

RUSSIA AND TRUMP, SUBTLE ENTRAPMENT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, years from now, history books could well describe entrapment of a United States President by a foreign adversary. Allow me to update my colleagues on the Trump administration's foreign policy.

Recently, the State Department avoided committing Secretary Rex Tillerson to a NATO meeting next month with our tried and true allies in Europe. Yet, the administration has no problem flying Secretary Tillerson to Moscow to meet with Putin in April. This is no April Fools' joke. Since when is the Kremlin more important than our NATO partners? Never.

Several reports now say Trump's former campaign chair, Paul Manafort, secretly worked for a Russian billionaire to advance Putin's interests and undermine anti-Russian opposition across Europe. This contradicts assertions by the Trump administration and Manafort that he never worked for Russian interests. Congress needs to get to the bottom of these shady connections, and Paul Manafort should testify to the House Intelligence Committee, under oath.

Russia has consistently and unabashedly attempted to disrupt Democratic elections and promote propaganda in order to strengthen its own strategic interests.

The Trump administration is pushing our Nation to the verge of a national security crisis. How much leverage does Putin have over Trump and his associates? Our great Nation can't be their collateral damage.

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is Brain Injury Awareness Day, and I welcome those who are in Washington today to share their stories.

This is near and dear to my heart. I spent nearly 30 years in healthcare rehabilitation services, and this was one of my areas of practice and expertise. I served as a board member for the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, and I helped form a brain injury support group for the patients and their families that I served.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Not Alone." This is a platform for educating the general public about the incidence of brain injury, and the needs of people with brain injuries and their families. The campaign also works to destigmatize the injury, empower those who have survived, and promote the many types of support that are available.

The need to raise awareness is great: more than 3.5 million children and

adults sustain an acquired brain injury each year, but the incidence is unknown.

Mr. Speaker, everyone recovers at a different pace, but the support the patient receives can actually let them know that they are not alone in this fight.

OPPOSING AMERICANS LOSING THEIR HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to 24 million Americans losing their health insurance, including 60,000 residents in my home of Pinellas County, Florida. Florida is the number one State with Affordable Care Act enrollments—number one. We stand to lose the most with this repeal.

But what we are debating this week is far worse than just a repeal. It is how the new bill treats the least among us. Medicaid, which the poor and disabled depend on, would be devastated, leaving an estimated 3.5 million children and 720,000 disabled Americans without care.

There are a lot of people here today in the Nation's Capital in wheelchairs, trying to make this point to all of us. What could be more cruel than taking away health care for all of them?

This is a misguided proposal. We must work together to improve health care, bring down costs, expand access, and protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Mr. Speaker, people's lives are on the line with this vote tomorrow. Let's do the right thing. Reject this bill.

TAKE YOUR CRIMINALS BACK OR LOSE VISAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Florida Police Officer Andrew Widman was murdered, shot in the face while trying to resolve a dispute. His death was preventable, however. The murderer of Officer Widman was an illegal immigrant and convicted felon. He did not belong here. He should have been sent back home to his native country, Cuba, after he served his sentence, but Cuba would not take him back.

Cuba is one of about 30 countries that refuse to take back their convicted citizens after they are legally ordered deported. Then, unfortunately, they are released back on our streets to commit more crimes. These days need to end. No more get-out-of-jail-free cards. There must be consequences to these nations that flaunt our laws.

My bill, the Timely Repatriation Act, restricts diplomatic visas to countries that deny or delay the repatriation of a foreign national whose removal has been legally ordered.

Take your criminals back or lose diplomatic visas.

And that is just the way it is.

SALUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACTION NETWORK

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Universal Health Care Action Network, also known as UHCAN, for their energy and advocacy to protect the Affordable Care Act.

I was honored to join UHCAN in a town hall where we presented our message to men, women, families, and children from across central Ohio who were eager to organize. Do you know why? To save the health care for more than 22 million newly insured Americans, including nearly 1 million Ohioans, who gained coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

We heard personal stories, stories from Laura, Mindy, Rachel, and Kevin Rhodes—who was my guest at the joint session of Congress right here—on how the Affordable Care Act was saving their lives.

Mr. Speaker, yet, here we are tomorrow, on the seventh anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, preparing to repeal and replace it with Republican care; legislation which would push 24 million Americans off their healthcare coverage, and give massive tax breaks to 400 superwealthy families, while the rest of us, we pay more for less.

Mr. Speaker, I join my constituents and Americans across the country who oppose Republican care. Join me tomorrow and say "no."

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OPPOSE THE EFFORT TO REPEAL AND REPLACE

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of the effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Simply, my constituents will be stuck paying more. And if they are not losing their coverage, they will know somebody who is going to lose their coverage. And if they are over the age of 50 and not on Medicare yet, they are going to suffer a very cruel age tax.

I think not of politics when the President said some are going to pay a political price if they don't support this, I think about what they are going to pay at the doctor's office.

John Cameron of Dublin, California, told me that, before the Affordable Care Act, he could not get the double hip surgery that he needed. Because of it, he was able to get it last week. We need hardworking small-business owners like John to keep working and have affordable insurance.

Mr. Speaker, when this President put his name on a casino, he left its workers in the dust. When he put his name on a university, he left its students out in the cold. And when he puts his name on this healthcare plan, TrumpCare, he is going to leave all of us sicker and poorer.

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, 7 years ago today, President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law. Since then, the ACA has helped millions of Americans gain access to affordable healthcare insurance.

We all know what is at stake in this Republican bill. It is a bill that actually has a big old tax in it called the age tax that makes our seniors pay more.

In addition to that, it prohibits Medicaid reimbursement for Planned Parenthood, and Republicans are actively working hard to make access to reproductive care even tougher for low-income women.

Let me tell you this about Texas: In 2014, Planned Parenthood had 34 centers that served over 120,000 women. Additionally, these centers in my home State of Texas provided birth control to over 93,000 women, conducted over 134,000 STD tests, 16,000 pap smears, and 16,000 mammograms.

These crucial services allow women across Texas to take control of their own health care and help them plan for a family when they are ready.

Republicans claim that their replacement plan puts patients first, but limiting a woman's ability to seek care when she seems fit directly contradicts that goal.

COMPOUNDING DEVASTATING CUTS AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republicans' American Health Care Act and specifically the provision that purports to shift billions of Medicaid costs from New York's counties to the State.

In addition to the AHCA's age tax, increasing premiums, and millions losing their insurance, this provision will compound the devastating cuts and leave countless New Yorkers without access to health care while decimating New York State's finances.

This amendment requires the State to shoulder an additional \$2.3 billion on top of the \$1 billion cut proposed in the AHCA. Meanwhile, this proposal excludes New York City and only gives New York State 2 years to assume this burden.

As a former mayor, county executive, and former chairman of the New York

State Commission on Property Tax Relief, I understand that New York counties shoulder a larger share of the Medicaid burden than in any other State. Asking the State to relieve some of this burden from the counties that they bear from the Medicaid cost is a worthwhile idea that should be further explored, but in conjunction with State officials.

The short turnaround time in the current proposal would cripple the State's budget, resulting in catastrophic cuts, and leaves countless New Yorkers without access to health care.

Additionally, marrying this proposal to the misguided Republican AHCA plan and excluding New York City prevents bipartisan cooperation. Rushing this amendment without debate or full consideration of the consequences and without a plan for implementation will negate any positives.

I call upon my Republican colleagues to work in a bipartisan manner on this critical issue.

HEALTH MATTERS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke with a dynamic, impressive young woman, Maryn White, from Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Maryn is a 16-year-old sophomore at Lee's Summit West High School. When she was 10 years old, she was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis. Despite a lot of pain and a number of major surgeries, Maryn is active in her high school and is raising money for a cure.

Maryn was the winner of the Dream Factory of Kansas City. Instead of going on a cruise ship or some tour to an exotic place, she came to Washington to talk to people who are about to vote on her health. She is absolutely infuriated that money is not going to the NIH to continue to do research for a cure.

There are thousands of similar stories all over the country. This is not a political matter, this is a matter of life and death for people all over this country.

Yes, I am saying that TrumpCare will make America ache again.

FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there was a television program some years ago that Monty Hall had: "Let's Make a Deal."

Well, up in the Rules Committee, we are acting out a congressional version of "Let's Make a Deal." People aren't dressing up like radishes and jumping up and down, but they are trying to contort the flawed Republican repeal of the Affordable Care Act into something that can somehow thread the needle

and get votes through the House of Representatives. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate.

This week we are commemorating the seventh anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act. We don't need costumes and jumping up and down. It has reduced the uninsured rate to the lowest in our history. It has strengthened rural and small town hospitals across the country. It has extended coverage to people who otherwise would not have it. Repeal of this amazing accomplishment would be unprecedented. It would be sad, and it would be wrong.

I sincerely hope that we are going to be able to focus our attention on something that will make a difference, not forcing Americans to pay more for inferior coverage and deny it to many others.

OPPOSING TRUMPCARE

(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, I rise to speak against TrumpCare.

TrumpCare will take health insurance away from 24 million Americans. That is basically the amount of people that live in the State of Texas.

For the lucky ones who don't have their health care ripped away, TrumpCare forces families to pay increased out-of-pocket costs and higher deductibles and cuts the financial assistance they get today to afford their insurance.

It has a crushing age tax. TrumpCare forces Americans who are aged 50 to 64 to pay premiums five times higher than younger people pay for health insurance.

This, combined with a slash in financial assistance to help people pay for coverage, will literally mean that there will be people who now have to pay more for their premiums annually than they actually earn in a year. That is unacceptable.

TrumpCare cuts Medicare and will shorten the life of the program by 3 years. It is hard to find someone this bill helps, but the people that it will hurt can be counted in the millions.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this horrible plan and to work with us to expand access and lower cost.

THE IMPACT OF TRUMPCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.