

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a Member of the 115th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the Member-elect, the whole number of the House is now 435.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPION CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TIGERS

(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, early this morning, the Clemson University Tigers achieved the College Football National Championship in what was one of the most stunning and unforgettable endings to a football game. Trailing behind the formidable University of Alabama for the majority of the game, the Clemson Tigers refused to be defeated, culminating in a come-from-behind win at literally the last second.

Throughout the entire season, the Clemson football team has shown guts, grit, and determination to their team, their school, and the State of South Carolina. This was a well-deserved win for a remarkable school and a remarkable program. I join my two sons, Julian and Hunter, who graduated from Clemson, and Clemson fans from across the Nation in celebrating this historic victory.

Congratulations to Clemson superstars Deshaun Watson and Ben Boulware, who were named most valuable players for the game. Congratulations as well to President Jim Clements and his wife, Beth. They are continuing in the world class tradition of Jim and Marcia Barker.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations, Dabo Swinney and the entire Clemson football family. Go Tigers.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express strong opposition to any attempted repeal of the Affordable Care Act. In North Carolina, more than 552,000 people have gained affordable health care through the Affordable

Care Act. One of those residents is Mrs. Darlene Harris of Charlotte, North Carolina, who was born with a hole in her heart. Each and every breath she has taken has been a miracle.

When her heart was beats away from rupturing, her husband's insurance saved her life. Following his death, Darlene tried to cope without that insurance, gambling with her own life. Thanks to the ACA, she is free from that awful burden.

A repeal of the Affordable Care Act would condemn millions of hard-working Americans and their loved ones to the nightmare of the past when preexisting conditions were not covered. It is imperative that we not ignore the pleas of our fellow Americans. It has and will continue to save the lives of our family, neighbors, and friends. I urge my colleagues to absolutely object to any repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, this week kicks off the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. As a car guy all my life, I never missed the world's premier automotive event, the greatest show on Earth. This year there is plenty to celebrate.

Just yesterday, Fiat Chrysler announced it would create 2,000 jobs and invest \$1 billion to modernize manufacturing plants in Michigan and Ohio. Last week, Ford scrapped plans for its facility in Mexico and instead promised to invest \$700 million at the Flat Rock plant. This move will bring 700 new jobs to Michigan. These are exciting developments for our State's economy and good paying jobs for our dedicated and talented workforce.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone will see at this year's auto show, Michigan continues to lead the way in car manufacturing. Working together, we can keep Michigan on the forefront of innovation and mobility and keep making the best cars and trucks in the world right in our backyard, the motor capital of the world.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let's not make America sick again.

I am deeply disappointed my Republican colleagues are moving forward with their plan to undo the historic progress we have made by expanding health coverage under the Affordable Care Act, repealing it and leaving millions of Americans with no coverage.

While repeal and replace was an abstract talking point for years, it is clear that there is no plan for replacement, no plan. The new phrase "repeal

and delay" will, in effect, be repeal and chaos, with no plan in place.

Repeal will have real-life, personal impact on 30 million Americans who will stand to lose their health insurance. The options for the 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions who have newfound health security would disappear. We would be returning to a time of lifetime limits, annual caps for care, and consumers will be sold junk health plans at high costs.

Not only will the newly insured suffer, repeal would destabilize the individual health insurance market and send the healthcare system into disarray. Let's don't make America sick again. Let's have no repeal without a replacement.

THANK YOU TO MICHIGAN'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to the people of Michigan's First Congressional District for giving me the opportunity to represent them in Congress. I would also like to thank my wife, Cindy, and our children and grandchildren for their constant and unwavering support.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to be here, and I am so humbled to be doing the people's work in the House of Representatives. I came to Congress not only to restore common sense and fiscal sanity to the Federal Government but, most importantly, to serve the constituents of Michigan's First District and to be their voice in Washington.

We have a new opportunity ahead of us to bring industry and prosperity back to the American people, but it is up to us here in Congress to do the work and put in the long hours it will take to get there. My promise today is that I will work tirelessly for my district and do everything I can to make sure we are leaving a better country for our children and grandchildren.

Again, thank you to the people of Michigan's First Congressional District for this opportunity.

DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON MILLIONS OF FAMILIES

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law, millions of Americans have gained access to valuable healthcare services, and every American has seen their health insurance benefits improve.

While there are ways the Affordable Care Act can be improved, we cannot afford to go back to the days when big insurance companies had the power to decide what care Americans could receive, deny coverage to children with diagnosed conditions, cancel coverage

when people got sick, and place limits on the amount of care people can receive.

Last week, Carol Lodi from Harvard, Massachusetts, in my district, called and told her story. She and her husband gained healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act. She is 61. Her husband is 63. They are self-employed. She said: “If we lose the insurance, we don’t know what we’ll do.”

Mr. Speaker, please listen to the Lodi family and millions of other families like them. Don’t turn your back on them and make America sick again.

HONORING DR. PRISCILLA THOMAS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Priscilla Thomas, a commissioner in Chatham County, Georgia, a champion of our area’s local youth and a Savannah native.

In 1990, Dr. Thomas was first elected to serve as a commissioner in Chatham County. During her tenure, she became chairman pro tem and later the first minority and female vice chairman. However, long before she entered government, Dr. Thomas was already dedicated to creating more opportunities and better lives for young people.

She worked as a principal at Haven Elementary School in Savannah after earning her Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of North America. When she was elected to serve as commissioner in 1990, she continued to use her passion for young people to provide entertaining and enlightening activities for them, including the Chatham County Youth Commission and the Summer Bonanza Partnership.

On December 16, 2016, Dr. Thomas attended her final county commission meeting and retired from her 26 years as a Chatham County commissioner. She will always be remembered for being one of the toughest, fairest, and most well-informed members of our local government and for her 60 years serving young people. She certainly will be missed.

OPPOSING THE CONFIRMATION OF JEFF SESSIONS AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the confirmation of JEFF SESSIONS as Attorney General.

In a 2006 speech, then-Senator SESSIONS wrongfully misstated: “Fundamentally, almost no one coming from the Dominican Republic to the United States is coming here because they have a provable skill that would benefit us and that would indicate their likely success in our society.”

When I was 9 years old, Mr. Speaker, I immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic without any papers, and now I am a Member of the U.S. Congress. Mr. SESSIONS, have I not succeeded in America?

On behalf of millions of Dominican Americans and notable Americans such as fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Diaz, Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, and baseball giant Big Papi, I stand here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives as a proud Dominican American. I say to Mr. SESSIONS: you are wrong, wrong in thinking, and wrong for our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the confirmation of JEFF SESSIONS as Attorney General. Hateful speech and racist rhetoric have no place in our American society.

□ 1215

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

(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 pay tribute to our Nation’s law enforcement men and women.

I respect and appreciate the important work of our police throughout the Nation who are charged with the critical work of protecting the people in our States and our local communities. The heartbreaking violent targeting of our Nation’s police officers, recently, demonstrates the dangers these men and women face every day.

Every American is so proud as our many neighbors and fellow citizens get up every morning, put on their local law enforcement uniform and badge, kiss their families good-bye, and go out and serve us, keeping our cities and towns safe, trying to build trust and faith among all of our citizens.

Monday was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and our law enforcement men and women in Arkansas and throughout the country deserve our gratitude and respect. I proudly displayed a blue light in my office window to honor our law enforcement men and women, and I thank them for their selfless service.

FORT LAUDERDALE AIRPORT SHOOTING

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, last week, we observed a moment of silence to remember the victims 6 years after the Tucson shooting. Just yesterday, another moment of silence to remember the five people killed and six wounded when they were shot while waiting at the Fort Lauderdale Airport baggage claim.

In those awful moments after the shooting, the airport was thrown into chaos and confusion. Yet, before we knew anything of the circumstances, every American could tell you what would come next because Congress has developed a well-worn routine in response to gun violence: first, shocking news of a deadly shooting, followed by thoughts and prayers, followed by a moment of silence on this floor, followed by a complete failure to take action.

To truly honor the victims, moments of silence must be followed by productive discussions of policy: What will we do to keep our community safer? I ask my Republican colleagues, meet with me. Let’s at least start a conversation here on the House floor. We can no longer remain silent during this epidemic of gun violence. Thoughts and prayers are all that we have offered the American people, and that is not enough.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the families that are feeling the burden of ObamaCare.

Premiums have skyrocketed an average of 19 percent in our State, and insurers are fleeing the market left and right. In fact, 73 percent of counties in Florida only have one insurance provider, leaving people with higher costs and less choice when it comes to their health care. That is why the President’s healthcare law has failed the people of Florida.

Now, Republicans are offering up solid solutions to make our Nation’s healthcare system work for everyone, without pulling the rug from anybody’s feet. We are focused on a more affordable, more personalized healthcare plan that empowers patients, not Washington.

I am proud to serve on the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee as we begin our first steps this week to bring relief to the people of Florida and our Nation.

OBAMACARE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, as we were home over the Christmas holiday break, so many calls that came into my office dealt with the ObamaCare issue—the rise in premiums, the lack of affordability.

Here is one example. A 64-year-old man, his premiums \$30,000, deductible \$12,000—indeed, too expensive to afford and too expensive to use.

But we do have a plan for repealing and replacing. You will find it at A Better Way. This will help lift the financial burden from many Americans