

have actually had to clean up the language so it is safe for daytime C-SPAN audiences.

So what is it about repeating the words of this particular President in the U.S. House of Representatives that the gentleman from Wisconsin feels is a violation of the rule?

Maybe it is the lies. I looked through the House rules, and I didn't see any section that said, Members, thou shalt not lie. No, Mr. Speaker, that wasn't in the House rules. But, clearly, repeating things that this President said means that you will be repeating lies, and it just goes with the territory.

There was the original lie as President, barely a few hours in office, saying that his crowd was the largest crowd in the history of Presidential inaugurations.

Then there was the one about the Muslim ban, which the President said was a Muslim ban; his key adviser, the former mayor of New York, said was a Muslim ban; his other key adviser, Stephen Miller, said was a Muslim ban; but which the White House tried to say was not, in fact, a Muslim ban because it didn't ban all Muslims.

Several Federal courts have agreed with the President that what he ordered was a Muslim ban and disagreed with the President's lawyer saying that it was not a Muslim ban.

But what about when the President said that he saw American Muslims celebrating in New Jersey on 9/11? We know that was a lie. Or that 3 million illegal votes were cast on election day, causing the President to lose the popular vote, which he had walked back from the claim originally that 3 million undocumented immigrants had voted on election day? In either case, it was a lie.

Then there is the illegal wiretapping ordered by the previous President of the United States, President Obama, on President-elect Trump, which certainly looks like a lie at this point.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am starting to wonder if repeating a lie that the President has told the American people is against the House rules. Or maybe it is accusing the President of lying that is, in the words of the subcommittee chairman, casting aspersions.

But let's take a look. Here is the definition of the verb "lie" from Webster's Dictionary: "to make an untrue statement with the intent to deceive; to create a false or misleading impression."

By those definitions, I would say I am on pretty solid ground, from a factual standpoint, that the President of the United States has told lies.

Water is wet, dogs have four legs, and President Trump tells lies. There may be exceptions, but basically all three are truthful statements.

Unless we are outlawing the truth in Congress, I think that pointing out lies by our President is not only within the rules, it is our moral obligation and duty as elected leaders of a free nation to point them out.

So then I am left to wonder, "What is it about repeating the President's

words that so upset the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin?" and I figured it out. It is upsetting to Republican Members of the House to hear the words of the President of the United States because they know they have to defend them as the leader of their party, and I can understand why that would make any human being very uncomfortable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The gentleman from Illinois is reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday the Nation celebrated Medal of Honor Day. This rarely celebrated holiday was designated by Congress in 1990 but only officially observed once, on March 25, 1991. I was pleased to see our most decorated war heroes honored last Friday during a ceremony at the White House.

The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor our Nation can bestow. According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, there have been 3,498 recipients, and 75 of those individuals are still living today.

Just last year, I was able to recognize one of Pennsylvania's very own Medal of Honor recipients, late Army Specialist Ross McGinnis. I assisted in naming a post office in Knox, Clarion County, for Specialist McGinnis, who died in December 2006 in Iraq. Specialist McGinnis was a native son of Knox, Pennsylvania.

While on patrol in eastern Baghdad on December 4, 2006, an unidentified insurgent positioned on a nearby rooftop threw a grenade into a Humvee carrying McGinnis and other troops. Specialist McGinnis threw his body on top of the grenade, absorbing all the fragments of the grenade with his own body and saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, another such hero, Foster Joseph Sayers, is from my hometown of Howard, Pennsylvania. He received the Medal of Honor for acts of bravery near Thionville, France, on November 12, 1944.

During an attack on strong hostile forces entrenched on a hill, he fearlessly ran up the steep approach towards his objective and then set up a machine gun 20 yards from the enemy. Realizing it would be necessary to attract full attention of the enemy while his company crossed an open area and flanked the enemy, he picked up the gun, charged through withering machine-gun and rifle fire to the very edge of the emplacement. He killed 12 German soldiers with devastating close-range fire.

He took up a position behind a log and engaged the hostile enemy from the flank in an heroic attempt to distract their attention while his comrades obtained their objective at the crest of the hill. He was killed by the very heavy concentration of return fire, but his fearless assault enabled his company to sweep the hill with minimum casualties, killing or capturing every enemy soldier on it.

Private First Class Sayers' indomitable fighting spirit, aggressiveness, and supreme devotion to duty live on as an example of the highest traditions of the military service for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Another heroic Medal of Honor recipient from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District is Private First Class Melvin L. Brown. Private First Class Brown earned the Medal of Honor for his bravery in the Korean war.

During an attack on his platoon's perimeter of defense, Private First Class Brown took his position on a retaining wall approximately 50 feet high. The enemy, superior in number, started climbing the wall just as Brown's last round of ammunition was expended, and he was wounded by enemy fire. His citation said: "Realizing the vital necessity for holding and without concern for his personal safety, though wounded and without his rifle, Brown continued to throw his few remaining hand grenades into the enemy, causing several casualties with each grenade. When his supply of grenades was depleted, his comrades from nearby foxholes commenced throwing grenades towards his position. On several occasions, the grenades were thrown short of his position. When this would occur, Brown would leave his position and retrieve the grenades, exposing himself to enemy rifle and machine-gun fire."

The enemy continued their climb, and Brown was able to knock 10 to 12 enemy troops from the wall, which served as an inspiration to his comrades and delayed the attack and enabled his platoon to repel the enemy. Brown was seriously injured and then died during that action.

Heroic acts for Pennsylvanians during times of war go back to the Civil War. The Medal of Honor, established by joint resolution of Congress on the 12th of July 1862, is awarded in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the armed services, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty.

A large percentage of Medal of Honor recipients during this time were actually awarded for action involving flags. One such Medal of Honor recipient from my hometown was Civil War Corporal Franklin Hogan, a member of Company A, Pennsylvania 45th Infantry. His citation was awarded on October 1, 1864, for the capture of the battle flag of the 6th Virginia Infantry.

Mr. Speaker, there are more Medal of Honor recipients from Pennsylvania's

Fifth Congressional District and throughout this proud Nation. Each one demonstrated personal bravery or self-sacrifice that warranted this extraordinary merit. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I salute all of our Medal of Honor recipients.

IMPROVE THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last week was an historic week in many respects.

My Republican colleagues have indicated, for 6 years, they wanted to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They introduced a bill which really did not accomplish that objective, but it did undermine, very severely, the protections and the opportunities that the Affordable Care Act provided our citizens. That bill did not come to a vote. Had it come to a vote, it would have lost very substantially.

Mr. Speaker, the proclamations last week by Republican leaders are that the Affordable Care Act will now remain in place. As PAUL RYAN, our Speaker, said on Friday: “ObamaCare is the law of the land.”

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The Affordable Care Act is, indeed, the law of the land. Mr. Speaker, I rise, however, in a deep concern that the Trump administration and its allies in Congress will take steps to undermine the law and weaken it, to the detriment of millions who will see their health care put at risk. In other words, in my view, they may well try to do indirectly what they could not do directly.

Let it be absolutely clear: Republicans control the White House, the Senate, and the House of Representatives. As a result, they are the governing party and will be responsible for anything that happens to our healthcare system on their watch.

Even without the passage of a repeal bill, the Trump administration's actions could fundamentally undermine the law and the stability of our healthcare system.

First and foremost, the Trump administration must commit to continuing payments for cost-sharing subsidies. We met with insurance companies yesterday to see whether or not the environment that was being created by the administration was undermining confidence so that it would undermine the ability to price the product that Americans need: healthcare insurance.

Cost-sharing payments, paid for and in the bill, are being put at risk by a suit that the Republicans in the House of Representatives have filed. They ought to withdraw that suit to give confidence to the system. We all know that confidence in markets is critically important. This is essential to preserving the affordability and accessi-

bility of health care for millions of Americans and to ensuring stability in health insurance markets.

The uncertainty around cost-sharing subsidies that has been perpetrated by the administration's silence on this issue, must come to an end. The administration has said the system will implode. It will only implode if they are forced to do so by the administration through executive action. Insurers are preparing to file rates as soon as next month in some States. Without a clear and public commitment from the administration, we could very well see premiums spike and insurers flee.

Americans have made their opinion pretty clear. They said: Do not do that. Do not undermine the system.

Second, already, President Trump has undermined that requirement through lax enforcement that the individual responsibility requirement—a Republican suggestion, a Heritage Foundation suggestion, a Romney-adopted policy in the State of Massachusetts—a premise of personal responsibility that is being undermined right now by the Trump administration. The individual responsibility requirement is vital to ensuring that those with preexisting conditions can be guaranteed coverage.

To my friends across the aisle who talk often about defending our Constitution, I would remind them that the President has sworn an oath to faithfully execute the laws of this Nation; not picking and choosing which ones he likes.

Third, the administration can—and I would suggest it should—encourage States that have not yet accepted expanded Medicaid to do so. It works. According to a 2016 report by the Department of Health and Human Services, in the expanded-Medicaid States, premiums were 7 percent lower on average.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday, the Republican-controlled Kansas State legislature—Republican Governor, Republican House, Republican Senate—sent a bill to the Governor that would expand the State's Medicaid program. Presumably, they made a judgment that was in the best interest of their State and the best interest of their people.

The Republican sponsor of the bill, State Senator Vicki Schmidt said: “I don't believe we can wait for D.C. They had an opportunity, and they didn't take it.”

So her response was, and the legislature's response has been: adopt Medicaid expansion.

We have heard a lot from Governors of both parties from States with expanded Medicaid, almost universally extolling the benefits that they provided, and urging Congress not to roll it back.

The Trump administration must recognize the importance of Medicaid expansion and support ongoing efforts in States like Kansas, Virginia, and Maine to do what is right for their people and their State.

Fourth, the Department of Health and Human Services, under Secretary Price, has a responsibility, a duty, an obligation to focus at least as much on outreach and enrollment, as did his predecessor, Secretary Burwell, to let people know what options they have, what opportunities they have, what protections they have, what securities they can achieve.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration, instead, intentionally sabotaged enrollment efforts in the final week, pulling media ads to let people know what they could sign up for, and ending other outreach programs.

This move resulted in half a million fewer people obtaining affordable coverage through the marketplaces—the first decline in the history of the law. Those people will be hurt because some of them are going to get sick. Some of them may have a catastrophic accident, and they will need insurance, and they will not have it because they did not get the information that they needed.

Now that the Affordable Care Act will continue to be the “law of the land,” to use words first spoken by former Speaker Boehner in 2012, the issue in 2012 was the Affordable Care Act—President Obama's probably crowning achievement. Republicans called it ObamaCare, derisively. We call it the Affordable Care Act, supported by President Obama.

After the 2012 election, Speaker Boehner said, well, we resolved that issue. The American people have voted to confirm a President whose principal law that was. But the Republicans kept trying to undermine it. They kept trying to say they wanted to repeal it. And now they have all of the power. They haven't done that.

Don't break it. If you couldn't do directly something, don't do it indirectly. Don't undermine the security of the American people indirectly; not through law.

So when open enrollment comes later this year, Mr. Speaker, it would be a dereliction of duty—let me repeat that: it would be a dereliction of duty—not to inform Americans to know how they can benefit under the law, what options they have for finding coverage at more affordable rates or through expanded Medicaid. Let there not be a dereliction of duty.

The larger point here, Mr. Speaker, is, as I have said, that Republicans cannot now simply throw up their hands and say: We failed to offer a viable alternative, and we will now, by action and inaction, by negligence and malfeasance, conspire to undermine the options that are available to the American people.

More than two-thirds of Americans have said that is not a responsible policy. The Affordable Care Act has brought protections and benefits to millions. Twenty million more people are insured in America. But now my Republican friends, who have no workable alternative, are in power; and it is