

Among Pennsylvania's State officers attending the convention is Tony Rice. Tony is a student at the Pennsylvania State University's main campus in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, and Tony is one of 52 national officer candidates traveling to Louisville.

Each year, six student members are selected as national officers of the FFA. These young men and women travel as many as 100,000 miles per year, stressing the importance of agriculture, agriculture education, and the FFA. Candidates are judged upon their ability to be effective communicators and team players.

Over the past years, Tony Rice has met with more than 12,000 high school students to address the important role that agriculture plays in Pennsylvania's economy as Pennsylvania's number one industry.

Now, I not only commend Tony Rice for his dedication to the future of this industry but also his fellow FFA members and the educators who have helped these young people, who will be the agricultural leaders of tomorrow, succeed.

END CHILDHOOD HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest health challenges facing our country right now is hunger. We have a hunger problem in the United States of America.

For far too long, we have minimized the problem. Some have even ignored the problem. In short, our response has been inadequate. And we have failed to view hunger as a health issue, which it is. For our Nation's youngest and most vulnerable, our children, the negative effects of childhood hunger are pervasive and long-lasting.

So last week I was pleased to see the American Academy of Pediatrics release its newest policy statement which, for the first time, recommends that pediatricians screen all children for food insecurity. The new recommendations consist of two simple questions for pediatricians to ask parents of young children at their annual well visit to identify and address childhood hunger. It also recommends that pediatricians become more familiar with our robust system of antihunger programs at the Federal, State, and local levels. When pediatricians know more about these antihunger programs and the resources they provide, they will be better prepared to help families in need.

Pediatricians are among the most respected, if not the most respected, voices on children's issues; and I hope that, with the AAP's policy statement, more people will start paying attention to the devastating effects of childhood hunger on America's future.

It is shameful that childhood hunger even exists in this country, the richest

country in the world, that one in five children lives in a food insecure household, that 17.2 million households in this country struggle with food insecurity, that the only reliable healthy meals some kids receive are the ones they get through school breakfasts or lunches. Their mothers and fathers are forced to skip meals so that their kids can have more to eat because the family simply cannot afford to put enough food on the table.

The harmful effects of hunger on children are well documented: for example, children who live in households that are food insecure get sick more often, recover more slowly from illness, have poorer overall health, and are hospitalized more frequently.

Children and adolescents affected by food insecurity are more likely to be iron deficient, and preadolescent boys dealing with hunger issues have lower bone density. Early childhood malnutrition is also tied to conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease later in life.

Lack of adequate healthy food can impair a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in school and is linked to higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems from preschool through adolescence.

I have personally heard from pediatricians who see kids in the emergency room come in for a common cold that has become much worse because they don't have enough to eat, and their immune systems have been compromised. Stories like these are heartbreaking.

Mr. Speaker, we know that consistent access to adequate nutritious food is one of the best medicines for growing, thriving children. Children's Health Watch, a national network of pediatricians and child health professionals, found that, in comparison to children whose families were eligible but did not receive SNAP, young children whose families received SNAP were significantly less likely to be at risk of being underweight or experiencing developmental delays.

If Members of Congress are not swayed by the moral arguments for ending childhood hunger, they ought to be swayed by the economic ones. Ensuring that our kids have access to enough nutritious food saves money in the form of reduced healthcare costs and helps them become more productive contributors to our economy later in life.

Mr. Speaker, without our robust Federal antihunger programs, there would no doubt be more hungry children in this country.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, provides nutritious food and support for children and mothers. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is our Nation's premiere antihunger program and helps millions of low-income families afford to purchase food every month. About half of all SNAP recipients are children. And our school

breakfast and lunch programs, summer meals, and Child and Adult Food Care Programs all provide nutritious meals to children in community, child-friendly settings.

We can't forget about the incredible work our food banks, food pantries, and other charities do to provide healthy food for low-income children and their families. Despite the incredible work that they do, charities cannot do it alone. The demand is simply too great. Charities need a strong Federal partner to end hunger in this country.

Mr. Speaker, for a while now, I have been urging the White House to convene a White House conference on food, nutrition, and hunger. We ought to bring antihunger groups, pediatricians, business leaders, teachers, hospitals, farmers, nonprofits, faith leaders, and governmental officials together to come up with a plan to end hunger in this country once and for all. I can think of no more compelling reason to end hunger now than for the health and well-being of America's children.

In closing, I commend the American Academy of Pediatrics for working to solve hunger as a health issue and addressing how it affects our country's greatest resource: our children. We can and we should do more to end hunger now.

ISIS MUST GO

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 1,532 days since President Obama said Syria's Bashar Assad must go. Guess what? He is still there.

It has been 789 days since President Obama drew the red line in the sand, so to speak, and told Assad not to use chemical weapons on his own people. Well, he ignored that. And he used chemical weapons, and he continues to use chemical weapons and kill his own people.

What we are seeing in Syria—the rise of ISIS, the refugee crisis of tens of thousands of people, children having to migrate northward to get out of Syria, the civil war—are all the direct results of the President's unwillingness to stand by his word.

Now Russia is in Syria. They are telling the U.S. on our own soil that America is weak. Look at what they have done in Ukraine. We didn't do anything but give rhetoric and words. Nothing to push Putin back to where he should be.

America is losing her standing in the world, and we would rather appease our enemies than show our strength. This administration still has no strategy for handling ISIS, no tangible plan for defeating Assad, and seemingly no will to stand up to Russia's aggression.

Assad must go. ISIS must go. ISIS must be defeated. America must stand firm and show the world we are a force to be reckoned with, not to be trampled on.

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. It is part of the broader Learning Disabilities Month. This is the time we focus on learning disabilities, particularly in our students and our own children and many who suffer from learning disabilities.

I am emphasizing Dyslexia Awareness Month because I have dyslexia. Growing up, it was very hard being a student that couldn't read well, couldn't spell, couldn't write. I was very ashamed of that. I was shy. I didn't know how to ask for help, but I had a lot of support in my home.

My mother and father didn't really know how to treat it. We didn't even know how to diagnose it in the early ages. I became withdrawn and embarrassed to go to class, particularly to get up and to have to read in front of the class and to spell in front of the class. I still have trouble doing that. Thanks to loving parents and to supportive teachers, I am here.

I share my story because we need to remove the stigma attached to learning disabilities. No student should have to sit in silence being ashamed, being afraid to ask for help.

I had a high school biology teacher, Enid Larson, a person whom I actually wanted to grow up and be like and be a high school biology teacher, who taught me I could accomplish anything. I think I studied sciences because so much of science was memorization and not having to write a lot of papers and not having to read in front of the class.

I pass that same message along because one in five children with learning disabilities or attention issues has to know that it is not because they have a low IQ. They don't. In fact, some of the brightest people in history have had these learning disabilities. It isn't because you are different. It means that you are unique. It means that, with the right help, support, and love, you can accomplish many things. You can cope with your disability.

Many Members of Congress are dyslexic or have children who are dyslexic, and so many that we have actually formed a Congressional Dyslexic Caucus. I am urging you to ask your Member of Congress, if they have not been a member of that caucus, to join it.

I ask for you to ask your school districts what help they are bringing to kids with disabilities and particularly for dyslexic students.

I encourage the students to speak out. You may be shy about reading, but that shouldn't be affecting your speaking. You should speak out about what you feel and what you want.

Dyslexia is a reading and spelling disorder, but you can develop coping skills. With that, you can overcome your shame and your shyness. After

all, many of us in Congress have done that, and that is why I am speaking today and not reading.

FISHER CENTER FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation on their 20th anniversary. To date, the Fisher Center has raised tens of millions of dollars in private funds in the quest to find a cure for this heartbreaking disease that affects millions of families across the country and around the world.

Mr. Zachary Fisher created the foundation in 1995, with the single mission of finding a cure for Alzheimer's through scientific discovery. Since then, the research scientists at the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research at Rockefeller University, led by Nobel laureate Dr. Paul Greengard, have made remarkable strides, advancing groundbreaking research. But there is, of course, much more work to be done to defeat this debilitating disease.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise to recognize the foundation's leadership in the fight to cure Alzheimer's, I must also recognize Mr. Fisher's many other charitable endeavors that have transformed and touched the lives of those who serve our Nation in uniform.

Mr. Fisher was deeply committed to supporting the men and women of our Armed Forces, and our veterans as well. In that light, he founded the Fisher House Foundation, which provides housing to the families of our veterans and our servicemen while a loved one receives medical treatment. Additionally, Mr. Fisher founded the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City.

□ 1030

But the cause for which I rise today is to urge my colleagues once again and to urge the Nation once again to focus on the profound need to increase Alzheimer's research and to recognize the equally profound work that the Fisher Center has done to ultimately advance and find a cure.

With 5.3 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's, we must do more. Left unchecked, Alzheimer's will continue to dramatically impact countless lives and families across the country. Left unchecked, Alzheimer's could cost our Nation \$1.1 trillion annually by 2050.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight to find a cure for Alzheimer's, and I rise today to thank the Fisher Center Foundation for leading this charge by funding groundbreaking research to finally end this disease.

PRESERVING OUR PLANET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct our attention to the importance of preserving our planet and what we should do to address the issue of the changes going on in our climate.

Protecting our environment and addressing climate change are issues which are important to all of our cities across the United States. In fact, at a very local level, many of our communities are working on these issues because they face them directly head on.

For the Latino community, like other communities, we are family-oriented, and we want to provide a better future for our generations to come. That includes leaving our planet better—better—for our grandchildren and their children.

As the Latino population continues to increase in the United States—we are about one out of every four, and they say that in another 30 or 40 years, we will be one out of every three Americans—our exposure to climate change and the risks of pollution are even more important because our ZIP Codes—where we live, where the Latino community lives—are where we are highest at risk.

It is estimated that close to 50 percent of all Latino Americans live in counties that frequently violate ground-level ozone standards. It just doesn't affect Latinos, by the way. Asian Americans tend to also live in those ZIP Codes.

What that means is that we are breathing dirtier air than most Americans, and we have more respiratory illness. Poor environmental protections affect the food that we feed our children, the air that our families breathe, and the water that we drink.

Since I was elected to Congress almost 20 years ago, I have worked tirelessly to work in Orange County—where I live and where I represent—to help get some green projects in, both in Orange County and in California.

For example, I have fought to maintain the funding for the Pacific Crest Trail, which serves residents of the entire West Coast and visitors from around the world. Of course, I am an avid hiker; so, I love that trail.

In fact, in this Congress, I cosponsored legislation which would permanently extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which ensures the conservation of national parks, rivers, and streams. It provides grants to local parks and to recreation projects.

One of the things it does is try to ensure that, for example, California, being so long in length, you could start at the southern portion of California and actually walk through wilderness all the way to the Oregon border.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a bipartisan program. That is why it kind of distresses me a little bit