State News

Rep. Ron Estes: Economic Policy and Passed Legislation



By Rep. Ron Estes Each month I want to provide you with regular updates about what's going on in our nation's capital and throughout the 4th District of Kansas. Here's what happened in May.

House Passes One Big, Beautiful Bill

The House passed the historic One Big, Beautiful Bill on May 22. I voted in favor of the bill because it is pro-family, pro-economic growth, pro-rural America and proworker. And importantly, the bill prevents the largest tax in-

crease in American history. The bill includes numerous positive, America First provisions that will improve the quality of life for all Kansans. The bill increases the Child Tax Credit, relieving families of the financial strains that come with raising children, and, at the same time, promoting family growth. Furthermore, the bill makes the 2017 Trump Tax Cuts permanent, which means permanent tax relief for the farmers, small business owners and workers who felt the consequences of Bidenflation. If the tax cuts are allowed to expire at the end of this year, Kansas taxpayers will have to pay an average of \$2,200 more in taxes. And the bill eliminates taxes on tips, one of President Trump's key campaign promises. It also ensures that the no tax on tip policy is only available for service workers. Additionally, the bill includes an increased tax credit for

seniors. Because of Senate rules, the bill cannot eliminate taxes on Social Security through this process, but the new provision is even better for seniors than no tax on Social Security.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, the chief tax-writing committee, I had the opportunity to provide insight on the tax provisions of the bill. Many of my legislative priorities were included in the legislation, including the immediate expensing of research and development and protecting American taxpayers and innovators from unfair foreign taxes. The immediate expensing of research and development is a pro-jobs provision because three-quarters of R&D expensing is spent on wages and salaries. The R&D provisions were widely bipartisan because Republicans and Democrats understand the importance of homegrown innovation, and they understand that it benefits small busi-

nesses the most. Additionally, I advocated to protect Americans from paying disproportionate surtaxes with the Unfair Tax Prevention Act. Foreign nations impose these taxes under the guise of the OECD, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Biden administration unilaterally agreed to this international tax scheme that allowed other nations to define American tax policy, and Republicans are reasserting America's authority

over our own tax system. Also included in the bill were other America First provisions, including resources to secure our border and strengthen our national security. The reconciliation bill provides funding for border wall construction, more Customs and Border Protection employees and improved technology to mitigate illegal border crossings. The bill invests \$150

billion in national security for President Trump's Golden Dome, the Department of Defense, improving the quality of life of our servicemembers and more. Importantly, it strengthens aviation safety by funding air traffic control tech-

The left has been promoting lies about the One Big, Beautiful Bill and the included extensions of the Trump Tax Cuts. When the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was passed by Congress in 2017, those on the left said that it would only give tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, but that's far from the truth. The New York Times even admitted that in a 2019 article, stating,"The gap between perception and reality on the tax cuts appears to flow from a sustained-and misleading-effort by liberal opponents of the law to brand it as a broad middle-class tax increase," and, "there is little disagreement on this core point: Most people got a tax cut."

Democrats' loudest claim is that Republicans are cutting Medicaid and safety net programs, but it is simply not true. Republicans are strengthening Medicaid by rooting out the waste, fraud and abuse within the program and ensuring that able-bodied citizens don't siphon away resources from those in need. A vote in favor of this bill was a vote to make sure that Americans who need Medicaid and other programs have it now and in the future.

The left also claims that this bill will have a significant cost, citing numbers from the Congressional Budget Office -Congress' scoring agency that was wrong about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (it has beaten their revenue expectations) and the Democrats' misnamed Inflation Reduction Act (which costs more than their projections). With conservative GDP growth - growth in our economy - that is actually in line

with historic growth under both Trump and Biden, the legislation won't have the costs that Democrats claim.

The bill now heads to the Senate. It began in the House because Article I, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution requires all bills for raising revenue to originate in the House of Representatives. The next step in the reconciliation process is for the Senate to review the bill and apply the "Byrd Rule," a parliamentary rule that ensures the legislation is budgetary in nature. The One Big, Beautiful Bill is one step closer to being signed into law by

President Trump. Republicans in both chambers of Congress are working to enact President Trump's priorities into law so that Americans do not face higher taxes, the border will be secure and energy costs will decrease. On the other hand, every House Democrat voted against no tax on tips, no to an expanded Child Tax Credit, no to an expanded tax deduction for seniors and no to permanent tax

Trade Deals with the U.K. and China

The United States reached a historic trade deal with the United Kingdom on the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. The deal promotes fair trade, American interests and economic security.

Specifically, the trade deal is beneficial to American farmers, like the ones here in Kansas, because it increases access to American exports of beef, ethanol and other agricultural products. Furthermore, it promotes trade between the U.S. and the U.K., allowing for new job growth here in the United

In addition, the president reached a historic trade agreement with China in May. China agreed to rescind their retaliatory tariffs and non-tariff countermeasures against the

United States. Farmers, workers and manufacturers in the Sunflower State will benefit from this trade deal that seeks to level the economic playing field for Americans.

I'm glad that President Trump is committed to putting America first, and the trade deals with the U.K. and China are evidence of providing greater market opportunities for the American people.

E15 Waiver

I was pleased to see that the **Environmental Protection** Agency (EPA) waived the sale of E15 gasoline (gasoline with 15% ethanol), providing consumers with more choices at the gas pump and Kansas farmers with more certainty. Not only will the EPA's action benefit Kansas ethanol producers, but it will promote American energy independ-

I'm also a cosponsor of the House legislation that makes E15 gasoline available yearround - the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act. Kansas farmers, drivers and producers all deserve more choices, certainty and economic opportunities.

Border Update

Ever since President Trump took office, America's borders have been more secure. In May, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection released border data from April 2025. Their data shows that southern border apprehensions are down 93% compared to April 2024, from 128,895 to 8,383. In the first 100 days of the second Trump administration, ICE removed 65,682 criminal, illegal aliens from the United States, making our communities safer.

The last four years under Biden's leadership were characterized by a willful neglect of the law, which led to a crisis at the southern border. Our national security was put in jeopardy by the Democrats and their dangerous catch-and-release policy. President Trump ended catch and release and rightfully declared a national emergency at the southern border the day he took office. The flow of fentanyl and human trafficking at our border was a mess during the last four years, but today, Kansas is safer and more secure.

Service Academy Nominations

Attending a Service Academy is a great honor, and most require a nomination from a federal representative. Young men and women from the 4th District who are interested in attending one of the United States' prestigious Service Academies, including the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, are encouraged to apply at estes.house.gov/service.Applications are due Oct. 1, 2025.

Connect with Me

Interested in receiving regular updates about what's going on in Congress? Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at estes.house.gov and please don't hesitate to reach out to my District Office in Wichita at 316-262-8992 if you have questions, concerns or need help with a federal agency.

Ron Estes, one of only a handful of engineers in Congress, worked to improve systems and operations in the aerospace, energy and manufacturing sectors before representing Kansas' 4th Congressional District beginning in 2017. He is a fifth-generation Kansan, former state treasurer, and serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means, Budget Committee and Joint Economic Committee. He is the chair of the Social Security Subcommittee and co-chair of the House Aerospace Caucus.

Chinese Nationals Charged with Conspiracy and Smuggling Dangerous Biological Pathogen into U.S. gating this case.

From the United States Attorney General's Office

6/3/25 - DETROIT - Yunqing Jian, 33, and Zunyong Liu, 34, citizens of the People's Republic of China, were charged in a criminal complaint with conspiracy, smuggling goods into the United States, false statements, and visa fraud, announced United States Attorney Jerome F. Gorgon, Jr.

Gorgon was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge (Gibson, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Detroit Division and Marty C. Raybon, Director of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The FBI arrested Jian in connection with allegations related to Jian's and Liu's smuggling into America a fungus called Fusarium graminearum, which scientific literature classifies as a potential agroterrorism weapon. This noxious fungus causes "head blight," a disease of

wheat, barley, maize, and rice, and is responsible for billions of dollars in economic losses worldwide each year. Fusarium graminearum's tóxins cause vomiting, liver damage, and reproductive defects in humans and livestock.

According to the complaint, Jian received Chinese government funding for her work on this pathogen in China. The complaint also alleges that Jian's electronics contain information describing her men bership in and loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party. It is further alleged that Jian's boyfriend, Liu, works at a Chinese university where he conducts research on the same pathogen and that he first lied but then admitted to smuggling Fusarium graminearum into America—through the Detroit Metropolitan Airport-so that he could conduct research on it at the laboratory at the University of Michigan where his girlfriend,

Jian, worked.

United States Attorney Gorgon stated: "The alleged actions of these Chinese nationals—including a loyal member of the Chinese Communist Party—are of the gravest national security concerns. These two aliens have been charged with smuggling a fungus that has been described as a 'potential agroterrorism weapon' into the heartland of America, where they apparently intended to use a University of Michigan laboratory to further their scheme."

"The federal charges announced today against Yunqing Jian and Zunyong Liu, both residents of the People's Republic of China, signify a crucial advancement in our efforts to safeguard our communities and uphold national security," said Cheyvoryea Gibson, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Detroit Field Office. "These individuals exploited their access to labo-

ratory facilities at a local university to engage in the smuggling of biological pathogens, an act that posed an imminent threat to public safety. Thanks to the exceptional investigative efforts of the FBI Detroit Counterintelligence Task Force, in close cooperation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Field Operations these dangerous activities have been effectively halted. The FBI remains resolutely committed to collab rating with our law enforcement partners to protect the residents of Michigan and defend the United States against such grave threats."

U.S. Custom and Border Protection, Director of Field Operations Marty C. Raybon stated, "Today's criminal charges levied upon Yunqing Jian and Zunyong Liu are indicative of CBP's critical role in protecting the American people from biological threats that could devastate our agricultural economy and cause harm to humans; especially when it involves a researcher from a major university attempting to clandestinely bring potentially harmful biological materials into the United States. This was a complex investigation involving CBP offices from across the country, alongside our federal partners. I'm grateful for their tireless efforts, ensuring our borders remain secure from all types of threats while safeguarding America's national security interests.

Jian will be appearing this afternoon in federal court in Detroit for her initial appearance on the complaint.

A complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Trial cannot be held on felony charges in a complaint. When the investigation is completed, a determination will be made whether to seek a felony indictment.

The FBI and CBP are investi-

Kansas US Senator Roger Marshall released the following statement on Tuesday:

'I want to thank FBI Óirector Kash Patel for saving Kansas' economy and America's food supply from potential ruin. Kansas, the largest wheat producer in America, faces the constant threat of wheat scab, a devastating disease that could wipe out a major portion of both Kansas' and the United States' econ omy," said Senator Marshall.

"I have long maintained that food security is national security, and the FBI's arrest of two individuals with alleged ties to the Chinese Communist Party only reinforces the critical need to protect American agriculture from foreign influence, interference, and ownership."

State News Briefs

FORECAST Act Introduced to Exempt **Weather Service from Hiring Freezes**

U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.) – both members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies – introduced the Federal Operational Resilience in Emergency Conditions and Storm Tracking (FORECAST)

If passed, it would exempt certain NWS employees from any executive order or memorandum imposing a hiring freeze. The roles included in the exemption include positions responsible for issuing weather and flood warnings, maintaining critical observational equipment and protecting life and property. Additionally, this legislation requires the Secretary of Commerce to submit a report after one year of enactment on staffing levels at the NWS for those covered positions.

"Staffing National Weather Service offices, particularly in rural parts of the country, is a constant challenge, and recent staffing shortages have led to some offices, including in Kansas, being unable to provide 24/7 weather forecasting," Sen. Moran said in a news release.

"As we work to install new technology and modernize the National Weather Service, it is important the NWS is able to continuously fill critical public

safety roles as they become vacant to make certain communities across the country receive timely, accurate weather data.

Sen. Peters said the bill would help protect 24/7 weather monitoring in the Upper Peninsula and ensure communities are kept informed and protected.

Sen. Moran said he recently secured a national exemption from the federal hiring freeze to enable the NWS to hire meteorologists and weather forecasters.

USDA Launches Agribusiness Trade Mission to Peru LIMA, Peru, June 9, 2025 -

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator Daniel Whitley arrived in Lima today to begin an agribusiness trade mission to expand market access and boost U.S. agricultural exports to address the \$3.66 billion trade deficit with Peru. Whitley is leading a delegation of more than 50 U.S. agribusinesses and trade groups as well as five state departments of agriculture, all working to strengthen economic ties and improve the trade balance.

"I am honored to lead this delegation to Lima as we work to strengthen vital connections, grow U.S. agricultural exports and showcase the broad array of products American agriculture has to offer,"

Peru is the fourth-largest market for U.S. agricultural exports in South America and the U.S. is Peru's secondlargest agricultural supplier. Despite bilateral agricultural trade growing by 263% since 2009 to \$5.3 billion, the \$3.66 billion agricultural trade deficit persists. This mission aims to build on this growth, bridge the gap, and increase U.S. ex-

Peru and its South American trade partners offer robust logistics, distribution, processing and cold chain capabilities, creating opportunities for exporters across industry sectors. Export prospects in Peru are strong, especially in beef, pork, poultry, dairy prodand distilled spirits, as well as dog and cat food.

ucts, tree nuts, ethanol, wine

National Guard, Marines Deployed to LA **Amid Riots**

President Donald Trump has ordered 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines to Los Angeles to assist law enforcement with the ongoing deportation protests, although California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass have said they are not needed. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth sparred with Democrats during a House budget hearing on Tuesday, arguing Newsom and Bass, both Democrats, mishandled the

The protests began last Friday as federal agents arrested illegal immigrants in locations across the city. Within hours, images of burning cars, graffiti, and Mexican flags were shared on social media and by news outlets, some California lawmakers and activists called for more protests, and similar protests broke out nationally, including Chicago and Boston. Protesters over the weekend blocked off a major freeway and burned self-driving cars as police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flashbang grenades in clashes that encompassed several downtown blocks in Los Angeles and led to several dozen ar-

Trump told Newsom in a phone call Friday evening to get the situation in Los Angeles under control, a White House official said. It was only when the administration felt Newsom was not restoring order in the city — and after Trump watched the situation escalate for 24 hours and White House officials saw imagery of federal law enforcement officers with lacerations and other injuries — that the president moved to deploy the Guard, according to the official, who was granted anonymity to discuss private deliberations.



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