

OBAMACARE HAS NOT BEEN AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare has been a disaster for Arizonans. My home State of Arizona has been hit the hardest. Premiums in Arizona for many have increased over 100 percent, and providers have fled the State, leaving some counties with one provider and little options for healthcare insurance.

ObamaCare must be repealed. In fact, there is no constitutional authority given to the Federal Government to take over our healthcare system. These issues are, in fact, best left to the States to manage.

I am advocating for a complete repeal of ObamaCare as soon as possible, with a transition period of no longer than 24 months.

The approach I am suggesting will remove government from between patients and their doctors. Our alternative will encourage competition, which will in turn lead to lower costs to all Americans, but in particular, Arizonans.

I remain committed to seeing this happen.

UNION CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. Sires. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Union City Public Schools for their outstanding achievements.

Having come to the United States from Cuba as a child, I experienced the challenges of assimilating into a new community firsthand. As the representative of one of our Nation's most diverse districts, many of my constituents experience these challenges every day. Giving immigrants the tools they need to succeed is not only beneficial to our country, it is sound policy.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Union City Public Schools ‘have become a model for ushering low-income English-language learners into the mainstream.’

With a student body that is 95 percent Hispanic, one of the keys to Union City Public Schools’ success is their English as a second language program and their early childhood programming. The programming has become a model for educators in the U.S. and as far away as Europe. Graduation rates have also increased by nearly 10 percent, in just 2 years, in the district.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a school district that has made tremendous strides in easing the transition of immigrant youth into our society and become the foundation of success for thousands of children and young adults.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLE FOR LIFE

(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 commend the efforts of People for Life, a non-profit in Erie County, Pennsylvania, that is dedicated to educating and promoting right-to-life causes in northwestern Pennsylvania.

This organization hosts several events throughout the year to bring together people of the pro-life community. People for Life organizes an annual bus trip to participate in the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., and it also hosts its own March for Life in Erie.

For nearly four decades, People for Life has hosted a Pro-Life Breakfast that highlights the sanctity of human life in all phases and conditions. Attendees can hear stories of love, courage, and victory through God's mercy and grace.

I thank People for Life for all the work it has done in Erie and northwestern Pennsylvania on this topic of such great importance. They work to save lives through education and love. They recognize how sacred each human life is and fully understand the need to protect the most vulnerable. They are a voice for the voiceless. I am deeply grateful for their work.

WE MUST STRENGTHEN FLIGHT SAFETY MEASURES

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, nearly 8 years ago, western New Yorkers watched in horror as Continental flight 3407 crashed, tragically ending the lives of those on board. Since then, the families of those lost have turned their grief into a relentless fight to strengthen pilot training and flight safety rules.

Today, the families of flight 3407 are in attendance at the Senate nomination hearing for the new Secretary of Transportation. Their presence is an urgent reminder that the work of Congress and the administration still remains to be done.

In 2010, Congress passed landmark flight safety legislation with the families of 3407 leading the charge. Since then, there have been nearly 8 years of no fatal commercial crashes on domestic U.S. airlines. Now the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization is on the horizon, and we must further strengthen flight safety measures.

It is essential that we continue to stand alongside the families of flight 3407 and fight attempts to roll back pilot training and safety provisions. We must not forget those we lost nearly 8 years ago and do all that is possible to prevent another tragedy of this kind.

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TRADE IS A TWO-WAY STREET

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, some people have expressed concern that President-elect Trump will start a trade war if he gets tough on trade. But what they are not admitting, or perhaps it has never occurred to them, is that we have been in a trade war for many years, and we have been losing.

China has followed a China-first policy for years to their great benefit, while we have sent millions of good jobs to other countries and several million of our young people now can find jobs only in restaurants.

With only 4 percent of the world's population, we buy 21.7 percent of the world's goods. We used to buy about 25 percent, but we have more competition around the world now as most countries are trying to move away from socialism while we seemingly move toward it. But we still have tremendous leverage on trade that we have not used because every country wants desperately into our markets.

We need to negotiate trade deals that will create more jobs in this country. We need, Mr. Speaker, to tell foreign leaders that we want to buy things from them, but they need to start buying from us, too. Friendship is a two-way street.

DON'T MAKE AMERICA SICK AGAIN

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that 22 million Americans would lose their health insurance if the Republican bill from last Congress becomes law. Let's don't make America sick again.

There should be no repeal of health reform without an immediate, adequate replacement that achieves the same historic goals in coverage, ensures people with preexisting conditions aren't blocked or priced out of the market, and that plans cover a basic set of benefits and consumer protections.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act without a replacement in place will cause chaos. Millions will lose coverage; the individual insurance market will be in shambles; doctors, hospitals, and States will lose billions; and the economy will be hurt. Without health insurance, people with chronic diseases will lose care and become sicker.

Every major law that Congress has passed needs oversight and revision to make sure it is as effective as intended. Congress can amend any law, but doing so in a way that will cause 22 million of the newly insured people to be without health insurance is just wrong.

I urge my colleagues to stop working against the health of American people. We should not be making America sick again.

RECOGNIZING MACY MAINE AND HANNAH MASON, INSPIRATIONAL ROLE MODELS

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two southern Arizona young women for their achievements and for serving as role models in their communities. Macy Maine, a senior at Buena High School, and Hannah Mason, a senior at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, were recently given the 2016 Brilliant, Beautiful and Bold Role Model Award from the Girls Rule Foundation. The award recognizes only a handful of young women across the State who are making a difference.

Macy was given the award for her active engagement in the community. She represented her high school as an American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State delegate, is an All-American cheerleader, and represented her city at the Power Up Teen Leadership Conference. She is a frequent volunteer and hopes to enter public service.

Hannah has been a selfless leader for her family and community. After a car accident took the life of her father and severely injured her older sister, Hannah stepped up to care for her family. She helped her sister through multiple surgeries while continuing to excel at school and remain active in the community. She hopes to enter medical school one day.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate both Macy and Hannah for being inspirational role models to their peers and wish them the best of luck as they continue to pursue their dreams.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF COLONEL HOWARD MERRITT STEELE, JR.

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Colonel Howard Merritt Steele, Jr.

Colonel Steele was the epitome of a soldier. He loved his family, his country, his God, the Army, and West Point. He attended the prestigious Peekskill Military Academy, Yale University, and the United States Military Academy.

Colonel Steele fought in Korea, where he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action. He received the Bronze Star for his service as a rifle company commander. After the war, he was company commander in the 3rd Infantry, The Old Guard, at Fort Myer, Virginia; two tours in Vietnam; Commander of the 54th Infantry Battalion; and a graduate of the Army War College.

Colonel Steele's awards include three Bronze Stars, Meritorious Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, three Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and a number of other service and foreign medals.

He is survived by Dotsie, his beloved wife of 65 years; his son, Howard Merritt Steele, IV; two daughters, Cynthia Steele Vance and Susan Steele; and six adoring grandchildren.

Colonel Steele, you led a long, brave, generous life of service to others—a soldier's soldier. Your legacy is a growing family who basked in your love and a country just and free.

STAND UP FOR LIFE

(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, this weekend, I was grateful to participate in the Stand Up for Life March and Rally in Columbia, hosted by the South Carolina Citizens for Life during a rare snowstorm.

I appreciated hearing remarks from Evangelist Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a dedicated pro-life activist. I was also grateful to attend the grand opening of Daybreak, a crisis pregnancy center, hosted by Director Brennan Aschleman.

I thank Lisa Van Riper, president of South Carolina Citizens for Life, with Holly Gatling and Brenda Cerkez for organizing such a meaningful event. I was grateful to participate, as well, with Bishop Robert Guglielmone of Charleston and the Knights of Columbus led by Thomas Monahan.

Pro-life voters have made a difference with all statewide officials, both U.S. Senators and six U.S. Members of Congress supporting pro-life initiatives, along with super majorities in the State house and senate. I was grateful to begin this new Congress by being an original cosponsor of H. Res. 354 to provide for a moratorium on Federal funding to Planned Parenthood, which has disgracefully sold baby body parts.

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

MISSION STATEMENT OF A NEW MEMBER

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for my first statement from the House floor, honored and humbled to serve as the Representative from New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District. I vow to work tirelessly on their behalf.

We are all tired of Washington's partisanship, and I will work across the aisle, whenever possible, to get things

done. New Jersey families and businesses are struggling with high taxes and not seeing good return on investment for the hard-earned tax dollars they send to Washington each year.

I will work to bring those dollars home to fight domestic terror, deal with opioid abuse, improve our schools, and fix our crumbling roads and bridges. I will work to bring good-paying jobs back to New Jersey and keep them there, to lower our taxes, cut wasteful spending and unnecessary regulations, and ensure every tax dollar is used wisely.

I will stand up for New Jersey values, ensuring that women, minorities, and the LGBT community are always treated with respect. I will have the backs of our veterans, law enforcement, firefighters, and all first responders. I will stand with Israel, ensure our children have clean drinking water, and stand up for equal pay and a woman's right to choose. I will work for everyone in the District.

Working together, I believe our best days will always be ahead of us.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, which was observed this week in honor of the contributions countless men and women in uniform have made to keep our communities safe and secure.

This year's observance was particularly difficult for our Kansas community. Over the last year, three police officers in my district made the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty. Brad Lancaster, Dave Melton of Kansas City, and Brandon Collins of Overland Park each lost their lives while protecting our community.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is a day to remember them and to honor the men and women who remain in the field each day keeping our children and families safe. They are the ones who run into danger when others run away. They are the true heroes, and we should always regard them as such. It is also a day to honor the United States Capitol Police to keep Congress, our staff, and our visitors in this very Chamber safe.

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget the service and sacrifice of our law enforcement officers, and let us continue to honor them with the gratitude and respect they deserve.

THANKING PRESIDENT OBAMA FOR THE CLARITY OF HIS MORAL LEADERSHIP, FOR HIS GRACE, AND HIS CLASS

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