

It is not just an epidemic, but an emergency, one that I believe this Congress is firmly standing strong in a bipartisan way to find solutions, to do our part at the Federal level to make sure that we have every opportunity not just to help those who seek treatment and recovery, but also to strengthen law enforcement, to focus on those individuals who are selling these drugs across the country, from California to New Hampshire, but also being proactive in prevention and in education.

We often speak of our friends and constituents in New Hampshire that continue to suffer, but we also talk about our children. I have a 12-year-old and an 11-year-old that I hope will live lives without and free from drugs. I want to make sure that every seventh- and eighth-grader in the State of New Hampshire understands the severity of the problem and understands that this is something that is deadly that we cannot even take once.

As you mentioned, the challenge of fentanyl, lacing a pill of heroin with as many as three small pieces of fentanyl the size of grains of sand can kill a person. Most people don't realize that. This is a deadly, deadly epidemic.

□ 2100

This week the House of Representatives takes up a whole host of bills. After the Senate passed their CARA Act 94-1, we have had four committees of jurisdiction work and try to improve that piece of legislation.

I look forward to sharing a very strong bipartisan vote this week on a whole host of bills, going to conference with the Senate, and getting this bill to the President's desk. It is a mark of bipartisanship and it is a mark of leadership, something that the country needs to see from this institution and from this city.

I want to thank all of my colleagues who participated in this Special Order tonight to kick off Heroin and Opioid Awareness Week. We have heard stories of success and difficulty come in equal measure from every corner of the country.

I commend the House for passing a comprehensive bipartisan bill for the relief of the vulnerable, the victimized, and distressed in my district, in your district, and throughout the Nation. Any measure we take to lighten even slightly the burden of suffering patients and families can make the difference between fatal despair and renewal.

The House is scheduled to take up several similar measures this week. It is my hope that, when combined, our efforts will begin to form a solution to this harrowing and tragic national crisis. We will continue to work for safe communities and effective evidence-based treatments.

But I want to end this evening on a favorable note. I want to share the story of my friend, Abi Lizotte, who the gentlewoman from New Hampshire,

Congresswoman KUSTER, knows all too well.

Abi Lizotte last year had been addicted to heroin for an extended period of time and had nowhere left to turn. Her family wouldn't help her. Her friends wouldn't help her. Even the people she bought drugs from wouldn't help her.

She was 8 months pregnant. She finally called a nurse, a nurse that had helped her earlier in the year, and asked for assistance. She went to the hospital and thankfully was able to see a physician. That physician told her that she was days away from dying while she was carrying her child.

Thankfully, through the grace of God and the help of people in New Hampshire, she was able to start the process of recovery. Today my friend Abi—and I am proud to call her my friend—has testified in front of our committee hearings in New Hampshire, has testified about the experience that she had and the loneliness and despair that she experienced. She is now 6 months clean with an 8-month-old son named Parker. It is a story of success.

She continues each and every day to strive for that success for others. She actually goes to schools in New Hampshire and speaks to kids about her experience in the hope that other people will not fall to the same experience she had over the last several years.

I count her as a friend, but I focus our work in her name, just as you focus your work in the name of Kriss Soterian's stepdaughter, Amber, because these are people we know. These are people that we don't just represent. They are people that we want to try to save.

I am very, very happy to see our leadership, the bipartisanship this week in the legislation that will come to this floor, and I pray that next year we don't see the same number of deaths, that we start to see a decline.

But, regardless, this is just the beginning of this process where we will continue to fight for every life, to fight for every person who is dealing with the disease of addiction, and will continue to work in a bipartisan way because people of our Nation deserve it.

I want to thank my colleague again, ANN KUSTER from New Hampshire, my co-chair of the bipartisan task force, for her leadership. I thank the speakers this evening. I look forward to a productive week and a productive year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTERMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we are back in session and things have continued to proceed on. I appreciate so much my colleagues calling attention to this national disaster, really. Opioids are

being used at what seem to be unprecedented levels.

I know, since I have been here, there was basically a war against the use of methamphetamines. So we restricted law-abiding citizens' access to Sudafed, one decongestant that works on me and has since it was discovered.

We have had more drugs pouring across our southern border, according to what DEA agents and local law enforcement have been telling me in Texas and Border Patrol down at our border, DPS at our border. Drugs pouring in seem to have more purity and be more devastating to people that get hooked on them.

Obviously, we have had doctors and nurses. I have sentenced many professionals, a number of them at least, for crimes committed. And they are getting access to opioids, but it is a problem.

What concerns me, also, is that it appears this administration is saying: We will help you clean up the criminal justice inadequacies as long as you will pass bills that will get a lot of people, thousands and thousands of people, released from prison early.

We have seen from the figures that were provided to Senator JEFF SESSIONS, pursuant to his request, that, of all the people in Federal prison for possession of illegal substances, 77 percent of them are not citizens of the United States. That is 77 percent of those in Federal prison for possession are not U.S. citizens. So, obviously, this President has been giving illegal, unconstitutional amnesties out like they were water at a marathon.

Hopefully, the Supreme Court is once and for all going to assure that that stops. But it makes sense when you look at this as being an election year and the Democratic Governor of Virginia makes thousands of felons eligible to vote.

All they need is to get out of prison, and then this President wants thousands and thousands more released from prison. The old saying is true here in Washington: No matter how cynical you get, it is never enough to catch up.

We should do criminal justice reform. I have been pushing for it for the years I have been here, I guess for the last 8 years.

But if it is only going to get signed into law if it is combined with scrapping the sentences that were arrived at by judges agonizing over an appropriate sentence, then I hope and pray it will not happen until January of next year, when a new President is in office, so that it does not get linked.

I mean, the cynicism for an administration to say, "Yeah. We will do the criminal justice reform that is necessary, but only if you will allow us to release thousands and thousands from prison," which there is no question that people will be murdered, people will be robbed, people will be assaulted, shot, burglarized in crimes that never would have happened if the President hadn't pushed the early release of so many criminals.

I hope and pray that we will be the guardians here in the House of those American citizens that would be killed, robbed, burglarized, assaulted, if the President gets his way and releases people early. We can't allow that to happen if we are going to keep our oath to the American people.

We have heard so often in this room and, goodness, we have heard right here across the street in front of the Supreme Court people that claim to be illegally in this country.

The only reason I am saying claim to be illegally in this country is we have heard that all the people in this country are in the shadows and we need to bring them out of the shadows.

These people that were claiming to be illegally here protesting in front of the Supreme Court recently were not in the shadows. They were in full sunlight out in front of the United States Supreme Court and, in fact, blocking traffic there right in front of the Supreme Court building. Ultimately, the police just shut off the streets because so many people were in the streets.

This story from yesterday in the Washington Examiner is entitled "Cashing in: Illegal Immigrants get \$1,261 more welfare than American families."

The story says:

"Illegal immigrant households receive an average of \$5,692 in Federal welfare benefits every year, far more than the average 'native' American household, at \$4,431, according to a new report on the cost of immigration released Monday.

"The Center for Immigration Studies, in an analysis of federal cost figures, found that all immigrant-headed households—legal and illegal—receive an average of \$6,241 in welfare"—

I will point out parenthetically here that that is an average. Obviously, not everybody gets welfare that is here legally and illegally. Obviously, there are lots of households that don't get welfare. But this is an average.

And the article says:

—"41 percent more than native households. As with Americans receiving benefits such as food stamps and cash, much of the welfare to immigrants supplements their low wage jobs.

"The total cost is over \$103 billion in welfare benefits to households headed by immigrants. A majority, 51 percent, of immigrant households receive some type of welfare compared to 30 percent of native households, said the analysis of Census data."

I would like to insert, Mr. Speaker, when STEVE KING and I visited in London, England, with the Social Security office equivalent there, they pointed out that, in order to receive Social Security-type benefits in England, the law requires proof that you have been in the country for 5 years before you are eligible.

We were told—I didn't see them, but we were told that, in applying to come to the country or being in the country,

you had to agree not to apply for benefits for 5 years, the idea being, if they are just an immigrant magnet for people who want to come get welfare, they would go broke. That was their reasoning. And, actually, it is quite good reasoning.

□ 2115

As one of the leaders there in the office made clear, she said: "Look, we want to make sure that people coming into England are going to be contributors to our society and not just takers from our society."

I don't know if she has been successful. Apparently there are people who come in who are just takers there; but this idea is interesting. It puts to the test whether someone is just coming in to get welfare benefits one has never participated in, has helped pay for, or if one is coming in to help make America a better country.

Of course, some think: If I come to America and if they are paying me benefits, obviously, America is a better country because my getting welfare makes it a better country. But most of us would not necessarily agree with that. At least, I hope most would not.

But in seeing this figure that the total cost is over \$103 billion for welfare benefits to households that are headed by immigrants, possibly as much as anything else, it ought to indicate that our immigration policies and certainly this administration need dramatic changes. Perhaps it would be good to put a pause on immigration until we get this worked out because we are doing great damage to our country and we are doing great damage to other countries.

Anyway, this goes on to read: "Immigrants receiving the most, in the study of 2012 figures, come from Mexico and Central America. Their average annual taxpayer-funded welfare collection is \$8,251, 86 percent higher than the benefits received by native households, said the report."

Mr. Speaker, that is pretty staggering. These are, apparently, 2012 figures? Mexico and Central America? Immigrants from Mexico and Central America are receiving, on average, \$8,251 per year.

It is pretty clear. You don't have to be that great of a mathematician. I was good at math in junior high and in high school. In college, I only had to study for 15 minutes for the final to make an A in algebra. But you don't have to be good at math to know that no nation can sustain itself when it is giving people who are rushing into the country over \$8,000 without their ever contributing a dime to the ongoing of the country.

In any event, the article reads: "The new report follows another that found President Obama seeking \$17,613 for every new illegal minor, more than Social Security retirees get."

That is just mind-boggling. In the words of Bo Pilgrim, that is mind-boggling. It is \$17,613 that President

Obama sought to provide to every illegal immigrant minor—a person under 18. They have come into the country, breaking our law to get here. Yes, I have been there at all hours of the day and night on the border. No one comes across that border unaccompanied. You can't get across the Rio Grande, in the areas they were coming across, unaccompanied—4-year-old, 6-year-old, 8-year-old children as they stand there. I have seen them come up from the bank, and they are being helped. You see a woman helping this child, and the child is looking to her for answers, looking to her for instructions, looking to her for help. Then she gets up there, and she asks: Oh, is this your child?

Oh, no. I don't know her at all. She is not accompanied. Nobody is with her.

Yes, you are with her, and all of these other people are with her, but we call it unaccompanied.

Then, of course, the President wants \$17,613 for every new illegal immigrant who is under 18, which, as the article points out, is more than he would seek for Social Security retirees.

Again, from The Washington Examiner, it is talking about author Jason Richwine, who noted that illegal immigrants are barred from directly receiving welfare, but, instead, they get it via their legal children.

"Illegal immigrants are barred from directly accessing most, though not all, welfare programs, but they can receive welfare through their U.S.-born children. Legal immigrant households, which have greater eligibility for welfare, cost \$6,378, on average," he wrote.

"The average household"—again, this is just an average household—"headed by an immigrant, legal or illegal, costs taxpayers \$6,234 in Federal welfare benefits.

"The average immigrant household consumes 33 percent more cash welfare, 57 percent more food assistance, and 44 percent more Medicaid dollars than the average native household.

"At \$8,251, households headed by immigrants from Central America and Mexico have the highest welfare costs of any sending region.

"The greater consumption of welfare dollars of immigrants can be explained in large part by their lower level of education and larger number of children compared to natives. Over 24 percent of immigrant households are headed by a high school dropout compared to just 8 percent of native households. In addition, 13 percent of immigrant households have three or more children versus just 6 percent of native households."

So when you do the math, as some people actually have, our Nation is not long for the world unless we get on a lawful track. I have seen and had signs shoved in front of my face over in front of the Supreme Court that Jesus was an immigrant and that Jesus was a refugee. This thing I know from everything we have been taught, from everything that is in the Bible, is that Jesus was never an illegal immigrant. Jesus

made clear you render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. You follow the law. He never broke the law nor advocated breaking the civilian law; though, those who crucified him clearly violated the law.

An article here from The Washington Free Beacon today, by Adam Kredo, reads: "Report: Homegrown violent extremists planting roots across U.S.; foiled ISIS attacks, plots, and terror funding grows across Nation."

"At least 75 homegrown violent extremists were found to be operating across the United States in 2015, with the largest portion of these individuals pledging allegiance to the ISIS terror group, according to recent figures published by New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

"The largest number of homegrown extremists were caught providing material support to various terror organizations, while at least 21 percent of the terrorists were found to be planning attacks in the United States, according to the figures.

"Another 10 percent successfully carried out terror attacks in California, New York, Tennessee, and Massachusetts, according to the data, which shows that the New York City area was home to the largest number of violent extremists."

That term "violent extremists" is so beloved by this administration so they don't have to use the term "radical Islamists" or "Islamic jihadists."

Yet, here is an article from Craig Bannister today: "Administration's Censorship of State Department Video Mirrors Deletion of Hollande's 'Islamist' Remark."

The article reads: "The State Department's censorship of an on-camera confession made by spokeswoman Jen Psaki appears identical to the recent censorship by the White House of video of French President Hollande speaking the words 'Islamist terrorism,' exposed by MRCTV.

"FOX News' James Rosen reported on Monday that the State Department edited out an on-camera admission by Psaki in 2013 that it is Obama administration's policy to lie to the American people, and that the Iran nuclear deal was 'a good example' of a time it did.

"The administration used the same censorship tactics earlier this year when it edited out audio of President Hollande calling 'Islamist terrorism' the root of terrorism today . . . The White House Web site has censored a video of French President Francois Hollande saying that 'Islamist terrorism' is at the 'roots of terrorism.' The White House briefly pulled video of a press event on terrorism with President Obama, and when it reappeared on the whitehouse.gov Web site and YouTube, the audio of Hollande's translator goes silent, beginning with the words 'Islamist terrorism,' then begins again at the end of his sentence."

"The two censorships by the Obama administration follow the same pattern:

"A comment objectionable to the administration was edited out of the official video posted on a government Web site,

"The censorship was discovered and documented because the official government transcript had not been edited,

"The missing video was, somehow, found and restored to the version on the government Web site—after the censorship had been exposed, and

"The administration pleaded ignorance of the editing once it had been made public.

"Rosen's revelation begs a question posed to MRCTV multiple times since it broke the Hollande story:

"Is this an isolated incident, or are there other times the administration has edited out comments it doesn't want the American people to hear?"

Consistent with actions like preventing people from hearing the French President point out the truth that Islamic terrorism is at the root of all terrorism—most terrorism it certainly is—here is a front page magazine story: "Obama Frees USS Cole Bombing Terrorist. American lives don't matter," from Daniel Greenfield.

"On Thursday morning, sailors on board the USS Cole were lining up for an early lunch. Seventeen of them died as an al Qaeda bomb on board a fishing boat tore through the hull outside the gallery. The dead included 15 men and two women, one of whom had a young child. For 3 weeks, the crew of the USS Cole struggled to keep their ship from sinking while working waste deep in water with bucket brigades, sleeping on the deck, and living surrounded by the terrible aftermath of the terrorist attack.

"The survivors, wounded and whole, received the words 'Glory is the Reward of Valor,' written on the bent steel removed from the site of the explosion that tore through their ship and their lives.

□ 2130

"The President of the United States promised that justice would be done:

"To those who attacked them, we say: You will not find a safe harbor. We will find you and justice will prevail."

As the article says: "Despite Clinton's words, justice did not prevail."

The article goes on to point out all the injustice of what President Obama has done in freeing this bomber involved in the USS *Cole* bombing. He is a murderer of 17, wonderer of three dozen or so in an attack on a United States military ship.

The United States cannot long exist when this is the way we treat those who are trying to destroy us.

In a May 5 account in The Weekly Standard's story, "Obama's Foreign Policy Guru Boasts of How the Administration Lied to Sell the Iran Deal," it says:

"It's hardly any wonder that Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes has a 'mind meld' with his boss, the

President. According to a David Samuels New York Times Magazine article to be published Sunday and already posted to the Web site, Rhodes, like Barack Obama, is contemptuous of 'the American foreign-policy establishment.' What Obama calls the 'Washington playbook' dictating the sorts of responses available to American policymakers, Rhodes calls the 'Blob.'"

This article points out what is in the news right now, that the Obama administration—and I am being careful—that the Obama administration was responsible for a lie perpetrated against the American people. They claim they were dealing with moderates in Iran. They knew they were dealing with radicals, and Ben Rhodes is lying. He brags about all the lying they did to keep the Senate from standing up and having the courage to say this is a treaty. It is being done with radical Islamists in Iran. It hurts all our friends, helps our enemies. We will not allow that to happen. We are taking a vote on the Iran treaty as a treaty.

And then when they did, if the Democrats tried to block it, then this, more than anything else they have ever taken up, would be something they should say, as HARRY REID did, we may not have 60, but this is critical. We vote on the Iran treaty and vote it down.

So 51 votes sets aside cloture, and they drive forward. It doesn't get the two-thirds vote, and we stop the radicals in Iran from getting the hundreds of billions that will flow not just in 1 year, but over a period of time.

I met with Baloch people, Baloch leaders today. The southern part of Iran, southern southwest part of Pakistan, those are indigenous Baloch areas. The most productive oilfields of Iran are Baloch areas.

They have been so unfairly terrorized and mistreated. They know what terrorists the leaders of Iran are.

We have friends in those areas of Iran and Pakistan, and this administration chose to lie to the American people to get the Senate to do nothing to stop them. And people around the world will die as a result of the lies that Ben Rhodes has now admitted to.

God help us all.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through May 13.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 546. An act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National