

David's wide-ranging career in the law has also been imbued with the ideal of service and making life better for others. He has served as Assistant U.S. Attorney for Colorado and Assistant Public Defender, had two assignments as Special Assistant Attorney General for Colorado, and is now in private practice at his firm, Fogel & Bluestein.

David is also a part-time instructor at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. His commitment to education and his desire to share his experience extends for many years, 16 of which he spent as an instructor at the University of Denver College of Law.

David has been a mentor, not just to his former law students, but to many people across the community. I met David years ago when he was Chair of the Denver Democratic Party, and his wisdom and upbeat disposition inspire me to this day.

I'm among countless Coloradans who, through the years, have been lucky enough to get to know David and to work by his side. We appreciate his compassion, kindness and generosity in all his professional and community roles. His spirit and energy have helped make Denver a city with a welcoming spirit that embraces diversity and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2017, I missed the voting session due to family obligations. If present, I would have voted as follows:

YES—H.R. 3180—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018

YES—S. 114—A bill to authorize appropriations for the Veterans Choice Program

YES—H.R. 3218—Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act

I intended to vote yes on all of these measures. After World War II, my father—who was a B-17 bombardier navigator in the Army Air Corps—became the first in our family to attend college thanks to the GI Bill. I am ecstatic that the House passed H.R. 3218 to expand this vital program for our Veterans and their families who sacrifice so much.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2017, I was not able to cast my votes during the series. Had I been present, I would have voted: NO on H.R. 3180—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, as amended, NO on S. 114—A bill to authorize appropriations for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes, as amended, and YES on H.R. 3218—Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, as amended.

COMMEMORATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAE DAY IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 10th anniversary of "Trae Day."

Trae Tha Truth, is an American hip hop recording artist from Houston, Texas.

Apart from his solo career, Trae is also known as a member of the underground rap collective Screwed Up Click, as well as one-half of the Southern Hip Hop duo ABN, and one of the founding members of the group Guerilla Maab, alongside fellow rappers Z-Ro and Dougie D.

Trae Tha Truth currently hosts Banned Radio on XXL, on Dash Radio.

Trae Tha Truth's music is inspired by the experiences of the disenfranchised, which is rooted in the inner-cities of America, and is driven by loss, love and loyalty.

Trae Tha Truth's music is powerful and real, his voice is a tractor trailer shoveling gravel that booms, bangs, and thumps.

Trae Day is an annual festival commemorating the actual holiday the City of Houston gave Trae for his role as a civic leader, which made him the first rapper in Texas to be given an official holiday by the city.

Among his civic activities, Trae Tha Truth has founded a nonprofit organization, counseled incarcerated persons, and sponsored at-risk high school students.

Trae Tha Truth is very modest and rarely discusses his accomplishments but what is important to know about him is that he is a rapper who uses his gift to help people.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEO TWIGGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great South Carolinian and personal friend, Dr. Leo Twigg.

Dr. Twigg hails from St. Stephen, South Carolina, and currently lives in Orangeburg. His artwork has won him fame and recognition across the state and around the world. Recently, he received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor at a ceremony held at the Statehouse in Columbia. During that ceremony, he also received the highest honor the state presents in the arts—a Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina Arts Commission at the 2017 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts. In 1980, Dr. Twigg was the first visual artist ever to receive the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award.

Dr. Twigg's powerful artwork employs batik, an ancient Indonesian technique of manual wax-resistant dyeing applied to whole cloth. He recently spent several weeks manually dyeing and dipping fabric pieces to achieve a texturally rich and deep-toned series titled, "Requiem for Mother Emanuel," to honor the victims of the Charleston massacre of June

17, 2015. His new series of paintings is titled, "The Nine," and focuses on the individual Charleston church shooting victims themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Twigg has spoken of the "powerful kind of catharsis" of his work, and his fondness for batik includes how the art form draws an individual into a piece. His unique paintings have received international acclaim. Several paintings have been displayed in U.S. embassies in Rome, Senegal, Sierra Leone and elsewhere; and his works have appeared in numerous textbooks, other publications and documentaries. He has designed official White House Christmas ornaments for former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. Dr. Twigg is particularly proud that the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. has accepted two of his paintings for display.

Dr. Twigg has served on many important boards and commissions, including the South Carolina State Museum, the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities, and the South Carolina Hall of Fame. His tenure in the latter capacity saw the induction of late Judge Matthew Perry, a personal hero of mine, former Governor Richard Riley, longtime former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, and Ernest A. Finney, the first African American elected to the state Supreme Court since Reconstruction who later became the first African American Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court. Dr. Twigg also influenced the induction of two pioneering African American women Septima Clark, another personal hero from my younger days and Marian Wright Edelman, a woman whose work I have long admired.

Dr. Twigg was the first African American to earn a Doctorate of Art Education from the University of Georgia. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Claflin University and received his Masters of Arts from New York University. He found the Art Department at South Carolina State University, my alma mater, and is credited with developing the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium on campus. He was named Professor Emeritus in 2000. The Georgia Museum of Art organized a retrospective of his works that toured the southeast from 2004 to 2006: His lovely wife Rosa hails from my hometown of Sumter, South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I call to your attention and to the attention of the Members of the 115th Congress, the accomplishments of this outstanding South Carolinian, Dr. Leo Twigg.

SENATE VOTE ON ACA REPEAL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, in a move that is a betrayal to the American people, the Senate voted 51 to 50 on a motion to advance debate on a piece of Republican legislation that would do away with most of the Affordable Care Act.

Reaching a 51-50 vote, where the tie was broken by Vice President MIKE PENCE, has been a struggle for Republican Members of the Senate because they realize that a repeal of Obamacare would result in tragedy for millions of Americans.

I want you to know that I oppose this and previous versions of Obamacare repeal for several compelling reasons:

1. Trumpcare forces families to pay higher premiums and deductibles, increasing out-of-pocket costs.

2. Trumpcare will take away health care from 24 million hardworking Americans.

3. Trumpcare would gut essential health benefits and protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.

4. Trumpcare forces Americans aged 50–64 to pay premiums five times higher than what others pay for health coverage, no matter how healthy they are.

5. Trumpcare shortens the life of the Medicare Trust Fund and ransacks funds that seniors depend on to get the long-term care they need.

Eighty-five months ago, on March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama redeemed a promise that had been unfulfilled for nearly a 100 years, when he signed into law the landmark Affordable Care Act passed by the Democratic controlled 111th Congress.

Seven years later, the verdict is in on the Affordable Care Act: the American people have judged it a success.

As reflected in the most recent public opinion polls, 61% of Americans approve of Obamacare and oppose efforts to repeal it, the highest approval rates on record to date and continuing an inexorable upward trend over the past several years.

The reason Americans are adamantly opposed to Republican repeal efforts, including the third iteration of Trumpcare now before us, is that Obamacare is no longer a bogey cooked up in Republican talking points but a life-saving and life affirming measure that they have experienced in their own lives.

Americans think it is beyond crazy to repeal a law that has brought to more than 20 million Americans the peace of mind and security that comes with knowing they have access to affordable, high quality health care.

Mr. Speaker, before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, 17.1 percent of Americans lacked health insurance; today nearly nine of ten (89.1 percent) are insured, which is the highest rate since Gallup began tracking insurance coverage in 2008.

Because of the Affordable Healthcare Act:

1. Insurance companies are banned from discriminating against anyone, including 17 million children, with a preexisting condition, or charging higher rates based on gender or health status;

2. 6.6 million young adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans;

3. 100 million Americans no longer have annual or lifetime limits on healthcare coverage;

4. 6.3 million seniors in the "donut hole" have saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs;

5. 3.2 million seniors now get free annual wellness visits under Medicare, and

6. 360,000 small businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers;

7. Pregnancy is no longer a pre-existing condition and women can no longer be charged a higher rate just because they are women.

We are becoming a nation of equals when it comes to access to affordable healthcare insurance.

Mr. Speaker, with all of this progress, and the prospect for more through further refine-

ments, who in their right mind would want to go back to how it used to be?

The answer seems to be only the President and House Republicans who call the Affordable Care Act and its enviable record of success a "disaster."

Americans know a disaster when they see one and they see one in the making: it is called "Trumpcare," masquerading as the "American Health Care Act," which will force Americans to pay more, get less, decimate the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and give a massive tax cut for top 1 percent.

Americans are right to be alarmed and angered by what the Trump Republicans are trying to do by rushing to vote on a Trumpcare bill before it can be scored by highly respected and nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

What we do know for sure is that this Trumpcare bill is a massive \$900 billion tax cut for the wealthy, paid for on the backs of America's seniors, the vulnerable, the poor, and working class households.

Trump gave the game away on March 20, 2017 in one of his trademark pep rallies:

"We want a very big tax cut, but cannot do that until we keep our promise to repeal and replace the disaster known as Obamacare."

This "Robin Hood in reverse" bill is unprecedented and breathtaking in its audacity—no bill ever tried to give so much to the rich while taking so much from the poor and working class.

When they were forced to pull Trumpcare 1.0 from the floor because they lacked the votes to pass, House Republican leaders responded by adding an amendment (Trumpcare 2.0) that made the original bill even worse.

Trumpcare 2.0 would allow states to jettison existing essential health benefit requirements, thereby permitting health plans covering millions of people once again to exclude coverage for maternity and newborn care, pediatric dental and vision services, mental health and substance use services, and other crucial benefits.

All this accomplished was a hemorrhaging of support from the moderate wing of the Republican Conference who feared the repercussions of leaving millions of Americans with preexisting conditions without health insurance so the Trump Republicans invented Trumpcare 3.0 to provide \$8 billion over five years to offset the cost of setting up separate pools or premium assistance programs for people with pre-existing conditions.

Mr. Speaker, this pittance is not designed or intended to help real people with real pre-existing conditions, but to provide the cover for House Republicans to walk the plank.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, at least \$25 billion per year would be required, not \$8 billion spread out over five years as provided for in Trumpcare 3.0.

Trumpcare represents the largest transfer of wealth from the bottom 99 percent to the top 1 percent in American history.

This callous Republican scheme gives gigantic tax cuts to the rich, and pays for it by taking insurance away from 24 million people, leaving 52 million uninsured, and raising costs for the poor and middle class.

In addition, Republicans are giving the pharmaceutical industry a big tax repeal, worth nearly \$25 billion over a decade without demanding in return any reduction in the cost of prescription and brand-name drugs.

To paraphrase Winston Churchill, of this bill, it can truly be said that "never has so much been taken from so many to benefit so few."

The Pay-More-For-Less plan destroys the Medicaid program under the cover of repealing the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion.

CBO estimates 14 million Americans will lose Medicaid coverage by 2026 under the Republican plan.

In addition to terminating the ACA Medicaid expansion, the bill converts Medicaid to a per-capita cap that is not guaranteed to keep pace with health costs starting in 2020.

The combined effect of these policies is to slash \$880 billion in federal Medicaid funding over the next decade.

The cuts get deeper with each passing year, reaching 25 percent of Medicaid spending in 2026.

These steep cuts will force states to drop people from Medicaid entirely or ration care for those who most need access to comprehensive coverage.

The Pay-More-For-Less plan undermines the health care safety net for vulnerable populations.

Currently, Medicaid provides coverage to more than 70 million Americans, including children, pregnant women, seniors in Medicare, people who are too disabled to work, and parents struggling to get by on poverty-level wages.

In addition to doctor and hospital visits, Medicaid covers long-term services like nursing homes and home and community-based services that allow people with chronic health conditions and disabilities to live independently.

To date, 31 states and D.C. have expanded Medicaid eligibility to low-income adults, which, when combined with the ACA's other coverage provisions, has helped to reduce the nation's uninsured rate to the lowest in history.

Trumpcare throws 24 million Americans off their health insurance by 2026 according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. Speaker, low-income people will be hit especially hard because 14 million people will lose access to Medicaid by 2026 according to CBO.

Trumpcare massively shifts who gets insured in the nongroup market.

According to CBO, "fewer lower-income people would obtain coverage through the nongroup market under the legislation than current law," and, "a larger share of enrollees in the nongroup market would be younger people and a smaller share would be older people."

The projected 10 percent reduction in premiums is not the result of better care or efficiency—it is in large part the result of higher-cost and older people being pushed out of a market that is also selling plans that provide less financial protection.

People with low incomes suffer the greatest losses in coverage.

CBO projects the uninsured rate for people in their 30s and 40s with incomes below 200 percent of poverty will reach 38 percent in 2026 under this bill, nearly twice the rate projected under current law.

Among people aged 50–64, CBO projects 30 percent of those with incomes below 200 percent of poverty will be uninsured in 2026.

Under current law, CBO projects the uninsured rate would only be 12 percent.

Being uninsured is not about “freedom.”

Speaker RYAN has argued that people will happily forgo insurance coverage because this bill gives them that “freedom.”

The argument makes as much sense as the foolish claim that slaves came to America as “immigrants” seeking a better life.

The freedom to be uninsured is no freedom at all to people in their 50s and 60s with modest incomes who simply cannot afford to pay thousands of dollars toward premiums.

They do not really have a choice.

The claim of our Republican friends that Trumpcare provides more freedom to all Americans calls to mind the words of Anatole France:

“The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread from the market.”

Trumpcare raises costs for Americans nearing retirement, essentially imposing an “Age Tax.”

The bill allows insurance companies to charge older enrollees higher premiums than allowed under current law, while reducing the size of premium tax credits provided.

Again, these changes hit low-income older persons the hardest.

A 64-year-old with an income of \$26,500 buying coverage in the individual market will pay \$12,900 more toward their premiums in 2026, on average.

Trumpcare raises costs for individuals and families with modest incomes, particularly older Americans.

Mr. Speaker, a recent analysis found that in 2020, individuals with incomes of about \$31,000 would pay on average \$4,000 more out of pocket for health care—which is like getting a 13 percent pay cut.

And the older you are, the worse it gets.

An analysis by the Urban Institute estimates that for Americans in their 50s and 60s, the tax credits alone would only be sufficient to buy plans with major holes in them, such as a \$30,000 deductible for family coverage and no coverage at all of brand-name drugs or many therapy services.

Another reason I oppose the Trumpcare bill before us is because its draconian cuts in Medicaid funding and phase-out of Medicaid expansion put community health centers at risk.

Community health centers are consumer-driven and patient-centered organizations that serve as a comprehensive and cost effective primary health care option for America’s most underserved communities.

Community health centers serve as the health care home for more than 25 million patients in nearly 10,000 communities across the country.

Across the country, 550 new clinics have opened to receive 5 million new patients since 2009.

Community health centers serve everyone regardless of ability to pay or insurance status:

1. 71 percent of health center patients have incomes at or below 100 percent of poverty and 92 percent have incomes less than 200 percent of poverty;

2. 49 percent of health center patients are on Medicaid; and

3. 24 percent are uninsured;

4. Community health centers annually serve on average 1.2 million homeless patients and more than 300,000 veterans.

Community health centers reduce health care costs and produce savings—on average, health centers save 24 percent per Medicaid patient when compared to other providers.

Community health centers integrate critical medical and social services such as oral health, mental health, substance abuse, case management, and translation, under one roof.

Community health centers employ nearly 190,000 people and generate over \$45 billion in total economic activity in some of the nation’s most distressed communities.

Community health centers are on the front lines of every major health crisis our country faces, from providing access to care (and employment) to veterans to addressing the opioid epidemic to responding to public health threats like the Zika virus.

We should be providing more support and funding to community health centers, not making it more difficult for them to serve the communities that desperately need them by slashing Medicaid funding.

The Trumpcare Republican plan leaves rural Americans worse off.

Health insurance has historically been more expensive in rural areas because services cost more and it is hard to have a stable individual market with a small population.

Mr. Speaker, under the Affordable Care Act, premium subsidies are tied to local costs, which helps keep premium costs down.

But they are not under the Republican plan. So, under the Republican plan residents in rural areas, who tend to be older and poorer, will pay much more and get much less health insurance.

At the end of the day, the powerful and compelling reasons to reject Trumpcare lie in the real world experiences of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, let me briefly share with you the positive, life affirming difference made by the Affordable Care Act in the lives of just three of the millions of Americans it has helped.

JOAN FANWICK

“If Obamacare is repealed, I don’t know if I’ll live to see the next President.

“After nearly a decade of mysterious health scares, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder called Sjogren’s syndrome last year, when I was a junior at Temple University.

“It’s a chronic illness with no known cause or cure, and without close medical surveillance and care, it can lead to life-threatening complications (like the blood infections I frequently experience).

“For me, having this disorder means waking up every morning and taking 10 different medications.

“It also means a nurse visiting my apartment every Saturday to insert a needle into the port in my chest, so I can give myself IV fluids throughout the week.

“Without insurance, my medical expenses would cost me about \$1,000 per week—more than \$50,000 per year. And that doesn’t even include hospitalizations.

“My medical bills aren’t cheap under Obamacare, but I can afford them.

“Under Obamacare, insurance companies aren’t allowed to cut you off when your costs climb so right now, the most I personally have to pay out of pocket is \$1,000 per year.”

BRIAN NORGAARD

“I am a small business owner and leadership trainer who Obamacare has helped tremendously.”

Brian Norgaard, a Dallas, Texas resident, called my office to express his opposition to Trumpcare and to share how the Affordable Care Act has helped small business owners like himself:

“I am a small business owner and leadership trainer who Obamacare has helped tremendously.

“My wife and I both own small businesses in the Dallas, Texas area and as a result of the huge savings we received after paying lower healthcare premiums under Obamacare, we were able to reinvest those savings into both of our businesses and the community.

“And the healthcare we received was quality, at that.”

ASHLEY WALTON

“For cancer survivors, we literally live and die by insurance.”

Ashley Walton was 25 when a mole on her back turned out to be melanoma.

She had it removed, but three years later she discovered a lump in her abdomen.

She was then unemployed and uninsured, and so she put off going to a doctor.

She tried to buy health insurance. Every company rejected her.

Ashley eventually became eligible for California’s Medicaid program, which had been expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

The 32-year-old Oakland resident credits her survival to the ACA.

Without it, “I would likely be dead, and my family would likely be bankrupt from trying to save me.”

Before any of our Republican colleagues supporting this bill cast their vote, I urge them to reflect on the testimony of Joan, Brian, and Ashley, and on this question posed by a constituent to Sen. COTTON of Arkansas at a recent town hall:

“I’ve got a husband dying and we can’t afford—let me tell you something.

“If you can get us better coverage than this Obamacare, go for it.

“Let me tell you what we have, plus a lot of benefits that we need.

“We have \$29 per month for my husband. Can you beat that? Can you?

“With all the congestive heart failures, and open heart surgeries, we’re trying. \$29 per month. And he’s a hard worker. \$39 for me.”

Like a horror film of yore with monsters and vampires, both the original Trumpcare and its sequels threaten to return this country to the days when annual and lifetime dollar-based limits on the use of essential health benefits shifted tremendous financial and health risks to working families.

Insurance companies could charge people with pre-existing conditions many times more than they charge healthy people—just as they did before the Affordable Care Act.

Millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions would be at risk of losing health coverage or face premiums so high only the very wealthy could afford them—the same people who benefit from the massive tax cuts in the original bill.

That is why we cannot rest until Trumpcare, one of the most monstrously cruel and morally bankrupt legislative proposals, is dead and buried.

To paraphrase a famous former reality television personality, “believe me, Trumpcare is a disaster.”

We should reject it and keep instead “something terrific” and that is the Affordable Care

Act, regarded lovingly by millions of Americans as “Obamacare.”

I commend my colleague, Congressman GARAMENDI, for holding this Special Order to denounce Trumpcare.

I urge our colleagues in the Senate to listen to their constituents and do what is right: vote no to repeal Obamacare.