

broken technology, what we should be focused on is making it work for the American people. Making sure that those with preexisting disease can have insurance, young people with minimal income can have insurance, those between 50 and 65 can have insurance, and those with catastrophic illnesses can have insurance. I have faith that as we work through this, what is best for the American people is the choices they will have, and the fact that they will keep what they have and be able to enroll for a year is a response to the pain.

We know that the insurance companies did not need to send cancellation letters; they could have sent modification letters, but I want to go forward.

Things yet unfinished—one happens to be the enormity of gun violence among our young people that has been reflected in incidents in Houston, Texas; 19 shot, two dead, teenagers at a house party. This past weekend, one shot at a house party, who has lost his life. My sympathy to their families. I call out now for all of our forces, Federal, local, and State, PTOs and school districts, teachers, civic organizations and faith organizations, that we work together to be able to stop the surge of gun violence and the loss of our young people.

Statistics will show that in African American communities and Hispanic communities where there is homicide, that a high percentage is by a gun. So I would ask that we look seriously at legislation I introduced, H.R. 65, the gun storage and safety device bill, and a bill that also indicates, except for exceptions, that guns should not be in the hands of young people under the age of 21, and for someone who allows that to happen, there should be higher penalties on that individual.

I have been told by urban mayors that there are stash houses where people can go and rent guns. Let's not be afraid of background checks. More importantly, let's not be afraid of weeding out this horrible scourge on our community, and the deaths that families have to contend with.

Then, I think it is important to note that we have got to continue to speak on the issue of mental health needs. Tragedy occurred in Virginia, and the story that is unfolding saddens me because that story is similar to the one in Sandy Hook. The young perpetrator had issues they had to deal with in terms of their mental health. We have got to be able to provide more resources for beds for young people. We have got to intervene. We have got to help families. We have got to not run away from mental health issues, but run toward them.

□ 1045

Then I would like to make mention of those families who are suffering because their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program over the last month has been cut. They are expecting in this budget coming forward that \$40 billion will be on the table to be cut again.

I have visited my food banks. I took the SNAP challenge and ate on that budget. No one should call those folks deadbeats. And every time there is a deadbeat, you can be assured that person will be found out. I am concerned about the seniors and the young children that go to bed hungry, and one-half of those who get SNAP benefits, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, are in actuality children.

As we go toward this budget process deadline of December 13, let us have a sense of compassion. Let us have sources that will help us and the Department of Justice to be able to deal with this proliferation of guns, these Saturday night specials, these stash houses to help our children. Let's expand counseling and pronouncements by the local community that we are standing up against this violence that is attacking our children. Let's find dollars to help out local and State communities on resources for mental health.

Let me thank one of the leaders in my community, Patrick, who is a Vietnam veteran who has raised up the issue in Houston on the need for mental health beds and intervention, stories that I have heard in my own community where a grandfather took his grandchild to a county facility, they did not have a bed, and ultimately that grandchild stabbed and killed his grandfather and the grandfather's daughter.

We know that there are challenges, missions, and messages yet undone. Let's get to work on behalf of the American people.

THE NATION'S BROKEN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our Nation's broken budget process and ways we can begin to fix it.

The government shutdown is caused by the broken budget process. Funding our government with continuing resolutions is caused by a broken budget process. If we fix this, we could get away from this type of management of the taxpayer dollars.

Every year, Congress is required by law to pass a budget resolution. Every year, it is required to pass 12 appropriation bills by October 1, the start of the fiscal year. Yet, since 2001, Congress has managed to enact only 8.3 percent of our required appropriation bills on time. In the past 8 election years, Congress has failed to pass a budget resolution a full 75 percent of the time.

The Washington Post recently did an article about this process. It showed that this broken process allows Federal departments and agencies to develop a use-it-or-lose-it mentality. A full 20 percent of all Federal spending and contracting happens in the last month

of the fiscal year. Look at how it spikes. It is not just one time. It did it in 2010, 2011, and 2012. The spending happens in the last month of the year and, in particular, the very last week of the year. This is true about contracting, as well. There were 156,000 contracts, 154,000 contracts, 149,000 contracts all done in the last few weeks of each budget year.

This use-it-or-lose-it mentality is costing the taxpayers millions of dollars. We must begin to fix this broken process, and that is why I have introduced the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2013. Overnight, it would cut this in half.

A biennial budgeting system, like the one my legislation creates, allows Congress to set budget and spending priorities in the first year and then do real oversight in the second year. This will allow Congress to better understand how the Federal Government is spending taxpayer money and be better equipped to make spending decisions in the future.

This biennial budgeting process has strong bipartisan support with 110 cosponsors so far. They range from the most progressive Member of Congress to the most conservative, painting a broad picture of support from Members of Congress and the Americans that they represent.

Here is a list of groups within Congress that have multiple Members supporting the legislation: the House Budget Committee, the Republican Study Committee, the Tuesday Group, the Blue Dog Democrats, the New Democratic Coalition, the Progressive Caucus, a broad cross-section of the Congress and the people that they are here to represent.

Not only that, every President since Ronald Reagan has supported biennial budgeting. Here is a quote from Jack Lew, the former OMB Director and White House Chief of Staff, our Nation's current Secretary of the Treasury:

The 2-year system is a good idea. The 1-year budget process gives both the administration and Congress little time to focus on implementing the programs.

It is time that we begin to address the serious nature of not managing the taxpayer dollars in following the requirements of the law. We need to fix this broken process this year. It is time to do it.

Mr. Speaker, if the past few months have taught us anything, it is that our current budget process isn't working. It is time to create a system that will help us budget responsibly, foster greater certainty in the U.S. economy, and save taxpayer dollars. We can do it in bipartisan fashion.

I urge all Members of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 1869 today and help us govern again.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER DEVERRA BEVERLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman who spent her life trying to help others. This is a tribute to Commissioner Deverra Beverly, a premiere public housing advocate.

In and around Chicago and in public housing circles throughout the Nation, Ms. Deverra Beverly was known as a staunch defender and key player in making decisions about public housing issues and plans, not only in the ABLA community where she lived, but throughout Chicago and with impact on national policy.

Ms. Deverra Beverly is what sociologists and urban planners and politicians call "grassroots." She was from the people, of the people and with the people, and a representative for the people. She was first of all a wife, a mother, a friend, a confidant, a leader who emerged from the people and was trusted by the people.

Many people did not know it, but Ms. Beverly worked for the city of Chicago's Department of Human Services for more than 30 years. After her retirement in 1997, she devoted the rest of her life to providing leadership on Chicago public housing issues. She was president of the Local Advisory Council of ABLA, vice president of the Central Advisory Council, acting chair and treasurer of the Central Advisory Council, and was a close friend and supporter of Commissioner Artensia Randolph, who set the bar for CHA resident leadership.

As a result of her local leadership, national public housing leaders and groups were attracted to her, and she became a founding chair of the National Public Housing Museum. She was appointed a Chicago Housing Authority commissioner by Mayor Daley and retained by Mayor Emanuel.

Ms. Beverly was a skilled negotiator; and as a result of the many changes taking place in the ABLA community, she often sat at the table with Alderman Bob Fioretti, Danny Solis, Jason Ervin, university officials, people from the mayor's office, philanthropists, developers, myself, and others.

Deverra Beverly always expressed the position of the tenants, the people; and when you look at the ABLA community today, much of it is a reflection of the thinking and the work of Commissioner Deverra Beverly.

Contrary to much popular opinion, working families do live in public and mixed-income housing. As a result of the process known as "urban renewal," Deverra Beverly's family moved into the ABLA homes in 1943. Her father was a postal employee. Her mother worked in the home. Deverra worked for the city of Chicago for more than 30 years. She did not have to live in ABLA, but she chose to live there because that is where her heart was.

I guess maybe the poet Sam Walter Foss may have been thinking of her when he wrote his poem that said:

Let me live in my house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by.

They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, wise, and foolish—so am I.

Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat, or hurl the cynic's ban?

Let me live in my house by the side of the road like Deverra Beverly and be a friend to man.

AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize the month of November as National Diabetes Awareness Month.

It is observed every year in November to raise awareness of diabetes across America; but I am here to tell you, Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a 365-day, 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week disease that kids and adults that deal with the disease have to attend to.

Mr. Speaker, how do I know that? Well, this is personal to me. My son Will was diagnosed at age 4 with type 1 diabetes. He is 13 now, Mr. Speaker, and he has grown up with this disease. I can tell you that we get up every night, my wife in particular, as I stay down here in Washington, D.C., still monitoring his blood sugar by poking his fingers and taking his blood at 2 a.m. every time he eats just to see where his sugars are going to be.

This is a disease that has not been cured, but I tell you I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that we will find a cure. We need to find a cure. We work in our household with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, JDRF. It is a great organization that dedicates a significant majority of its funds to research for a cure for type 1 diabetes.

Just last week, Mr. Speaker, at a town hall that I held at Fayette, New York, back in upstate New York, I had a young lady 5 years old come and speak before us and talk about diabetes and how it impacts her since she was diagnosed at the age of 3.

This is a disease, Mr. Speaker, that we have the ability, in my opinion, to find a cure. We need to work together in a bipartisan basis. I am vice chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus. It is the largest caucus here in Washington, D.C. The focus on education and awareness of diabetes cannot just occur in November, but it must occur every day.

I urge everyone to be aware of the risk factors and discuss your individual risks with your doctor, your health care provider. And my heartfelt thanks go out to all the providers and the parents and the caregivers of each and every person associated with somebody with this disease.

Working together, my son, Will, in his lifetime, will have a cure and won't have to deal with this disease every day. Please, take a moment, recognize this disease, and in November, in par-

ticular, be aware of what diabetes is all about.

AMERICA'S ENERGY SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking my colleague, Mr. REED, for his leadership on the Congressional Diabetes Caucus. Thank you, that was very inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I am of the firm conviction that America's national security and America's economic security are tied directly to America's energy security.

We have a wonderful opportunity today to vote on a couple of very important bills that will enhance that energy security, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on both of them.

I get to represent the entire State of North Dakota. North Dakota was once described by one of our favorite sons, Eric Sevareid, the famous CBS newsmen, as the rectangular blank spot in the Nation's mind. But today, everybody is talking about North Dakota. It is the fastest growing economy in the word. It has the lowest unemployment rate in the country. It has the fastest growing personal income in the country. In fact, today, Mr. Speaker, there are tens of thousands of high-paying jobs in North Dakota waiting for more people to come to the State to fill them. If you are willing to work hard and put in a full day's honest work, you can be very successful there.

We have heard some speeches already this morning about the need to reduce hunger. We have heard some speeches this morning about the availability of affordable health care. I am for both of those things, and the best way to enhance availability of health care and to reduce hunger is to provide jobs.

Again, I would urge my colleagues today to vote for the bills that will be in front of us.

□ 1100

H.R. 1965 is the Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act. It is not a complicated bill. It acknowledges two things. It acknowledges the vast energy resources that our country owns under its Federal lands onshore. It also acknowledges contemporary technology that provides all of the security and safety that is required to do the job well. But what it does is it diverts some of the resources into the right places, that allows the streamlining of permitting while also empowering the local offices of our Bureau of Land Management and our U.S. Forest Service in ways that allow them to do the jobs that they do very well even better.

This is something I know a little bit about. Prior to coming to Congress, I was an energy regulator for 10 years in North Dakota. I worked closely with our Federal partners, in fact, found them to be some of the best people that