

This bill aims to provide officer and law enforcement personnel with appropriate intervention tools and techniques to address interactions involving individuals with mental illness experiencing a crisis.

H.R. 5864 calls for specialized training that provides officers with the tools to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, including stabilization and deescalation techniques; partnerships community resources; and provides funding to create State databases for public safety and outreach.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5864 to provide our police with additional resources benefiting our communities.

THE EPIDEMIC OF DRUG USE

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

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the need for us to work together to fight the epidemic of meth and other dangerous drugs. Meth affects all of our communities.

In Montana, the criminal justice and foster care systems are being pushed to their absolute limits. In Missoula County this year, 72 cases of meth. At the same time in 2007, there were zero. And the meth seizures are up 38 percent.

So what can we do? We need to stop the drug from making its way to communities, and we need to secure our southern border. The FBI, DEA, Border Patrol, and local law enforcement officials all say the same thing. Mexico is where the preponderance of the drugs are coming from. We know how to stop it and we can shut it down, and we can secure our southern border.

We also need to empower our health providers to provide addicts and users a path for recovery. All too often, those who suffer drug addiction also battle with mental health issues, and, sadly, it drives many to take their own lives.

I was at a powwow with the Assiniboine-Sioux, the great nation, and a gentleman told me a term for it, "oh-nee-op-ee," which means complete loss of hope. I haven't lost hope. I believe this House and this Nation are up to the task.

TRIBAL PIPELINE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, recently, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe watched in anger as an oil pipeline project near their homes moved forward. Sadly, the tribe's concerns about the impact on their drinking water and on sacred lands was not properly taken into account, so the tribal members raised their voices, and they weren't alone.

In an unprecedented demonstration of support, thousands of Americans, tribal members from all over, including

many from my region, journeyed to North Dakota to stand in solidarity and peaceful protest with the Standing Rock Sioux.

The call to respect their rights was heard. Thanks to the Obama administration, construction in the disputed area has been halted so that there can be further review, and that is a victory.

But there is more work to do. I joined many of my colleagues to call on the Government Accountability Office to thoroughly inspect Federal policies that protect the health and environmental security of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

We have a sacred trust and treaty obligations to our tribal neighbors that cannot be broken. Their sovereignty must be respected, not just on this project, but whenever the Federal Government is acting in a way that impacts them.

VA ACCOUNTABILITY FIRST AND APPEALS MODERNIZATION ACT

(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, our Nation is being ravaged by skyrocketing levels of prescription opioid and heroin abuse, and our veterans have been particularly hard hit. Today, 68,000 veterans are struggling with opioid abuse disorder.

Veterans suffer higher rates of opioid abuse than their civilian counterparts, and the number of opioid abuse disorders among veterans has increased 55 percent over the past 5 years.

This is why I joined my colleague from across the aisle, BILL KEATING, in introducing H.R. 5057, the Safe Prescribing for Veterans Act. This bill encourages increased safety in opioid prescribing practices by ensuring that healthcare professionals within the VA who are authorized to prescribe controlled substances complete at least one continuing medical education course in pain management every 2 years.

Last night, Mr. KEATING and I offered this proposal as an amendment to H.R. 5620, the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act, and it passed with strong bipartisan support. This amendment has the potential to save thousands of lives by increasing opioid abuse awareness among the nearly 55,000 VA health professionals working across the country.

I commend my colleagues for supporting our efforts.

THE NUMBERS ARE VERY GOOD

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's annual report by the Census Bureau brought some very good news to the American people.

Last year, for the first time in nearly two decades, three key economic indicators all moved in the right direction: median household income is up a staggering 5.2 percent, which translates into over \$2,800 a year for the typical American family; the poverty rate went down by the largest amount, or largest 1-year drop, in recorded history; and the number of Americans without health insurance has now dropped to a historic low. Add to all of that an unemployment rate at 4.9 percent, and we have witnessed the largest and longest streak of job growth in history.

These numbers show, even as we face serious challenges, our progress is real, our recovery is sound, and our reasons to hope are many.

IRAN MONEY FOR HOSTAGES

(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, Iran is the single biggest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, but that didn't stop the Obama administration from providing \$1.7 billion in cash, we finally found out, to the Iranian Government. This money, along with the \$150 billion already in sanctions relief that Iran previously received, will likely be used to finance acts of terrorism directed at our interests and our allies.

Many Americans at home are probably wondering why their government provided such a large cash payment to a country that sponsors terrorism, especially in the dark of night on a big pallet. The Obama administration says these payments were connected to an Iranian purchase of American airplane parts back in the 1970s.

Of all the disastrous foreign policy blunders this administration has made, this is the hardest one to understand. Paying \$1.7 billion in cash to one of our adversaries is outrageous, and the fact that these payments were used as leverage in order to secure American hostages raises serious questions about the administration and the State Department's judgment.

Iran refuses to act like a responsible nation that respects international norms and rules. Our government should treat them accordingly. That is why I am proud to sponsor Chairman ED ROYCE's bill, H.R. 5931, which will prohibit all cash payments to Iran.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF ROB MCCANN

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a moment about Rob McCann.

Rob came to our office in Maine a year ago as a fellow with the House Wounded Warrior Program. Just as he

served our country in countless combat missions in Afghanistan, Rob is now serving Maine veterans as a congressional staffer.

Last week, Rob represented our office at the retirement ceremony of an employee at Togus, our VA Hospital in Maine. The retiree's 92-year-old father, a World War II veteran, was there to participate in the ceremony. But moments before it ended, as they walked to a barbecue nearby, he collapsed from a heart attack.

Rob leapt into action and put his Marine Corps training to work. With the help of a few other bystanders, he began administering CPR, which they continued until medical professionals from the hospital arrived.

Thanks to Rob and the VA employees who jumped in to help, a World War II vet is alive and well and walking around today.

I couldn't be more proud of the work that Rob does in our office every day, and I am especially proud of his quick response to save the life of a fellow veteran last week.

NORTH SHORE SENIOR CENTER CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the North Shore Senior Center's 60th anniversary. Since 1956, they have been a vital part of our community. I am proud to have one of the largest senior centers in the entire Nation in our community.

We have seen their impact firsthand on thousands of our residents. Our seniors benefit from the many services and activities they offer, providing help for all who need it, regardless of social, physical, or economic hardships.

Mr. Speaker, the organization has won countless awards throughout their 60 years of service, and I would like to acknowledge them once again.

I offer my most sincere congratulations to the executive director, Jordan Luhr, and president emeritus, Joan Golder, and everyone else who has helped make this center grow over the years.

Moving forward, I remain committed to working with the leadership at the North Shore Senior Center to continue their strong legacy of providing a positive and healthy community for seniors in the 10th Congressional District.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of respect for all those across the country who have lost a loved one due to suicide.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, time to raise awareness of a mental illness that far too many of our

veterans and their families find great difficulty discussing.

We have all heard the numbers: an estimated 20 veterans commit suicide every day, nearly one life every hour. Those horrific numbers have names, the names of men and women who put themselves in harm's way to keep each other and every one of us safe.

Last year, we passed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. It addresses the need for more mental health care experts inside the VA, evaluates what is working and what is not, and gives veterans more time to get the mental health care they need.

In Nebraska, we are working with the VA to create centers of excellence, a national model for veterans care that will include top-flight mental health treatment, including for post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety.

The debt we owe our veterans is a debt that can never be repaid, but we must keep our promises to our veterans and support their unique healthcare issues.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHWEST INDIANA CHAMBER

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Southwest Indiana Chamber on an outstanding and well-deserved national recognition. In August, the Southwest Indiana Chamber of Commerce was named the National Chamber of the Year at a gathering of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

This national designation is a testament to the indelible impact the men and women at the Southwest Indiana Chamber have made in the community to improve education, transportation, economic development, and the quality of life of our fellow citizens.

Southern Indiana has a reputation as a great place to live, work, and raise a family, and people around the country are taking notice, thanks in part, to the hard work and dedication of this organization.

So congratulations to the entire staff, board, and members of the Southwest Indiana Chamber of Commerce on this outstanding and much-deserved recognition.

□ 1230

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, in just 7 weeks, as Members were in their districts this summer, at least 2,015 lives were lost to gun violence—2,015 men, women, and children. Add a few more weeks to that total and you have al-

most as many people as were murdered in the deadliest terrorist attack in the United States when two planes flew into the World Trade Center. That is the equivalent of 41 Orlando terror attacks in 7 weeks. This is appalling, and yet these killings are barely discussed, as if they are simply the new normal.

In a town hall I hosted last month, I talked with constituents about gun safety and how we could attack the scourge of gun-related deaths in this country. The message from that meeting was clear: we need universal background checks. We need the ability to prevent terrorists and the seriously mentally ill from getting easy access to deadly weapons. If you can't fly, you can't buy. These are steps that the vast majority of constituents, gun owners, and Americans all across the country agree are necessary.

In refusing to pass the most basic legislation, the Congress is complicit in this continued slaughter. The Speaker must do his job and let us vote so that we can do ours.

LEE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Lee Memorial Hospital recognized 100 years ago that Lee County needed a quality healthcare provider, so it opened its doors at that time to a 15-bed hospital back on October 3, 1916. That small hospital has now grown into a world-class premier healthcare system in southwest Florida providing top quality care throughout the area.

Lee Memorial today has a team of over 15,000 highly qualified and skilled staff members and volunteers making it one of our largest organizations in southwest Florida.

I want to thank the Lee Memorial team, and particularly those who took care of my mom during her final days. When loved ones are sick, what we really want is for those that take care of them to show love. For that, I express appreciation to the Lee Memorial folks. Numerous times Lee Memorial has been recognized with national and State awards for outstanding performance.

My constituents and I are blessed and grateful for the staff members, physicians, and volunteers who work at Lee Memorial. I am certain that they will continue to provide top quality care for 100 more years and beyond.

On another personal note, I want to express my big thank-you to Jim Nathan, president of the system, for his leadership and for his selfless service to our community for so long.

Jim, I don't know what we would do without you.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Lee Memorial Health System for its commitment to southwest Florida as it celebrates 100 years.