

have joined in that effort, proposing drastic cuts to our anti-hunger safety net in the budget that they marked up last week.

In their budget, House Republicans have laid out their dangerous agenda: dramatic increases in defense spending and tax cuts for millionaires, billionaires, and corporations—all paid for by cuts to programs that help working families and those struggling to make ends meet.

Among the proposed cuts, House Republicans are seeking \$160 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, over 10 years. \$150 billion of these cuts come from structural changes to SNAP and harsher work requirements and time limits, and an additional \$10 billion would be fast-tracked through the reconciliation process.

Mr. Speaker, SNAP is not an ATM. It is not money to be used for tax breaks for the wealthy, additional weapons systems, or any corporate handouts. It is intended to help our most vulnerable neighbors purchase groceries and put food on the table when times are tough. Simply put, SNAP helps people eat.

For a meager \$1.40 per person, per meal, SNAP helps alleviate poverty, reduce hunger, and improve nutrition. It is one of the most efficient and effective Federal programs. But it is only \$1.40 per person, per meal. And my friends are proposing more cuts in this program?

Mr. Speaker, I serve as the ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee, Subcommittee on Nutrition. Since 2015, the committee has held 23 hearings on SNAP. In our hearings, we have heard from over 80 witnesses—Republican and Democrat—about ways to make SNAP even better. But none of these witnesses—not one—ever suggested changes like the ones proposed by President Trump and House Republicans.

These Republican proposals are mean-spirited, and they are just as heartless as they are reckless. They do not reflect the realities of the program or seek to understand the challenges faced by those living in poverty. They don't help struggling Americans find work, and they certainly don't help address the “benefit cliff,” as some of my Republican colleagues have proposed doing.

If Republicans were genuinely interested in helping struggling families rise out of poverty, they would join Democrats in advocating for higher wages, more jobs, and better work supports like childcare and transportation. They would address affordable housing shortages and help to improve access to healthcare. They would increase investments in job training and career and technical education. They would finally work with us to make college more affordable.

But instead of working on these priorities, House Republicans are hell-bent on pursuing an agenda that belit-

ties the struggles of the working poor and tears apart our safety net. Their awful budget is no exception.

Under the guise of “State flexibility,” their budget proposes a block grant-like approach to administering SNAP.

Make no mistake, block-granting SNAP would make hunger worse in this country, plain and simple. It would undermine the successful structure of SNAP—its ability to expand as the economy struggles and contract in times of economic prosperity. The proposed structural changes would likely result in drastic funding cuts and reduced eligibility for the program.

If State flexibility is the true goal, then my Republican friends are in luck. SNAP already has a number of options that States can adopt. What is ironic is some of these State exceptions are exactly the provisions House Republicans are seeking to do away with.

The Republican budget also calls for additional work requirements of SNAP, relying on dangerous rhetoric that suggests that hardworking families who rely on modest food benefits don't want to work or are somehow lazy. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

I would like to point out that the majority of people on SNAP who can work, do work. Most people on SNAP are not expected to work or cannot work—they are kids, senior citizens, and people who are disabled. But that is exactly who Republicans will hurt if these dangerous proposals advance.

If we are talking about how we can help transition people who can work into the workforce, you don't do that by cutting the program by billions of dollars or by cutting people off from food aid. That does nothing to help people find jobs. It only makes people hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to join me in rejecting these damaging cuts, and to support investments in our anti-hunger safety net that will help end hunger now.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF TROY BOWLING

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an American patriot and hero, Mr. Troy Bowling of Lexington, Kentucky, who completed his life's service on June 17, 2017, at the age of 90 years old.

His military service during World War II and his commitment to supporting our veterans and the men and women in uniform throughout his life is an inspiration to us all.

At the age of 19, Mr. Bowling began his service as a United States marine and was a proud member of the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Division. During the United States campaign to end the war against Japan, Mr. Bowling's unit was among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo Jima.

While attempting to secure Mount Suribachi, his unit came under intense and concentrated fire, completely overwhelming his unit. Two projectiles struck Mr. Bowling in the chest and leg, leaving him critically wounded on the battlefield.

At that moment, Mr. Bowling said he looked to the heavens and committed to serving mankind for the rest of his life if he survived. Miraculously, a combat photographer and medical team then carried Mr. Bowling to the safety of a landing craft, where he witnessed the planting of the American flag atop Mount Suribachi, an iconic image that persists as one of the most legendary and triumphant moments of the war. The U.S. Marines eventually took control of the island. However, this victory came at a heavy cost, as over 6,800 U.S. servicemembers gave their lives during the battle of Iwo Jima.

In keeping faith with his commitment to God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling devoted over 78,000 hours of volunteer service to others at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For over 66 years, Mr. Bowling rose through the ranks within the Disabled American Veterans organization, holding nearly every position possible, including State commander.

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The Bible teaches in Proverbs 21:21 that “He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor.”

Mr. Bowling has brought great honor upon himself through his dedication, determination, and love for serving the people of our community. Without a doubt, he has remained true to the commitment he made on the rocky terrain of Iwo Jima.

Mr. Bowling embodies the best of American ideals, values, and commitment to serving others, never abandoning the Marine motto of *semper fidelis*, “always faithful.”

On behalf of a grateful nation, I would like to thank Mr. Bowling, a model member of the greatest generation, for his many years of service to our country and our community. He is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

Troy Bowling, may you rest in peace.

#### CONCERNS OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is a somber day today, and it is a very important day in the history of the United States of America.

I have joined with Senator FRANKEN, who indicated that, today, Senators of the United States Senate will make one of the most significant votes, if not the most significant vote of their career, and it will be a vote that they will long remember because, rather than the serious and difficult decisions

of war and peace that, over the historical times of this body, many Members have had to make that decision and be in the midst of the throngs of patriotism, the vote that will be taken today will be a vote that those Senators will have brought on themselves; and it is a vote that does not have to be taken, nor a movement that has to be moved; and that is, to cause the American people to face a crumbling healthcare system, to dismantle and diminish the rights and obligations and opportunities for Americans, some 32 million, to have health insurance.

For me, it is both baffling and tragic that Senators would make this a campaign competition game, and that it only represents a notch in their belt.

This does not have anything to do with providing healthcare for Americans. It doesn't have anything to do with what doctors say, what hospitals say, what rural hospitals need, what individuals with chronic illnesses need, or those who have been diagnosed with devastating cancer. It has nothing to do with children who are in desperate need of healthcare.

It has nothing to do with two young people who I met; one who was experiencing autism, who sought to live independently and could not do so without Medicaid, or one who had a chronic illness of which, between 2015 and 2016, he spent or had to spend \$700,000 to live, and, in the last 6 months, he had to spend \$73,000, none of which would have been possible without the Affordable Care Act.

So what is happening in the Senate this afternoon? What vote of courage is being taken? What vote of improving the lives of Americans when the Senate bill, TrumpCare, will cause 49 million people to not have their insurance by 2026?

It will cause rural hospitals to simply crumble. I am from Texas. We have a huge system of rural hospitals helping my constituents, and those hospitals will face disaster. Or the Texas Medical Center, like major hospital configurations across the Nation, where major research is being done, undermined by the vote that will be taken.

It saddens me because I think the American people believe that we come to this place, we take this oath of office, to do what is right for America.

This is not political chips. This is not dominos. This is not a game.

And to the Commander in Chief, for you to be in front of the Boy Scouts—my husband and my son were Boy Scouts, and I sit on the Boy Scout board. I am offended by your words. I am offended because I know how hard my son worked. I know how my husband cherishes his status as an Eagle Scout, and I know what the jamboree means because my child went to it, and I know how excited those young patriots are.

Yet the Commander in Chief would come and speak about former President Obama in a dastardly way, talk about

crowd sizes, and then have the nerve to talk about the healthcare bill, not as a moment of conscience, not as a serious issue that would, in fact, make higher costs.

Under the Senate bill, people will be paying more than they have earned for health insurance—well-documented. Of course, this is 22 million in the earlier period of the House bill. We now know it may be 32 million, and, as I have said, 49 million by 2026.

And then, of course, it cuts the protections for preexisting conditions. Of course, it has a crushing age tax. If you are older, 55, you pay more. And then, of course, it undermines Medicare. It interferes with the Medicare trust bill.

Yet the Commander in Chief is speaking before 45,000 or more young men, patriots, Boy Scouts, and talking about the healthcare bill and calling out Senator CAPITO from West Virginia: You better make her vote for it. What kind of leadership and heart is that? What are we dealing with here in this Nation?

I don't have to say anything, Mr. Speaker, about this individual. As I close, let me simply say that I am introducing a resolution to stop any President from firing the special counsel, and any President from abusing the pardon by pardoning anybody who is under investigation for the Russian involvement in our elections. We have to do this, sadly, because we are not focused on governing; we are focusing on insulting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS SHOULD BE TRANSFERABLE

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

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an amazing Idaho family which has taken a horrible personal tragedy and turned it into a cause that will benefit many other families in the years to come. I am referring to the family of Shauna Hill, a 16-year-old girl who lived in Eagle, Idaho, in my district, and who tragically lost her life in 2012.

At the time of her untimely death, Shauna was a junior at Eagle High School. She was a competitive figure skater and ice dancer and played the violin in her school orchestra. She even performed with the orchestra at New York's Carnegie Hall.

She was also working to qualify for a Congressional Silver Medal for public service, personal development, and physical fitness. She aspired to attend Stanford University and become a doctor. Sadly, she lost her life in a car accident on her way home from orchestra practice.

I first met Shauna's parents, Captain Edward Hill and his wife, Heidi, in 2013, when I helped present them with the

Congressional Bronze Medal their daughter had earned. While presenting the award, I learned that Captain Hill, who served 28 years as a Navy pilot and flew to protect America during three combat tours, had retired shortly before Shauna's death.

Following the tragedy, Captain Hill was working with the Navy to try to reassign his benefits to his second child, Haley, who was also planning to attend college. With almost 3 decades of distinguished service, Captain Hill qualified for the full utilization of the education benefit, but the Navy said Haley wasn't eligible because education benefits under the GI bill cannot be reassigned.

The Hills asked for my help, and my staff got to work. Unfortunately, we found out that the Navy's hands were tied. Current law does not allow the transfer of education benefits after a servicemember has retired. No waivers are permitted, even in such tragic circumstances.

I promised the Hills that I would seek a legislative solution. In February of this year, I introduced H.R. 1112, the Shauna Hill Post 9/11 Education Benefits Transferability Act. This bill would permit the reassignment of veterans' education benefits in cases where the designated beneficiary passes away.

Losing a child is the worst thing I can imagine, and surely Congress didn't intend to exclude the ability to transfer benefits to a surviving child or spouse.

The bill I introduced would correct this oversight, and it has received support from many veterans' groups. These include: the Concerned Veterans for America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Student Veterans of America, AMVETS, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Association of the United States Navy, and the National Military Family Association.

This month, VA Committee Chairman ROE and Ranking Member WALZ included my bill in the bipartisan GI Bill, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017. This bill passed the House last night, and I was proud to join my colleagues in voting for it.

I am grateful to Chairman ROE and Ranking Member WALZ for including my bill in their legislation. I am also thankful to Senator CRAPO, who has introduced companion legislation in the Senate. Now that the House has acted, it is my hope that the Senate will act too and, from there, our bill can be signed into law.

This legislation will mean a great deal to the Hills. It will be a great comfort to them and all those who have experienced such a terrible loss. As a grateful nation, it is the least that we can do, and America must always be a grateful nation.

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017 keeps our promises to our veterans and their families, especially when they need it the most.