

early on to remove a tooth. He died less than 20 minutes away from where we stand today.

Deamonte's case served as a jarring lesson on the lack of access to care for many families. At the time of Deamonte's death, fewer than one in three children under the age of 20 in Maryland's Medicaid program received any dental service at all. In the years since, with the passage of the Affordable Care Act and new efforts to ensure a healthier America, we made significant progress in Maryland and across the country. In other words, we have changed the trajectory of so many children's destinies.

Now, 52 percent of children on Medicaid in Maryland receive dental services, even as the number of children enrolled has increased by 25 percent. In fact, through the work of government officials in Maryland's Dental Action Coalition, the State has led the way in increasing access for dental care for children.

Nationally, the number of children enrolled in Medicaid who received dental care in 2010 jumped to 46 percent, numbers that suggest progress, but also signal the work left to be accomplished.

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act has made a difference, allowing millions more children to receive critical medical and dental care right now. Even more children could access these services if Republican Governors in some States reverse their decisions to block the expansion of Medicaid.

I have often said that our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see. Yet, even with the improvements we have seen, more must be done to ensure that both children and adults have access to needed treatment and preventive care. That is why I introduced the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act.

My legislation would provide funding to improve access to dental care through health clinics, school-based services, and other options for underserved populations; extend comprehensive dental coverage to Americans on Medicare, Medicaid, and VA benefits; increase the number of oral health professionals in communities in need; help support research and education to better integrate oral health with regular care.

We have come a long way, but more must be done to protect the dental health of our children and every American. If we can assure no child loses his or her life because a dentist couldn't be found to pull a tooth, Deamonte's death won't be in vain.

□ 1015

CALIFORNIA WATER: IT'S THE STORAGE, STUPID

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, President Obama visited the drought-stricken Central Valley of California. He announced his administration's response: he wants to spend another billion dollars to study climate change.

Well, I think I can save him the trouble. The planet has been warming, on and off, since the last Ice Age, when glaciers covered much of North America. The climate has been changing since the planet formed, often much more abruptly than it has in recent millennia.

Until the planet begins moving into its next ice age, we can reasonably expect it will continue to warm, on and off. That is going to mean less water that can be stored in snowpacks and, therefore, more dams will need to be constructed to store that water.

There, I just saved a billion dollars. You are welcome.

Everyone thinks that the Colorado River is the mother lode of all water in the Western United States, but the Colorado is a junior system to the mighty Sacramento River system.

The difference is this: we store 70 million acre-feet of water on the Colorado and only 10 million acre-feet on the Sacramento. The rest is lost to the ocean.

Droughts are nature's fault. They are beyond our control. Water shortages, on the other hand, are our fault.

We have not built major water storage on the Sacramento system since 1979 because of opposition from the environmental left and, most recently, from this administration. Indeed, we have had to fight back against its attempts to tear down perfectly good existing dams, including four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River.

Even in years of plenty, this administration has insisted on diverting 200 billion gallons of water from Central Valley agriculture for the amusement of the delta smelt, devastating the economy, drying up a quarter million acres of fertile farmland, and throwing thousands of California families into unemployment.

Because of opposition from the environmental left, we have been unable to even raise the spillway of the Exchequer Dam by a lousy 10 feet in order to add 70,000 acre-feet of storage at Lake McClure.

Because of radical environmental regulations, 800,000 acre-feet of desperately needed water—that is a 1-acre column of water, 150 miles deep—was drained from Shasta, Oroville, and Folsom Lakes last fall, knowing full well that we were heading into a potentially catastrophic drought.

Now, Governor Brown proposes to spend \$14 billion for cross-delta tunnels that will produce exactly zero additional storage and exactly zero additional hydroelectricity.

Yet, for a fraction of that cost, roughly \$6 billion, we could complete the Shasta Dam to its design elevation, which would mean 9 million acre-feet

of additional water storage, nearly doubling the storage capacity of the Sacramento River system.

Everyone has seen the eerie pictures of Folsom Dam as its lake lay almost completely empty. For just a few billion dollars, we could complete the Auburn Dam, upriver of Folsom, that would hold enough water to fill and refill Folsom Lake nearly 2½ times.

That is in addition to 800 megawatts of electricity for the region and 400-year flood protection for the Sacramento Delta. The billions we are currently spending on delta levee repairs is to protect against a 200-year flood.

Both projects have been stalled for decades because of environmental opposition. Enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a crossroads, and it is time to choose between two very different visions of water policy.

One is the nihilistic vision of the environmental left, increasingly severe government-induced shortages, higher and higher electricity and water prices, massive taxpayer subsidies to politically well-connected and favored industries, and a permanently declining quality of life for our children, who will be required to stretch and ration every drop of water and every watt of electricity in their bleak and dimly lit homes.

The other is a vision of abundance, a new era of clean, cheap, and abundant hydroelectricity, great new reservoirs to store water in wet years to assure abundance in dry ones, a future in which families can enjoy the prosperity that abundant water and electricity provide, and the quality of life that comes from that prosperity.

It is a society whose children can look forward to a green lawn, a backyard garden, affordable air-conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter, brightly lit homes in cities, and abundant and affordable groceries from America's agricultural cornucopia.

This is a time of choosing.

HONORING REVEREND FREDERIC D. REESE DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in continuing my commitment to honoring African Americans from Alabama during this Black History Month, today I rise to honor the renowned educator, pastor, and civil rights activist Reverend Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese on this occasion of Black History Month 2014.

For his dedication and distinguished service to the city of Selma and the State of Alabama, I pay tribute today to the life and work of Reverend Dr. F.D. Reese. This beloved pastor and civil rights activist marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, along with hundreds of other supporters.

By the mid-1960s, Reese was president of the Dallas County Voters League and was also a local teacher who presided over the Selma Teachers Association. Discouraged by Selma's efforts to hinder voter registration for African Americans, Reverend Reese advocated that the teachers press to make sure that the students actually went to register to vote.

Reese invited Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and members of the SCLC to lead Selma's voting rights protest. King's staff helped organize months of demonstrations in Selma, with Reverend Reese's assistance.

Reverend Reese is a historical figure of modern history known for his support of the civil rights and voting rights movement. Reverend Reese rose to national prominence as a civil rights leader after Selma's "Bloody Sunday." He later marched with Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery as an advocate of voting rights.

Reverend Reese was born November 28, 1929. A believer in education, Reverend Reese graduated from Alabama State University and Livingston University, and also attended Southern University, the University of Alabama, and Auburn University before receiving his doctorate of divinity from Selma University.

Reverend Reese has served the Selma and Dallas County community faithfully for over six decades, and his exemplary work and commitment to social justice is well-known. Notably, Reverend Reese has never left his beloved community of Selma, where he helped to make it a center for the voting rights movement in the 1960s.

He remains active today, and he is known for saying that his fight today is to get young people to realize that the movement is still continuing. "I tell young people," he said, "that they cannot rest on our victories. We have to remain committed. That means registering to vote and participating in what this country has to offer. That means making a difference to others."

Reverend Reese has stated that he marched so that everyone, regardless of color, could become a first-class citizen in America. Reverend Reese knows that you have to stand for what you believe in. He became nationally known for his beliefs and inspired others to stand as well.

Reverend Reese has remained committed to education and service. He became a principal in Selma, as well as a city council member, serving for over 12 years on the Selma City Council. He also ran for mayor in 1984 and led a campaign to motivate Walmart executives to hire African Americans as store managers.

In 2000, he was honored for his civil rights work by having a stretch of 3 miles of U.S. Highway 80, which was where he led the Montgomery to Selma March, named after him. It is now known as the Frederick Douglas Reese Parkway. The FDR Christian Academy in Indiana is also dedicated to him.

Reverend Reese has been a pastor of Selma's Ebenezer Baptist Church since 1965. Although he is retired from teaching, he is still very much active in Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he serves as the head minister emeritus and delivers a sermon each and every week.

On behalf of the Seventh Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this Nation, during this Black History Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging and celebrating the accomplishments of Reverend Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese from Selma, Alabama.

THE PATIENT OPTION ACT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the truth of ObamaCare continues to come out, we see that the promises of this administration are just not factual.

ObamaCare is crushing our economy. It is killing jobs, and it is hurting hardworking Americans and family businesses the most.

There is a solution. It is called the Patient OPTION Act. It is H.R. 2900. It repeals ObamaCare in full, and it replaces it with free market, patient-centered reforms.

The Patient OPTION Act is a set of reforms that will revitalize American health care, not through government interference but by giving doctors and patients full control over their dollars and their decisions. In fact, it is the only health care plan that completely removes bureaucrats from everyone's personal health care decisions.

The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has endorsed the bill, and now FreedomWorks is standing behind the OPTION Act as well. In fact, FreedomWorks said: "The OPTION Act stands as the best conservative health care reform package yet released, and it should be considered for a vote as the House votes on alternatives to ObamaCare."

While ObamaCare continues down the path of destruction and failure, the OPTION Act stands ready to provide health care relief that the American people want and need.

The Patient OPTION Act will make health insurance cheaper for everyone, so that most Americans can buy health insurance that they need at a price that they can afford. It will provide access to good quality health care for all Americans, no matter what a person's financial status is or even if they have preexisting conditions, and it will save Medicare from going broke.

I urge the House to vote on the Patient OPTION Act so we may put the final nail into the coffin that is ObamaCare and move towards real patient-centered care.

I finally urge the American people to contact their Congressmen and their Senators to cosponsor the bill and demand from leadership a vote in the

U.S. House and the Senate on the Patient OPTION Act.

Through the voice of We the People, the strongest political force in America, we can repeal ObamaCare and replace it with true health care reforms that will make health insurance more affordable and accessible for everyone.

I hope that the American people and my colleagues will look toward the OPTION Act as an example of what real patient-centered health care and insurance looks like and bring this bill before the House and the Senate for a vote immediately.

PRESS FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the continued imprisonment of journalists in Egypt, and to restrictions on press freedoms worldwide.

Al Jazeera, the news network, has called today, Thursday, February 27, Press Freedom Day. Reporters in more than 30 cities around the world, including in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, are holding vigils to remember all the journalists currently at risk from governments that restrict the most valuable of international rights: the right to a free press and to freedom of speech.

The military-led government of Egypt has engaged in wholesale repression of the media, especially outlets thought to be sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood, since overthrowing President Mohamed Morsi in June 2013.

□ 1030

This repression culminated with the arrest of three Al Jazeera employees on December 29, 2013. On that day, Egyptian authorities arrested three employees of Al Jazeera and accused them of "spreading lies harmful to State security and joining a terrorist group."

Another 20 journalists were prosecuted this year for "airing false news," among other apparently meritless charges.

Today, four Al Jazeera reporters are currently being detained in Egypt in the Tora Prison compound for their reporting from Egypt. They are charged with being members of the organizations on which they were reporting, a charge that Al Jazeera and other international media organizations and press protection groups have rejected.

Peter Grete, Al Jazeera English's Nairobi-based correspondent; Mohammed Fahmy, their senior producer in Egypt; and Baher Mohamed, their producer in Egypt, are all being held in one small cell in Egypt at that prison under difficult and, to put it gently, Spartan conditions.

They are allowed out of their cell for only 1 hour a day, and they have been detained since December 29. They had been separated, but I would thank the Egyptian authorities for at least bringing them together, so they can at least lean on each other for support.