

others because of their sense of duty to America.

I thank all members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for never forgetting and never for one second taking for granted the price paid by our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsman.

May God bless the work they are doing.

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that we think about the over 5 million Americans, including thousands of Floridians and nearly half a million American veterans, who are living with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Alzheimer's is the only one of the top 10 causes of death that cannot be prevented, cannot be cured, and cannot be slowed. As the sixth leading cause of death in Florida, and with so many affected by this incurable disease, we have to continue to stress the importance of early diagnosis and the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses.

But awareness is never enough. As a member of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I am determined to make progress for all those affected. We must act proactively to achieve breakthroughs in prevention and treatment. We also have to act to ensure that those who currently have Alzheimer's have the tools that are needed to manage their symptoms, reduce pain, and increase comfort.

Nearly half of all people with Alzheimer's and other dementias are in hospice care at the time of their passing, but less than half of nursing homes have some sort of palliative care program. For people with advanced dementia, palliative care improves their quality of life, controls costs, and enhances both patient and family satisfaction.

As the demand for this kind of care grows with the aging population, more has to be done to ensure that there is a workforce equipped to provide that care. That is why I recently signed onto the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, a bipartisan bill that will help our Nation's seniors who are struggling with the effects of Alzheimer's.

I have spoken to a few Members in this House who have not been touched by this serious illness in one way or another. Whether they have been impacted personally, supported a loved one during a tough time, or prayed for a friend who needed help, we all know how difficult that situation is.

This is a great bill. I urge my fellow colleagues to think back to that person that they have known and how much this could have benefited them.

Mr. Speaker, let us take some decisive action to help patients with Alzheimer's and their families. Let's pass this bill.

DON'T REPEAL ACA

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend who just spoke, if he wants to do something for Alzheimer's, don't pass the Senate Republican healthcare bill. It would devastate Medicaid and Alzheimer's victims who rely on Medicaid service.

Ensuring that every American has access to high-quality and affordable healthcare is the most important and enduring challenge, arguably, facing our Nation today. Ironically, we are closer than ever before to achieving that goal.

Since the Affordable Care Act was adopted, more than 20 million previously uninsured Americans have gained quality coverage. In fact, we have reduced the uninsured rate to the lowest level ever recorded. Americans no longer face punitive annual and lifetime limits, and they no longer have the fear of having their inadequate health insurance cut off if they dare get sick. Insurance companies can no longer refuse to cover Americans who suffer preexisting conditions, which is the case for tens of millions of Americans.

The Affordable Care Act has been the difference between life and death for adults who have been locked out of the system for years, for sick children who have reached their lifetime limits before they can even leave the hospital where they were born, for families bankrupted by a cancer diagnosis, and for everyday Americans that will require expensive treatments for the rest of their lives due to a chronic illness or accident.

The Republican effort to repeal this bill is a unilateral retreat from the progress made under the Affordable Care Act and from President Trump's own promise that there would be "insurance for everybody." I guess there was a footnote: except for 23 million.

This promise made by the President is not the only falsehood perpetrated by many of my friends on the other side of the aisle about the Affordable Care Act. Here are three more:

Falsehood number one: Republicans say costs are out of control.

The truth is, since the Affordable Care Act became law, healthcare costs have grown at the slowest rate in 50 years. That is right, the slowest rate in 50 years, and considerably below the decade preceding the adoption of the act. Republicans conveniently ignore the fact that, under their own repeal plan, their premiums would go up an average of 64 percent.

Falsehood number two: Republicans claim the Affordable Care Act is in a death spiral.

Well, this would come as news to the Congressional Budget Office, Standard & Poor's, and the American Academy of Actuaries, all of whom have concluded that the Affordable Care Act's individual markets are stable and

could continue to improve, except, of course, for Republicans talking it down.

Falsehood number three: Republicans say that insurers are fleeing the markets and consumers will have no choice.

The truth is the Affordable Care Act is not imploding, but Republicans have certainly tried to sow dysfunction and destroy the individual markets. In some places, they have succeeded. They have resorted to sabotaging the individual markets to fulfill their own false narrative. They killed the risk corridors that stabilized those markets and have used riders and must-pass spending bills to undermine premium stabilization programs.

This has resulted in huge losses to some insurers, causing them to pull out of markets, understandably, and to increase premiums when they otherwise would not have. Ironically, the same premium stabilization programs that the Republicans have attacked since 2014 are actually in their own repeal bill.

The Trump administration has refused to commit to making the cost-sharing reduction payments that lower out-of-pocket costs for consumers. That has caused premiums to go up. Without those payments, Americans will see premiums increase by an average of 19 percent.

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One Blue Cross Blue Shield executive noted the premium increases would be 8 percent if the cost-sharing reduction payments were guaranteed.

Other insurers have explicitly stated that their participation is contingent on those payments. Threatening not to make those payments, of course, undermines the system.

Those payments are not the only aspect of ObamaCare the Trump administration has sabotaged. They have also disrupted enrollment in individual markets by refusing to enforce the individual mandate, by cutting the open enrollment period in half, and by refusing to promote the enrollment itself on television.

Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration have chosen sabotage and repeal over bipartisan cooperation to fix that which is not working. I would propose we work in a bipartisan fashion, and I have three ideas.

First, introduce a public option to increase competition in marketplaces; second, we can implement premium stabilization programs in order to keep premiums affordable for everybody; and third, we can increase premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies to lower costs and boost enrollment for middle class Americans. That is the bipartisan solution to healthcare, not a reckless repeal effort that will deny 23 million of our fellow Americans access to healthcare.

BRUCE HERSCHENSOHN BIRTHDAY
WISHES

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

Mr. McCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our Nation's greatest conservative minds and most eloquent voices, Bruce Herschensohn of California, on the occasion of his upcoming birthday.

I am told he is opposed to keeping an exact count of birthdays, either that or he has simply lost track, but it is a significant milestone and one for which his friends are grateful and his country is fortunate.

He served our Nation and the free peoples of the world in the U.S. Information Agency during the Cold War. Anyone who saw and was inspired by the classic tribute, "John F. Kennedy: Years of Lightning, Day of Drums," has Bruce Herschensohn to thank. He went on to serve President Nixon as both speechwriter and adviser.

Anyone who lived in southern California in the late 1970s or the 1980s will remember Bruce's incisive nightly commentaries on KABC-TV and his decisive debates with John Tunney. I can tell you that they fundamentally shaped my thinking and animated my career, and I often encounter others throughout the country who trace their political roots back to his nightly conservative homilies.

Through the darkest days of the Carter malaise, Herschensohn became a beacon of hope, helping to pave the way for the Reagan Revolution. He marshaled the self-evident truths of the American founding and introduced them to a new generation that was losing its memory of them. He connected the dots between freedom and its importance to the prosperity and happiness of our society and the stability of our world. He helped lay the foundation for the Reagan administration on the Presidential transition team.

If he had had any knack or inclination for raising money, he would have served many years in the United States Senate, and both California and the Nation would have been infinitely better for it.

He was one of the earliest voices to raise the alarm over Islamist terrorism and has been one of the strongest defenders of the State of Israel through all its travails and challenges of the past half-century.

But I believe his greatest influence is through the thousands of students who have had the good fortune to study under his tutelage at the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy for more than a decade. The full measure of his contributions to our Nation will be measured over the many years to come as his students take their place in shaping our Nation's policies over the next generation.

On behalf of so many who have been influenced, inspired, and ultimately motivated by the elegance of his rea-

soning and the eloquence of his words, I am honored to offer happy birthday wishes to Bruce Herschensohn today.

HONORING SENATOR KEVIN
O'TOOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the retirement of New Jersey Senator Kevin O'Toole.

Like me, Senator O'Toole is a proud son of New Jersey. He was born to an Irish-American GI and Korean war refugee in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, where he still lives today with his wife, Beth. They are proud parents of two children, Kevin, Jr., and Ryan Marie.

Kevin's parents instilled in him a strong commitment to service that shaped his entire career. At age 25, Kevin was elected to the Cedar Grove Township Council and then mayor.

As assemblyman and State senator, Kevin has been a tireless advocate for small businesses, for law enforcement, first responders, our seniors, and our families. Like me, Kevin has been a strong advocate and force for lowering property taxes, supporting our veterans and first responders, cutting bureaucratic red tape, and strengthening domestic violence statutes. Kevin will soon continue his service at the New Jersey Port Authority, advocating for the critical infrastructure needed to drive economic growth.

He has been a true leader on business growth and streamlining regulations to attract companies to our State and encourage the ones in New Jersey to stay in New Jersey.

I applaud the high value Kevin has importantly placed on constituent service throughout his career as a legislator, a key and essential priority for any public servant. And Kevin has worked across the aisle with Republicans and Democrats alike, a practice that is essential in this time of gridlock.

As Kevin departs the Senate, we wish him all the best. I hope he enjoys more time with his family, many more rounds of golf, and I applaud and thank Kevin O'Toole, a true public servant.

HONORING FLORIDA HIGHWAY PA-
TROL MASTER SERGEANT WIL-
LIAM BISHOP

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart in honor of Florida's Highway Patrol Master Sergeant William Bishop, who lost his life in the line of duty on June 17 in Alachua, Florida.

Throughout three decades of public service, Master Sergeant Bishop demonstrated a clear and noble commitment to others. His tragic passing reminds us all of the real dangers that

law enforcement officers face on a daily basis.

So many are quick to criticize the police, yet they are the first ones they call when they need help.

I join my colleagues and friends in thanking all law enforcement personnel around the Nation standing ready to risk their lives to safeguard our communities.

Master Sergeant Bishop's memory will live on through his fellow officers, family, and members of the public whose lives were positively impacted through a selfless dedication. I ask that you keep his wife and son in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARTHA ROBERTS

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Martha Roberts, a championed member of the Florida agricultural community and the latest recipient of the Florida's Woman of the Year in Agriculture award.

Dr. Roberts' esteemed career includes 35 years at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. She is also a member of many Federal advisory groups, committees, and associations where her expertise has not only benefited the State of Florida but also the Nation.

More specifically, Dr. Roberts served as the director of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science program, a Federal-State-county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture and natural resources located in my home district.

Through her work with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Roberts has helped shape policy that will advance Florida's agricultural industry and trades for years to come.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Roberts on her accomplishment and thank her for her dedication to agriculture and food safety. Her positive, meaningful contributions to Florida's Third Congressional District and the Nation will not be overlooked.

CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA GATORS

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florida Gators for winning their first ever College Baseball World Series.

Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan never doubted that his Gators would win a national championship. It was just a matter of time. He has done a tremendous job coaching a talented roster of student athletes.

With this victory, UF becomes the first university in the SEC and only the fourth in the Nation to win a national championship in football, men's basketball, and now baseball. No one can ever take that away from this team or the Gator nation.

I stand with all UF alumni, the Rowdy Reptiles, and the entire Gator nation when I say I could not be more proud of this team and the finest academic and athletic institution in the State of Florida. Go Gators.