McClellan?

8754 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

8755 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

8756 Chairman Guthrie?

8757 *The Chair. Aye.

8758 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

8759 *The Chair. Mr. Carter, how is he recorded?

8760 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

8761 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Carter votes aye.

8762 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

8763 *The Chair. Mr. Palmer? Palmer?

8764 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

8765 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

8766 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

8767 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?

8768 *Mr. Crenshaw. Votes aye.

8769 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

8770 *The Chair. Ms. Barragan?

8771 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.

8772 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

8773 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

8774 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking -- the clerk will

8775 report.

8776 [Pause.]

8777 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 38

8778 ayes and 7 noes.

8779 *The Chair. The bill is adopted.

8780 Without objection, staff is authorized to make technical
8781 and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the
8782 committee today.

8783 So ordered.

8784 And without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

8785 [Whereupon, at 5:05 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]