

H.R. 6 will help America to innovate its way out of our entitlement crisis. The regulatory reforms included in H.R. 6 will accelerate the pace of discovery, development and delivery of new treatments and cures, thereby providing significant health care savings to the federal budget that will only grow over time.

By modernizing clinical trials, eliminating duplicative administrative requirements, and perhaps most importantly, making FDA less bureaucratic by advancing the voice and needs of patients in the drug and device approval process—H.R. 6 will make lasting, positive changes to the entire ecosystem of Cures. Over 250 patient groups have enthusiastically said “yes” and endorsed Cures.

I urge all of my colleagues to think of the patients and vote “AYE” in support of H.R. 6.

## 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chair, America has been at her best when facing great challenges.

Some of our greatest challenges today are in the area of healthcare.

With over 10,000 known diseases, only 500 have cures.

We need to embrace a national vision of improving lives, and of course, saving money, through a Cures Strategy.

Sepsis is one condition that will benefit from this legislation.

Sepsis is the body's response to an overwhelming infection.

Approximately 250,000 people die from sepsis every year in the U.S. and yet most people have never heard of it.

Sepsis is the #1 most expensive condition treated in U.S. hospitals and in FY11 the aggregate hospital cost for sepsis was more than \$20 billion.

This legislation comes too late for Katie McQuestion and Rory Staunton, both who succumbed to sepsis as vibrant, health young people.

But through the work that the CURES legislation will support, we can find ways to identify sepsis earlier and even find ways to prevent sepsis.

The 21st Century Cures legislation includes language that I have authored with my friend from Texas, Rep. GENE GREEN—the SOFTWARE act.

Getting bureaucracy out of the way and allowing innovation is the goal of SOFTWARE.

SOFTWARE will codify the manner in which FDA approaches health IT—including the wonderful apps that we all use to keep us healthy.

FDA is the agency charged with assuring the safety and efficacy of drugs and medical devices.

But data is not a drug or device and it makes no sense to regulate it as such.

However obvious that is, it hasn't stopped FDA from trying to make medical device law fit health IT.

We need to modernize the FDA authorities to reflect the new technology that is health IT. SOFTWARE, as included in 21st Century Cures is an important first step in our efforts to modernize the FDA.

It is common sense legislation to provide opportunity for health IT to deliver on the promise of better health for all Americans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to bolster these efforts as SOFTWARE moves through the Senate.

For all the reasons I've outlined, the 21st Century Cures legislation is an important bill. But we must ensure that the new treatments, devices and drugs that will be created as a result of this legislation get to the people that need it the most. And some of the most needy are our nations seniors who get health care through Medicare.

Today, Medicare struggles with the adaption of new technology. Many seniors go years without access to the latest treatment options. We must change that. Congress receives great support from the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) who offers recommendations and policy support to Congress to improve Medicare.

But as we are on the cusp of changing how health care is delivered, MedPAC could use additional policy support including Commissioners that have real-world expertise in this area, and who understand the changes that need to be made in both Medicare payment and regulatory policies to make that happen. I've been pleased to support such candidates in the past, and will continue to do so in the future.

## RECOGNIZING FRED DEHARO FOR HIS POSITIVE IMPACT ON IMPROVING HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PRESIDENTS OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary contributions Fred Deharo has made to the health and wellbeing of residents in the Coachella Valley, making a real difference in the lives of the people I serve.

There is a dire need for quality health education and health care in the Coachella Valley. As an Emergency Physician myself, I know how critical it is for this population to have access to health care and education, and have seen first-hand the impact of Mr. Deharo's work.

For the last 35 years, Mr. Deharo has dedicated his life to expanding and improving public health. Upon graduating from UCLA with a Masters of Arts in Health Education-School of Public Health, Mr. Deharo was hired by “El Progreso Del Desierto,” a farm worker health clinic in Coachella, to run their health education program, and eventually became their Executive Director.

Mr. Deharo's genuine passion for our country's medically underserved populations steered him toward his next professional endeavor. In 1993, he began consulting and grant writing, and was instrumental in the opening of the health clinic “Clinicas Del

Pueblo” in Mecca, CA. Mecca, primarily a farming community, lacks access to basic health care and health education facilities.

Continuing with his service to underserved communities of Southern California, Mr. Deharo returned to the Coachella Valley in 1998 and in collaboration with another passionate health advocate, Rosa Lucas, they contributed to the opening of another clinic “Santa Rosa Del Valle” in Coachella, CA. Currently Mr. Deharo is Chief Contracts Officer for Borrego Community Health Foundation. And soon will be the Director of Contracting and Business Development for Clinicas Del Camino Real, Inc. in Ventura County, Ca.

Mr. Deharo recognizes the urgent needs that medically underserved communities struggle with on a daily basis. As a resident of the Coachella Valley, and as a Doctor, I thank Mr. Deharo for his life's work to provide better healthcare access to the rural and underserved communities of the Coachella Valley.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of families and children who have access to a Doctor through the health clinics that Mr. Deharo helped make possible, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to Mr. Deharo, and look forward to continuing to support his legacy.

## CONGRATULATING TIMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Timberland High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Timberland High School for a job well done.

## IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL SCOTT B. AVERY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Colonel Scott B. Avery, Commander of Martin Army Community Hospital, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. Colonel Avery was instrumental in the partnership between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Martin Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia to greatly improve the healthcare services provided by the VA in the Columbus, Georgia area. On Tuesday, July 14, 2015, Colonel Avery relinquished Command of Martin Army Community Hospital to Colonel Marie A. Dominguez.

Colonel Avery was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps Officer in the U.S. Army

after graduating from the University of Washington in June 1988 with a baccalaureate degree in Political Science. After completing the Medical Service Corps Officer Basic Course in November 1988, Colonel Avery was stationed in Kirchgoens, Germany as a Medical Platoon Leader for 4th BN, 32nd Armor, and 3rd Armor Division. From there, he went on to hone his leadership skills as he successfully completed numerous command and staff assignments at Fort Irwin, California; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Ansbach, Germany; Wiesbaden, Germany; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and Fort Benning, Georgia. In between his staff and command positions, Colonel Avery became a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot and a Master Navigator. He also completed numerous combat tours during his career. He deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina during Operation Joint Guard; to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; to Kosovo twice in support of Operation of Joint Guardian II; and to Iraq twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when Colonel Avery arrived in Ft. Benning, Georgia in June 2011 to serve as Commander of the Martin Army Community Hospital. In this capacity, Colonel Avery was instrumental in improving the lives and health of veterans in the Chattahoochee Valley. Colonel Avery's partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resulted in the opening of a new 19,000-square foot Veterans Affairs Clinic at Fort Benning on July 6, 2015. The new VA clinic will improve access to health care for veterans, as well as its quality and cost effectiveness. The new clinic will offer a full complement of primary care providers with integrated mental health services which will serve more than 13,000 veterans and implement tele-health hubs to provide an additional 96 appointments per week.

Colonel Avery is the epitome of the U.S. Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, and Personal Courage. The new clinic would not exist today without Colonel Avery's personal courage, selfless service, relentless desire, and tireless duty to improve the lives of those who have fought to protect our cherished liberties. His loyalty and respect to the current and former servicemen and servicewomen is commendable and should be emulated by leaders in the military and in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, the Chattahoochee Valley community, and the 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring Colonel Scott B. Avery for his contributions to the veterans of Southwest Georgia. We extend our best wishes to Colonel Avery and his family in his next assignment and throughout his career as he continues to be a champion for veterans.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT  
AUSTIN PERRIN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Austin

Perrin of Boy Scout Troop 218 in Shenandoah, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

For nine years Austin has dedicated his time and efforts to the Scouts. Not only has he excelled in Scouts, but he's also been a top-notch student and role model in the community. He represents his freshman class as their President and representative on the student council. He also participates in athletics and a number of different school related activities.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests organized by requirements and merit badges, and complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Austin built a 28-foot cedar gazebo at Priest Park in Shenandoah. His inspiration came from seeing young students waiting for the bus in the rain without any shelter. Now, each day that it rains, students have a dry place to wait for the bus.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his service to his community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Austin in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING GANNETT FLEMING

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 2015*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to Gannett Fleming on the 100th Anniversary of their company's founding. Their record of accomplishment and longevity truly is exceptional and praiseworthy.

When Farley Gannett partnered with Theodore Seelye to form "Farley Gannett, Consulting Engineer" in Harrisburg on August 1, 1915, they laid the foundation for a company that would become a driving force in improving our communities through a commitment to growth, ethics and technical excellence.

Whether designing water supply and flood control dams to improve the quality of drinking water and reducing the risk of flooding, building highways that strengthen our economy and allow for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, or water and wastewater treatment plants that result in cleaner streams, Gannett Fleming's more than 2,000 employees maintain the tradition of excellence, innovation and responsiveness that began 100 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend Gannett Fleming and its employees for their work on military and public service projects, including the Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital at the University's Medical Center in Hershey. Additionally, their ongoing support of community and charitable organizations throughout the region is invaluable.

Congratulations once again to Gannett Fleming and their employees on this wonderful milestone. Best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLAIR HIGH  
SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL  
AWARD

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Clair High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing St. Clair High School for a job well done.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 2015*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Older Americans Act, which President Lyndon Johnson signed into law on July 14, 1965.

Congress passed the Older Americans Act in response to concerns by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons.

The Older Americans Act is the major federal vehicle for the delivery of social and nutrition services for older persons.

It ensures seniors have transportation to medical appointments, the grocery store, adult day care and more.

It provides critical support and respite services to those caring for older adults—and, today, over 35 million Americans are family caregivers for older Americans.

The Older Americans Act also promotes health and well-being—helping manage diabetes, prevent falls, and improve behavioral health so seniors can live at home in their community.

The Older Americans Act has been serving our seniors and families well for half a century.

With 10,000 Americans turning 65 each day, we have an obligation to keep the Older Americans Act strong.

Just yesterday, President Obama spoke at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging to emphasize the importance of addressing aging issues and reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Across the country, older Americans are running businesses, helping to raise their grandchildren, serving as teachers, acting as mentors, and contributing their many talents for the better of their community.

I am committed to making sure that Americans are able to enjoy the secure retirement they deserve—whether they are already retired, are about to retire or are just starting out.