

curbing healthcare costs and expanding access. The increase in grandfathered plans this bill allows would open the door to the cherry-picking by health insurance companies that Obamacare is designed to eliminate. Encouraging younger, healthier, and cheaper-to-cover adults to withdrawal from the Marketplaces will cause premiums within the Marketplaces to substantially increase.

The bill would also allow insurers to continue to offer plans that don't include essential health benefits, don't comply with the requirement banning annual caps on coverage, aren't subject to premium rate reviews to determine whether their premiums are reasonable, allow discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, and force women to pay more than men for the same coverage. These are many of the past problems of the private insurance industry that Obamacare was specifically designed to correct.

Further, it would cause major delays in the start of coverage because insurers would need to establish and file new rates to state insurance departments for review. This would impose major delays to Obamacare's implementation, which is the ultimate goal of this bill and the Republican agenda.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 46th attempt by Republicans to vote to undermine and effectively repeal the Affordable Care Act. I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3350, but in support of Rep. MILLERS' Motion to Recommit which legislates the President's position. I encourage all my colleagues to do the same.

#### THE CONTINUING THREAT OF BOKO HARAM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Nigeria is one of the United States' main allies, African trading partners, and a major economic and political force beyond the African continent. Unfortunately, it continues to be plagued by terrorist forces whose reach extends beyond the borders of that country. Last week, I held a hearing to examine the extent to which the organization known as Boko Haram and its affiliates pose a threat to Nigeria and the region, as well as the United States, and the rest of the international community.

Boko Haram is a Nigerian terrorist group whose name in Arabic means "people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and jihad." The name "Boko Haram" is a translation from Hausa meaning that conventional education (boko) is forbidden (haram). Because of its repeated attacks against Christian targets during holy days such as Christmas and Easter, Boko Haram is seen by some as principally an anti-Christian organization. In the last year alone, Boko Haram terrorists are believed to have killed 1,200 Christians in Nigeria. In fact, it is estimated that more than 60 percent of Christians killed worldwide because of religious intolerance die in Nigeria. This year alone, according to Emmanuel Ogebe, one of today's witnesses, 53 Christian churches have been attacked, and 216 people were murdered by terrorists in them.

However, it would not be a completely accurate interpretation of the facts to assume that what is happening in Nigeria is just a Muslim-Christian conflict.

In the past two years, two subcommittees have sent staff delegations to investigate the Boko Haram threat, and this past September Gregory Simpkins, the Africa subcommittee's staff director, and I visited Abuja and Jos to further look into this matter. We found that the truth of this organization is much more complex than is widely understood. Although exact numbers were not made available to us, Boko Haram is definitely targeting other Muslims who don't agree with their views. Muslim religious leaders who criticize the terrorist violence are themselves made targets. What must be prevented is a growing inability for Christians and Muslims to work together to meet their common threat.

According to various reports, Boko Haram began in 2003 when about 200 university students and unemployed youth created a camp in Yobe State near the Niger border to withdraw from what they considered the corrupt, sinful and unjust Nigerian Government, and their community was supposedly founded on Islamic law. The group was then known by the nickname the Nigerian Taliban. Violent clashes with Nigerian security forces nearly destroyed the group several times, but its charismatic leader, Mohammed Yusuf kept the group alive until his death while in police custody in July 2009.

Since Yusuf's death, there have been various spokesmen but one person who is believed to be the nominal leader: Abubakar Shekau. Furthermore, a breakaway group known as Ansaru has appeared on the scene.

The proliferation of voices speaking for Boko Haram and the new faction lead some to believe this is not a coherent organization. We learned that it is actually a very sophisticated organization operating in cells disconnected from each other but coordinating at a high level. While there are those acting in the name of Boko Haram for their own purposes, this terrorist group is organized, albeit in an unconventional manner.

Some also believe this group is purely a domestic terrorist group operating in Nigeria. We found that to be a false assumption as well. Boko Haram/Ansaru does wage attacks on the Nigerian Government and other domestic targets. Nevertheless, their actions prove their participation in the global jihad movement that wages violent war worldwide to establish their skewed version of Islam as the prevailing religion globally. Various actions, such as the bombing of the United Nations Abuja office in August 2011, and numerous statements from Boko Haram spokesmen indicate their international intent. This international focus has been confirmed by American and Nigerian intelligence information.

The three criteria for an organization to be declared a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. Government are: 1) it must be a foreign organization, 2) it must engage in terrorist activity and 3) it must threaten the security of United States nationals, U.S. national security or the economic interests of the United States. Clearly Boko Haram/Ansaru meets that test. This is why I have introduced H.R. 3209 to urge the Administration to declare Boko Haram a Foreign Terrorist Organization. This measure would better provide tools for stopping those who currently provide funding or

other support for this murderous, terrorist organization, and I welcome the State Department's enactment today of this designation.

Our government has provided training and other assistance to the Nigerian government to battle this terrorist threat. Unfortunately, the past brutality demonstrated by the Nigerian security forces, as well as the inability of Nigerian security forces to collaborate with one another, have prevented this effort from being as successful as it should be. In far too many cases, the Nigerian government itself has actually turned local people in the North against its effort to end the terrorist threat. By its ineffectiveness, the Nigerian security forces have pushed Nigerian Christians and Muslims to form their own militias to protect themselves from terrorists and each other. In the long run, this development makes eventual reconciliation of Nigeria's various religious and ethnic communities more difficult.

At last week's hearing, we had with us the administration's point person for our government's effort to help end the terrorist threat in Nigeria, a leading Nigerian Muslim spokesman against this terrorism, a Nigerian Christian expert on this terrorist threat, an American-based expert on this violence and a survivor of the Boko Haram threat. The survivor, Mr. Habila Adamu, was challenged to renounce his Christian faith. When he refused, he was shot by terrorists and left for dead. Miraculously, he survived and joined us last week with one of the most inspiring examples of faith any of us will ever hear.

I hope last week's hearing will provide a fuller understanding of this terrorist threat and explain why declaring Boko Haram/Ansaru as a Foreign Terrorist Organization as part of our government's effort to end this menace and its ongoing financial support was such a necessary decision.

#### HONORING JEROLD "JERRY" KLEIN

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2013*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerold "Jerry" Klein who earned an Air Medal, Bronze Star, and Silver Star for his heroic service as a soldier in the Vietnam War. On Monday, November 11, Jerry was the first veteran to be honored on CBS 12's week-long segment, Veteran Hall of Honor. Jerry is a remarkable member of our community, and I am proud to represent him in Florida's 22nd District.

Jerry has been an unrelenting ambassador for veterans, spending most of his time as a veterans' services volunteer. He helped establish the Palm Beach Veterans Court and earlier this month served as the Co-Grand Marshal in the West Palm Beach Veterans Day Parade, which drew thousands of veterans and civilians to the downtown area.

Before Jerry was fighting for our veterans here in South Florida, he was fighting for our country in Vietnam. On May 1, 1968 Jerry helped rescue comrades in combat. "My company was ambushed in the A Shua Valley which is on the Laotian border," Jerry recalls. "We took about a dozen casualties. On that day I was involved in helping to rescue a number of my comrades and months later I was

told that I was being awarded the 3rd highest award for valor that the nation can grant—the Silver Star.”

In honor of his service to our nation, I am proud to recognize Jerold Klein and thank him for his commitment to the South Florida community of veterans.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,189,547,404,790.46. We've added \$6,562,670,355,877.38 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### IN MEMORY OF DR. NOHAD TOULAN AND DIRICE MORONI TOULAN

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to Mariam and Omar, to the extended Toulan family, to their Portland State family whose lives have been touched by the service commitment of Nohad and Dirce Moroni Toulan. Indeed, Portlanders who never knew them have benefited from their presence in our community for almost 40 years.

The Toulans were a unique power couple not just in Portland, but with influence around the world. Indeed, they were an international power couple; he from Egypt, she from Argentina. They accepted international assignments, as when he became the first planning director for the greater Cairo region.

He had been an advisor to the United Nations development program and to local and foreign governments. Most significant was his 20-month assignment directing the preparation of the comprehensive regional plan for the holy city of Mecca. They were amazing assignments for an amazing man.

It was my honor to have met him when he first arrived in Portland in 1974. I was working in the president's office at Portland State University then when he began the most critical chapter in the development of Portland State as a true urban university.

It is hard to think of all the ways the Toulans contributed to the evolution of our modest continuing education center for returning veterans to the establishment of a vital, strong, thriving university with particular expertise in urban studies.

Dr. Toulan was a renaissance man: a scholar, planner, and academic leader, a force in the community for human rights, sound foreign policy, and protecting the planet. There is a

reason his name graces the School of Planning and Public Policy at Portland State. No one contributed more to the emergence of one of the outstanding academic outposts in America dealing with planning, livability, transportation, and how we knit these elements together for a better future.

Nohad helped define the critical role that an urban university can play not just as a place of instruction, but for research and a living laboratory.

Dirce Moroni Toulan in her own right was an accomplished professional. She didn't just support Nohad through his career, but had a strong academic and professional background and was greatly influential and respected at the university. It is not by accident that her name is on the library for the College of Public Affairs.

I worked directly for two presidents and since worked with four more. Each put their imprint on the university which is still being enhanced further under the stewardship of Wim Wiewel and his wife Alice. Yet over the last 40 years, I don't think anybody has done more for the evolution of the university and its role in our community, and in the nation, and in the world.

We mourn the loss of this extraordinary couple even as we celebrate their lives. Portland State University, our community, the nation is a better place because of them.

As I reflect on the sad closing of this brilliant chapter, to focus on the academic and the professional, important as they are to lose an essential element that has become more important to me over the years, even as the formal phase of their career wound down.

They were a true interfaith couple: a Catholic priest and Muslim Iman were at their memorial last Monday. In an era of such international tension these last dozen years, which have been visited upon our community, theirs were voices of tolerance and compassion. They were vigorously opposed to discrimination, and fierce champions of outreach, of connection, of mutual respect.

For all of the many contributions that will live on in urban affairs and Portland State University, they made a vital contribution to sane foreign policy, religious tolerance, and interfaith cooperation which may not be evidenced like the name of a college or a library. Their message was there when the community needed to hear it and their example when the community needed to see it. We are richer for that gift.

#### IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ROBERT WILLIAMS FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PUBLISHING STATE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ISSUE FOR THE RUTGERS LAW JOURNAL

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2013*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Professor Robert Williams for his immense contributions to the Rutgers Law Journal and to Rutgers School of Law—Camden.

Twenty-five years ago, state Constitutions were a relatively obscure area of legal scholarship. However, Professor Williams understood that these state Constitutions have a real impact on people's lives, sometimes more so than the Federal Constitution. Along with Professor G. Alan Tarr, he coined the term "comparative subnational constitutional law" for this field of study, and published the first State Constitutional Law issue for the Rutgers Law Journal.

Since this time, Professor Williams's scholarship has brought great acclaim to his discipline, and to Rutgers-Camden. The Journal has included an annual State Constitutional Law issue for the past twenty-five years, and Professor Williams has been instrumental in every one. He also serves as the associate director of the Center for State Constitutional Studies. And despite his extensive academic responsibilities, Professor Williams still serves as counsel in public interest cases, and has filed several notable Amicus briefs in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of Professor Williams to the legal community should not go unrecognized. I join all of Rutgers Law—Camden and South Jersey in expressing our gratitude for Professor Williams as he celebrates a milestone in his commitment to the rule of law.

#### CONGRATULATING CAPITAL PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION (CPE) ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 18, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Capital Partners for Education (CPE) on 20 successful years of providing low-income youth in the national capital area with the necessary support to get to and through college.

Founded in 1993, CPE is a dynamic college preparatory program that helps motivated, low-income youth to overcome the academic and social barriers that may otherwise prevent them from attending and succeeding in the college of their choice. Through its proven combination of one-on-one mentoring, partnerships with quality schools, academic financial assistance, and a customized array of academic, career, and life skills development, CPE works to break the cycle of poverty by leveling the educational playing field for low-income students.

Since its inception, CPE has helped 99% of its graduates enroll in college and 70% to graduate on time. To meet the needs of the community and the 21st century workforce, CPE is expanding to reach more students. Currently, the organization serves 200 students and is on track to double its student body by 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking the staff, volunteers, donors, partner schools and organizations, students, parents, and alumni as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of CPE and its many accomplishments.