

## DAY WITHOUT A WOMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to stand in solidarity on a Day Without a Woman. You will see women in red today and men with red ties in honor of today.

It is 2017 and we still need a Day Without a Woman to remind this administration and Republicans in Congress that women deserve equal pay and access to affordable health care.

Just yesterday, the assault on women continued with the GOP's plan to pay more for less in healthcare legislation that will restrict a woman's right to comprehensive healthcare coverage.

The Republican bill also defunds Planned Parenthood. Women with nowhere else to turn will lose access to essential preventative care and affordable contraception.

This is very personal for me. When I was growing up, we were poor. I had a sister that got pregnant at 15 and another one that got pregnant at 16. I, myself, had a condition that required me to get on a contraceptive to deal with pain that I had. I had nowhere to turn. I, myself, had to go to a clinic that saw me on a sliding scale; otherwise, I would have had nowhere to go.

The fact that we are facing the threat of losing this today for women and preventive care is beyond incomprehensible to me and scary.

On this day today, without a woman, I also think about women, women like Rosa Parks, the mothers, the daughters and grandchildren that took part in the Women's March on January 21, women at the forefront of every fight for equality.

I stand today with women like my mother, Teresa, an immigrant from Mexico, who raised a large family and who took care of my father when he was sick and continues to support me today.

I stand today to fight for equal pay for equal work because women—and Latinas in particular—are paid only 54 cents for every \$1 paid to White men.

I fight in Congress for American families so that they have economic stability and can make ends meet and set their kids off to a brighter future. I will continue to fight with my sisters in Congress for health care, for immigration, and for human rights. All of these are women's rights.

## SUPPORTING THE 2017 MONKEY MADNESS 5K RUN AND WALK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage everyone in south Florida to come out to Zoo Miami this Sunday, March 12, for the Families for Fragile X Monkey Madness 5K Run/Walk.

Fragile X syndrome is the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability, which results in a wide range of mental and physical impairments. It is also the most common known genetic cause of autism.

Through events like the upcoming 5K run/walk, organizations like the National Fragile X Foundation and the Families for Fragile X are working to raise awareness and advance groundbreaking research. These events also bring together those impacted by fragile X in our community and provide them with essential support and encouragement so that no one family has to go through this journey alone.

I ask everyone in south Florida to join Michele and her son Matthew, as well as hundreds of other patients, caregivers, and friends whose lives have been impacted by fragile X, this Sunday for the Monkey Madness 5K Run/Walk. You can register at familiesforfragilex.com.

## RECOGNIZING THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE OF MIAMI

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Friendship Circle of Miami, a program provided by the Chabad of Kendall & Pinecrest that offers much-needed acceptance to children and young individuals with special needs by providing them with the skills to become our future leaders.

Since its inception, the Friendship Circle has provided these vulnerable members of our society the opportunity to participate in many programs like organized sports or visual and performing arts, all while building lasting friendships.

The Friendship Circle has grown from a small organization that started in Detroit to now having chapters all across our Nation and, indeed, around the world. I would like to offer a special congratulations to our Miami chapter, as it recently held its annual Walk for Friendship, raising awareness and support for the programs and services offered to our youth.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like Friendship Circle that serve as the pillar of equality and celebrate each person's individual qualities that make them great. I ask south Florida to join members of our community like the Pardo family—Angel, Rosie, and Andrew—in bringing a smile to the faces of some very special children in our community.

## CELEBRATING THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, March 1 marked the 56th anniversary of the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps' talented volunteers have accomplished a lot over the years, serving in over 140 countries across the globe. They have changed millions of lives, provided immeasurable technical assistance to communities in need, and helped create a better understanding between Americans and peoples abroad.

In 2011, I was proud to author a bill that helped protect Peace Corps volunteers. The Senate companion to that bill became law as the Kate Puzey Act,

establishing policies that improved volunteer safety and ensured that they would have the resources necessary to contend with emergencies.

Peace Corps volunteers exemplify the extraordinary compassion and leadership of our great Nation, and their security is paramount as they carry out their missions abroad. I congratulate the Peace Corps on its 56th anniversary, and I wish it even greater success in the years ahead.

## CONGRATULATING JONATHAN AGUIAR AND THE KNOW MORE CAMPAIGN

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Jonathan Aguiar, a wonderful student at Christopher Columbus High School, whom I recently met, for his efforts that are known as KNOW MORE. He started this organization KNOW MORE, and it is an organization founded to raise awareness about sexual assault on high school campuses in south Florida.

Anyone, regardless of age, can become a victim of sexual assault. Unfortunately, it is a crime that often goes unreported due to the detrimental scars felt by some victims. By joining together to create KNOW MORE, Jonathan and his friends have undertaken a noble effort to support victims, protect others from harm, and prepare high school students to make informed decisions.

I thank Jonathan and Christopher Columbus High School for their work and advocacy to combat this issue that affects so many in our community and across the Nation.

## MARINES UNITED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, I stood on this same floor and condemned the online bullying of U.S. Marine Corps servicewomen on a public Facebook page. Today I stand before you again, incredulous, angry, and sad, to say that absolutely nothing has changed.

This weekend, news broke that the Department of Defense is investigating scores of enlisted marines for compiling thousands of naked photos of other marines—servicewomen—often surreptitiously, and distributing them through Facebook and Google Drive. The site in question is called "Marines United," claiming a membership of over 30,000 people.

The photos are being tightly held due to the ongoing investigation, but all indications are they are just as repulsive as what we saw 4 years ago.

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The report contains samples of the comments posted about female marines, which are too obscene to read on the House floor. Online commentators also reportedly called for the rape of some of the marines portrayed in the photos, which is terrifying, given many of the women are identified by name and base.

This is not about sex or fun or boys will be boys. This is about marines deliberately trying to degrade, humiliate, and threaten fellow marines. They encouraged stalking, distributed stolen intimate photos, and reduced their comrades to a collection of body parts.

Well, I am here to say that women marines will not be treated like sides of beef. They are warriors and should be treated as such.

As one female marine who recently completed the once male-only infantry training said: "Right now I'm supposed to be able to trust every male marine. And with some of the stuff I see them saying about women, that's just not happening."

This cultural rot, which has clearly regressed even further since 2013, harms our troops and our readiness. It is abundantly clear that this is not a few bad marines; rather, it is another example of a culture of rot. It is a blight that infects not just the ranks of the enlisted, but also the officer corps.

Military leadership has utterly failed in their responsibility to protect their troops, punish those involved, and uphold the professed values of the Corps. That is why the survivors of this latest atrocity did not have the confidence to notify their superiors, for fear of retribution. It took a marine veteran and blogger to blow the whistle, and for that, he has been threatened with death and his wife has been threatened with rape.

Back in 2013, then-Commandant General Amos wrote to me saying, "We share your indignation," regarding deplorable images on social media that denigrate women in the United States Marine Corps. They were words—just words. I fear that military leadership will say anything to placate Congress and an outraged public, but then do nothing.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Secretary of Defense James Mattis. I found him to be engaging, thoughtful, and committed to our troops. Secretary Mattis is also a retired marine.

Secretary Mattis, I hope that you are deeply disturbed by what we are seeing within the Corps. I hope that you are listening to servicewomen like the one whose private photos were posted in the 2013 Facebook group.

One left the service in 2015, and says that just knowing her pictures are still out there has silenced her. She said: "I wanted to be a positive influence on the community. And this diminished me. It took away everything."

Secretary Mattis, this must change now. I call on you to hold your leadership accountable for these failures; to establish a culture of dramatic change. That means heads should roll.

Talk is cheap. Action is what is needed for the integrity of the military. Survivors must be supported. That will only happen if those bad marines are drummed out of the Corps, with no exceptions.

#### JCC THREATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSEHTINEN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today because there have now recently been at least 100 threats made against more than 75 Jewish community centers across the country. These threats and the recent vandalism of Jewish cemeteries are despicable. I can probably find much more harsh language to use, but we probably shouldn't use it here on the House floor.

Community centers of all faiths should be places where people can find peace and not feel targeted for their beliefs. As a nation, we have to demonstrate that we will do everything within our power to prevent future threats and stop potential attacks.

One of my first acts as a new Member of Congress was to join the bipartisan task force to combat anti-Semitism. I am sad that we even have to do this. Our group works across the aisle to combat global anti-Semitism. I have also cosponsored the Combating European Anti-Semitism Act, which instructs the Secretary of State to track anti-Semitism in Europe.

But it is clear from these attacks, Madam Speaker, that we must also do far more here at home to combat anti-Semitism. In the coming days, I will be working with my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to determine the additional steps that we can take to combat anti-Semitism in the United States and keep our communities safe.

I make this encouragement. I encourage all of my colleagues to ask themselves one question: What if it were their child's elementary school? What if it were their child's daycare? What if it were their child's afterschool program that had the threat of a bomb, just like the one that took my own legs?

#### RESIST APPEAL PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the proposal offered by the Republican majority to replace the Affordable Care Act.

After nearly 7 years of repeal votes, House Republicans finally released their healthcare proposal on Monday. Simply stated, this proposal is bad for seniors, it is bad for the poor, and it is bad for the sick. It costs more and offers less. It raises cost on middle class Americans while giving huge tax breaks to the wealthy and to special interests.

Madam Speaker, more than 12,000 of my constituents receive financial assistance to buy health insurance on the exchange in the commercial market. Almost all of them will get less help under the Republican proposal.

#### Why is that?

Because the proposed tax credits will vary by age and income, which means premiums will be unaffordable for the low- to moderate-income families and seniors. As premiums go up with healthcare costs over time, these tax credits don't rise, making insurance less affordable year after year.

Regarding the individual mandate, while removing it may be politically popular, experts who have studied this expect premiums to increase 25 percent when the individual mandate is eliminated. When the employer mandate is eliminated under the GOP proposal, fewer employers will offer insurance to their employees.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I am opposed to the GOP proposal because it will significantly raise healthcare costs on individuals in their fifties and sixties.

#### And why is that?

Because the plan will allow insurers to charge them five times more than younger policyholders. In fact, if you are 60 years or older and making an average income, under the GOP proposal your insurance bill will go up by \$3,200 each year while you lose \$6,000 in tax credits and subsidies.

Madam Speaker, nearly 30,000 men, women, and children in my district are currently covered by the Medicaid expansion provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Each of them now stands to lose coverage if the Republican Congress eliminates Maryland's Medicaid expansion. Even our Republican Governor understands that much.

The GOP plan to so-called modernize Medicaid essentially turns the program into a block grant program that shifts the costs to States. States simply cannot afford that. As a result, we will eventually see massive cuts to this cost-efficient program.

This plan to turn Medicaid into a block grant program would hurt the working poor, children, seniors, and people with disabilities that rely on this program. This is wrong and disgraceful.

And why do Republicans want to cut Medicaid, Madam Speaker?

I am not sure, but I do know they are also proposing huge tax cuts for the wealthy.

Under Monday's midnight proposal, we now see that the 400 wealthiest households in America will receive annual tax cuts of \$7 million. The proposal also includes a tax break for insurance companies that pay their CEOs over half a million dollars a year.

Madam Speaker, the Republicans kept this proposal under lock and key for a reason. They scheduled a committee markup without a single hearing or even a CBO score.

The American people and their Representatives deserve to see the numbers. That means every Member of this Congress needs to hear from the Congressional Budget Office: How much will it cost taxpayers? How will it impact our hospitals and health centers?