

healthy options to feed their families. He helped to spur a dramatic increase in the number of farmers markets accepting EBT cards, thereby allowing SNAP recipients greater access to fruits and vegetables while also supporting local farmers. He also oversaw the creation of USDA's Farm to School Program, an effort focused on incorporating local foods in our school meal programs.

During his tenure, we enacted the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, legislation that, for the first time in over 30 years, made much-needed improvements and increased access to our school meal programs.

Kevin oversaw our Nation's premier antihunger program, SNAP, as it provided millions of our neighbors with food assistance during the height of the Great Recession and the recovery that followed, and he has been a fearless advocate for the food and nutrition programs he oversees. When it comes to the nuances of SNAP or WIC or school meals, Kevin's knowledge and expertise is simply unmatched. He knows the issues impacting vulnerable families, and he is passionate about addressing hunger in this country.

Mr. Speaker, during the past several years, I have had the privilege to collaborate with and learn from Kevin as we worked to address hunger and food insecurity in the United States. I am particularly appreciative of the time he took away from his office in Washington to join me on two summer meal tours in my home State of Massachusetts. Together, we visited a number of schools, parks, camps, and community centers supported by USDA's Summer Food Service Program that ensures children and teens in low-income areas have access to healthy meals during the summer months.

I was always impressed by how he connected with my constituents and his passion for the work he does. He is, truly, a remarkable public servant, and he has made a real difference in the lives of millions and millions of people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Under Secretary Concannon's efforts on so many levels, but I especially appreciate all he has done to try to end hunger in our country. There are too many people in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, who are hungry; and, quite frankly, we could all do more in this Chamber.

Sadly, Congress too often in the past has voted in ways and advocated for policies that have actually made hunger worse in this country. In all candor, I am concerned about the future of some of these programs that provide food and nutrition to vulnerable citizens. I am concerned based on the rhetoric of leaders in this House of Representatives, and I am concerned by the rhetoric of the President-elect and his potential Cabinet. Time and time again, we have heard them talk about those in poverty with disdain and con-

tempt. We have heard them denigrate the plight of those struggling in this country. We have heard them belittle their struggle. Quite frankly, that is unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues to learn from Kevin Concannon, to be inspired by his example, and to do what we can all do together to try to end hunger now.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing his incredible accomplishments. We wish him well in his next chapter, but we will certainly miss his expertise and passion at FNS.

RESTORE THE PROMISES OF HIGH QUALITY OF CARE, LOWER PRICES, AND DOCTOR OF CHOICE

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, Texans know the difference between right and wrong, between truth and lie.

The Democrats promised four things when they passed ObamaCare: number one, you can keep your insurance; number two, you can keep your doctor; number three, you have a better quality of care; and number four, that care will come at a lower cost. Within weeks, we found out that all four promises were being broken; all four were lies.

But don't take my word for it. Take the word of the constituent from Texas 22, my boss Andrea Kulberg. Andrea writes:

I am a 42-year-old, legally blind, single parent in Sugar Land, self-employed, working very hard to rear two great kids, ages 15 and 13.

I have a master's degree in education and work extremely hard to provide a stable, comfortable life for my kids. In doing so, I have invested time and dollars into my own health care because the kids need me to be healthy.

I lost my right eye a few years ago to complications from ROP, too much oxygen at birth, and my left eye is severely impaired with potential for complications that would need immediate specialized care. I have different specialist doctors for different issues related to each eye.

Additionally, I am a cancer survivor, renal cancer, RCC, which also requires specialist follow-up. For these reasons and others, I have spent time and efforts to get drivers to take me to specialists for these specific positions.

Over the years, I have paid high healthcare premiums for this, usually around \$500 per month—that is crazy in itself—for a PPO to allow me freedom to keep my existing doctor. I paid these fees and sacrificed other luxuries in life so I could get the care I needed with the doctors I wanted. They are the best doctors in their respective fields, and my trust in them is important with this type of care.

I don't have the PPO option now for my health care in 2016 through the ACA. The HMOs and EPOs being offered are not being accepted by my doctors.

I am certain you have heard this as well, but I am writing to you anyway because it has to be said that among these needs of many others in similar situations as my own, my remaining eyesight and renal function should never be less important than

anything in politics. And while I know that there were many, many people in this same boat, for today, while I write this letter, it is about my kids getting to keep their mom and about me keeping the ability to see them grow up.

I know PPOs won't suddenly appear on healthcare.gov because I sent this email. I know this can't be immediately fixed. But I write because it needs to be said; it needs to be heard; it needs to be acted on.

I don't know the right actions that need to happen. I will leave that to your area of expertise. But I know the way it is now doesn't work.

In the past, I paid a lot and had my share of insurance issues, but at least I could still choose my own doctor. At least in a crisis, which I have had, I went straight to the doctor who knew me and my history and could resolve it without a referral and delay after delay.

HMOs might work for some, but not for those who don't want one. Letters to a Congressman are supposed to be more formal, but seriously, what country are we in?

I am not asking for a handout. I am asking for a reasonable choice of a basic PPO, which I have paid for in the past and am asking to have the option to pay for now.

I am not just writing to vent. I am asking for some sort of solution through this train wreck of healthcare options or lack thereof.

If President Obama thinks this is actually working, then he is more blind than me. And that is as nice as I can be now.

Thanks for hearing me out and for looking for solutions that impact real lives.

Respectfully, Andrea Kulberg.

Mr. Speaker, I don't care if you are a Democrat or Republican. Hear Andrea's words—act. Let's rescue Andrea from ObamaCare and restore the promises of quality of care, high quality of care, lower price, doctor of choice.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REPEAL AND REPLACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to share the story of Judith and her daughter KC.

Like all mothers, Judith only wants the best for her children—to live a full and purposeful life, the ability to pursue their dreams and reach their utmost potential. However, at a very young age of 11, KC was formally diagnosed with bipolar disorder. This health condition causes KC to have uncontrollable mood swings, to perceive reality differently, to see and hear things that aren't there, and to sometimes even become disconnected with reality altogether.

It has taken an enormous emotional and physical toll on KC and her family.

As a mom of two kids, I cannot imagine the difficulties that Judith has faced. Some nights, Judith had to hold her daughter tightly all night long to help her through her psychosis and her panic, not to mention the emergency hospitalizations.

Living with this condition has been a lifelong struggle for KC and for her

family. It requires a combination of daily medications, weekly psychiatric treatments, hospital visits, and constant support and medical care. And that is only half the story.

Without this intensive treatment, KC would simply be unable to function. With it, she has the tools she needs to live a healthy and productive life.

When KC was younger, she was covered by a family healthcare policy, but even then, Judith needed to pinch pennies and barely scrape by due to the high cost of insurance co-pays and deductibles, costing her \$13- to \$15,000 per month. To try to keep up with her never ending medical bills, Judith used all of her retirement savings.

When KC reached adulthood, she was bumped off the family insurance plan. Fortunately, KC qualified for healthcare coverage through the ACA Medicaid expansion. Without it, she and her family would have had no viable alternative.

The ACA provided KC with access to reliable, consistent medical care that has been vital to her well-being and has allowed her to thrive.

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I am very happy to share that KC finished her bachelor's degree in May and is now pursuing her master's in counseling psychology.

With her own struggles as her inspiration, she decided to make psychology her life's work, and Judith says that KC is now the person whom everybody goes to anytime one has a problem or needs comfort.

Without the healthcare coverage that KC obtained from the Affordable Care Act, she would never have been able to obtain private health insurance due to her preexisting conditions and rigorous health needs. With the Affordable Care Act, Judith was able to see her daughter realize her dreams.

I know all of you who are parents want the same for your children; so, when I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about eliminating KC's healthcare coverage, I get a pit at the bottom of my stomach. This is not about politics; this is about people's lives. This is about KC's life and Judith's life and the lives of 20 million Americans who have gained healthcare coverage because of the Affordable Care Act.

Today, I rise to speak up for KC and for Judith and for the millions of other Americans whose lives would be put in jeopardy if we repeal the ACA without our having an adequate replacement.

I urge my Republican colleagues to reconsider this reckless repeal that would throw our entire healthcare system into chaos and take lifesaving care away from those who need it the most.

HOUSE MEMBERS ATTEND 101ST PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate an industry that allows Americans to have access to affordable, high-quality, and safe food—the agriculture industry: our farmers, our ranchers, farm families. Without food security, we do not have national security; so I am here today to recognize all of those who work so hard in that industry.

Over the weekend, some members of the House Agriculture Committee were able to join me in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, our State capital, to attend the 101st annual Pennsylvania Farm Show. This event has been widely attended for generations, and it is the largest indoor agriculture expo in the country. It showcases 300 commercial exhibits, 6,000 heads of animal, 10,000 competitive exhibits, and more than a half a million visitors.

On Saturday, Agriculture Committee Chairman MIKE CONAWAY and I hosted a public listening session. We wanted Members of Congress to hear directly from farmers and ranchers, from FFA members, from kids in 4-H—the future of agriculture—on how agriculture policy impacts them.

I thank the following Members who were able to join us at the farm show: Congressman MARK AMODEI, Congressman LOU BARLETTA, Congressman TOM MARINO, Congressman DAN NEWHOUSE, and Congressman TED YOHO.

We covered a range of topics, Mr. Speaker, during our public forum, from raising awareness about agriculture education, to hearing very real concerns from our dairy farmers, to receiving an update from our forest industry about the best ways to strengthen forest management. As chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, this was of particular interest to me.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show, which continues throughout this week, brings together so many different farmers and growers and ranchers, all with unique issues. This, truly, is an event like no other. The Farm Show Complex and Expo Center houses 24 acres under one roof, spread throughout 11 buildings, including three arenas. There is no admission fee. It is a great event for the entire family, and there are numerous educational shows that are, obviously, all free of charge.

This year's theme is "Our Commonwealth's Blue Ribbon Experience." It reminds us that there really is something for everyone, farmers and non-farmers alike. The Pennsylvania Farm Show provides an atmosphere for everyone to walk through, observe, and educate themselves about different areas of agriculture and to be able to reconnect with the farm—the Commonwealth's largest industry, which brings in nearly \$6.9 billion annually in agricultural cash receipts. Almost a half million jobs are tied to the industry, which positively impacts all Pennsylvanians.

Undoubtedly, one of the most popular attractions at the Pennsylvania Farm

Show is the food court, which is located in the complex. The food court offers visitors a variety of Pennsylvania preferred products, and it generates income to support the nonprofit Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodity Organizations. There is where you will find the famous Farm Show baked potatoes.

The Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc., is the oldest in the United States, chartered in 1922. The money raised during the week helps to support the marketing and the promotion of Pennsylvania potatoes. Money is also used to pay the dues for Pennsylvania growers to belong to national potato organizations, fund research projects, and promotional opportunities for Pennsylvania's growers. Our delegation was able to stop by and sample some of the well-known potato doughnuts.

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association is also on hand at the expo. This service organization provides scholarships, youth programs, and agricultural education programs across the Commonwealth. It also maintains the milk house facilities that are located in the farm show complex. The Dairymen rely on the revenues that are generated during the farm show to fund their activities, including a statewide fresh milk program, called Fill a Glass with Hope. All of their activities are bolstered with the sales of milkshakes, milk and chocolate milk, ice cream sundaes, grilled cheese sandwiches, ice cream cones, and my favorite—fried cheese cubes.

Over a century ago, the first Pennsylvania Farm Show was a 3-day exhibit. Today, the event is a weeklong celebration of how the agriculture industry touches our lives every day. If you pick up a fork, a spoon, or a knife, you are touched by agriculture. Proudly, this event draws visitors from across the country to highlight everything our State has to offer when it comes to agriculture.

As the 115th Congress begins to address the next farm bill, listening sessions like the one that we hosted Saturday will continue to be critically important. Policy that is based on discussion within the vacuum—the beltway—of Washington usually fails and falters. When we open it up to the people who are impacted, we get the best policy. If you are looking for the best agriculture expo in the country, head to Harrisburg this week.

MEETING THE THRESHOLD OF UN-AMERICAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, what is more important than being the President of the United States? For all of us here, that is a no-brainer; but, each day, I find myself asking that of the President-elect.