

breaking the law, including by usurping the legislative and appropriations authority expressly reserved to Congress.

Musk has claimed powers that even the President himself does not hold, including the authority to “delete” agencies created and funded by this body.

Among other things, he has gained control over the Treasury’s payment system, the mechanism for processing all payments made by the Federal Government.

Musk promised to cut \$2 trillion from the Federal budget. The entire domestic discretionary budget is only \$917 billion, which means the only way Musk can achieve this promise is through massive cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

Musk now has the ability to shut off Social Security and Medicare payments with the flip of a switch. Controlling our payment systems also gives Elon Musk access to the personal information of every American who has ever received a Social Security, tax refund, or other government payment. Why does he need this information? What safeguards are there against abuse? We don’t know.

This cannot stand. We in Congress must act, enforce the law, and uphold the Constitution.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 30, 2025, at 3:24 p.m.:

Appointments:
United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2025, at 1:28 p.m.:

Appointment:
Public Interest Declassification Board
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 119th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party:

Mr. MOOLENAAR, Michigan, Chairman
Mr. WITTMAN, Virginia
Mr. BARR, Kentucky
Mr. NEWHOUSE, Washington
Mr. LAHOOD, Illinois
Mr. DUNN, Florida
Mr. JOHNSON, South Dakota
Mrs. HINSON, Iowa
Mr. GIMENEZ, Florida
Mr. BILIRAKIS, Florida
Mrs. KIM, California
Mr. MORAN, Texas
Mr. NUNN, Iowa

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1601

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BICE) at 4 o’clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 835) to provide a one-time grant for the operation, security, and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center to commemorate the events, and honor the victims, of

the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 835

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “9/11 Memorial and Museum Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM.—The term “National September 11 Memorial & Museum” means the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., established to commemorate the events of, and honor the victims of, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, at the site of such attacks.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means the official organization, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, that—

(A) operates the National September 11 Memorial & Museum; and

(B) is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. ONE-TIME GRANT FOR NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose to the Office of the Secretary and Executive Management of the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary shall award to the eligible entity a grant in an amount determined by the Secretary subject to subsection (c), to be used by such entity solely for the purposes described in subsection (b), if upon review of the application submitted pursuant to subsection (d), the Secretary makes a determination pursuant to subsection (e) that such entity satisfies the criteria required under subsection (f).

(b) PURPOSE.—The one-time grant awarded under subsection (a) shall be used by the eligible entity for the operation, security, and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

(c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The one-time grant under this section may not be for less than \$5,000,000 or more than \$10,000,000.

(d) APPLICATION.—To be considered for an award of the one-time grant under this section, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(e) REVIEW; DEADLINE FOR AWARD.—If the Secretary, after review of the application from the eligible entity, determines that the eligible entity satisfies the criteria under subsection (f), the Secretary shall award the one-time grant to the eligible entity, not later than 90 days after the date of receipt by the Secretary of the completed application submitted by such entity.

(f) CRITERIA.—In determining the amount of the one-time grant consistent with subsection (c), the Secretary shall consider the following:

(1) The needs of the eligible entity, and ability and commitment of such eligible entity to use grant funds, with respect to ensuring the security and safety of visitors at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

(2) The number of visitors to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum who would benefit.

(3) The ability and commitment of the eligible entity to use grant funds to—

(A) preserve the facilities and grounds of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum; and

(B) educate future generations.

(4) The ability and commitment of the eligible entity to use grant funds to increase the numbers of economically disadvantaged visitors to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

(g) **CONDITION ON RECEIPT OF GRANT.**—As a condition on receipt of a grant under this section, the eligible entity shall—

(1) provide for—

(A) free admission to all facilities and museums associated with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum for active and retired members of the Armed Forces, individuals who were registered first responders to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and family members of victims of such attacks; and

(B) dedicated free admission hours for the general public at least once a week; and

(2) allow for annual Federal audits of the financial statements of such entity, including revenues associated with ticket sales, charitable donations, grants, and all expenditures on salaries and operations, which shall be subject to review by the Secretary and made available to the public.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year for which the recipient obligates or expends funds made available to the recipient pursuant to this section, the recipient shall submit to the Committees on Natural Resources and Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes, for the fiscal year covered by the report, each of the following:

(1) Information relating to the amount of grant funds obligated or expended for the preceding fiscal year.

(2) Information relating to any purposes for which such funds were obligated or expended.

(3) Any other information the Secretary may require to effectively administer the one-time grant program under this section, as determined by the Secretary, if not later than the last day of the fiscal year the Secretary notified such entity of such requested information.

(i) **NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this section, and the activities authorized by this section are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 835, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of Representative LALOTA's bipartisan bill, the 9/11 Me-

morial and Museum Act. This important legislation honors the victims of the horrendous 9/11 attacks by providing a one-time grant to assist with security costs for the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

Located in Lower Manhattan, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum occupies the former World Trade Center site. This unique facility serves as the principal tribute of remembrance and honor to the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993.

A prominent feature of the museum is an art installation with the quote "No Day Shall Erase You From the Memory of Time." These words are much more than a quote. They are a solemn promise from each and every American that we will never forget and will not allow our future Americans to forget the tragic events of 9/11.

More than 23 years after these horrific attacks, we still remember the innocent men, women, and children who perished on that September morning. We know that time has not erased the scars, both visible and invisible, carried by the survivors, families of victims, and all who watched those horrific attacks unfold.

Representative LALOTA's legislation will help ensure that the memories of those we lost on 9/11 remain eternal by providing a one-time grant of between \$5 million and \$10 million to assist with security costs for the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

As the location of one of the most high-profile terrorist attacks in American history, the museum shoulders more than \$1 million per month in security costs to protect visitors and the exhibits throughout the museum.

This grant, which would come from Department of Homeland Security's existing appropriations, will help reduce the burden of those significant security costs.

I thank Representative LALOTA for his efforts to advance this legislation. As a native New Yorker and veteran of the global war on terrorism, he has a profound respect and understanding for what it means to never forget the events of September 11, 2001. His bill would help the 9/11 Memorial & Museum continue operations, fund safety measures, and provide free admission for military veterans, first responders, and victims' families.

H.R. 835 passed the House unanimously in the 118th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support it again today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum Act.

September 11 remains a horrific, indelible moment etched in our Nation's history. We will forever strive to honor the innocent lives lost and reckon with the sacrifices of so many.

That is why House Democrats have stepped up time and time again to support the ongoing management needs of the national September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City.

Located at Ground Zero, this site is the principal tribute of remembrance to honor the lives lost on this tragic day, as well as the lives lost in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. It is a hallowed ground and deserves our support. Over the years, Congress has provided significant financial support to the nonprofit organization that operates it.

This bill continues that tradition by calling on Congress to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to provide a one-time grant for security, operation, and maintenance of the grounds.

I say "calling on" because one big caveat is that the bill does not actually create this grant program. Due to the Freedom Caucus' budget protocols, the bill instead clarifies at the end that the grant program shall not be authorized until subsequent legislation authorizes it and that, of course, it will not be funded until a third bill passes to appropriate the money.

Those are the fiscal gymnastics necessary to comply with Republican spending protocols. Yes, even the 9/11 Memorial gets only lip service and window dressing. To be crystal clear, this bill doesn't do anything at all.

Of course, even if Congress some day passes a bill to authorize the grant envisioned here and then passes a third bill to appropriate the money for this grant, we have seen in recent days that some Republicans believe that congressional appropriations are completely optional.

Republicans in the White House are illegally stopping vital funding that Congress has ordered to be spent, and their friends in Congress are defending them. The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee said last week that all the bills in his jurisdiction that Congress passes are actually not laws.

If we ever do create this grant, I hope no one in New York makes any enemies in this administration because apparently the administration thinks it can just ignore Congress and block the money.

Madam Speaker, I want to be clear that my criticisms are not aimed at the sponsor of this bill. He is doing everything he can to advocate for the museum under the unreasonable constraints of the Freedom Caucus and the administration. I commend his efforts.

Finally, I note that the 9/11 Museum has faced criticism from local community members since its opening for some of its content. We continue to encourage the museum's management to engage with stakeholders to ensure that the site is welcoming and representative for all. Perhaps it is something we can address in the multiple pieces of future legislation that will be necessary to actually make this grant a reality.

I wish we were here today to actually do something to support and improve the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, but unfortunately, that is not the case. On balance, this bill doesn't do any harm either. It attempts to bring attention to a very important effort. I will be voting for it, but I am disappointed that this is where things are.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee for yielding and for supporting this bill but most importantly for supporting the 9/11 families.

Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, was not just a day of immense loss, it was a day that changed our Nation forever.

Nearly 3,000 innocent lives were taken from us in an act of unimaginable evil. First responders, driven by duty and selflessness, rushed into danger, and many never returned. Families were shattered, communities forever altered, and the scars of that day remain with us even now.

From that darkness came an incredible light, the resilience of the American spirit. We vowed on that fateful Tuesday morning never to forget and promised to honor the victims and the heroes that gave everything in the face of terror.

Today, we have a chance to uphold that promise. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum stands as a sacred place, a place of reflection, education, and unity. It is where generations can learn about the courage and sacrifice that defines us as a nation. It tells us the stories of firefighters who climbed up while others ran down, the passengers on flight 93 who fought back, and everyday Americans who became heroes.

However, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum remains a top target for terrorists and faces financial challenges stemming from the COVID-19 shutdown that threatens its ability to keep up its essential work.

My bill, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum Act directs the Department of Homeland Security to award a one-time grant to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum for the security, operation, and maintenance of its facilities and grounds.

As a condition of receiving this grant, the museum must provide free admission for active and retired members of the Armed Forces, individuals who were registered first responders to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the family members and victims of the attacks.

It also provides for dedicated free admission hours for the general public at least once a week and allows for annual Federal audits of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum's financial statements.

This ought not to be a partisan issue. This is about honoring our history,

protecting our legacy, and teaching future generations the lessons of 9/11.

We must not let the memory of that day fade. We cannot allow the heroism, the sacrifice, and the unity that followed be forgotten.

Supporting this bill means standing with the families of the fallen, with our first responders, and with every American who still carries the weight of that day on their hearts.

I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that we keep our promise. Let's pass the 9/11 Memorial and Museum Act and uphold our commitment to the American people.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 835 ensures that the hallowed grounds on which the 9/11 Memorial & Museum are located remain a place of remembrance and honor for families, first responders, and Americans from across our great Nation.

I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 835.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALASKA NATIVE SETTLEMENT TRUST ELIGIBILITY ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 42) to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 42

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Alaska Native Settlement Trust Eligibility Act".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

Section 29(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1626(c)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

"(E) an interest in a Settlement Trust and, for the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Alaska Native Settlement Trust Eligibility Act, an amount distributed from or benefit provided by a Settlement Trust to a Native or descendant of a Native who is an aged, blind, or disabled in-

dividual (as defined in section 1614(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382c(a)))."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 42, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 42 would exclude the amounts distributed or benefits provided from the Alaska Native corporation, or the ANC, settlement trusts to Alaska Natives who are blind, disabled, 65 years or older, or their descendants, when determining eligibility for means-tested Federal benefits.

Federal means-tested benefits include programs such as Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Federal housing benefits.

In 1988, Congress amended the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, to exclude the first \$2,000 any Alaska Native individual receives from an ANC when determining eligibility for means-tested Federal benefits.

Additionally, the 1988 amendments authorized ANCs to establish settlement trusts to distribute benefits to Alaska Native beneficiaries.

Yet, benefits from settlement trusts were not excluded when determining recipient eligibility for government assistance programs, as with the first \$2,000 of other benefits Alaska Natives can receive from ANCs.

□ 1615

ANCs have brought forward concerns with this discrepancy and the impact it has on Alaska Natives, particularly those who are aged, blind, or disabled. Often these individuals are placed in the position of choosing between accepting the settlement trust income or qualifying for government assistance programs.

H.R. 42 would address this oversight and exclude the amounts for benefits distributed to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives from settlement trusts when determining eligibility for means-tested Federal benefits.

I thank the sponsor of this legislation, our freshman Member from Alaska, Mr. BEGICH, for his leadership in addressing this important issue and for introducing this bill on the first day of the 119th Congress so it could quickly be brought to the floor for consideration.