

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 I became withdrawn and embarrassed to go to class, particularly to get up and to have to read in front of the class and to spell in front of the class.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.

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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

that we, as a Congress, haven't funded it, because it is incredibly important, especially in urban areas, such as my district, where there is little natural environment left and where we need open space and green parks.

It is where Latinos go to have their barbecues. It is where we have our family gatherings. It is incredibly important to us. Sometimes we live in pretty cramped conditions, and we need that outdoor space, even if it is in an urban area. Places like Pearson and Pioneer Park in my hometown of Anaheim or Centennial Park in Santa Ana or our beautiful Santa Ana Zoo have all been made possible by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what the total cost to taxpayers for these wonderful developments are? Zero. The land and water conservation comes at no cost to the taxpayer, but it benefits them immensely. And, still, this House has failed to fund this. It expired on September 30.

Mr. Speaker, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is another example of a commonsense—commonsense—bipartisan program on which this House has neglected to act.

So I ask the Members of the House, can you go back to the people of your district and say to them: Oh, I don't really care about your parks. I don't really care about the environment. I don't care about where you hang out with your families? This Congress has to act. We should act together on this because it is incredibly important to our families.

I will leave you with a quote, another one from one of my favorite people, His Holiness Pope Francis: "I call for a courageous and responsible effort to 'redirect our steps' and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference." I am sure.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 754. An act to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO END BREAST CANCER

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and today I wish to honor those fighters, survivors, and families it impacts, such as the Edwards family of Washington Crossing, Bucks County.

Tracy Edwards was just 47 years old, a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and a courageous fighter to the end.

The American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 300,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. It is critical that we understand that the battle against this disease does not end when the pink ribbons go away.

I fully understand the vital role leaders play here in Washington every day in supporting groundbreaking research and that we must fight for better treatments, finding a cure, and ultimately defeating breast cancer. Let's work together to end it once and for all.

OUR NATION'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, for too long we have neglected mental health in our Nation, leaving many to suffer with little hope. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in our rural communities.

According to reports, more than 60 percent of rural Americans are living in areas that are experiencing shortages in mental health professionals. More than 90 percent of practicing psychologists and psychiatrists in this country work exclusively in metropolitan areas. More than 65 percent of rural Americans rely solely on their primary care providers for mental health care. In most rural communities, the primary mental health crisis responder is a law enforcement officer, despite not being a medical specialist.

All across rural America patients continue to face longer wait times, difficulty accessing care, and long-distance travel just to access subpar care by professionals, through no fault of their own, not even adequately trained to diagnose and treat mental health issues. In Shasta County, in my district, there is evidently only one psychiatrist in the area, while there is an estimated 4,000 patients with mental health needs.

In addition, the lack of mental healthcare facilities, such as the shortage of inpatient beds and space, leaves patients stuck with longer wait times in the emergency room before they can even see a health professional with no other options.

While the President's healthcare law attempted to make strides in this area by including behavioral health coverage, this system is fundamentally and fatally flawed.

While continuing to throw Federal funding at it may serve as a temporary Band-Aid for the symptoms of this crisis, it does nothing to address the root of the problem. One-size-fits-all, top-down systems do not work, especially in rural America.

If we continue to stand by the status quo, our rural patients will continue to

suffer and, in many unfortunate cases, end up suicidal, homeless, or in prison, placing an even greater financial burden on our communities.

For this reason, I am proud to support H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015. I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for introducing this sorely needed bill. It is said the first step to fixing a problem is acknowledging there is one, and that is exactly what this bill does.

We spend approximately \$130 billion on mental health every year, yet our country still faces a shortage of nearly 100,000 psychiatric beds. Three of the largest mental health hospitals are, in fact, criminal incarceration facilities.

For every 2,000 children with a mental health disorder, only one child psychiatrist is available. Outdated HIPAA privacy laws continue to prevent families and doctors from getting their loved ones and patients the care they need.

Our mental health system is broken, but it certainly does not have to be. H.R. 2646 is a great step in rebuilding the system to one that works to empower patients and families with the access to care and services they need.

It brings accountability to the system to ensure every Federal dollar is going to evidence-based standards, improves quality, and expands access to behavioral health in our community health clinics while advancing telepsychiatry in areas with limited access to mental health professionals, and, importantly, ends the outdated prohibition on physicians volunteering at clinics and federally qualified health centers.

In addition, it provides more beds for those in need of immediate care or those experiencing a crisis and improves alternatives to institutionalization so patients can access the treatment they need, while it helps us decrease the incarceration rates, homelessness, and recurring ER visits. These are just a few of the sorely needed reforms included in H.R. 2646.

I want to stand today to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY), for his leadership in introducing this bill and urge my colleagues to lend their support of this responsible measure to help fix this broken system.

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As a breast cancer survivor, I want to add to my sisters and brothers my appreciation for their strength and determination and my respect to those families whose loved ones did not survive the battle.

I am very grateful that, out of this awareness, we have begun to focus on more research for breast cancer remedies and solutions. I introduced a bill