

Putting Chicago's children at the center of everything she does, she has worked to build a collective of community, and she has elected to create opportunities for our communities, at times confronting corporate and charter interests head-on. She always puts our children at the center of what she does.

□ 1030

On behalf of the Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my sincere honor to commend Stacy Davis Gates for her dedication to educational equity in our city, in our State, and in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate Stacy.

HONORING LABOR ORGANIZERS KEITH KELLEHER
AND MADELINE TALBOTT

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friends and constituents, Madeline Talbott and Keith Kelleher, for a lifetime of labor organizing, community solidarity, and deep love.

Madeline Talbott spent 37 years building ACORN and Action Now with thousands of dues-paying members, helping to found the Fight for \$15 in Chicago: a campaign that grew nationally and eventually brought \$15 an hour to over 22 million workers across the country.

Keith Kelleher founded ULU Local 880 and eventually became president of SEIU Healthcare Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Kansas and international vice president of SEIU. He built the largest union local in Chicago and Illinois, from only 7 dues-paying members in 1983 to over 90,000 home care, childcare, and healthcare members today.

Madeline and Keith have been partners in love and organizing since 1979. They have left a lasting mark on community, labor, and political organizing. They have trained hundreds of people to ensure the movement continues. They have raised an incredible family, including their two daughters, Aileen and Ryan, who continue their organizing legacy.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my privilege to commend Madeline Talbott and Keith Kelleher for their exceptional contributions as organizers, and their exceptional commitment to our fight for justice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate them.

CONGRATULATING VICTOR GOMEZ, ILLINOIS
STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent from Wheaton, Victor Gomez, for his achievement as one of 2025 Illinois State Teachers of the Year.

An educator in East Leyden High School, Victor Gomez is a passionate teacher, who for 6 years has transformed the lives of his students.

Through his commitment to bilingual education, he has created more welcoming and culturally competent

classrooms where students are challenged and inspired to pursue their goals.

Mr. Gomez is also a mentor to aspiring bilingual educators. In partnership with Elmhurst University and the Noyce PRIDE STEM Teacher Scholars program, he empowers educators from diverse backgrounds to bring their wisdom, their voice, and their experience into the profession.

As a fluently bilingual Latina daughter of immigrants, I know the importance of having teachers and mentors who looked and sounded like me.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my privilege to commend Victor for nurturing equity in our classrooms, encouraging leadership in our communities, and building educators who reflect the diversity of our multiracial and multicultural democracy.

I congratulate Victor again on winning Illinois State Teacher of the Year. "Congratulations"; "felicidades."

HONORING JOHN BROWN, ABOLITIONIST

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a resolution honoring one of the most uncompromising voices for freedom in American history, abolitionist John Brown, on the occasion of the 225th anniversary of his birth.

Born on May 9 in the year 1800 in Connecticut, John Brown was a man who did not simply believe in the cause of abolition. He lived for it. He fought for it. Ultimately, he died for it.

From 1844 to 1854, John Brown and his family lived in Akron, Ohio, where he partnered in business with Colonel Simon Perkins, the son of the city's founder. In fact, the house that John Brown lived in was on the same street where I grew up. It was just a few hundred yards away. It was a constant and present reminder in my life to fight for what is right.

John Brown was so much more than a businessman. He was a freedom fighter. His home in Akron became a stop on the Underground Railroad where he harbored enslaved people who had escaped and sought safety and a new life in a more enlightened part of the world.

Later, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Brown used his wool warehouse as another station on the Underground Railroad. He offered dignity, protection, and skills to those who escaped slavery and freed men, including how to farm and sustain themselves in a new life free from bondage.

He used his wool business as a means to travel, to connect, and to advance the cause of abolition across State lines.

However, when Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which made it a Federal crime to aid a runaway slave and compelled even free States to enforce slavery, Brown took a very bold step.

He organized the League of Gileadites, encouraging African Americans to train in arms to defend their freedom against re-enslavement. He made clear: Freedom was not a privilege. It was a right worth defending.

In 1855, Brown and his sons traveled to Kansas, a territory torn by violent conflict over whether it would enter the Union as a free or a slave State. There he joined anti-slavery forces in what came to be known as Bleeding Kansas. He believed that slavery could not be voted away or reasoned away, it had to be confronted.

In October of 1859, John Brown led one of the most daring and polarizing actions in American history.

At Harpers Ferry, Virginia, he led a raid on the United States arsenal, intending to initiate a slave revolt. Although the raid ultimately failed and Brown was captured, tried, and executed, he succeeded in forcing a divided nation to confront the moral crisis of slavery.

Mr. Speaker, John Brown's methods remain the subject of debate, but the righteousness of his cause is not. He understood what so many were unwilling to admit, that slavery was a profound evil, this country's original sin, and that waiting for gradual change meant accepting the continued suffering of millions.

The House of Representatives now has the opportunity to formally recognize his legacy. This resolution honors and commemorates the 225th anniversary of John Brown's birth and recognizes the generational impact that John Brown had on the abolitionist movement and his enduring contributions to ending slavery in the United States of America. John Brown's life reminds us that moral courage often requires action, uncomfortable, unpopular, and even dangerous action. His legacy belongs not only to our past but to our ongoing struggling for justice today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

MEDICAID AND SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS

(Mr. ESPAILLAT of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, tonight in the middle of the night and in darkness, away from the view of the American people, hidden in some committee room in the Capitol, the Rules Committee will meet. They are scheduled to meet at 1 a.m. in the morning when Americans are sleeping and when families are resting awaiting the next day.

They are scheduled to meet to discuss at length Medicaid cuts. More than one-half of the residents in the district that I have the privilege to represent, the 13th Congressional District, encompassed by Harlem, east Harlem, Washington Heights, Inwood, and the northwest Bronx, more than