

make sure that the 217,000 uninsured in my district have affordable options to purchase health care coverage, as well as those across America.

Families across America will benefit greatly from the bill's extensive improvement to our health care system. We will finally end discrimination by insurance companies based on pre-existing conditions. We will bring peace of mind to every parent out there who constantly worries about paying for high medical bills.

America is the land of freedom and opportunity. America must have the freedom and opportunity to purchase their own health insurance that is affordable for everyone. Doing nothing is unacceptable. We need to drive down the health costs and demand greater accountability for health insurance companies.

I urge my colleagues to support the health care reform and put the interest of our families first.

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, recently, two teams in my district won football State championships. In Class 2A, the Evangel Eagles, led by Coach John Bachman, Sr., defeated John Curtis High School.

David Dee Duron completed an 8-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to Trey Taylor to give Evangel the lead. The Eagles won the game by a final score of 18-13. David Dee Duron finished the game completing 25 of 39 passes for 273 yards and two touchdowns, setting 2A title game records for most completions, attempts and yardage.

In Class 1A, the Haynesville Golden Tornados, coached by David Franklin, beat South Plaquemines to win the title. Late in the third quarter, B'Air McGee had a 21-yard touchdown to give Haynesville the lead, and then the Golden Tornado defense intercepted a pass with only 23 seconds left in the game to preserve the 19-12 win.

Congratulations to the coaches and players of both Evangel and Haynesville on this tremendous accomplishment.

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PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an ongoing crime against humanity in East Africa and particularly in Tanzania: the butchering of people with albinism in order to sell their body parts for profit.

According to rumors spread by witch doctors, the body parts of people with

albinism can bring good luck. A single limb of a person with albinism can sell somewhere from \$500 to \$2,000, a king's ransom in much of the countryside of Tanzania. I recently met with a survivor of this horrific crime who told me her dramatic story in her own words—Mariamu Stanford, a 28-year-old woman with albinism, from rural Tanzania.

One night in October of 2008, Mariamu was attacked in her sleep by a group of machete-wielding men who cut off both of her arms. In the end, she also lost her unborn child. Despite all this, she is a survivor who is relaying her story in the hopes that these brutal crimes against people with albinism will end.

To this extent, Madam Speaker, I will be introducing a House resolution recognizing the plight of people in East Africa with albinism, condemning their murder and mutilation, and calling for swift action by our country and that of Tanzania.

HONORING BARBARA STOFLET

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Stoflet, a teacher at Gatewood Elementary School in Minnetonka.

At a recent White House ceremony, Barbara was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the Nation's highest honor for teaching in those fields. Barbara is one of only two Minnesota educators to receive such an honor.

She used her cutting-edge teaching methods and passion in the classroom to develop each student's potential for more than 20 years, even earning a Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award along the way.

Barbara's participation in the improvement of educational programs in the school as well as in the entire district ranges from instrumental classroom development to writing mathematical standards for Minnesota. For her development of innovative teaching strategies, her work to promote the key areas of math and science, and for her selfless commitment to an important profession, I am honored to recognize Barbara Stoflet before this body.

HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, the two most pressing issues that our constituents want us to tackle are health care and the economy.

Last week, I convened a number of roundtables in my district with a variety of business leaders in order to discuss the economy and jobs. Health care costs were, as I expected, a top concern

for all of them, and that's why I was proud to report that our health reform legislation will benefit them.

Our health reform bill will allow small business to add an estimated 80,000 new jobs because we are going to be lowering the cost of health insurance premiums. It is pretty simple: less money spent on health insurance premiums means the ability to hire new workers and to have salary increases for existing employees. Contrast that with the other side, which is to preserve the status quo: letting insurance premiums continue to rise and to cause further job loss.

We must enact meaningful health reform now in order to reduce health insurance costs, to protect jobs, and to enable small business growth.

CREATE JOBS AND MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as we begin the second session of the 111th Congress, more than 15 million Americans are looking for work. Our Nation's unemployment rate is 10 percent—actually, 12 percent in the 11th District of Georgia, which is the highest level of unemployment since June of 1983.

Last year, Democrats promised that borrowing almost \$1 trillion on the backs of our children and grandchildren would create jobs immediately and that unemployment would not rise above 8 percent. Clearly, that is not the case.

So as we start this session, I urge Democratic leaders to finally take some commonsense steps to create jobs and to make health care more affordable. That means putting an end to spending money that we don't have. It means not continuing to pass legislation that imposes job-killing taxes on our small businesses, and it means passing health care legislation that actually reduces health care costs for all Americans without cutting their benefits.

Madam Speaker, the American people cannot afford any more of the Democrats' agenda for killing jobs and for growing the Federal Government.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I would like to tell you about two of my constituents in Louisville who came up over the break and who told me why they were against health care reform.

The first one was a mother. She said she thought our health care reform bill was going to hurt too many people. When I asked her why or who, she said, Well, like my son. He had a kidney transplant, and I'm afraid he won't get

the care he needs. When I told her that under our bill we could very well save his life because he would never get insurance under the present situation and that he would never be denied coverage under our bill, she had a little bit of a conversion right on the spot.

A second was a woman who owned a gift shop in Louisville. She said she was against health care reform because she is a diabetic. She said, I can't wait until 2014 to get the help I need. She wasn't against health care reform. She needs it now, and she needs it desperately. Under our bill, there will be a high-risk pool so she can immediately get coverage that she can't get now.

The fact is health care reform as proposed by the House Democrats will save lives, will save money, will save jobs, and will save Medicare. It is time to pass health care reform.

GOOGLE'S INTENTION TO PULL OUT OF CHINA

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support of Google's intention to consider pulling out of China due to a "highly sophisticated and targeted attack" on its corporate infrastructure and email service. Google is making a principled stand reminiscent of the companies that pulled out of apartheid South Africa and fascist Germany.

The Washington Post reported today that Google said it has evidence that a primary goal of the attackers was accessing the gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists. They found that the gmail accounts of literally dozens of brave human rights advocates "appear to have been routinely accessed by third parties."

This is unconscionable but is not surprising given China's long history of cracking down on free speech, human rights, and religious freedom. China is regressing. They are increasingly brazen in their human rights abuses.

This principled stand on the part of Google will surely give hope to the millions of Chinese people who yearn for freedom and who cry out for basic human rights.

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

(Mr. BOCCIERI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOCCIERI. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Urban League, an organization dedicated to bettering the lives and protecting the rights of minority groups across our country.

The National Urban League is the oldest and largest community-based organization in our Nation. Locally, the Greater Stark County Urban League, located in my northeastern Ohio dis-

trict, formed out of the integration of the Massillon and Canton affiliates, has been serving our Stark County communities for over 90 years.

Under the direction of interim president and CEO Vince Watts, the work of the Greater Stark County Urban League is bettering Stark County at precisely the time we need it. Ohio's unemployment is still high, and we are recovering slowly, but now more than ever, as we are rebuilding our local economy for future success, the Greater Stark County Urban League is connecting minority groups in our communities to the employment and housing services and to the health and youth programming necessary.

Last year, the local Urban League began a new scholarship program for 20 high school juniors and seniors. This year, they hope to provide 30 scholarships. The League is also offering classes this year to help 60 people in Stark County obtain their GEDs.

I commend the Stark County Greater Urban League for making critical investments in our people, in our country, and in our future. This is the type of service that we all talk about here and should applaud every day on the floor of the House of Representatives.

BURMESE AMERICAN IMPRISONED

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, an American citizen is being held illegally and unjustly by the Burmese Government today, and we should do all we can to return him to the United States and to his family.

Nyi Nyi Aung has been imprisoned in Burma since September 3, and has been held under a revolving array of charges—all bogus. Aung has been deprived of food and sleep, has been beaten, then has had medical treatment withheld, and he remains in prison while his trial is pending.

The Burmese Government has ignored its obligations under international treaty, and it violates the standards of human rights and basic decency.

Aung has a heart for the oppressed people of his native country, a heart to bring true democracy to Burma, and his offense is promoting freedom in a country that is like a vast prison camp.

I urge Secretary Clinton to publicly call for Aung's release and to use all possible diplomatic means to return him to the United States where he can receive medical care. His life hangs in the balance, and we cannot afford to wait.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIEP GIES AND HER IMPACT ON THE WORLD

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, last week, a lady died, named Miep Gies, a Dutch lady. She died at age 100.

The reason her death is worth noting is that she was a Dutch Catholic who, with her husband, hid the Frank family—Anne Frank, Otto Frank, that family—and another Jewish family for 25 months in Amsterdam when the Nazi regime came and was taking Jewish people from Amsterdam and throughout Europe to concentration camps. For 25 months, their family protected the Franks. They were then betrayed, the Frank family, and sent to concentration camps where all died but Otto Frank.

Ms. Gies found the diary of Anne Frank. She preserved it and gave it to Otto Frank when he was released from his concentration camp—the only surviving Frank. It was published, the story of a young girl and her hopes during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam and the persecution of Jews.

There are people today who do not believe that the Anne Frank diary was real. It was indeed real. This lady saved it. She saved history and taught us what people can do, just ordinary citizens, in acts of heroism to protect others in the face of injustice. I am pleased to recognize her in the United States Congress. We are lucky she came this way. She had a significant impact on the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 188TH FIGHTER WING AND ITS ROLE IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, more than 8 years after the September 11 attacks, our country is still fighting against terrorism. The attempted attack on Christmas Day has renewed the discussion of how to keep our country and its citizens safe and our Nation's interests protected. Our military is fighting every day to protect the world from these extremists.

Arkansans have proudly served to defend our country since the global war on terror began. Most recently, last week, 50 members of the 188th Fighter Wing, based in Fort Smith, Arkansas, left for a 120-day deployment in Afghanistan. These men and women are continuing the Arkansas tradition of service to our Nation. In the coming months, an additional 250 members of the 188th will deploy to provide close air support for ground troops in Afghanistan. This is an important mission that I am confident these men and women will accomplish successfully.

I ask my colleagues to keep the members of the 188th and their families and friends in their thoughts and prayers during this time.