

I am pleased to share that this year's festival is dedicated to the effort to address autism.

I commend the vital role the Sugar Grove Corn Boil organization and the members play in my community. I ask that all my colleagues join in acknowledging their great contribution to the individuals and families of the 14th Congressional District.

GINNY BOUVIER, A POWERFUL VOICE FOR PEACE

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to sing the praises of Virginia Bouvier, who is a senior adviser for peace processes at the U.S. Institute of Peace and the director of its Colombia program.

I have known Ginny for over 30 years. She is a powerful voice for peace and a strong, loving, generous spirit. I have seen her create the conditions, open up the spaces so that peace may take hold even during violent conflict.

Around the world, but especially in Colombia, she has brought together people from different points of view, different walks of life, the powerful and the marginalized. She has worked alongside them to find common ground and common purpose in building peace.

In all honesty, Mr. Speaker, Ginny is the very model of a life lived fully with intelligence, love, compassion, tolerance, and devotion. Right now, Ginny is under critical care at Georgetown University Hospital. I ask all my colleagues to keep Ginny and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

HEALTHCARE REFORM

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate's inability to pass healthcare reform legislation does not change the fact that the Affordable Care Act is failing. Many Americans may not have one insurance provider on the exchange this fall.

Forty percent of counties in the country now only have one option on the exchange. The ACA Medicaid expansion treats nonelderly, nondisabled individuals living above the poverty line more favorably than the elderly and disabled that this crucial program exists to protect.

Seven years ago, President Obama and congressional Democrats ran through an ill-conceived and unsustainable healthcare law that was grounded in make-believe and statements that were just not true. The Supreme Court twisted an unconstitutional individual mandate penalty into a dubiously constitutional tax, not only mocking our Constitution, but facilitating an evasion of responsibility for representatives who imposed an unpopular tax on the American people.

The legacy ObamaCare has been and will continue to be—lost plans, lost doctors, and, as Chelsea Clinton reminded us last year, crushing costs. Single payer is not the option. Not one Senator voted for single payer yesterday.

The solution to our healthcare problem is more freedom, more choice, less Washington control. We must continue our efforts to save the American people from this failing law, and continue our healthcare reform efforts.

SOUTH ASIAN HEART HEALTH AWARENESS AND RESEARCH ACT

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, today, with Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina, I am introducing bipartisan legislation to raise awareness regarding the alarming rate at which the South Asian community is developing heart disease and to invest in ways to reverse the trend.

Coming from countries including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, South Asians are the sixth largest and fastest growing ethnic group in the Nation.

Despite a traditional diet that is high in lentils, vegetables, grains, and spices, heart disease is on the rise in these communities. A Stanford study has found that South Asians have a four times greater risk of developing heart disease than the general population and have a much greater risk of having a heart attack before the age of 50. Coupled with the prevalence of diabetes in the South Asian community, something needs to be done. That is why we are introducing the South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act.

Specifically, our bill will create grants at the CDC, NIH, and USDA to fund heart health research and promotion among South Asian populations. We hope, through doing this, that we can help save lives, develop tools, and support valuable research that can broadly benefit the American public.

PASSING EXTENSION OF THE VETERANS CHOICE ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House was able to pass the extension of the Veterans Choice Act funding for an additional 6 months to allow veterans to have choices, the ability to not wait in long lines, long lists, and have local proximity to treatment and care that they need.

We need to do much more on this in the future, but with today's action, at least we can sustain that program for an additional amount of time and serve our veterans who served us so well.

The Veterans Choice Act is a good outlet, a good opportunity for them to receive the care they need timely and in proximity to where they live.

Mr. Speaker, let's make sure the Senate gets this through and our veterans are served well.

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, late last night, Senate Republicans failed in their latest attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but today is not a day for celebration. It is a day for solutions.

Over the past 7 years, the Affordable Care Act has expanded access to healthcare for millions of Americans; but the law's imperfections, combined with politically motivated opposition, have created a system that falls short of the goals we all share.

In many communities across the country, there is not enough competition in the individual marketplaces, there is not enough support for middle class families and small businesses, and there is not nearly enough being done to curb the prescription drug prices that are swallowing family budgets.

The good news is that we know how to solve these challenges. Now is the time for us to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to build a healthcare system that is worthy of this great Nation.

HONORING RABBI AVROHOM HOFFMAN

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in sharing this story of Rabbi Avrohom Hoffman, a truly remarkable man whose presence has illuminated our community for decades.

Rabbi Hoffman has called Washington Heights his home for more than 35 years, fathering nine children with his wonderful wife, Miriam. He has served our community by teaching precollege students at a yeshiva and by providing spiritual guidance to those in great need.

I am honored to have such an exceptional individual in my district. I was recently informed that Rabbi Hoffman has donated his kidney to a 62-year-old woman diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease. His boundless acts of philanthropy serve as a testament to his tremendous character and remind us of the power of human kindness.

He serves as a role model to all of us, and I am proud to have recognized a man of such compassion and virtue on this floor.

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE
OBAMACARE

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, the collapse of TrumpCare in the Senate shows that we need a new way. The process from the very beginning was fatally flawed. The plan was really behind closed doors. There were no hearings. No witnesses, no doctors, no insurance plans, no patients, no nurses, nobody could testify in front of Congress and let people know about the current healthcare system.

I am not ObamaCare. I am willing to work with Republicans, with the President, with Democrats to update and improve ObamaCare. Any law can be made better, but to repeal ObamaCare without a plan is a really stupid way to go about it, and to repeal it with an even worse plan known as TrumpCare is an even more stupid way to go about it.

The version that the House passed was going to cause 23 million people to lose their health insurance, increase premiums in 2018 and 2020, and then take people with preexisting conditions and give them enormously higher costs. No wonder the Senate killed that version.

Now we are in a position where the Republicans, instead of trying four, five, six, seven, eight different versions of TrumpCare, they should do the one thing they haven't yet tried, which is bipartisanship.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlemen from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO), who will make some comments as well.

Mr. GALLEGRO. Mr. Speaker, first of all, my experience with the Affordable Care Act actually comes from the State legislature, where, in a bipartisan manner, the Republican governor joined with the minority Democrats and a handful of Republicans in the Senate State House to pass Medicaid expansion.

Why did we do that?

If you looked at what was happening in Arizona, it was some of the Trump areas, as I like to call them, these rural districts where the rural hospitals, which are not only the medically necessary infrastructure of the area but also the economic drivers, the only high-wage employers in the area, they were about to shut down.

There was so much uncompensated cost, because people were using the emergency room as their primary care doctor, that these hospitals were starting to have to charge more and insurance companies were starting to refuse to pay more for their premiums, that they needed to respond to that.

In the end, what we started hearing from these hospitals is that we are going to have to shut down the emergency room, and if you have an emergency, we are going to have to heli-

copter you either to Tucson or Phoenix.

Now, for many of you guys who are not Southwesterners like us in the Southwest, we have a lot of territory and a lot of land. For you to just drive to Phoenix for emergency care would be pretty insane, let alone the expense of helicoptering into Phoenix was even more so than that.

Because we had the goal of actually increasing and improving our healthcare outcomes, we worked again in a bipartisan manner with Governor Brewer, with Republicans and Democrats to pass one of the most comprehensive Medicaid expansion bills in the country that has actually turned around, lowered costs, created better healthcare outcomes, and has now insured more than 400,000 poor Arizonans that did not have it before, including people in the disability community, as well as children.

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To counteract what we saw today, if it wasn't really for the bravery of Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator COLLINS, and Senator MCCAIN, as well as all of the Senate Democrats, what we would have seen would have been a bill that would not only have just rolled back the millions of people who are now covered with health insurance, but it would also have been detrimental to the people who currently have even private health insurance.

Premiums were going to go up for everybody. The estimated amount of people just on the so-called skinny bill that were going to lose health insurance would be 16 million people, and on the House bill it was going to be 23 million people, in addition to the essential gutting of Medicaid, all for giving a tax cut to the top 1 percent.

Now, this is bad policy, but it is worse policy when you don't have an open process to it, when you seek it through the middle of the night, hoping that the American public is just going to accept what comes out.

There is a reason why TrumpCare was polling less than Congress, and trust me, it is very difficult to poll less than Congress. At this point, it is just our families that like us.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. I like you.

Mr. GALLEGRO. I like you, too, TED. You are a good man.

But the fact that we the American public knew so little, just knew enough, and said this bill is bad and were able to come out and put pressure on our Senators and our Members of Congress with public hearings and townhalls was key to stopping this.

Lastly, before I move back to TED, if you are so proud of this bill, if you are the Senate Republicans and you are so proud of this bill, if you are Donald Trump and you are so proud of this bill, even our House colleagues, why didn't you have consistent townhalls? Why didn't you go out there and explain to people what you were planning

to do and why this is better for America?

Instead, they tried to hide it. They tried to move it as fast as possible, and then tried to schedule a vote in the middle of the night. If you have to vote for something in the middle of the night, it means you are not very confident and you are not very proud of that bill.

So what is the solution now? Nobody in the Democratic Caucus thinks the Affordable Care Act—or ObamaCare, as some people call it—is the be-all and end-all. We don't think it is perfect. We certainly think that there is a great bipartisan approach we can take to make it better. And what I mean by "better" is more coverage, lower premiums, and better healthcare outcomes.

When I use those words, those were almost exactly, word for word, what Donald Trump said he wanted to see happen when he was going to replace the Affordable Care Act.

But, point by point, whether it was the bill that came through the House or the bill that came through the Senate, none of those would have even fit Donald Trump's mandate. Which is why, at the end of the day, that bill was radioactive. Nobody liked it, and they had to hide it.

So what we should do is follow the advice of Senator MCCAIN in Arizona, follow the example of Senators MURKOWSKI and COLLINS and all of the Senate Democrats: get back to regular order and work out an actual fix to the Affordable Care Act and get Americans more coverage, lower premiums, and better healthcare outcomes.

I say that also as someone who is on an ObamaCare plan. I am not exempt from it, and neither is Mr. LIEU. We are in it just as much as everyone else is, and we want to see it fixed.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, Representative GALLEGRO and I both served on Active Duty in the United States military. Before we could do that, we had to take an oath to the Constitution. That is the same oath that Members of Congress take, and it is also an oath that members of the executive branch take.

Under the Constitution, Congress passes the laws. ObamaCare is the law of the land. Under the Constitution, the President has a duty to enforce those laws.

Today, the President tweeted that he wants ObamaCare to implode. Not only is that mean, mean, mean, it is also a dereliction of duty. The job of the President is to help Americans, not hurt millions of Americans out of spite.

Let me give you an example of what it was like before ObamaCare.

I was at a restaurant and a waitress came up to me. She knew I was a legislator. I was in the State legislature at the time, and she wanted help. Her daughter had just turned 18, and, in California, where I am from, you cannot get government health insurance if you don't have any minor children. So