

Chuck's family and friends; although Chuck may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chair, over the course of the last two years since the President signed the Affordable Care Act into law, bipartisan opposition to many portions of this legislation has steadily grown in this chamber.

Today, the House of Representatives passed the Protecting Access to Healthcare Act as part of a deliberate, transparent, and comprehensive plan to fix America's broken and expensive health insurance system.

While I favor a full repeal of the Affordable Care Act, this effort represents removal of the most harmful provisions of President Obama's flawed law. The PATH Act does this by enacting much needed medical malpractice tort reform to reduce healthcare costs and it repeals President Obama's unaccountable Independent Payment Advisory Board, IPAB, which would limit Medicare patient access to health care services.

As the House puts forward ideas to protect and save Medicare, the Administration has decided it can better serve seniors by cutting benefits for seniors by more than \$575 billion, and creating a panel of unelected, unaccountable Washington bureaucrats tasked with cutting Medicare even further.

More than 230 of my colleagues in the House from both parties and over 380 groups representing doctors, patients and employers have joined us in opposition to the IPAB.

I urge the Senate and President to stand with us against this overreach of government power and make the Protecting Access to Healthcare Act law. Congress must work to reform health care in a way that reduces costs for both patients and providers while preserving the quality of care that Americans deserve.

SUPPORTING JOBS WITH THE JONAS SALK ELEMENTARY CAP UNDO REGULATORY ENVIRON- MENTAL DELAY (CURED ACT)

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will place a 90-day deadline on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to issue a final decision for a permit to build an elementary school in my district. After near-

ly 10 years of delays, it is time to move forward on this critical school for the children in my congressional district. The bill does not sidestep environmental review. Endangered species and habitat will be protected. It is time to recognize and place the impact of delay to the community on equal footing.

Jonas Salk Elementary is a proposed school site within the community of Mira Mesa in San Diego, California. With nearly one in 10 San Diego residents out of work, this is a "shovel-ready" project that has been the victim of nearly a decade of bureaucratic regulatory delays. This has hurt students, deprived the community of park amenities and much needed jobs.

This school is needed to ease existing overcrowding at Mason Elementary, Hage Elementary and other San Diego-area schools. The proposed project is located within an existing community, on a lot that has been vacant and graded since 1978. Along with the school, the project envisions a park and joint-use facilities to benefit the region.

The San Diego Unified School District Board approved the plans to build Jonas Salk Elementary in 2003, with the intent of serving students in 2006. Unfortunately, the elementary school has been indirectly delayed by an environmental lawsuit and various agency delays for nearly a decade. If enacted, my legislation will help ensure that students will be able to attend this long delayed school in 2014.

At a time when schools are overcrowded and the resources to build schools are scarce, to delay a project with both the need and the resources to construct with no real impact to the environment is unacceptable. The intent of this bill is to not allow the opening of the school to slip any further. The San Diego Unified School District has done its due diligence to protect the environment and provide for students. My bill recognizes the school district's efforts and ensures that the final determination is issued in a timely manner so that the school can finally be built and begin servicing the community. Projects that provide an obvious community benefit and produce much needed jobs should be encouraged, not punished with costly and pointless delays.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Safe Place Awareness Week. Every year in America, as many as 2.8 million young people run away from or are pushed out of their homes. Almost half of them do so because of a family conflict.

A young person in crisis is often scared and confused. The distinctive yellow-and-black sign that marks a Safe Place location is a universal symbol of safety and assistance. It signifies a place—a business, school, fire station, library, or many others—where a young person in crisis can get help.

There are almost 20,000 Safe Place locations throughout the country, in 40 states and 1,562 communities. During the past 12 years, National Safe Place agencies have counseled nearly 90,000 young people in person and more than 110,000 via telephone.

Sadly, the need for Safe Place services continues to grow. In response, National Safe Place is seeking to give more young people a place to turn for help—regardless of their circumstance.

[Mr.] Speaker, I have introduced a resolution recognizing March 18–24 as "National Safe Place Awareness Week." The goal is not only to have more signs hanging across the country, it is to raise awareness and support of the vital programs National Safe Place provides for young people in the most vulnerable of situations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT TORNADOES IN THE MIDWEST AND SOUTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my heartfelt sympathy for the people who have been struck by the recent tornadoes in the Midwest and South. These disasters have caused the deaths of more than 30 people in five States and left several communities in need of support, including volunteers, food, clothing, and monetary contributions. Although we will be able to rebuild these communities, we can never replace the lives lost, and my thoughts and prayers are with those families today.

These disasters are a reminder that the needs of relief and recovery efforts are constant. When disasters—be they hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods, or tornadoes—wreck entire communities and drive whole families from their homes, rapid and generous outside assistance is essential to preserving lives and property. I hope that we can learn from this disaster—and other recent natural disasters around the country—that we need to better coordinate and find Federal disaster relief efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I once again extend my deepest sympathies to the people who have been affected by these tornadoes. I urge all the appropriate Federal agencies to ensure that these communities receive the help they need.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE ARC OF CHESTER COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The ARC of Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 60th anniversary of improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

The history of The ARC of Chester County is a long and storied one, extending back to 1952 when local Chester County parents founded the organization as an affiliate of The ARC U.S., which was founded in Philadelphia and counted this group among its first local

chapters. When The ARC was founded, there were few programs and services for the special needs population it served, and in fact many were institutionalized at the state institutions of Pennhurst and Embreeville. The founders of The ARC defied the conventional wisdom of the time by advocating and working for public education and community inclusion for their children.

The only group in Chester County whose services are completely community-based, The ARC of Chester County has celebrated many significant firsts in its illustrious 60 year history. It is responsible for the first sheltered workshop in Chester County, the first community-based classrooms for children with developmental or intellectual disabilities, the first and only recreation program of its kind in Chester County for folks with such disabilities, the first organization in Pennsylvania to advocate for public education for children with special disabilities, the first group home in Pennsylvania, and the first community-based job coaching and employment program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating The ARC of Chester County on the occasion of its 60th anniversary and to extend best wishes for the agency's continuing work to meet the needs of the community through the 21st century and beyond.

HONORING JOSH HURLBERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Josh Hurlbert for his dedicated service over the past three years as a member of my staff. Josh will be leaving my staff to pursue his dream of serving the people of Missouri in elected office.

Josh has been an invaluable part of my office. His was the first voice that many constituents heard when they called my office. Josh gave them the information they asked for whether it was information about a bill, a way to contact a government agency or if the latest email going around was true. He also worked with the people of Clinton, Caldwell and Daviess Counties to make sure their voices were heard in Washington.

Josh also cheerfully took on additional office duties or tasks without being asked. His professionalism and dedication to serving my constituents was a great example of how government should work.

While I am losing a valuable member of my team, I am excited for Josh to begin the next chapter of his career in public service. He knows that the best way to truly represent someone is to listen to their ideas and their concerns. Josh will be a voice for common sense and limited government the rest of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Josh Hurlbert for his service to the people of the Sixth Congressional District. I, and the rest of my staff, wish him success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 118–120. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on #118, “no” on #119, and “yes” on #120.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes this week because of the primary election in Illinois. If I had been here, I would have voted “Yea” on Rollcall No. 111; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 112; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 113; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 114; “Nay” on Rollcall No. 115; “Nay” on Rollcall No. 116; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 117; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 118; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 119; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 120; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 121; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 122; “Nay” on Rollcall No. 123; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 124; “Nay” on Rollcall No. 125; “Yea” on Rollcall No. 126.

A TRIBUTE TO DUANE AND PATRICIA OHLRICH

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two distinguished Nebraskans, Duane and Patricia Ohlrich of Columbus. Their company, Industrial Systems & Supply, Inc., was named the Nebraska Small Business of the Year for 2012 by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Small businesses like theirs are the engine of our economy. Over their more than 20 years in business together, Duane and Patricia built their company from \$391,000 in sales to nearly \$6 million in 2011. All the while, they successfully expanded their business into additional products to account for the changing economic climate.

Duane and Patricia's success didn't just stop with their business—they also gave back to their community. Among the many examples of their generosity was their collaboration with other Columbus area small businesses to provide seed money for Central Community College's entrepreneurship program, which offers workshops, seminars and other events to educate and promote business ownership.

The success the Ohlrich's have earned through their hard work and perseverance is what the American Dream is all about. It is stories like theirs which make both Nebraska and our nation strong and proud. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Duane and Patricia for their achievement.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF OBAMACARE

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the serious state of health care in our country as we approach the second anniversary of ObamaCare.

When ObamaCare was drafted behind closed doors without bipartisan input and slammed through the legislative process in 2010, President Obama and NANCY PELOSI promised us that this government takeover of health care would allow people who like the health care plan they have now to keep it.

But I and my Republican colleagues knew better when we voted against the bill—and we were right. In the two years since ObamaCare was signed into law, Americans have already experienced significant increases in premiums, loss of choice in medical coverage, and less access for seniors to obtain quality health care.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office stated that as many as 20 million Americans could lose their employer-provided health care coverage as a result of ObamaCare—half of who are low-wage workers whom depend on their employer health coverage. Even the Department of Health and Human Services admitted that portions of the President's health care law, which were originally projected to lower costs, would in fact increase taxes on hardworking American taxpayers.

Americans deserve access to the quality health care they need when they need it and at a cost they can afford. Improvements must be made, but reforms need to focus on putting patients first and lowering costs. Lowering costs for hardworking American taxpayers can be achieved by expanding health care choices and tools to help families save, making it easier for small businesses to afford to offer care, ending lawsuit abuse, and protecting the doctor-patient relationship from government intrusion.

After several years of uncertainty and stagnant economic conditions, the American people need real solutions and real results. This cannot be achieved by budget tricks or accounting gimmicks that do nothing to help hardworking American taxpayers and only result in higher taxes and burdensome federal government mandates.

Efficient, effective government that spends less and serves better is the only answer to restoring genuine accountability and faith in our government. The House of Representatives has voted 25 times to repeal, defund or dismantle this law. It is my hope that before the next anniversary of ObamaCare, the Senate and President will join the House to repeal this trillion-dollar government takeover of health care and work on real reforms that lower costs for the American people.