



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Cornerstone Public Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** President Donald Trump's Address to Congress  
**DATE:** March 5, 2025

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### Overview:

On March 4, 2025, President Donald J. Trump delivered his first address to the 119th Congress, which was largely a 'doubling down' on the policy positions of the current administration. This marks his second time delivering a first joint address, but his fifth speech to Congress. He arrived at the Capitol accompanied by his family. Department of Government Efficiency and entrepreneur Elon Musk and Vice President JD Vance were already present in the chamber.

President Trump's address focused on America's economic resurgence, energy independence, deregulation, immigration enforcement, and trade reform. The speech was the longest address to a joint session of Congress in 61 years, clocking in at one hour and forty minutes. Democratic Senator Elisa Slotkin delivered the rebuttal to the speech.

The speech exposed the deep partisan divide between the Republican and Democratic parties. Republicans displayed near-universal support of the President's remarks, while Democrats expressed their opposition using signs, walking out in protest, and interrupting the speech at times. Most notably, Texas Democratic lawmaker Al Green was escorted out the Chamber by the Sergeant at Arms after frequent interruptions of the speech.

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### Key White House Excerpts Released Prior to the Address:

- "Whatever they tariff us, we tariff them."
- "We have accomplished more in 43 days than most administrations accomplish in 4 years or 8 years—and we are JUST GETTING STARTED. I return to this chamber tonight to report that America's MOMENTUM is back. Our SPIRIT is back. Our PRIDE is back. Our CONFIDENCE is back. And the American Dream is surging—bigger and better than ever before."
- "Joe Biden especially let the price of EGGS get out of control—and we are working hard to get it back down. A major focus of our fight to defeat inflation is rapidly reducing the cost of energy. The previous administration cut the number of new oil and gas leases by 95%, slowed pipeline construction to a halt, and closed more than 100 power plants. We have never seen anything like it."
- "That is why on my first day in office, I declared a National ENERGY Emergency."
- "My administration is also working on a gigantic natural gas pipeline in Alaska, among the largest in the world, where Japan, South Korea, and other nations want to be our partner—with trillions of dollars being spent by them. It will truly be spectacular."
- "Later this week, I will also take historic action to dramatically expand production of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths here in the USA."

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## Speech Highlights:

Since taking office, the administration has put in place a series of executive actions, policy reforms, and economic initiatives aimed at reshaping the government of the United States and its position on key issues, domestically and abroad. In its first months, the administration has issued 76 executive orders across a variety of policy areas including trade, immigration, national security, and many others. Among these were the immediate freeze on foreign aid, a sharp reduction in the federal workforce, as well as the withdrawal from international agreements such as the Paris Climate Accords, the World Health Organization, and the Human Rights Council.

During his speech, President Trump celebrated the administration's economic actions at the outset of his second term. The President specifically mentioned the administration's declaration of a National Energy Emergency, emphasizing a renewed focus on domestic energy production. The President also defended his administration's decision implement wide-ranging tariffs on aluminum, steel, copper, and foreign auto imports on both traditional American adversaries and allies including China, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union (EU). The President also lauded the Department of Government Efficiency, led by Elon Musk, which has been tasked with eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse from the federal government. The President reaffirmed his commitment to these efforts and taken together with other shifts in economic policy, signaled his administration's intent to 'balance the federal budget.'

The President stated that companies have invested \$1.2 trillion due to his policies. He specifically called out Open AI, Oracle, Apple and Taiwan Semiconductor's recent announcements. He also called on Congress to repeal the Chips Act and pass his tax cuts.

The President also lauded the administration's concerted efforts to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) mandates in the military and across government. The President reemphasized the administration's efforts to officially recognize two genders – male and female – as well as the administration's Executive Order prohibiting biological men from competing in women's sports.

The speech also underscored the administration's approach to immigration policy, including the official introduction of a proposed "gold card" program that would allow foreign nationals to pay \$5 million for a pathway to U.S. citizenship. The President also celebrated the historic drop in illegal border crossings, as well as the government's move to classify foreign gangs and cartels as terrorist organizations.

Additionally, the President reaffirmed his commitment to reclaim control of the Panama Canal, defended the administration's handling of the war in Ukraine, and extended a message of support to the people of Greenland, stating that if they chose to, the United States would welcome them into the United States.

The President closed his speech by stating, "We are going to create the highest quality of life, build the safest and wealthiest and healthiest and most vital communities anywhere in the world. We are going to conquer the vast frontiers of science, and we are going to lead humanity into space and plant the American flag on the planet Mars and even far beyond. And through it all, we are going to rediscover the unstoppable power of the American spirit, and we are going to renew unlimited promise of the

American dream. Every single day we will stand up, and we will fight, fight, fight for the country our citizens believe in and for the country our people deserve.”

### **Democrat Rebuttal:**

Sen. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan delivered her party’s rebuttal to the SOTU, focusing on cost-of-living issues in a nod to how Democrats are framing up their opposition to President Trump’s agenda.

She argued that Donald Trump’s policies will drive up costs for consumers and painted the president as a threat to democracy: “Americans made it clear that prices are too high, and that government needs to be more responsive to their needs...America wants change. But there is a responsible way to make change, and a reckless way. And we can make that change without forgetting who we are as a country, and as a democracy.”

She also attacked Trump for his stance on Ukraine, which will also continue to be a theme for the party moving into the mid-terms.

### **Conclusion:**

President Trump’s one hour and forty-minute speech to Congress was both a celebration and reaffirmation of the policies his administration is pursuing. President Trump and his administration believe its work will usher in the ‘golden age of America’ that has only just begun.

The speech – and the reactions from the room – also underscored the deep partisan divisions that exist in Congress and across the country. Generally, Republicans cheered the speech as a triumph and clear-eyed vision for the second Trump administration. On the other hand, Democrats panned the speech and the administration’s plans for the next four years.