

BREAKING ADDICTION TO OPIOIDS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act.

Like the TREAT Act, which I introduced, this bill would allow qualified physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe the medical treatment patients need to break their addiction to opioids. Utilizing these healthcare professionals is crucial to combat this epidemic, especially in medically underserved areas.

The bill would also increase the number of patients that physicians can prescribe Suboxone to from 100 to 250 per year. This is a step in the right direction. But there is no cap on the prescription of opioids, and it is counterproductive to cap treatment for opioid addiction.

The TREAT Act would eliminate this cap. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions has reported out a version with an annual cap of 500 patients. I urge my colleagues to support the Senate position so that more Americans can access this lifesaving treatment.

I thank the sponsors of this bill, Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. TONKO, and the Senate sponsor of the TREAT Act, ED MARKEY, for their work on this important initiative.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Police Week, a week we set aside to thank the 780,000 police officers who put on a badge nationwide and risk their lives to protect our communities.

We thank them for their brave service. Our police officers play an essential role in our community, working to keep us safe, upholding the rule of law, and responding to emergencies. The 18th District of Illinois is home to many upstanding, honorable, courageous, and self-sacrificing police officers.

Mr. Speaker, we also take time this week to mourn the loss of our fallen officers whose lives were lost in the line of duty. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 61 hours.

That is why I am proud to support a measure on the floor this week to extend the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020. We need to ensure our officers have the necessary equipment to keep them safe.

Just this winter South Jacksonville, Illinois, in my district grieved the loss of one of its very own police officers in the line of duty.

I also want to take this time to thank the support network that supports our police officers, their parents, wives, husbands, and children, for the sacrifices they make when their loved ones serve as police officers.

Let us show our men and women who wear the badge how much we value their crucial work.

OPIOID AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the crucial importance of addressing the heroin epidemic that is sweeping across this Nation.

I have been holding a series of regional briefings in my home State of New Hampshire to hear firsthand from communities working to fight this crisis. I have heard from far too many families who have lost loved ones to this epidemic because no treatment options were available.

In the fall of 2014, a high school French teacher in one of my towns who was beloved by her students died of an overdose, in part, because she could not get access to the treatment she needed.

And my good friend, Kriss Blevens, lost her stepdaughter, Amber, to addiction when no treatment beds were available.

This is simply unacceptable. We need to take action now to fight back against this epidemic and arm our communities with the resources to help individuals struggling to overcome the devastating pull of addiction.

I am a cofounder of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. We recently announced a package of 15 bills. I urge my fellow members to pass these bills this week. Let's help American families.

WHITE HOUSE DECEPTION ON IRAN ARMS DEAL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend The New York Times published a disturbing story about the Obama administration's efforts to manipulate press coverage of the Iran deal.

When the deal was signed last year, many of my colleagues and I warned that Iran could not be trusted to follow these temporary restrictions on their nuclear weapons program, but key staffers in the White House worked to create an echo chamber for their false claims about the Iran deal.

The Obama administration spun a concocted story about a moderate regime coming to power in Iran that was suddenly willing to change their approach to their pursuit of nuclear weapons and their relationship with the rest of the world.

As it turns out, the administration had already begun talks with Iran well before new President Rouhani took office. Iran already knew how desperate President Obama was to sign this or any deal which allowed them to extract several key concessions. The deal only provides temporary restrictions on Iran's nuclear weapons program while giving Iran permanent relief from sanctions.

Meanwhile, Iran will continue to support terrorism and further destabilize the region as well as violate the missile test program in the agreement.

The Obama administration's misleading campaign to convince the American people to support the Iran deal has dangerous consequences for us deceiving the public and their trust in government as well as putting our allies around the world, such as Israel, in danger and that trust as well.

LEAD CONTAMINATION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is not a new problem. Lead in school drinking water has been a problem in communities across this Nation for years. So why isn't there more outrage and talk about it among my colleagues?

Even Chris Christie has ordered lead testing in New Jersey public schools. When New Jersey's Governor starts to admit that there is a problem that demands government action, you know the situation must be dire.

No child takes a drink from a water fountain in school and thinks about whether the water is contaminated or not. It is our job to protect our children, and that means ensuring the safety of school drinking water.

Congress should pass and the President should sign my TEST for Lead Act. The bill requires States to help schools establish programs to test for lead in the drinking water if those States receive Federal funding for safe water programs. It would ensure transparency by requiring disclosure of high levels of lead in schools. Most importantly, it would help keep our children safe.

OPIOID OVERDOSES

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I am concerned by the great opioid epidemic that is sweeping our Nation.

Every day more than 78 Americans die from opioid overdoses—78 Americans. Think about that. That is more than three every hour. Nearly 2 million Americans are addicted to or abuse opiate-based painkillers.

Unfortunately and, frankly, very sadly, my home State of Utah is all too

familiar with these statistics, as we are fifth in the Nation in the most opioid-related deaths.

These drug addictions are destroying opportunities and are devastating families and communities all across the country. We simply must take steps to help alleviate this suffering.

I am proud to be supporting a number of bills that the House will be debating and voting on this week to combat opioid abuse, legislation that will lead to updated best practices for prescribers of pain medication, legislation that will improve drug abuse programs, and legislation that will give States and local communities more flexibility to attack this problem and the problems that are unique to those communities.

I urge support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and am pleased to see that there is bipartisan support of these much-needed reforms.

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OPIOID ADDICTION IS A NATIONAL EMERGENCY

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to tell the story of Alex Recupido, a troubled high school graduate of 2010, an accomplished pianist, a kid who was known for his creativity. He had gotten his nursing license and had moved to Florida when prescription drugs led to a heroin addiction and Alex died in 2014.

Sadly, Alex is not alone as 723 people died last year in my small State of Connecticut, and roughly 30,000 Americans will die this year of opioid addiction. By any standard, this is a national emergency.

At great long last, this House is acting this week on a series of bills to improve the training, the awareness, and the treatment that we offer to people who are caught in this cycle. I am concerned, though, Mr. Speaker, that the total funds called for by all of these bills—about \$100 million—is completely inadequate for a national emergency.

At the end of the day, it is the resources, not the words, that we must offer. I believe we can do better. Our citizens are worth it. For people out there like Alex Recupido, it is a matter of life and death.

FACEBOOK SHOULD SHARE CONSERVATIVE NEWS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent story from the tech blog Gizmodo details Facebook's alleged efforts to suppress conservative views in its popular trending news section.

Former curators of the trending news section said they were routinely told to

ignore news stories of interest to conservative readers. Censoring stories from popular conservative news sites to fit a liberal political agenda does a severe disservice to the American people.

A recent Pew Research Center study found that two-thirds of American adults use Facebook to get news. Facebook has an obligation and a public responsibility not to silence conservative voices. Facebook should give the American people an honest appraisal of the news when it comes to deciding what is trending on its Web site. Anything less is intentionally trying to manipulate public opinion to promote a liberal agenda.

SECURE GUNS AND PROTECT OUR KIDS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, last week we read a powerful story under the headline: "One Week in April, Four Toddlers Shot and Killed Themselves."

Last year, toddlers shot someone with unsecured guns at a rate of one per week, and we are outpacing that horrific rate this year.

I stand here over and over, begging for Congress to act on gun violence, but today I plead for gun owners to be smart about the guns in their homes.

The groups Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety are educating Americans and are encouraging gun owners to secure guns in their homes and vehicles, to model responsible behavior, to ask about unsecured guns in other homes, to recognize the risks of teen suicides, and to tell their peers to be smart by sharing these simple steps to stop heartbreaking violence. Our society is saturated with guns. There are 357 million guns and there are 317 million people—the highest concentration in the world.

As The New York Times noted, if owners do not secure these guns, they will continue to end up in the hands of "shooters who need help tying their shoelaces, too young sometimes to even say the word 'gun,' killed by their own curiosity."

Mr. Speaker, on this gun issue, let's come together, all of us, to secure guns and to protect our kids.

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May as Lupus Awareness Month.

According to the Lupus Foundation of America, as many as 2 million Americans, including my lovely stepdaughter, Katharine Lehtinen, are living with lupus, and another 16,000 new cases are reported across our Nation

each year; but new research and collaborative projects offer hope that we are getting closer to safer and more effective treatments.

The Lupus Research Institute, in particular, has funded over 150 Novel Research Grants. These funds are aimed at forging scientific breakthroughs to better understand the disease and to help patients who are living with lupus. Because of the advancing science, 2016 may very well mark a new and exciting year in the long fight against this mysterious autoimmune disease.

Mr. Speaker, as this poster reads, "For a future with no lupus, we must know lupus."

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Nurses Week. It is an opportunity to honor the 3.1 million registered nurses who are primary providers of hospital patient care.

Right now at hospitals and health centers across America, nurses are offering essential, lifesaving treatment for patients. Every day nurses encounter and overcome challenges that most of us will never face. Honoring the work of nurses is especially important for me on a personal level as my grandmother, Lucy Cicilline, was a proud nurse at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, for many years.

Let's honor the work of nurses by passing H.R. 2083, the bipartisan Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act, which is a bill that I am proud to cosponsor that will require hospitals to create staffing plans for nurses, establish new whistleblower protections, improve nurse retention, and make hospitals safer both for nurses and their patients.

I am honored to recognize National Nurses Week, and I thank all of America's great nurses for all that they do.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF HARRY WU

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, on April 26, the world lost an extraordinary man.

As a political prisoner in China for 19 years, from 1960 to 1979, Harry Wu endured torture, forced labor, and severe hunger. It was not until 3 years after Mao Zedong's death that Harry Wu was released.

His alleged crime?

As a 23-year-old student, Wu had criticized the Soviet invasion of Hungary and was given, according to Wu, a life sentence of labor, torture, and the teachings of Mao. After being freed, he devoted his life to exposing the horrors