

his political fundraiser in Las Vegas the next day to monitor the situation in Benghazi?

That night, when the ambassador was considered a potential hostage and nearly 30 Americans were under sustained attacks at the CIA annex, did the president's staff ever notify the campaign that he might not be leaving the White House the next day?

When he boarded Air Force One for Las Vegas, did the president know about the serious injuries that some of the survivors had sustained? Did he know what hospitals they were being taken to?

Is there a parallel in American history when the U.S. was under attack, Americans were killed and a sitting U.S. ambassador was considered a potential terrorist hostage, but the president was not engaged with his national security team?

I think most Americans would agree that they are legitimate questions that deserve a straightforward and truthful answer.

With only four legislative days remaining before the Congress departs for August recess, I am increasingly concerned that this question, as well as the other questions I have raised in the last two weeks, will not be answered by the one-year anniversary of the Benghazi attacks.

That is deeply disappointing. Congress can—and should—do better.

I continue to believe the only way to get answers through a House Select Committee. H.R. Res 36 has 162 cosponsors, a majority of the Majority. Two new cosponsors joined in the past week alone. This is the way to go so the Congress and the American people know the truth, whatever it may be.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this week seeking comments from the general public as the Agency contemplates the future of menthol cigarettes.

As part of the agency's review process, the FDA released a report entitled "Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol Versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes," which documents the FDA's review of the currently available science on menthol. Disappointingly, the report relies heavily on social sciences while admitting that menthol cigarettes are no more harmful than their nonmenthol counterparts.

Specifically, the report states that "No studies found an increased risk of cancer or non-cancer diseases in menthol smokers compared to nonmenthol smokers. From the available studies, the weight of evidence supports the conclusion that menthol in cigarettes is not associated with an increase in disease risk to the user compared to non-menthol cigarette smokers."

In addition to the FDA's conclusion that menthol cigarettes pose no greater disease risk than nonmenthol cigarettes, it is insensible for the agency to conduct a review of percep-

tion of menthol products. While the review of this type of information may be useful to understanding adult consumer choice, it should not form the basis of any policy decision within FDA. Rulemaking should be rooted in science.

Finally, the real world health consequences of a potential ban are very alarming. Implementing a ban unfounded in science could lead to the creation of a black market for menthol products. Such an illegal market would result in an influx of illegal, unregulated, counterfeit products into the marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that these concerns will be addressed during the public comment period, and that the FDA will treat this issue fairly and with the scientific integrity it deserves.

A.L. STANBACK MIDDLE SCHOOL: SCHOOL TO WATCH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff and students of A.L. Stanback Middle School in Hillsborough, North Carolina, on being designated one of 115 "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. The "School to Watch" designation signifies that A. L. Stanback's administrators and teachers have created one of the most academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable middle schools in the nation.

I applaud A.L. Stanback's commitment to engaging students by challenging expectations and employing a variety of teaching methods. Reaching students during their middle school years is critically important, and A.L. Stanback truly takes this to heart, preparing its students not only for their high school education but their lives beyond by teaching critical thinking skills. By providing students with diverse opportunities in a supportive environment, A.L. Stanback is helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders.

The Research Triangle of North Carolina is considered one of the best places in the nation to live, work and raise a family, and the A.L. Stanback Middle School community's record of success will only contribute to that reputation. This is well-deserved recognition, and I hope it serves as a shining example of the positive impact that creative, committed teachers can have not only on our young people, but also on how we strive for excellence in education.

Congratulations again to the teachers, administrators, parents, and students that helped A.L. Stanback Middle School achieve this award.

HONORING STEVEN RYAN PALMER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every community needs a great champion who organizes, leads, and fights to leave an indelible

mark. Those champions come in many forms. Some are teachers, some are public servants, and some are dedicated to noble causes. I rise today to honor one such champion, Steven Ryan Palmer, as he retires from 36 years of distinguished service to the American Cancer Society.

Palmer's three decades of service began in South Carolina as a worker in the field level of the American Cancer Society. He went on to hold many leadership positions in the six-state Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society. His work was instrumental in the success of many ACS initiatives which improved and saved lives in Middle Tennessee.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the outstanding work and dedication of Ryan Palmer. From the American Cancer Society to Brentwood Baptist Church, Ryan has certainly offered his time, talents, and treasures to his community. Along with his family and friends, I offer my thanks for his service to others.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RULE GOVERNING DEBATE ON H.R. 2667, THE "AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Rule and the underlying legislation because this bill would delay the implementation of the employer mandate a key provisions of the Affordable Care Act until 2014.

The House majority on May 16, 2013 placed before this body another bill in another attempt to end the Affordable Care Act also known as Obama Care. Their efforts to do anything and everything they can think of to stop millions of Americans from enjoying the security of health care enjoyed by all of my colleagues in this body is astounding. The Health care we enjoy is at the taxpayer expense so we do know what a federally supported health plan can do.

27.6 percent of Texans are without health care coverage

The Department of Health and Human Services announced over \$9 million in grants to fund community health centers all over the State of Texas. The funds will be used to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act is needed and we should not pretend otherwise. The Administration announced that it would on its own allow a delay to work with the 5 percent of employers who are having difficulty meeting the mandate for providing health insurance for all of their employees. This means that 95 percent have met the obligation so the need for this change in law is not founded in fact.

In my district over the weekend, I held a press conference to congratulate Community Health Centers in the City of House who received part of \$9 million to the State by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Grants to Community Health Centers will fund work to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.

Community Health Centers are non-profit, community focused health care providers who serve low-income and medically underserved communities.

Community Health Centers care for over 22 million people nationally.

In 2012, 50 million people in the United States had no health insurance coverage, with many losing insurance as a result of the recent recession.

The grants provided to Community Health Care Centers like Legacy Community Health Services located in my district will help millions of uninsured people in our nation get the medical care they need and deserve.

LIST OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AWARDED FUNDS
IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Fourth Ward Clinic—\$124,395
El Centro Del Corazon—\$144, 525
Houston Community Health Care—\$90,691
South Central Houston Community—\$165,755
Asian American Health Coalition of the Greater Houston Area—\$90,867
Spring Branch Community Health Center—\$108,346
Houston Area Community Services—\$73,981
Legacy Community Health Services—\$267,747

Health Care for the Homeless—\$104,000
Harris County Hospital District—\$154,326

In 2012, Texas had 67 health centers operating in 388 sites providing services to over 1 million patients. Fifty-one percent of the 1 million people cared in my state for were uninsured.

STATISTICS ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

—Affordable Care Act Benefits to the 18th Congressional District:

11,400 young adults have insurance through their parents.

4,100 seniors received \$5.4 million in discounts for prescription medication and average of \$600 per person. This was a cost savings of \$650 on average and so far in 2013 the savings are \$1,040.

71,000 seniors are now eligible for Medicare prevention services without paying co-pays.

121,000 individuals, including 23,000 children and 50,000 women now have health insurance that prevent insurance companies from spending more than 20 percent of their premium dollars on profits and administrative overhead.

46,000 children with pre-existing illnesses can no longer be denied insurance.

153,000 people in my district have health insurance that have no lifetime limits on their coverage and will not face annual limits.

Up to 193,000 people in the 18th Congressional District of Houston Texas will have access to quality health affordable health care without fear of discrimination or higher rates because of preexisting health conditions.

17,000 individuals who purchase insurance on the private health insurance market established for individuals or small groups will have access to more secure, higher quality coverage and many will have access to financial assistance.

NATIONAL BENEFIT OF OBAMA CARE

13 million Americans received \$1.1 billion in rebates from their health insurance companies last year.

105 million Americans have free preventive services.

Millions of women now have free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive medical services.

100 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on healthcare coverage.

17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers.

6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans.

6.3 million Seniors in the 'donut hole' have saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs.

3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare.

360,000 Small Businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers.

STATISTICS ON TEXAS AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

3.8 million Texas residents receive preventative care services.

7 million Texans no longer have lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance.

300,731 young adults can remain on their parents' health insurance until age 26.

5 million Texas residents can receive a rebate check from their insurance company if it does not spend 80 percent of premium dollars on healthcare.

4,029 people with pre-existing conditions now have health insurance.

In 2014, Insurance companies will be banned from: discriminating against anyone with a preexisting condition; charging higher rates based on gender or health status; enforcing lifetime dollar limits; enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

The healthcare law has many benefits.

For these reasons, I urge my Colleagues to join me in voting no on the rule for this bad bill.

The House and the Senate have real work to create jobs, strengthen the food security for our most vulnerable—children, elderly, disabled and low-wage workers. We need to address immigration reform and Border Security and we should be focused on the need to pass appropriations bills that eliminate Sequestration that is strangling the financial security of millions of Federal workers. Sequestration not only hurt Federal workers but the local economies that no longer have the incomes provided by Federal agencies to stimulate the recovery our Nation is now entering.

We should be about the business of the people sent us to Washington to work in their interest.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject the rule for this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House for the first vote on July 25, 2013. I was unfortunately absent because I was detained in traffic, as I returned from an event. I would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance for the following vote: Rollcall No. 415, on agreeing to the Waxman amendment, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN A. HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, on consideration of H.R. 2397, I am not recorded because I was absent due to medically mandated recovery. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of the bill (rollcall No. 414), and "aye" on the Amash Amendment to the bill (rollcall No. 412).

RECOGNIZING PLEASANTON
RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, happening this weekend at Pleasanton Valley Middle School.

Cancer is expected to strike about 1.7 million Americans this year. As of January 2012, over 13.7 million people with a history of cancer were alive in this country. Sadly, about 580,000 will pass away from the disease in 2013.

While we are doing a lot better than we used to in terms of diagnosis and treatment, these numbers show the fight against cancer is far from over. That is why this weekend's Relay for Life is such a terrific event.

Participants work as part of relay teams and run or walk around the school track; someone from the team is always on the field, for the entire two-day event, reminding us that cancer never sleeps either.

The relay provides an opportunity to applaud those fighting cancer, honor people we have lost to the disease, recognize caregivers, and raise badly needed funds.

Relays like this occur worldwide, and over four billion dollars has been raised since the first one in May 1985. The dedication and fundraising efforts of participants play a critical role in helping reach our goal of a future without cancer.

Cancer is an issue that affects everyone. Through Relay for Life, communities around the world unite through the knowledge that they are working to help save and prolong lives.

Events like this show the best of the East Bay—a willingness to come together in common cause for a larger purpose. I want to thank the event organizers and group supporters: Florine Johnston, Pam Sanchez, Miriam Drummond, Stephanie DaVille, Nilo Bartolome, Larry Coy, Haddy Coy, Kaitlin Gallagher, Sue Schepers, Kimberly Haynes, Janis Wills, Lisa Lundquist, Randy Brown, Lisa Brown, John Swager, Julie Ochiro, the American Cancer Society, Valley Medical Oncology Consultants, and the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North.

I wish everyone the best of luck with the relay, and I am proud to join them in their battle against cancer.