

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE AT CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA FOOD BANK

(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, on Monday, I will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, legacy by volunteering my time to help veterans in my community. Congressman SCOTT PERRY of Pennsylvania's Fourth District and I will be at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg to pack boxes for the MilitaryShare program.

MilitaryShare is a program that serves fresh, nutritious meals to families with at least one member who has served in the military. This program assists area veterans and their families to ensure they do not go hungry.

Our veterans have numerous needs when they leave the military, and many of them are life-threatening challenges as a result of combat such as post-traumatic stress injury. When we help meet the nutritional needs of military families, it allows them to focus on other pressing issues such as joblessness or treatment for combat-related health issues.

MilitaryShare serves more than 4,000 households in central Pennsylvania, which translates to about 10,000 people a month.

Mr. Speaker, to serve one's country is a noble and selfless act. The very least we can do is to help our veterans transition to civilian life when they return home.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH AND YOUTH MENTORS ACROSS THE NATION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Mentoring Month and in honor of the youth mentors across Rhode Island and the Nation.

Every day, mentors enrich the lives of young people. They are powerful role models who provide essential support for at-risk youth.

Just some of examples of the powerful impact that mentors have in the life of young people are that vulnerable young people with mentors are more likely to enroll in college and volunteer more regularly than their peers. They are 46 percent less likely to start using drugs and 52 percent less likely to skip school.

They are also more likely to develop self-confidence, form healthy relationships, and cultivate productive habits.

Organizations like the Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership and Big Brothers Big Sisters lead the way in the Ocean State. Organizations like this and mentors across the country are im-

proving our communities one child at a time, and I am proud to honor them as we recognize National Mentoring Month this January 2017. I encourage more people to step forward and serve as mentors and make a difference in the lives of young people.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DESIGNATE THE IRGC AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. It funds and controls terrorists groups like Hezbollah. Its tentacles stretch all over the world, far beyond the Middle East.

Many of its activities are done through the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has funded, planned, and executed terrorist attacks in the United States and elsewhere for decades.

The IRGC is the parent organization of the Quds Force and is directly responsible for its terrorist activities worldwide. But somehow this group has managed to escape repercussions, and the United States has never recognized it as a terrorist organization. I am working to change that.

This week I introduced the IRGC Terrorist Sanctions Act. This bill will require the President to designate the IRGC for its terrorist activity and levy the relevant statutory sanctions against it.

It is time to close loopholes like these that allow terrorist-affiliated groups to continue their reign of terror. Designate and sanction these terrorist groups that are sponsored by the number one world state sponsor of terrorism, Iran.

And that is just the way it is.

SHAM AND SCAM

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans just voted to begin the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Their misguided and heartless effort will not just affect thousands of insurance policies in Nevada, but it will cost the State jobs, it will diminish access to health care, and it will jeopardize lives.

Nevada had one of the highest uninsured rates in the country before the ACA. Since then, we have cut the rate by almost 50 percent, and we have created a system that now provides 400,000 children and adults with coverage. But Trump and the congressional Republicans don't want to hear about that.

Make no mistake, when they voted to repeal the ACA, they are revoking vital programs that offer cancer screenings and mental health assistance. They are rescinding provisions that prevent insurance companies from charging

women more than men, or from denying benefits because of preexisting conditions.

This is unconscionable. Instead of repeal and replace, the Republicans should just call their proposal "destroy and delay," or perhaps just simply "scam and sham."

RUSSIAN THREAT TO U.S. DEMOCRACY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the freedom to live in a democratic society with freedom of speech, assembly, press, and religion are rights Americans hold most precious.

Not so in Putin's Russia. Putin's Russia brutally invaded Ukraine in 2013, resulting, to date, in over 10,000 war dead, with millions of displaced persons. The war grinds on.

Dozens and dozens of Putin's critics in the press have ended up dead, murdered for expressing their views. In 2015, Boris Nemstov, about to lead an assembly in favor of Ukrainian independence in Moscow, was murdered on the stairs near the Kremlin.

Georgiy Gondgadze, editor of the news Website Ukrayinska Pravda, featured critical articles about Putin ally Leonid Kuchma. He disappeared in the year 2000, and his headless body was discovered in a forest more than 40 miles from home.

Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian journalist, was murdered in the elevator of her block of flats in 2006.

And Paul Klebnikov, an American, who was chief editor of the Russian edition of Forbes, was killed in 2004, likely by hired assassins.

All dead, no investigations, no justice. This is Putin's Russia.

President-elect Trump best be very wary of whom he showers praise upon, for the cock is crowing too close to home.

COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010. This Thursday marked 7 years since a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, killing Haiti's population center and the seat of its government.

The aftermath of the quake was unimaginable. 316,000 people perished, and 1.3 million were displaced. This tragedy struck a nation already hobbled by grinding poverty, health disparities, and food insecurity. Approximately 147,000 people remain internally displaced in Haiti, with countless others displaced outside IDP camps.

The world and the American people, though, responded to the earthquake with generosity. To date, the United States has contributed billions to recovery efforts, along with donors from around the world.

The Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, which was a bipartisan effort with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and was signed into law 3 years ago, provides us critical oversight to ensure that aid continues in the most effective way possible.

Unfortunately, more work needs to be done. Haiti continues to be struck by natural disasters, including severe drought and devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

WE ARE MAKING A MISTAKE IF
WE REPEAL OBAMACARE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act has improved the health care and financial security of every American, regardless of where he or she gets health insurance.

Healthcare costs have been growing at the slowest rate in more than 50 years. Seniors in the so-called Medicare doughnut hole have saved more than \$23 billion on their prescription drugs. Every American woman can rest easier knowing that women are no longer charged more than men for the same coverage. And 137 million Americans with private insurance now receive free preventive services.

Despite this remarkable progress, the majority has made it their mission to destroy the Affordable Care Act, no matter the cost, and those costs would extend far beyond the healthcare system.

A recent report found that repeal would cause just New York to lose more than 130,000 jobs in 2019 alone.

The Affordable Care Act has reduced the burden of healthcare costs for hard-working families not only in New York, but across the Nation; and it is those Americans for whom repeal would be so devastating.

We are making a mistake if we repeal ObamaCare.

□ 1600

SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I stood in the well of this House some days ago, when I was sworn in, and basically said that I am not naive.

Today, I rise in support of the Affordable Care Act and oppose any effort to repeal it, which just took place. Since the ACA was enacted in 2010, the uninsured rate in Pennsylvania has fallen by 37 percent. Additionally, millions

more Pennsylvanians, who would otherwise be uninsured, have coverage with an employer, Medicaid, individual market, or Medicare coverage as a result of the new protections provided by the law.

No matter what lens you look through, Pennsylvanians and individuals throughout our Nation have better health coverage and care today as a result of the ACA. Let us keep moving forward and help our communities have healthcare access, quality, and affordability.

Recently, our Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Wolf, sent a letter to Majority Leader KEVIN McCARTHY to underscore the importance of furthering access to care, keeping prices affordable and spending in check, and improving health care for those in our home State of Pennsylvania.

Just in Pennsylvania alone, we have had over 670,000 individuals who have enrolled in HealthChoices, Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care Medicaid program. That is 670,000 individuals who previously did not have access to quality of care.

We do not need the rhetoric of repeal and replace.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Harrisburg, PA, December 20, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN McCARTHY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN McCARTHY: Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the critically important conversation about the future of health care in our country. As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am immensely proud of the work we have done to further access to care, keep prices affordable and spending in check, and improve health outcomes since my administration began tackling health care as a top priority.

One of my first decisions as Governor was to expand Medicaid to individuals up to 138 percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Since that decision was made in February 2015, more than 670,000 individuals have enrolled in HealthChoices, Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care Medicaid program. That's 670,000 Pennsylvanians that previously did not have access to quality care, if they had access to care at all. Total program enrollment now tops 2.8 million Pennsylvanians. U.S. Census data shows that the commonwealth's uninsured rate has dropped from 10.2 percent in 2010 to 6.4 percent in 2015, and state General Fund costs have been reduced by more than \$500 million as a result of Medicaid expansion.

Even before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid was the largest single payer in the United States for behavioral health services, including mental health and substance use services. In the midst of an exploding heroin use and opioid abuse epidemic that is gripping Pennsylvania and the nation, the role that Medicaid plays in addressing this epidemic cannot be understated. More than 3,500 Pennsylvanians died from heroin and opioid-related overdoses last year and that number is expected to rise again in 2016. However, in the first year of Pennsylvania's Medicaid expansion, almost 63,000 newly eligible Medicaid enrollees accessed drug and alcohol treatment. Demands on the treatment system are growing by the day but Medicaid expansion has opened the door to treatment that otherwise would not be available, much less affordable, to those without insurance.

Of course, the benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are not limited to those with Medicaid. The ACA has had far-reaching positive impacts on every community in Pennsylvania. In 2016, more than 439,000 people had selected health coverage through the Marketplace.

Seventy six percent of those Pennsylvanians received subsidies to make those plans more affordable. In 2016, 60 percent of those enrollees could obtain coverage for \$100 or less after tax credits. For a family, that may be the difference between choosing to pay for food for dinner or having stable health insurance. In addition, several pieces of the ACA, including the provision that allows children to remain on their parents' insurance until age 26 and the provision that requires coverage of pre-existing conditions, have made the benefits of health insurance coverage more enticing than ever before.

Nonprofits that have historically served as the safety nets of our health care system saw some relief with the passage of the ACA. For many, this meant they could finally bill for some of the services that they've typically provided for free for individuals who are uninsured. To shift the burden back on to these providers to serve an enormous influx of people who would lose access to insurance under an ACA repeal is doing a disservice to our nonprofit partners and our communities. The upheaval would be instant and real and would devastate families that have finally been able to set aside health coverage from their list of daily worries.

I respectfully ask that you carefully consider the needs of the people as you move forward with discussions about the future of the ACA. All too often we get swept up in the politics and financial impacts to large businesses and big political donors and forget that these are real people, who suffer from real diseases and every day maladies. Americans need real, meaningful health care coverage. They need options that are affordable, easy to understand, responsive to their needs, and available immediately—with no lapse in coverage. They need leadership and compassion and solutions—and together, we can provide them with all of those things.

I look forward to future conversations. Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this incredibly important dialogue.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF,
Governor.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. CRAWFORD, Arkansas
Mr. GOWDY, South Carolina
Ms. STEFANIK, New York

OATH OF OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, given that last week I took the oath of