

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, many of us have come here to the floor to share with the country and our colleagues statistics and data demonstrating how ObamaCare is failing patients. We have shown the numbers related to skyrocketing premiums and deductibles and reduction of patient choice.

Today, I want to share what my constituents are saying about their firsthand experiences with ObamaCare. From comments we have received:

My deductible went from \$250 to \$2,500.

Our deductible skyrocketed to double the amount we were paying. Plus, it provided fewer options.

Our premiums have skyrocketed. We had few options from plans. We had to switch doctors.

We own a pharmacy. We see many with high premiums who can't afford the very things they need.

Cost of insurance keeps going up. It has never gone down.

I don't have insurance. It is too expensive, and I have kids to feed.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo under ObamaCare is unacceptable. It would be irresponsible and unethical not to act.

Our plan, House Republicans, will bring families relief by repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act with reforms that lower costs and expand access to quality affordable health care to all of our citizens.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. As an African-American woman and a Member of Congress, I know I stand on the shoulders of giants.

My election would not have been possible without the efforts of Maya Angelou, Shirley Chisholm, Fannie Lou Hamer, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and many other heroes who came before me. These women championed civil rights and women's rights and fought oppression so that African-American women could have a voice in politics.

When I was elected, I became the 100th woman to serve in the 114th Congress, the 20th woman in the Congressional Black Caucus, and only the second African-American woman to represent North Carolina in Congress. That night was a historic win for women, but it was particularly special for African-American women.

Shirley Chisholm once said: "Women must become revolutionary. There cannot be evolution but revolution."

At a time when the President's Cabinet does not include a single African-American woman and just one African-American woman in the Senate, we are reminded that there is still much work to do.

If this administration will not make a place for us, we will make one for

ourselves. It is time to stand up, speak up, and make our voices heard.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING QUENTIN MOSES

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Quentin Moses, a 10th District native, a star athlete, and a dedicated coach who tragically passed away in a house fire this past Sunday morning.

I pray and grieve for the family and friends of Quentin, as well as the family of Andria Godard and her daughter, Jasmine, who also lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Quentin Moses grew up in my home district in Athens, Georgia. He attended Cedar Shoals High School, starting his career as a defensive standout. He went on to play for the University of Georgia, was named first-team All-SEC on the Bulldogs' 2005 SEC Championship team. Following that, he spent 4 years in the NFL as a linebacker. He returned to our community in 2012, where he started coaching student-athletes at Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Quentin's positive impact on the community was evident by the outpouring of love and condolences by coaches, players, and fans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me for a moment of silence to honor the lives of Quentin Moses and Andria and Jasmine Godard—precious lives lost too soon.

GENERAL FLYNN

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, after news came out that General Flynn lied to the people and even to the Vice President, Donald Trump was forced to fire yet another adviser because of their inappropriate ties to Russia.

That brings the total since he first launched his campaign to at least three. This includes former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, who resigned after secret records showed he worked with, and profited from, the corrupt pro-Russian Government in Ukraine before it was ousted.

As we suspected, it turns out that Trump's campaign was in near constant contact with Russia.

Now we ask the questions: Why? Did Trump know? How will these secret talks influence our foreign policy?

We deserve answers. Republicans have said that they don't want to politicize this, and I agree. That is why I support an independent investigation conducted by experts who will provide a more public report.

We have a responsibility to the people to unearth the truth.

OPIOID ABUSE EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the opioid abuse epidemic continues to worsen across this country.

In Florida alone, heroin and fentanyl deaths have risen by nearly 80 percent. Local governments in Florida are responding as best they can with their limited resources, but they cannot solve the problem alone. The 18th District of Florida includes parts of Palm Beach County, where my colleague, LOIS FRANKEL, resides, which is one of the hardest hit counties in the State. In 2016, the county received more than 4,000 overdose calls, and there were approximately 500 opioid-related deaths.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's veterans are uniquely vulnerable to this crisis. We must never forget our responsibility to these brave men and women to ensure that, when they leave the battlefield overseas, they aren't left to fight their personal battles here at home all alone.

I commend Congress for passing legislation last year to combat this epidemic, but we have to do more. I urge my colleagues to pass the bipartisan STOP Act to crack down on illicit opioid shipments into the U.S., and I also hope that we can continue to work together in other ways to fight this epidemic.

Only by working together at the Federal, State, and local government levels can we defeat this terrible scourge that is creating new tragedies daily.

WE MUST HAVE AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Russia is an alarming force in the world, a nuclear power with an authoritarian President, menacing our European allies with invasion into Ukraine and threats of incursion into other Baltic states, lifting mass murderer Assad in Syria, interfering in democratic elections around the world and here in our country, and now evidence is mounting that the White House-Putin connections run deep.

Michael Flynn's shady dealings and lies to the Vice President and the public—what did the President know? When did he know it?

Answers to these and other questions are critical to our national security. We must have an independent investigation. The American people deserve nothing less.

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ducks Unlimited on its 80th anniversary. Over the past eight decades, Ducks Unlimited has partnered with local communities and Members of Congress to support conservation of millions of acres of waterfowl habitats across North America.

As a lifelong outdoorsman, I know the value of these habitats and the benefits that they provide to countless Americans who enjoy these areas for a wide array of recreational and scientific activities.

We must ensure the preservation of these habitats for future generations, and I know that Ducks Unlimited will work to ensure this goal for another 80 years.

I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to DU and wish them continued success for many generations to come.

HONORING MARK HAWKINS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Mark Hawkins, who will retire tomorrow after 29 years as chief executive officer of Altura Credit Union in Riverside, California.

After nearly three decades, Mark's greatest contribution is likely not to the credit union, which grew significantly under his leadership, but to the members of our community who have benefited so much from his commitment to supporting the Inland Empire.

Whether it is academia, athletics, the arts, or charitable organizations, Mark has been a fixture in promoting the institutions that define and enrich our community. His work with organizations, including the United Way, the Kiwanis Club, and the University of California-Riverside, has strengthened our community and expanded opportunities to thousands of Inland Empire residents. I know he will continue that work for many years to come.

Once again, I congratulate Mark on his well-earned retirement, and I thank him for his continued service to our community.

CONGRATULATING QUINCY NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Quincy Notre Dame High School on 150 years of academic excellence and service to the community of Quincy, Illinois.

Quincy Notre Dame Catholic High School originally opened as a school serving young women. Mother Caroline and the school sisters of Notre Dame answered the call to meet the growing

need for primary studies in 1859. The school opened its doors in 1867 and quickly exploded in growth.

Throughout the past 150 years, Quincy Notre Dame has always sought to serve the needs of the Quincy community and adapt to the changing times.

QND remains steadfast in its mission to educate lifelong learners in a strong faith-based environment. I am certain that Mother Caroline and her Sisters would be humbled to know their simple act of faith and service resulted in a legacy that has impacted thousands of lives for 150 years.

To each educator, administrator, and individual who has helped build Quincy Notre Dame into the stellar institution it is today, congratulations. I wish you another successful 150 years.

GENERAL FLYNN, PRESIDENT TRUMP, AND RUSSIA

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, the question that I have heard many times from my constituents deserves to be answered: With respect to General Flynn and Trump campaign aides, what did President Trump know, and when did he know it?

How high does this go up?

Now he is calling this fake news.

Mr. President, this is not fake news. This is real.

The American people deserve a transparent, independent investigation into Russia's involvement with the White House and President Trump.

President Trump continually says he wants to protect our national security, but he ignores the real security threats within his administration.

Even my colleagues across the aisle would rather focus on taking away health care from millions of Americans and thousands of Nevadans instead of investigating the clear and present danger in the Trump administration.

Enough is enough. Protecting our national security is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It is an American priority.

GENERAL FLYNN, PRESIDENT TRUMP, AND RUSSIA

(Miss RICE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, Michael Flynn's resignation and reports of constant contact between Russia and the Trump campaign raise serious questions, and the American people deserve answers.

President Trump was informed weeks ago that Flynn lied about his discussions with the Russian Ambassador and might be vulnerable to blackmail.

Why did the President take no action until that lie became public?

President Trump has reportedly been briefed about contact between his campaign and Russian intelligence officers.

Why does he continue to insist that there was absolutely no communication with Russia?

These questions cannot go unanswered. We need to put politics aside, do what is right for our democracy, and create an independent commission to fully investigate Russia's influence on the Trump administration and the Presidential election.

GENERAL FLYNN'S RUSSIAN CONNECTION

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo concerns by my colleagues. I am concerned, but not surprised, about the growing revelations from the intelligence community of the Trump campaign's contact with Russian officials. Russia's involvement in our elections undermines American democracy.

General Flynn's resignation is no substitute for answers to grave concerns and questions over President Trump's involvement in secret communications with the Russians and Vladimir Putin's hand in our elections.

I believe that this is just the tip of the iceberg. This is not just about leakers, but this is about the Trump-Russia ties. We need a full, bipartisan investigation. It is our duty.

TRUMP'S MUSLIM BAN AND TOWN HALL IN THE DISTRICT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I hosted a community listening session where my fellow citizens and I listened to the personal experiences of Muslims, refugees, and other immigrants in the aftermath of the President's Muslim/immigrant ban and ICE dragnet crackdown on Latinos.

It was a safe place for Muslims, refugees, and immigrants to come and share their experiences, values, and love for this country, and it provided an opportunity for us to embrace our fellow citizens in love. We insist that these valuable members of our community and their children be able to live without fear, and to thrive.

Unlike the Muslim/immigrant ban, the people of Georgia's Fourth Congressional District welcomed those of all backgrounds and religions and those fleeing persecution and facing war and bloodshed.

Trump's immigration executive order is contrary to our values and dangerous to our security. Americans who respect the Constitution must oppose these kinds of acts, the injustice they represent, and the suffering that they impose upon the innocent.