

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.

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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

who are currently facing high costs due to ObamaCare. Our plan allows patients greater access to affordable care and affordable insurance.

Our next step includes my legislation, H.R. 314. It is the Health Care Choice Act of 2017. What it will do is allow greater access, more choice, and more options by allowing across-State-line purchasing of health insurance. You find the plan that is most suited to you and your family at a price that you can afford.

It is time for us to repeal and replace with good patient-centered options.

PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP'S PROMISE TO BUILD A WALL WITH MEXICO AND MAKE THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT PAY FOR IT

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, you might recall, during the campaign, President-elect Donald Trump promised to build a wall with Mexico and, of course, make the Mexican Government pay for it.

Well, now we are hearing that Republicans intend to come to this body, Congress, to spend your hard-earned money and mine, American taxpayer money, to build a wall with Mexico. They are estimating \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

Well, do you know what? In comprehensive immigration reform, which I was proud to support last session, we had over \$40 billion for border security. So apparently Donald Trump is building one-quarter of the wall, all directly with deficit spending.

In comprehensive immigration reform, we not only paid for that border security, not only paid for that \$40 billion and required people who were here illegally to pay fines and register and get right with the law, it actually would reduce the budget deficit by over \$200 billion over 10 years.

So what we have is one-quarter of the wall and deficit spending with Donald Trump. With Democrats, four times the wall and reduce the deficit by \$200 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is obvious.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, a day we set aside to thank those who risk their lives to protect our communities nationwide.

These men and women are the hidden heroes of our country, and they deserve our respect and our gratitude. When they put on their badge and kiss their

family good-bye each day, these officers have no certainty that they will return home safely. They willingly face that risk to keep the rest of us safe.

This past year, 135 law enforcement officers made the ultimate sacrifice. One of those courageous individuals was our own Officer Scot Fitzgerald, who lost his life serving on duty with the South Jacksonville Police Department, located in my district.

Last night, throughout the Capitol, blue lights were lit to honor our heroes in blue. In my office, we lit our blue candle in remembrance of fallen Officer Scot Fitzgerald.

In 2016, more officers lost their lives on duty than in any of the previous 5 years. Let us show our admiration and appreciation to the sworn law enforcement officers across the State of Illinois and the 900,000 who serve and face danger in the United States every day. Not just this week, but throughout the year, we need to honor our law enforcement officials.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE BRUCE MOSIER

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I sadly rise today to pay tribute to Judge Bruce Mosier, who lost his life yesterday; to his lovely and beautiful wife, Diane; beautiful daughter; and extended family.

The whole of Harris County in Texas loved and respected Judge Bruce Mosier. Oh, he was a strong and vibrant Democrat, but he was a man that, whenever you called upon him, he would serve. He loved the law, practiced, and continued to represent individuals, many of whom could not help themselves. And, of course, he stood by his wife's side, championing every effort she made to empower people to vote. He was a stalwart in the last Presidential election. He continued to encourage and support all of us to do what is right and to ensure the rights of all people to vote.

Judge Bruce Mosier served his neighborhood, served his county, served his State, and served this Nation. I will miss Judge Mosier. I will miss his friendly smile and his kindness, his willingness to help those who were just starting in their political or legal career, his willingness to lift up this country and to be the kind of American that always had an open mind to anyone, no matter how different they might be.

So today, my dear friend, Judge Bruce Mosier, may you rest in peace.

Diane, we will continue to love you and honor his legacy, work with you to continue his dreams and aspirations, and encourage those in this Nation, our county, and our State to be participatory participants in the wonderment of democracy in this Nation that is, that was, Judge Bruce Mosier.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, the American people gave my party control of the entire Congress and the White House because of the promise-breaking, job-killing law known as ObamaCare—the craziest thing in the whole world, according to President Bill Clinton. The fearmongers on the other side are telling Americans they will lose their health care in a snap. They should talk to Martha.

Martha is a self-employed CPA who developed a nasty leukemia a couple of years ago. She was told to get ready for the end of her life. A miracle happened. Experimental treatment reduced her cancer from grade III to grade I. The drugs to save her life cost \$15,000 per month. On October 20, because of ObamaCare, she was told that she had to pay 50 percent of that cost instead of 30 percent. That is tough for her to afford.

Martha got to hold her fifth grandkid this past summer. House Republicans want her to hold her sixth and seventh grandkid in the future. We have our orders to repeal ObamaCare. It is time to go to work.

ELK COUNTY CATHOLIC STUDENTS PERFORM AT PEARL HARBOR

(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, I rise today to recognize seven Elk County Catholic High School band students who performed on December 7 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for the 75th anniversary of the tragic attacks that brought the United States into World War II. This anniversary marks one of the major milestones, which may be one of the few opportunities for survivors of the attacks to participate.

Elk County Catholic represented the Commonwealth, alongside the survivors of the USS Pennsylvania, one of the eight battleships in Pearl Harbor on that fateful day in 1941.

I am so proud of how the students paid tribute to World War II veterans who served at Pearl Harbor and all of the military men and women that fought for our Nation.

This event was especially close to the heart of baritone saxophone player, Luke Ferragine, whose grandfather is a World War II veteran. Also performing in the honor band was Emily Miller, Kendra Smithbauer, Holly Kim, Andrew Wingard, Simon Glatt, and Nathan Schlosser. Congratulations to each of them.