

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a significant milestone that occurred 50 years ago this week.

On April 11, 1965, President Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The enactment of the ESEA followed the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, guaranteeing all children equal educational opportunities. Unfortunately, communities with high concentrations of poverty have never enjoyed equal rights. So, for the last 50 years, the ESEA has remained the single-largest Federal resource for schools that teach our most vulnerable students.

If we are to keep our promise of equal educational opportunity for all, then we must redouble our efforts to level the public education playing field by ensuring that all students have both the resources to achieve academic excellence and the promise of action to intervene when their academic needs aren't being met.

This year, we need to renew ESEA in order to bring our education system into the 21st century, and we must not waver in our commitment to basic civil rights and education that we made 50 years ago this week.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, today, April 13, marks the birthday of Thomas Jefferson—America's third President and one of our greatest—who was responsible in so many ways for the creation of this great Nation.

Thomas Jefferson said on his very simple tombstone at Monticello that he was the author of the American Declaration of Independence, the author of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and the father of the University of Virginia—those things that, in his mind, he had done for the United States rather than those things that the people of the United States had done for him.

Thomas Jefferson always felt that his greatest achievement throughout his life was the preservation of the American Republic—our system of separation of powers, of checks and balances. Above all, he believed very strongly in, all power not given to the Federal Government is reserved to the States and the people respectively.

That great, good man was born on this day, April 13, 1743, and I hope that the Congress of the United States and the people of the United States will continue to honor his legacy by preserving and protecting this great inheritance, the American Republic, with its separation of powers and its recognition that all power is reserved to the States or to the people respectively.

ALL LIVES MATTER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just as the President does, the United States Congress has the bully pulpit. In doing so, I believe that America cries out for a response. Over the past 6 months to a year, we have seen a number of tragic incidences occurring between civilians and police. In particular, we cite the tragedy of the shooting of Walter Scott in South Carolina.

All lives matter.

To those who have been petitioning and protesting—young people indicating that black lives matter—it is a reflection of the high number of African Americans who find themselves at the wrong end of the gun of someone engaged in law enforcement.

We know that there are good people who serve this Nation, and we are a law-abiding nation. So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is extremely important that we begin an open discussion in the Congress that deals with the issues of lethal force, excessive force, police training, statistics.

I intend to introduce and to ask my colleagues to join me on the Cadet bill, which reaches a wide-ranging perspective of the statistics of shootings in America—civilian shootings on police and law enforcement shootings on civilians—because that is the science of criminal justice reform. I draw upon this to say that we cannot be silent anymore. People are hurting. My sympathy to those who have lost lives, including law enforcement and our civilians.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE 18 VICTIMS FROM THE INDEPENDENT HAITIAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CONGREGATION

(Mr. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last month, 18 members of the Independent Haitian Assembly of God congregation from my district in Florida were involved in a fatal bus accident while traveling home from a church congregation. The accident left 10 individuals with severe injuries, and 8 members of the congregation were fatally wounded.

This weekend, our community will join together to lay them to rest, but I want to take this opportunity on the House floor today to honor those victims who perished.

As it often happens in times of tragedy, our community has come together to support the entire Independent Haitian Assembly of God community. Our hearts go out to the victims of this tragedy, to their families, and to this entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the names of the victims who died in this terrible accident.

VICTIMS OF THE INDEPENDENT HAITIAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD BUS ACCIDENT

Volsaint Marsaille, 58, of Fort Pierce; Judge Petit-Frere, 66, of Fort Pierce; Obernise Petit-Frere, 58, of Fort Pierce; Lifaité Lochard, 58, of Fort Pierce; Madeleine William, 53, of Fort Pierce; Wanie Larose, 60, of Fort Pierce; Dazilla Joseph, 79, of Fort Pierce; Servilus Dieudonne, 71, of Fort Pierce.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. As a Representative from this area, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased on behalf of every Member of this body. Our community is strong, and we stand ready to support you as you lay your loved ones to rest.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday April 11, our Nation commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Seven years have passed since No Child Left Behind was signed into law, which was the last reauthorization of the ESEA. A new reauthorization is long overdue. We need to make children our priority by providing equal opportunity for a quality education for all children.

The partisan manner this House displayed for the ESEA's reauthorization is disheartening and leaves too many of our children behind. Democrats and Republicans should be working together to draft a bill that ensures that all students have access to a world class education, that ensures that States set high standards and goals to ensure all students graduate career or college ready, and that ensures that strong accountability measures are in place for children and families.

Let us return to the table and draft a bill that will support an equitable 21st century education system.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 50th anniversary of the ESEA, we reflect on the simple yet powerful promises that are at the center of this civil rights law, promises made to all American children—a promise that no matter where you live or what you look like you will not be ignored, a promise that no matter what resources you have you will not be undervalued, a promise that, no matter what, you deserve a quality education.

The ESEA was a substantial step towards fulfilling these promises, but we still have work to do. As we work towards reauthorization, we cannot break those promises. We cannot break

our promise to make every child count by failing to gather information on student achievement for all children. We cannot break our promise to value every child by failing to target funding at the schools that need it the most. We cannot break our promise to uphold the civil rights of all children to have a quality education. Because all children are worthy, we cannot break our promise.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our children. They are our future.

THE STATE OF BLACK HEALTH: A CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ASSESSMENT DURING NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my coanchor, ROBIN KELLY, Congresswoman from Illinois, for being involved in this Special Order tonight.

Thanks also to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus who are here tonight on such an important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people at home who are tuning in to watch this. It is truly an honor to speak to them directly in their homes, to fight on their behalf and to advance our shared priorities. That is why we are here tonight and every Monday night that the House is in session—to address the diverse issues affecting African American communities throughout our Nation and to let you know that we are here, fighting for you every single day.

Mr. Speaker, this month is National Minority Health Month. It is a chance to evaluate the state of black health, a chance to address health disparities affecting racial minorities, and a chance to speak to efforts to advance health equity. Today, African American and other minority populations lag behind in numerous health areas, including in the access to quality care, in timelines of care, and in health outcomes. These disparities have devastating impacts on individuals and families but also on our communities and our society as a whole.

There are numerous factors that contribute to the health disparities throughout New Jersey's 10th Congressional District and throughout our Nation as well—poverty, environmental threats, inadequate access to health care, and educational inequities. These are such interconnected issues that a piecemeal plan to fixing the problem will not work. A comprehensive approach—one that focuses on providing access to quality care for all, creating

good jobs that provide a decent living, and increasing educational opportunities for low-income communities—is only one way to eliminate the health disparities once and for all.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to get to the members of the CBC who are here, and I turn it over right now to the gentlewoman from Illinois, the Honorable ROBIN KELLY, who has been holding down the fort while I have been dealing with my health issues.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I thank the distinguished gentleman from the Garden State, my good friend, DONALD PAYNE. I am glad he is back and in better health in order to lead this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on the state of black health.

Mr. Speaker, it has been the refrain of so many people of all races across the country, the refrain of "black lives matter." We have gathered here this evening because black lives do matter. Whether we are talking about issues of justice or of economic opportunity or of the health of our Nation, black lives matter. The topic of tonight's Special Order hour is: The State of Black Health—a CBC Assessment during National Minority Health Month.

Each April, we observe National Minority Health Month in order to raise awareness about the gaping health disparities that impact communities of color across the Nation. Many of us have been personally affected by the physical and emotional tolls that conditions like obesity, diabetes, kidney disease, breast and prostate cancer, and HIV/AIDS have brought on ourselves and our loved ones and neighbors.

Last month marked the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches—the generation-defining events that led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Like the right to vote, health care is a fundamental civil right that our leaders, health professionals, and communities must fight to protect. The Affordable Care Act was a critical step in the march toward health equity, but there is still much more to be done.

Dr. Martin Luther King expressed this a half century ago when he said: "Of all of the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

I couldn't agree more, and it has been the work of the CBC and of the Congressional Black Health Braintrust, which I chair, to advance the critical phrase of the human rights and civil rights struggle—"health equity."

This year, the CBC's Health Braintrust will focus on three core

principles: strengthening our communities, improving health access, and marching toward a healthier future. The disparities facing minority communities in rural areas across the country are too numerous to name. To that end, the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust will work vigorously to address the gaps that exist when it comes to reducing heart disease, kidney disease, lung ailments, stroke, oral health, lupus, child nutrition, HIV/AIDS, mental health disorders, gun violence as a public health threat, and other chronic and infectious diseases.

I am glad that, during tonight's hour, we will be focused on strengthening our public health infrastructure and on developing community-oriented, multidisciplinary approaches to public health, which will close the national health disparity gap.

□ 1945

This National Minority Health Month the CBC will work to expand access to health care, early health education, and medical investment so that we can make our communities healthier and reduce the prevalence of diseases that disproportionately cut minority lives short.

Again, I thank my coanchor for the next hour.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. KELLY), who has done a tremendous job and has stepped into the gap left by the leaving of one of our former colleagues, Donna Christensen from the Virgin Islands. Ms. KELLY has stepped up to fill the position at the Health Braintrust. She has been a fighter in this area prior to coming to the Congress and has continued to demonstrate her leadership along these lines.

At this point in time, it is my honor to hear from a member of the CBC who has been a leader, seasoned in so many areas and aspects, and has been a real mentor and a role model for me as I come here and try to fight for the American people every day, as he does for his constituents in Illinois, the Honorable DANNY DAVIS.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. PAYNE, for the leadership that he provides, and I am delighted to be here with my colleagues as we talk about one of the most pernicious problems that exists in our country, and that is the tremendous disparity that exists among minorities—African Americans, Latinas, and Native Americans—when it comes to health and health care.

Millions of racial and ethnic minorities have been and continue to be disproportionately suffering. Health disparities among minorities have been neglected for many decades in this Nation, and as a result, millions of racial and ethnic minority Americans continue to lack access to reliable and quality health care. They are often suffering more from comorbidities and