

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Bell studied theology and communications at the University of Mobile and Luther Rice Seminary, and he has over 20 years of ministry experience.

Pastor Bell is currently the lead pastor at 3 Circle Church in southwest Alabama. 3 Circle Church has five campuses, with weekly attendance reaching over 2,000 people.

In addition to their regular services, Pastor Bell and 3 Circle Church have a focus on mission and serving others locally, regionally, and around the world. These missions make a real difference.

So on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, it is an honor to welcome Chris and his wife, Nan, to the people's House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE THREAT OF NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was grateful to participate in a panel discussion at the dynamic Hudson Institute about the growing threat North Korea poses to the United States and our allies, with Hudson fellow research director Rebecca Heinrichs and senior fellow Arthur Herman.

We discussed the growing threat of North Korea's testing medium- and long-range missiles, the gruesome capabilities of conventional weapons, and their rapidly proceeding nuclear program.

We further discussed the importance of missile defense, specifically the THAAD missile system and the boost phase interceptor system, and how they could deter the threats from North Korea.

I also spoke on the bipartisan resolution that I introduced last week, a resolution condemning North Korea's development of their missile program, calling for the consideration of all available options to protect the people of South Korea.

I look forward to working with Foreign Affairs Chairman ED ROYCE, Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and President Donald Trump to ensure that all options are on the table when responding to the growing threat posed by North Korea.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WORKING TOGETHER ON THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will celebrate 7 years since the President signed the Affordable Care Act into law. The following day my colleagues across the aisle will vote to eradicate the undeniable progress it has made.

On Thursday, when the House votes on the American Health Care Act, we will vote to take away health insurance from millions of Americans; we will vote to raise premiums on seniors; we will vote to damage women's healthcare programs; and we will vote to reduce access to care for LGBTQ people.

Policies that were once derided as socialist are now mainstream, considering so many of the popular parts of ACA are retained in the Republican replacement.

The majority of the country does not want to repeal ACA but to improve it in a bipartisan way. The only way to create a meaningful change for the American people is to work together across the aisle.

As Lincoln said: "We cannot escape history. We . . . will be remembered in spite of ourselves." A vote to repeal ACA will be a stain on that legacy.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate National Agriculture Day.

I proudly represent the largest agriculture-producing district in the country, the big First District of Kansas. In my home State, it is Kansas Agriculture Month, a month to celebrate our State's largest economy.

Today is an opportunity to remind my colleagues of the hardworking Americans who produce the bounty of American harvest and livestock. The food that sustains them doesn't originate in a grocery store.

Let us remember as we move forward with regulations and with trade policy that there are families with generations of history on their farm or ranch who face the consequences of every decision. They feed America and our economy.

This day and every day, we are grateful that God made a farmer.

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am excited to celebrate the signing of the Affordable Care Act signed by President Barack Obama.

In the hearing last Thursday of the Budget Committee, we noted that Med-

icaid that provided health insurance in this bill, now the TrumpCare bill, will be cut \$880 billion for working people, for seniors in nursing homes, for the blind, and for the disabled.

We note that this meaningless TrumpCare amendment, for which the President is now rallying his troops, coming up to the Hill two and three times—maybe he will be here tomorrow—is as meaningless as the first part of it was: 24 million Americans will lose their insurance—TrumpCare will double that amount in 2026; 52 million will not have insurance—giveaways to billionaires, 1 percent of the rich people in America; and destroying 2 million jobs.

But what I am most concerned about is my constituent in the Heights who could not take her medicine before the Affordable Care Act. Tragically, a young woman had a stroke and a heart attack and now is in a nursing home. She uses the health insurance of Medicaid, \$880 billion, to provide for her lifeline, but yet TrumpCare comes to destroy that.

I want to celebrate the Affordable Care Act because it saves lives.

COMMEMORATING ROSIE THE RIVETER

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of National Rosie the Riveter Day, an effort to raise awareness for the 16 million women working during World War II.

These women left their homes to work or volunteer full-time in factories, farms, shipyards, banks, and other institutions in support of our military. These brave women worked with the USO and the Red Cross. They drove trucks, riveted airplanes, collected critical materials, rolled bandages, and served on rationing boards.

These Rosie the Riveters embodied the "we can do it spirit" forever connected with them by Norman Rockwell's iconic painting.

As we mark the contributions and triumphs of women this Women's History Month, I am proud to join the effort and recognize these brave heroes with a National Rosie the Riveter Day.

I am especially proud to represent a "Rosie" and Bucks County native, Mae Krier, for her efforts in advocating for this long-deserved recognition. Mae was a riveter on Boeing aircraft in Seattle. She was a builder of B-17s and B-29s, which went off to fly missions over Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize National Rosie the Riveter Day and have the pleasure of welcoming Rosies from around the Nation here at the Capitol today.

THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT AND OPIOID ADDICTION

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, across the country, communities are struggling with an epidemic of opioid addiction, abuse, and overdose; and across party lines, we all agree something must be done to address this crisis.

But the repeal-and-replace plan proposed by my Republican colleagues adds fuel to the fire. The bill eliminates the Affordable Care Act's requirement that Medicaid cover basic mental health and addiction services.

Economists estimate 1.3 million Americans receive treatment for substance abuse and other mental health disorders through the Medicaid extension.

Across the States that have expanded Medicaid, like Illinois, the program is used for 27 percent of all addiction treatment.

We are not going to arrest our way out of this epidemic; instead, we need to treat addiction like the disease that it is. Removing the mental health coverage requirement pulls the rug out from more than a quarter of all those seeking help from opioid addiction.

Mr. Speaker, opioids now kill more Americans than car accidents. The Affordable Care Act offers hope and is saving lives. The Republican efforts to repeal the ACA is a bleak step backwards. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation.

ADVOCATING FOR PATIENT-CENTERED HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a practicing physician who believes that we must repeal the disaster that ObamaCare has brought us and return to a patient-centered system.

My patients have dealt with skyrocketing premiums, unaffordable deductibles, and a formulary so restrictive it is an insult to call it a real treatment.

Medicaid expansion is no better and gives only the illusion of sound coverage. These patients can't find doctors. They can't find specialists who will see them, which results in more hospital admissions, more unnecessary hospital referrals, more expensive trips to the emergency room, and higher costs to the program and to the taxpayers.

There is nothing compassionate about cramming more people into a failed system just so politicians can score political points. All they have done is force a second-class insurance onto first-class people.

All Americans deserve better than ObamaCare. We can provide a better healthcare delivery system for them where everyone has access to affordable care, and it starts with the passage of the American Health Care Act.

LOSING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE UNDER THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, since January I have received hundreds of messages from constituents who are panicked that they will lose healthcare coverage with the Republican plan, where people will pay more for less.

Although the talking points of the Republican plan references access to health care, care will only be accessible for people with enough money to pay.

A message I received from Vera Caldas:

My husband has leukemia, and if it wasn't for the ACA, he would be dead by now. I am living in fear that if he loses ObamaCare, that will mean his death sentence since he won't be able to afford insurance to continue his treatment.

A message from Lee Portillo:

The ACA allowed my wife to start her Silicon Valley beach business in Venice, California and still have access to health care. The ACA is pro small entrepreneur and gives us the freedom to work on our own and still have insurance.

My constituents, like millions across the Nation, are afraid they might be one of the 14 million people who will lose coverage if the Republican plan is passed.

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TRUMPCARE IS A TERRIBLE BILL

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week Republicans plan to vote on TrumpCare to push 24 million Americans off healthcare coverage and saddle families across the country with massive health costs. TrumpCare is an assault on families and a broken promise to the American people.

Twenty-four million people will lose their health insurance. It will terminate the assistance that people depend on to afford quality coverage. It will destroy the Medicaid program, the bedrock of our social safety net for more than 50 years.

Medicaid covers 74 million children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and seniors with long-term care needs. Under TrumpCare, deductibles and out-of-pocket costs will skyrocket and families will be exposed to crushing health costs. Premiums will rise dramatically—particularly, for older Americans—because TrumpCare allows insurance companies to charge five times higher than what others pay for the average, five times higher for our near senior citizens. This means thousands and thousands of dollars more in premiums, which low-income seniors cannot afford.

TrumpCare shortens the life of the Medicare trust fund by 3 years and cuts \$880 billion from Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, this is a terrible bill, and it puts the entire healthcare system at risk.

DO NOT REPLACE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WITH TRUMPCARE

(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, I rise to talk about the Republican's sick plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with TrumpCare, where the wealthy will get huge tax cuts and the rest of America will pay more for less. Twenty-four million will be losing their doctors, their nurses, and their medicine, and my constituents are frightened.

Just ask Amy Bernard, whose mom, Francine, like 70 percent of Americans living in nursing homes, pays for it with Medicaid. Francine was a teacher. She planned for her retirement. She had savings, Social Security, and a pension. Then she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and she spent all her savings on in-home care. And then one day after a near-fatal fall, her family realized she needed around-the-clock care.

TrumpCare means tax cuts for the very rich, less for the rest of Americans, gutting Medicaid, and sending folks like Francine to the curb.

DO NOT REPEAL THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday we will vote on the future of health care for America. We need to do what is right for our district and for our constituents. We need to protect the Affordable Care Act.

The ACA works, but like America's other great healthcare program, Medicare, it needs a little time to get there. Today, Medicare covers over 55 million Americans and is a staple for our seniors; but back in 1965, people had a very negative opinion of Medicare. Today, 52 years later, Medicare is one of the most efficient healthcare systems in our country.

I urge my colleagues: Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act. If you do, 24 million Americans will lose their coverage and older Americans will pay higher premiums. I ask my colleagues to keep the ACA. Let's do the right thing.

BIG PHARMA IS A BIG WINNER IN TRUMPCARE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Thursday these Republicans are awarding a