

Now, it is very expensive. For instance, American Airlines would have to spend 40 percent of last year's baggage fees to equip every one of their planes so they could use this modern system—40 percent of their baggage fees. Wow, what a hit they would take for that.

Now, what is the bottom line here?

The bottom line is we fund the current system—the largest, most complex, most advanced in the world—with a tax on the tickets. It is a progressive tax; the more you pay for your ticket, the more you pay for air traffic control, 7½ percent tax.

For years the airlines have said to me: That's our money.

I said: What do you mean it's your money? I pay the tax when I buy a ticket.

They said: No. That's our money. We should have it.

In fact, a few years ago, when the FAA bill expired for 2 weeks because of a chairman named John Mica, every airline in America, except for one—when the 7½ percent tax went away for 2 weeks, every airline in America, except Alaska Airlines, raised their ticket prices 7½ percent.

So what is the bottom line of this bill?

This bill—going to be pushed by the Republicans over here—would repeal the 7½ percent tax. That would be a \$10 billion windfall for the aviation industry.

And then what? How are we going to pay for it?

Well, the private corporation will decide. Congress will have nothing to say about how it is paid for, and it is going to be paid for with a head tax. So you get on the plane; they will say: Oh, it's 50 bucks to sit in that seat, to use the public airspace of the United States of America.

That's how the corporation is going to pay for it, with a head tax.

So we go from a progressive tax to a regressive tax. If you buy a \$50 ticket, you are going to pay 50 bucks to sit in the seat. So it is now \$100. Today you would have paid \$3.75.

So that is the real bottom line here. It is not about efficiency. It is not bringing the system up to date.

Now, they have done a great job with this propaganda, and the chairman of the committee has done a great job. They talk about those paper strips. They use paper strips in the traffic control towers.

Well, yeah, we do. It works real well. We replaced them in the en route centers, but we haven't replaced them yet in the towers. It is infallible. It has worked forever. It is efficient. But we are going to go to electronic flight strips, and we are going to do it in a way that actually is going to improve the efficiency of the system and dispatch planes better.

Now, they say: Well, Canada has electronic flight strips.

Yeah, they did it for billing purposes because they charge per flight. They

don't, and are not going to, have the new system we are going to have, which is going to sort out all the planes by their future routes, everything as they depart from the airport, and it is going to be way more efficient.

So, actually, the FAA is doing an excellent job. And 7 to 10 years ago I never would have said that. But they have got it straightened out over the last 7 years. Randy Babbitt and Mr. Huerta have got it straightened out. It is working today.

There is a GAO report, which I am releasing today, which the Republicans tried to repress, which says, in fact, the system is on time, on budget, and, in fact, privatization will delay the modernization of the system.

So the House is going to push and the Republicans are going to push for a bill that actually is going to set us back instead of moving us forward into the 21st century air traffic control system.

HOUSTON STRONG

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, a monster Category 4 hurricane named Harvey hit my home. It hit us very hard. And 2 days after the first blow, it hit us once again. It reversed course and hit us twice in the span of 2 days.

It took out our schools, our shops, our homes, our pets, and the lives of over 50 Texans. But there is one thing that Harvey can never take from us, and that is, we are "Houston Strong."

Houston Strong is the Smith family. Annie was going into labor as her apartment was being swallowed up by floodwaters. She and her husband, Greg, were doctors. They prepared to have a home delivery of their first child. Their phone calls for help were unanswered.

Annie called her church and, within an hour, a rescue truck drove up. That is her right there, being assisted on the rescue truck an hour after she made that call. Twelve hours later, their family grew by one. Their daughter, Adrielle, was born. The Smith family is Houston Strong.

Houston Strong is Buster Stoker and the Cajun Navy. Buster and his buddies from Louisiana brought 14 boats to rescue others in our disaster. Buster said: "There were a lot of submerged cars and street signs underneath us." It reminded Buster of cypress knees in the marshes at home. Buster rescued over 100 people, seven by seven. Buster and the Cajun Navy are Houston Strong.

Houston Strong are our first responders, our police officers, firemen, EMS drivers, our military, the entire Texas National Guard. And first responders include normal, everyday Texans like this man carrying a mother and her baby out of harm's way. Texans are Houston Strong.

Two days ago, I took a helicopter tour of the damage with Leader

MCCARTHY. The crew on our Coast Guard helicopters rescued 2,000 people in harm's way. And I am sure this scene was played out over and over inside those helicopters—a neighbor, glad to be alive, her hand resting on a rescuer's shoulder. Our first responders are Houston Strong.

Houston Strong is the thousands of volunteers who have been in shelters and churches and schools all throughout southeast Texas. I went to this high school, Cinco Ranch, in the Katy Independent School District. This was up and running within 24 hours of getting the go order. They had food, water, toiletries, clothes, and a smile.

I saw on those people who lost everything smile after smile after smile because of volunteers at shelters like Cinco Ranch High School. Shelters in Cinco Ranch are Houston Strong.

I have saved the best for last. This young boy's name is J.W. Claburn, IV. He lives in my district, Richmond, Texas. This young boy's photo is exactly what I have been trying to convey these last 5 minutes.

In closing, I will say that we—America is strong, Texas is strong, and Houston is stronger because of Hurricane Harvey.

CONDEMNING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DECISION TO END DACA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest possible terms the President's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, also known as DACA.

This issue should be very simple. These are children who were brought here by their parents, through no fault of their own. They grew up with our kids, attended the same schools, played on the same playgrounds, and learned to drive in our neighborhoods. These kids are Americans in their hearts and in their minds, just not on paper, yet.

Beyond that, my faith, my conscience, my understanding of basic economics prevents me from supporting this cruel and inhumane decision by President Trump.

If we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, we must remember that we, too, were once strangers in a strange land. Many of us have our own immigrant stories, stories of how we became Americans.

My family's story begins like many of yours. My great-grandfather, Metro, was born in Austria in 1881, and my great-grandmother, Margaret Skrutt, was born in Ukraine in 1882. They got married and knew that they could find a better life in America; so, in 1906, they took a chance and came to America, arriving on November 1, 1906.

They settled in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, because other Ukrainians already lived there. They joined the community, worked hard,

went to church, raised a family of Americans, including my grandmother, Anna Guryesh.

My great-grandparents' story is the story of America. It is the story of immigration and immigrant families dreaming of a better life and making America great.

It is the same story repeated 24 years later when Mary Anne McLeod boarded the Transylvania in Glasgow on May 2, 1930. Nine days later, she arrived in New York with \$50 in her pocket. Eighty-six years later, her son was elected President of the United States of America.

At the age of seven, a young woman left Cuba, fleeing communism. In 1989, she became the first Latina elected to Congress, and it is a privilege to serve with her.

Melania Knavs was born in Slovenia. She first became a permanent resident, and then a citizen of the United States. This young lady, born in southeastern Slovenia, now lives in northwest D.C. as the First Lady of the United States of America.

Daniel, one of my constituents who I helped with his DACA status: He works hard, pays his taxes, loves this country, his country, as much as any other American.

So many great Americans are Americans by choice, not by birth. This has made America the greatest, strongest, wealthiest country in the world. We can attract the best, the brightest, the most driven and the most talented.

People like Dr. Elizabeth Stern was born in Kansas, but, in 1915, became an American. She drove forward our ability to detect and treat cancer.

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Author Ayn Rand, a favorite of the Speaker, was born in 1905 in Russia, and came to the United States in 1926.

Actress Natalie Portman, born in 1981 in Jerusalem, came to the U.S. as a toddler.

Alonso Guillen was born in Mexico but died last week as an American hero working to save lives during Hurricane Harvey.

At the last Olympics, Americans born in places like Australia, Kenya, and Poland brought home nine medals, including two gold for the United States.

Their stories are all the same. They came to America seeking a better life and a better future. They contributed to our society and our culture. They made America great.

Margaret and Metro's story is America's story. America's story is Mary Anne's story and Daniel's story. This is the story of us, the story of America. It is a story that no President's pen can erase. America's story is Melania's, Ayn's, and the story of Albert. We are America, and we are here to stay. No matter where you were born, we are America, and we are here to stay. No matter what language you speak to your mom in, we are America, and we are here to stay. We are America, and

we are here to stay because America's story is our story.

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

HEROIN AND OPIOID USERS NEED "A WAY OUT" OF ADDICTION

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today full of sorrow and hope for those caught in the cycle of addiction to heroin and opioids.

This destructive plague is taking aim at Americans across the country—young and old, rich and poor, rural and urban.

Nowhere is this more true than in the Chicagoland area, a hub for drug trafficking spreading across northern Illinois, the Midwest, and the United States.

The collar counties of Chicago have felt it strongly. This year, in Will County alone, there have been 61 accidental overdose cases and 44 deaths from heroin and fentanyl overdoses. This is an extremely discouraging pace, surpassing previous years.

The numbers are similar across the seven counties that I represent in the 14th Congressional District. Stories have been long untold, and it continues to gain national attention. It still haunts our communities today.

I got involved in this issue more than 3 years ago when I met Ken Chiakas, who lost his 17-year-old daughter Stephanie to a heroin overdose. Together, we launched our community action plan on heroin, an analysis of our community leadership forum on the problem, an audit of existing and proposed community partnerships, and the next steps for our communities, our State, and our county.

In the years following this initiative, I have hosted meetings with law enforcement officers, treatment center workers, advocates for patients and lost loved ones, State and local government officials, emergency room physicians, pharmacists, and drug manufacturers.

Last month, my staff and I traveled throughout McHenry and Lake Counties to hear from local officials firsthand who are experiencing this plague every single day.

Law enforcement first responders are on the front lines fighting drug traffickers and dealers. They are also saving lives by reviving abusers in the midst of an overdose through the use of naloxone. It is now common practice in these police and sheriff's departments to have naloxone ready to be deployed in the hands of capable and trained officers. Many lives have now been spared through its use.

But even these encouraging numbers do not tell the whole story. Countless others live and struggle to fight heroin and opioid abuse every day in search of

treatment and battling towards recovery. They know what it is like to face an overwhelming force controlling their lives. It affects their relationships, it affects their outlook on life, it affects their ability to obtain and keep quality jobs.

Local officials expressed great concern at the loss of workforce, and the many months and years of career advancement and experience those caught in addiction have lost. Businesses are concerned by their search for qualified workers that doesn't yield enough or any applicants. Families are concerned that, without adequate outpatient treatment, their loved ones are far more likely to relapse, compounding these workforce and community problems.

That is why, among other programs, Lake County law enforcement has worked hard to implement the "A Way Out" program. Police officers and sheriffs' deputies come into regular contact with those caught in heroin and opioid abuse, sometimes seeing the same offenders in police stations and prisons several times a month.

Many of these men and women want to be free but don't know how, and a police officer is the last person they think to ask for help. A Way Out empowers police officers and opioid users to work together to end the destructive cycle of abuse, dependency, arrest, and relapse.

The program is simple. Those who seriously want help can ask for it from a police officer or at a police station and can receive help without fear of arrest or inability to pay for treatment. Officers who see the destruction of opioids every day want to help.

All that is required is for the person seeking treatment to choose the path of recovery. Individual motivation is essential to success. As of last summer, 15 people at 8 different police departments have taken advantage of this initiative.

Similarly, DuPage County launched Project Connect, a prearrest program through which individuals who have been administered Narcan are immediately offered treatment options and a case manager to see these men and women through to recovery.

I am so encouraged by and proud of the success stories I hear throughout the 14th Congressional District every day. Hope is near when those in recovery see a vision of what their life can be like after dependency—a life filled with healthy relationships, challenging and meaningful work, and a clear sense of individual purpose.

We must do all we can to offer this hope to those still suffering from heroin and opioid addiction. Connecting affected individuals with the people and organizations best equipped to help them is paramount to overcoming this devastating epidemic.

It remains my goal to make northern Illinois the hub of the best minds and the best practices in heroin and opioid abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. I look forward to sharing these