

hombres. We have heard his racial epithets. We have seen cold-hearted executive orders. We have stood in horror as his administration sweeps the country with raids that appear unprecedented in their utter disregard for family, community, and common decency.

That is why I stand here today, on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, the proud son of Irish immigrants and the humble beneficiary of our country's golden doors, to deliver a message to immigrant families: President Trump does not speak for all of us, and his immigration policies are opposed by leaders in Washington who do not take your patriotism for granted. We are grateful for your contribution to our communities, our culture, and our economy. We understand your willingness to walk to the ends of the Earth, to navigate oceans and mountains and deserts and war zones because every parent would do the same. We know what you have risked to give them a better future and what you have sacrificed to be a part of our United States. We stand by your side in the fight ahead.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THE NEED FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the need for bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform. I am disappointed by President Trump's actions on immigration during his first 2 months in office. I do not say that lightly, because I want this President to succeed, as I want every President to succeed, because if they succeed, so does our country.

But the President's comments and actions to implement policies that don't hold up American values has me feeling very uneasy. To say the least, his erratic statements made on domestic and foreign policy, that he has either taken back or corrected, demonstrates a lack of diplomatic experience. For example, issuing an executive order to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexican border is not a real solution to fixing our broken immigration system. It does little, if anything, to improve our national security, and it would only hurt trade relations with Mexico, which would have a very serious economic impact not only on American exporters, but especially California's agriculture industry.

Additionally, the Trump administration's directives to deport undocumented immigrants, regardless of how long they have lived here and the contributions they have made to our society, is a strong example of the President's implementing policy that not only is flawed from a human rights perspective, but it is going to have a negative impact on our economy as well.

President Trump is forcing over 11 million individuals who have lived in the United States for decades deeper into the shadows of our communities. They are scared to go to work, scared to go to school, and scared to live their lives. California's agriculture industry relies heavily on a workforce of individuals who are undocumented and work every single day to accomplish the American Dream for themselves and their families. These individuals are not only contributing to the agriculture industry, but they are also students, entrepreneurs, and businessowners.

Furthermore, implementing an executive order to ban travel to the United States is not the American way. As many people in my district are aware, President Trump's first travel ban prohibited a 12-year-old girl, Eman, and her U.S. citizen father from coming home to the United States, and his order put them in harm's way while they waited in Djibouti.

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Last month, a Federal appeals court ruled to block that executive order travel ban. Four weeks ago, father and daughter finally came back to Los Banos to rejoin their family.

Our President and his team had to go back to the drawing board, as we know, to issue a new executive order. And just last night, his second executive order to ban travel was blocked.

The Trump administration claims that the flawed executive orders are:

One, a vital measure for protecting national security;

Two, work to improve the vetting process; and

Three, that the United States has a right to vet people who are entering the country and keep people out who are doing us harm.

I agree that we need to work together to protect national security. The Federal Government is obligated to keep our country safe and vet people who enter this country. And guess what? Thorough and rigorous vetting policies are already in place, and they have been going back to the Bush administration ever since 9/11. That is nothing new. My office receives casework on a weekly basis regarding visas that are being extremely vetted and individuals who are waiting for years to get the proper visa to come to this country. That is extreme vetting.

I strongly encourage the President to work with us in Congress and implement a policy that actually strengthens our national security, upholds our national security, and upholds our American values that we all cherish. Working together on a bipartisan basis, we can fix our Nation's broken immigration system. Working together, we can make important investments in our infrastructure, and we should. Working together, we can reform our tax system so it is simple and fair. Working together, we can negotiate a farm bill that provides benefits for all

Americans. Working together, we can fix the Affordable Care Act.

Clearly, in regards to the ACA, my Republican friends have decided to go at it alone. That is too bad.

I stand ready to work with the President on a bipartisan basis on all of the above, but the President must reach out. I sincerely want our President to do well because that is what is in the best interest of our country, as I want every American President to do well. But it will not happen. It will not happen, my colleagues, my friends, unless we work together.

MASSIVE TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, over the last 7 years, we have heard a lot from the Republicans about repeal and replace. They voted some 67 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which they call ObamaCare.

We have seen their so-called replacement plan. Actually, it is a plan to gut the Affordable Care Act and stuff through massive tax breaks for the wealthy. What is new? That is the number one, two, and three priority of the current Republican majority here in the House of Representatives.

They got an analysis Monday. It was a little discouraging, but not really. The Speaker touted the fact it would reduce the deficit by \$377 billion. Sure, if you take away health care from 24 million people, you can save some money on that end, but you lose a lot on the other end with families going bankrupt. The most frequent cause of bankruptcy in America was an uninsured healthcare emergency before the Affordable Care Act.

Small rural hospitals will be closing their doors all across America if this bill goes through. And even the larger hospitals, having to give more uninsured care to people in crisis, will be having to jack up prices, and, of course, that means higher premiums for everybody else. Back to the good old days of freedom to choose. In this case, their freedom to choose bankruptcy, or death, or who knows what else, under this plan.

They have really painted a target on older Americans. They are going to allow the healthcare insurance industry—which, by the way, is exempt from antitrust law, so it is not competitive. They keep saying: Competition and choice. How do you have competition when an industry does, and is, allowed to collude to set prices to exclude certain areas or people from coverage or certain diseases from coverage? They can do that all behind closed doors. It is legal for that industry. And they will not include a provision to take away their antitrust immunity as part of this bill.

So they are going to allow insurance companies to charge anybody age 50 or

older five times the premium for a younger person. Now, let's look at, say, a modest income of a 21-year-old of \$27,000 a year. They will actually pay \$250 less for a policy that will cover less. But that is okay, I guess, sort of, maybe.

But for a 64-year-old earning the same amount of money—and there are 64-year-olds out there still working who can't get Medicare yet and don't have a big retirement fund—they are still working for modest wages of \$27,000 a year, they will see their healthcare costs go from \$1,700 a year to \$14,600. So a 64-year-old American working person with an income of \$27,000 would have a premium of \$14,600. Now, how is that going to work? How is that going to work? More than half of their income would go to pay for a health insurance plan. They have put a target square on those millions of people, and that is absolutely outrageous.

This bill is tax cuts very thinly disguised as the American Health Care Act. The cuts are pretty astounding. If you earn \$700,000 a year, you will get a \$37,000 tax cut. Now, those people are really hurting. Those people at \$700,000 a year are worried about their health insurance. No, not so much. They probably get it for free through their corporate connections, or whatever. And even if they did, with \$772,000, they can afford the increase with a \$37,000 tax break.

But then how about the most privileged of the privileged of the privileged, those in the top 1 percent whose income averages \$4 million a year? They get a tax cut of \$207,000 a year under this bill. This bill is tax cuts disguised as an excuse for a replacement for the ACA.

There are a few other tax cuts, again, really deserving and needy folks—the pharmaceutical industry, \$25 billion; and the medical device industry, \$20 billion. And health insurance companies exempt from antitrust law can, once again, pay their CEOs \$5 million or \$10 million a year and take a full tax deduction, which under current law they can't.

So here it is, the goodie bag: Tax cuts for the wealthiest among us, tax cuts for the pharmaceutical industry, health insurance industry, medical device manufacturers; and, for the rest of America, the booby prize, which is healthcare plans that cover less and cost a lot more.

Oh, and then a couple of years out, 14 million people will be cut off of Medicaid.

These are really expensive tax cuts, and they have got to be paid for. The Republicans are fiscally responsible. They are going to pay for the tax cuts for people who earn \$1 million a year, they are going to pay for the tax cuts for the pharmaceutical industry, but they have to screw a hell of a lot of people to do it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from using vulgarity.

RECOGNIZING RESIGNATION OF MUSTAFA ALI

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

Mr. McEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Mustafa Ali's 24 years of service to the health and wellness of the American people.

On March 7, Mr. Ali sent his resignation to Administrator Scott Pruitt. He resigned from his post as the leader of the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice program.

For more than 2 decades, Mr. Ali led our Nation's leaders on environmental justice in their search for equalizing the playing field for vulnerable communities that have been victims of actions that threaten their public health and the quality of their air, water, and land.

In his letter, Mr. Ali said, in part:

Communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous populations are still struggling to receive equal protections before the law.

These communities, both rural and urban, often live in areas with toxic levels of air pollution, crumbling or nonexistent water and sewer infrastructure, lead in their drinking water, brownfields from vacant former industrial and commercial sites, Superfund and other hazardous waste sites, as well as other sources of exposures to pollutants.

Despite the many challenges we face regarding the impacts of pollution and a changing climate, we have just as many effective tools and programs, with long track records of assisting vulnerable communities in meeting their goals of improving public health and enhancing the environmental quality of their local communities.

Mr. Ali's resignation is a signal for me. In my eyes, a longtime soldier in the fight to level the playing field for all Americans to live in a clean environment left the Environmental Protection Agency because it was no longer welcoming for individuals who want to work with facts.

As we await the President's fiscal year 2018 budget, we need to remember how impactful Environmental Justice programs are to our constituents' health. Flint is one of the most salient examples of what can happen when environmental justice watchdogs are not empowered to do their good work.

OBAMACARE FAILED TO MEET ITS GOALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because ObamaCare, though well intentioned, has failed to meet its own goals and promises.

There is a lot of passion on both sides of the aisle, I know. I just sat through 27 hours of debate in the Energy and Commerce Committee last week. It is clear that Republicans and Democrats have shared goals when it comes to health care. We want lower premiums,

more choices, high-quality health care, the best in the world. But ObamaCare did not get us there. And if we continue on the current path, health care in this country is only going to get worse.

Premiums this last year alone have risen, on average, across this country by 25 percent. One out of three counties only has one plan available to them. Networks are collapsing.

That is why we are working to repeal and replace ObamaCare. We are committed to creating a better healthcare future for every person in America. No back-room deals, no ramming through bills no one has had time to read, and no surprises.

Every step of the way, we want to hear from you, the American people. Visit readthebill.gov and give us your feedback. Health care should be an open, transparent process through regular order, and that is exactly what we are doing with the American Health Care Act.

OPPOSING GOP REPEAL BILL

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to express my opposition to the GOP healthcare bill.

On Monday, we received from the CBO a report that the House repeal bill will increase the number of uninsured Americans by 24 million in 2026. Fifty-two million Americans will be uninsured in 2026, which is more than ever before, and definitely more than the Affordable Care Act.

The intentions here are clear. The bill's drafters are choosing to ration care for the elderly and the working class to fund tax cuts for the Nation's highest earners.

Under the GOP bill, a 64-year-old, with an income of \$26,000, will have to pay a net of \$12,900 more each year for her coverage than she currently does. In addition to the disproportionate harm that this bill will do to seniors, it will also accelerate the insolvency of the Medicare trust fund by 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, the GOP plan cuts \$880 billion from projected Medicaid spending over the next decade, while providing almost \$600 billion in tax cuts to the wealthy and to corporations. Sixty-four percent of the tax cuts would go to millionaires and billionaires, while an additional 20 percent would go to those making between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Mr. Speaker, less than 1 percent of my constituents make more than \$200,000, so it would be irresponsible of me not to voice my concern for a bill that contradicts the interests of my constituents so blatantly.

When I first got a copy of the bill less than 2 days before we marked it up in the Ways and Means Committee, I was left wondering if the bill was written to address our Nation's healthcare challenges or just to relieve the wealthy few of their tax obligations.

The drafters of this bill made the disappointing choice to favor value tested