

Raising the national minimum wage is well overdue, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the Raise the Wage Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE  
“APOLLO 11” MISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, on July 20, 1969, people across the country and around the world watched in eager anticipation as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the Moon.

This historic event ended the space race and brought American innovation, determination, and leadership to the forefront of the global stage.

This was American exceptionalism at its best. My brother, sister, and I never missed an Apollo liftoff. We all became very familiar with that countdown:

Ten, 9, 8—ignition sequence—6, 5—fire the retro-rockets—3, 2, 1. Liftoff. We have liftoff. The rocket has cleared the tower.

We watched in amazement as we sat in front of that little RCA black-and-white TV. It was like the whole room was shaking. We would sit and watch the TV set until we saw the rocket finally leave all the way out of sight.

*Apollo 11* was a 36-story-high rocket. It started its 8-day, 953,000-mile journey to the Moon and back.

We all had toy rockets back in the day, and we would repeat that liftoff sequence over and over. My brother and I would climb our garage and launch our toy rockets.

In Cub Scouts, we built rockets. In Boy Scouts, we built rockets. In our high school physics classes, we built rockets. We had contests to see who could fly their rockets the highest and the farthest.

I have no idea how many young boys and girls were inspired to go into science because of the joy of watching rockets being launched to the Moon.

That Apollo jargon took over our daily lives. Our teachers would say things like, “Lunch is T minus 30 minutes.” Or at the end of a tough test, they would say, “Mission accomplished.”

As we celebrate this historic event, I think back to all the times I took my children to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas, which displays one of the Moon rocks brought back by the *Apollo 11* mission. This world-class museum and science center, number one of its kind, showcases American innovation in space and aeronautics and provides interactive opportunities to engage with historic events such as the Moon landing.

In fact, they currently have a traveling exhibit called “Apollo Redux,” which allows visitors to sit in an actual mission control console from the

Johnson Space Center where the Apollo missions were coordinated.

It amazes me to think of all the advancements that have been made possible as a result of these Apollo missions. Aerospace and manufacturing revolutions have dramatically changed the way we build and fly airplanes. Research conducted by NASA has helped us to better understand our solar system, as well as our universe.

In fact, Astronaut Nick Hague of Hoxie, Kansas, in my district, is currently conducting research on the International Space Station.

We are proud of Nick, who will keep doing a great job for America.

As a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I am proud to join my colleagues here today in honoring the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo 11* landing and its legacy that we continue to build upon today.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations hosted a hearing that discussed the devastating impacts of President Trump’s proposed cuts to broad-based categorical eligibility.

Today, I would like to share the stories of a few of my constituents who have benefited from the streamlined process that broad-based categorical eligibility provides hungry families in accessing food benefits.

In my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts, a single mother who is a domestic violence survivor raising one child works as a certified nursing assistant and makes \$1,819 per month before taxes or payroll deductions.

While this may sound like enough to get by, her current income is barely over 130 percent of the Federal poverty level.

Even with an income this low, her family only receives a \$15 monthly SNAP benefit. But because of broad-based categorical eligibility, her child is also able to receive free school meals, and it helps her stay afloat as a working mom.

□ 1030

Then there is another Worcester-area family of four, former refugees, with two high school aged children. The mother and father, who both work in shipping and packaging, make \$15.35 an hour. While both parents work as many hours as they can, their income fluctuates depending on how many shifts they are assigned each week.

Many months they make under 130 percent of the Federal poverty level. But during other months, when they get extra shifts, it puts them slightly higher, over 130 percent. This month they received \$110 in SNAP; but if it

were up to the Trump administration, just one more shift could threaten the entire family’s access to SNAP and their children’s access to free school meals.

Mr. Speaker, broad-based categorical eligibility is not a black-and-white issue. President Trump shouldn’t be cutting off people’s benefits just as they are getting on their feet.

Last year, we worked hard to come up with a bipartisan farm bill and, despite some discussions on this issue, Congress agreed then, and in 2014, to allow States to maintain their flexibility in accommodating low-income households. In my home State of Massachusetts, where the cost of living is relatively high, compared to the rest of the country, that flexibility is crucial.

I would like to take a moment now to highlight a forward-thinking partnership to address hunger among college students in Gardner, Massachusetts. I find the work of organizations that address food insecurity to be especially important during times like these.

I have mentioned before that the average SNAP benefit is around \$1.40 per person per meal. You can’t even buy a cup of coffee for that, much less feed an entire family. For those experiencing hunger, food pantries often serve as the safety net when SNAP just isn’t enough.

In my district, for example, Worcester County Food Bank provides donated food to a network of 118 partner agencies, including food pantries, community meal programs, and shelters. Its mission is to engage, educate, and lead Worcester County in creating a hunger-free community. Last year, they served 81,000 neighbors.

Recently, I visited one of the food bank’s partners, the Mount Wachusett Community College’s Food for Thought Campus Pantry, one of the first college food pantries to partner with the Worcester County Food Bank in addressing food insecurity on local college campuses.

Research shows that community college students experience higher food insecurity than the rest of the population. A recent study found that two out of three community college students are food insecure.

The Food for Thought Campus Pantry was created in October of 2017 for students and by students in response to food insecurity among community college students, which is becoming an increasing threat to student success.

Since the Food for Thought Pantry opened its doors in October 2017, 210 students have registered for food assistance, and 7,238 pounds of food, and 15,807 total items were distributed.

Without organizations like the Worcester County Food Bank and Mount Wachusett’s Food for Thought Food Pantry, students and families would not have consistent access to the food that they need. These programs and organizations are an irreplaceable key to solving our Nation’s hunger crisis, but they can’t bear all of the