

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Jonny Wade, an 8-year-old from Jerseyville, Illinois, who is battling a rare form of brain and spinal cancer.

After being diagnosed with cancer on Christmas Day of 2014, Jonny has undergone several surgeries as well as multiple rounds of radiation and chemotherapy. Despite the diagnosis, Jonny continues to think of others, and his rallying cry remains, "I don't want any other kid to have cancer."

While he was unable to travel to Washington, as I invited him to do just a few short months ago, to come here to advocate for cancer research, I want to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to speak out on his behalf.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death for children, yet only 4 percent of cancer research funds go to children. Jonny and his twin brother Jacky have a special place in my heart because I am the parent of twin boys, too. While Jonny and Jacky may not be here with me today, they brought their cause to the Capitol.

Pediatric cancer is a relentless disease, and we cannot waver in our efforts to eradicate it. For Jonny and the thousands of children who are diagnosed with cancer each year, we must all work together to fully fund pediatric cancer research.

The favorite sport of Jonny and Jacky is baseball. These two guys right here like to go to baseball games and football games. Unfortunately for both of them, they are St. Louis Cardinals fans. Being an Atlanta Braves fan, I like to joke with them about their choice in teams.

But I have got a baseball right here, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank all the colleagues who signed this baseball for me. I wanted everybody to sign, but as you can see, there is no room left.

This baseball is for you, Jonny. I want to thank you for being the fighter that you are.

THE CULTURE OF OPPOSITION NEEDS TO CHANGE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Chuck Rosenberg, the acting administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, recently called the notion of smoking medical marijuana a joke.

What is a joke is the job Rosenberg is doing as acting DEA administrator. He is an example of an inept, misinformed zealot who has mismanaged America's failed policy of marijuana prohibition.

Americans recognize it is time for a change in direction to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana. Fifty-eight percent now support legalization, continuing an upward trend in public opinion polls and at the ballot box.

Over 75 percent of the American public supports medical marijuana, as do a majority of American physicians.

Rosenberg claims medical marijuana is a joke, but the proven therapeutic value of cannabis has prompted 23 States, Guam, and the District of Columbia to approve its medical application and an additional 17 States have authorized its more limited use.

Rosenberg's claim that more research is necessary is true, but it reeks of hypocrisy because the DEA, under his leadership, has made badly needed cannabis research difficult, and often impossible. If Rosenberg was doing his job, he would have visited with some of the hundreds of thousands who have found medical marijuana has had a profound effect on their lives and that of their families.

President Obama is the first sitting President to tell the truth about cannabis. His administration has not acted to shut down the adult or medical marijuana reforms sweeping the country. Sadly, it isn't just his DEA administrator who is undercutting his policy.

Earlier this year the Department of Justice took an outrageously flawed position on the Rohrabacher-Farr amendment that passed with strong bipartisan support, which clearly specified that the Federal Government should not interfere with State legal medical marijuana operations.

The Department of Justice and the DEA contend that it only prevents action against States, not individuals. This is a ridiculous interpretation of the law and caused a Federal court in California to rule this interpretation "defies language and logic" in deciding against them.

More recently, the Senate passed the MILCON-VA appropriations bill, which included an amendment offered by my colleague in Oregon, Senator MERKLEY, mirroring my legislation to allow VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana to their patients in accordance with State law.

Yet, on November 13, the Department of Veterans Affairs indicated they won't allow doctors and patients to participate in State legal marijuana laws, even if this bill becomes law.

Sadly, these actions by administration officials are indicative of a throwback ideology rooted in the failed war on drugs, which needs to stop.

They do not reflect the overwhelming body of evidence about the effects of medical marijuana, the reforms happening at the State level and in Congress, or the opinion of the American people.

They don't reflect the statements by the President himself and the official policy promulgated by former Deputy Attorney General Cole outlining the administration's commitment to stay out of the way of State marijuana laws.

There is overwhelming evidence that marijuana offers relief when nothing else has helped, including as a more effective pain management tool than highly addictive narcotics. Opioid overdoses are skyrocketing, and we have an epidemic of heroin abuse and overdose.

Sadly, the culture of opposition in the Federal Government continues. On one level, we have this amazing progress at the State and local level. We have made significant progress here in Congress with the introduction of over 20 bills in both Chambers dealing with the Federal treatment of cannabis and hemp, and the successful votes on three amendments in the House and three in Senate committees in this Congress.

This culture needs to change. Leadership needs to change. Rosenberg is clearly not the right fit for the DEA in this administration.

I would hope that the President directs the heads of all relevant agencies to adjust their policies, clarify regulations that deal with marijuana laws, establish policies that reflect changing State laws, and, most importantly, reflect the President's own position.

He has said that he has bigger fish to fry than interfere with State legalization efforts. It is time that the rest of his administration gets on board, and it should start with a new head of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week's gruesome terrorist attacks in Paris were a disturbing reminder that the war on terror is ongoing and that radical Islamic extremism represents a clear and present danger to all freedom-loving civilized people.

The time from September 11, 2001, up until today has been difficult for our Nation. We have seen our young men and women engaged in endless wars. We have lost thousands of American lives and spent a significant portion of our national treasure fighting in the Middle East. Costly mistakes were made in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. We are understandably a war-weary people.

However, last Friday we were reminded that the consequences of inaction or of weak actions are far greater than any risks associated with making a serious and unwavering commitment to confronting and defeating radical terrorists.

ISIS is not a problem to be managed or contained. This ambitious terrorist organization is a dangerous enemy of the United States and our allies that must be eradicated. If we refuse to fight ISIS on their home turf, we will have to fight them in the streets of Paris and maybe in our own communities.

Just as the previous administration recognized that its Iraq strategy was failing and needed a jolt, it is now time for President Obama and his national security team to show that they are serious about destroying this dangerous threat to the stability of the world and to our own very lives.

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Mr. Speaker, I have cosponsored a resolution authorizing the use of military force introduced by the gentleman from Illinois, my friend ADAM KINZINGER. It would guarantee the President and our military every tool necessary to defeat ISIS. This resolution deserves a vote so that we can fight to win a war that we cannot afford to lose.

CUBAN CRISIS

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since the announcement of the President's engagement policy with the Cuban dictatorship in December of last year, we have witnessed a 78 percent spike in the number of Cubans arriving into our country. An untold number have been lost to the sea.

But they aren't only coming by sea. Thousands of Cubans are illegally entering Central American nations, making the long trek north through Mexico and entering via our southern border. Too many are at the mercy of reprehensible human trafficking rings.

Costa Rican authorities report that the number of Cubans entering their country illegally has grown from 5,400 last year to 12,166 so far this year. This problem has become so severe that the Costa Rican Government had to temporarily close its borders this past weekend.

These trends show no signs of letting up, and I am concerned about another migrant crisis overwhelming our Nation, particularly south Florida. This is a matter of our national security and requires the President's immediate attention.

Cubans on the island seem to be reacting to the administration's new policy with desperation and fear, risking their lives and their safety to escape the prison that is Castro's Cuba.

WHITE HOUSE ACCREDITATION ALTERNATIVE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the administration's proposal to provide an alternative to accreditation for providers who develop partnerships with accredited institutions. The introduction of a regulator to judge programs like computer coding boot camps can help challenge traditional accreditors to put more focus on the success of students after graduation.

This could be the groundwork for a true alternative to accreditation that would not replace the traditional system. Rather, it would enhance and allow other successful models to access funding resources to replicate and extend their reach.

Accreditors maintain an important role within higher education; however, alternative models can help deal with segments that traditional accreditors may not be able to address effectively. As a large number of students enroll in noninstitutional programs, we should encourage the growth of successful models that are providing students with a path to successful and rewarding careers.

Emphasizing outputs is an important step forward in helping the system of higher education in the United States evolve. As we continue our work toward reauthorizing the Higher Education Act here in the House, I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues to ensure that we are helping prepare students for success.

In education, one size does not fit all. This step by the administration is one in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND, REGINALD "HATS" ADAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Reginald "Hats" Adams, a dear friend whom I have known and worked with since the late 1960s.

In 1986, Hats was hired as the chief youth worker at the Mile Square Health Center. He had previously worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago. After having the titles of community liaison and employee relations coordinator, he was named director of community affairs at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in 1974 and held that position which he defined and redefined several times to coincide with what he was doing.

Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center is a large, complex, and diverse corporate entity which trains thousands of doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel and has an excellent record of patient care.

Much of Mr. Adams' work involved outreach to the broad community on the medical center's behalf. Over the years, he has worked with municipal, county, and State entities, while at the same time developing and maintaining close ties to grassroots organizations, social service agencies, and faith institutions.

Mr. Adams has always been seriously interested in and involved with young people. His youth development work is legendary. He has paid special attention to the educational concerns of minority students. As a result, Rush sponsors summer work study programs for minority college students, summer internships for high school students, and math and science enrichment programs for students at more than 60 elementary and high schools.

Through Mr. Adams' efforts, the Science and Math Excellence Network was launched in 1991. The network is a coalition of public and private organizations working directly with the local schools to improve science and math education for elementary students.

Rush and its corporate partners sponsor after-school science clubs, provide judging at local science fairs, offer summer training programs for teachers, and sponsor a mobile science lab that visits schools without laboratory facilities.

Each year, the network hosts an awards dinner to recognize the top science and math students at participating schools. Since 1991, the network also has coordinated the construction of 10 science laboratories in local schools, including several specially designed facilities for preschool-age children. Mr. Adams served as president of the network.

Notwithstanding his outstanding professional work and civic involvement, Mr. Adams has always been endeared to his personal family, church, and friends. He was passionate about his family, and at times was known to have his own seat staked out at church.

Mr. Adams was also actively involved in the affirmative action activities of the medical center and helped assure that minority vendors, contractors, and business interests had access to business opportunities at the medical center.

Hats was a man of great wisdom, courage, and determination, always protecting the interests of the medical center but never forgetting the community from which he came and was a part of.

The poet Kipling may have had Hats in mind when he wrote:

If you can walk with Kings and Queens and not lose the common touch; if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you; if all men matter with you, but none too much; and finally, if you can give the unforgiven moment with 60 seconds' worth of distance run; yours will be the Earth and all that is in it; and what is more, you will be a man, my son.

Reginald "Hats" Adams, what a man. His life is gone, but his legacy lives on.

SYRIAN REFUGEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of the Syrian refugees and the Islamic State terrorists who are coming across our southern border and, in relation to this, the Office of Refugee Resettlement loophole that exists there.

Also, Mr. Speaker, as I begin my remarks, I commend the House and our Speaker for speaking out and taking an action to condemn the Paris attacks.

This administration has announced its intention to resettle 10,000 Syrian refugees within the United States in fiscal year 2016. Now, I want you to think about that number, 10,000 in the year 2016. They will go to resettlement communities all across the country, if the administration has its way.

It is important to note that the Office of Refugee Resettlement, or the ORR as it is called, does not simply resettle refugees from overseas. In fact, the ORR has been resettling thousands of illegal aliens that are coming across our southern border.

I want to read to you from their 2013 report to Congress:

"Other Categories Eligible for Assistance and Services.