

gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the House's work that aims to improve outcomes for children with complex medical conditions.

As a physician, I have delivered more than 10,000 babies and seen firsthand many of these complex and complicated conditions, often when babies are born prematurely.

Today, there are 33 million children dependent upon Medicaid in our country. Two million of these cases are considered medically complex. It is imperative that we take a compassionate look at the way in which this care is being provided to some of our most vulnerable patients.

I am proud of the legislation the House recently passed to address the way that care is provided for these children. Last week, we passed the IMPROVE Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. This legislation included the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act that aims to put our Nation's sickest kids and their families first by improving their care.

These children and their families already face many challenges. Thus, our healthcare system has to work with them by making access to care more manageable and easier to navigate.

Too often, these children are forced to see multiple doctors, sometimes requiring them to go across State lines for treatment. This can be costly, time consuming, and confusing. This bill reduces the burden on families by no longer making them jump through hoops for their children's coverage.

The ACE Act also ensures that each child gets the coverage they need by helping hospitals coordinate across State lines and provides additional resources to families to help them navigate the healthcare system. This coordination will likely reduce emergency visits and inpatient hospitalizations and, ultimately, lower the overall cost of care for these children, while at the same time provide for better outcomes.

In Kansas, 41 percent of children with special healthcare needs are covered by Medicaid. I appreciate the opportunity to make Medicaid a more caring, comprehensive, and efficient system for each and every child with a serious, long-term illness.

IMPORTANCE OF INTERNET ACCESS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, as I have traveled across Kansas, I have heard how a strong Internet connection can impact communities, boost local economies, and create jobs.

Access to the Internet allows small businesses to sell their products across the country and the world. It enables students to access additional learning tools and gives doctors the ability to treat patients in the most remote parts of the district.

Far too often, I am reminded of the complications my district has to get connected. I rise today to highlight the

recent steps taken to advance broadband deployment in rural America.

Last week, the Federal Communications Commission unanimously voted to provide additional funding to carriers utilizing the Universal Service Fund high-cost program. The high-cost program helps providers deploy broadband infrastructure in extremely rural and hard-to-reach places where the cost to connect is just too high.

I am also excited that the United States Department of Agriculture is working to expand broadband access to our ag producers.

I was grateful to join Secretary Perdue as he announced details of a new broadband pilot program last week at the Department of Agriculture. The program, called ReConnect, targets funding in the forms of grants and loans to areas currently lacking a reliable Internet connection.

Farmers and ranchers need a broadband connection to monitor their operations and increase efficiencies on their farms, which ultimately drives down the cost of doing business.

Connectivity is such a vital part of everyday life, and its importance continues to grow. People's access should not be affected by where they choose to live.

I want that thank Secretary Perdue, Chairman Pai, and President Trump for making broadband deployment a priority.

THANKING NEVADA'S FOURTH DISTRICT

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand before the House to thank the people of Nevada's Fourth Congressional District. It has been the honor of my life to serve as a Member of Congress and represent my constituents in the 115th Congress. I have worked tirelessly on their behalf every single day to make Nevada a great place to live and raise a family.

As many of my colleagues know, I was not born in this country. I don't come from a wealthy or politically connected family. My family emigrated from Mexico when I was 8 years old. My parents, a housekeeper and a former farm worker, came to America because they knew that, if they worked hard and sacrificed, in America, they could achieve the American Dream.

Less than 30 years later, thanks to the wonderful opportunities that only this country has to offer, their son is standing before you as a Representative of the United States of America. That is the American Dream.

There are still so many people who have hopes and aspirations of achieving that American Dream. Unfortunately, under this administration, immigrants have been denigrated. Before even being given a chance, they are labeled as criminals and murderers.

But America is a Nation of immigrants and the land of opportunity. As the first Dreamer and one of the first two former undocumented immigrants to serve in Congress in our Nation's history, I have used my personal experience to fight for other Dreamers so that DACA recipients are able to remain in America and thrive.

I have fought to ensure that our asylum process is upheld and that young, innocent children are not separated from their families at the border. I have advocated for comprehensive immigration reform.

My Democratic colleagues and I have also fought relentlessly to protect people's healthcare and the Affordable Care Act, especially as Republicans have tried time and time again to get rid of preexisting conditions.

I was proud to announce my support for the Medicare for All Act because healthcare is a human right, and all Americans deserve quality and affordable healthcare.

I joined my union brothers and sisters in championing workers' rights, fighting for a \$15 minimum wage, the right to join a union, and equal pay for women.

I fought against the unconstitutional travel ban, fiercely defended funding for Planned Parenthood, and stood side by side with our LGBTQ community in the fight for full equality.

As a member of the Financial Services Committee, I have fought to keep people in their homes and advocated for affordable housing and the immediate need to address homelessness in America.

I was proud to join the Nevada delegation in standing strong to fight against efforts to bring nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain is not safe and should remain closed forever.

I introduced the STEP for Veterans Act, which would provide grants to community colleges to train veterans with the job skills that employers need in their communities. Although we can never do enough to thank our veterans for their sacrifices, I am proud of the work that I did to help them get the resources they need and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, one of the worst days of my life and in many of my constituents' lives was last year on October 1, 2017, when Las Vegas became the site of the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history. In total, 58 innocent lives were lost.

While they are gone, I wanted to make sure that their memories were not lost. That is why I told each of their 58 stories here on the House floor, so that their precious and vibrant lives would be remembered and never forgotten.

I am optimistic that the House will finally pass meaningful legislation next year to prevent more tragedies from happening.

□ 1230

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I thank my team who worked tirelessly day in and

day out to deliver services to hundreds of Nevadans. I relied on them every day to do my job, and I couldn't have done it without them. I am profoundly grateful and forever grateful to each and every one of them.

Thank you to my colleagues for making my time as a Member of Congress unforgettable. I made so many friends here, friendships that will last a lifetime.

Thank you to all the staff in the House of Representatives, including the floor staff, the cleaning crew, the kitchen staff, all of you whom I enjoyed many great conversations with.

Thank you to my family and friends for all of your unconditional support.

Thank you, once again, to my constituents for putting your faith and trust in me. I am blessed and honored to serve you and grateful for the opportunity to give back to the State and country that has given me and my family so much.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Thank you to the people of Nevada for your support and the opportunity to serve you in the U.S. Congress. I will always fight for you.

Muchas gracias a toda la gente de Nevada por su apoyo y por la oportunidad de servirles en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos. Siempre luchare por ustedes!

Mr. Speaker, may God bless Nevada and may God bless the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL). The gentleman from Nevada will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The Members of the 115th Congress return to the Capitol for the final days of legislative business. We ask Your blessing, O Lord, upon them, for they face potentially difficult negotiation. May they be filled with a surfeit of wisdom and patience.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING DREW AND LIZ WHITE

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Drew and Liz White of Union County, Kentucky, for recently being named Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2018 Outstanding Young Farm Family. This award recognizes young farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 who have shown strong leadership potential and farm management skills and have achieved consistent financial success in their farming operations.

Drew and Liz come from families with rich histories in farming. Drew is the fourth generation to live and work on his family's farm, established by his great-grandfather during the Great Depression. Under Drew's management, the farm has grown and experienced success with raising cattle and a multitude of crops.

Liz also grew up on a family farm and enjoyed showing saddlebred horses during her youth. She worked at a local winery throughout her high school and college years before becoming an occupational therapy assistant.

The couple have both been extensively involved in the local agricul-

tural community through the Future Farmers of America organization, the 4-H, and the Kentucky Farm Bureau. Their efforts have not only benefited Union County, but are a model for other young farmers throughout the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I congratulate Drew and Liz White on their outstanding success and wish them the best as they continue to grow their farming operation and their family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONNIE MITCHELL

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Connie Mitchell, an iconic civil rights activist and leader in the Rochester community, who passed away on December 14.

Connie dedicated her life to the pursuit of equality and racial justice, and her commitment to breaking down barriers was truly awe inspiring. She was the first African American woman elected to office in Monroe County, winning a seat on the board of supervisors in 1961. She was a role model in the fight for equality. Her contributions helped to open the door of opportunity for so many people in our community.

I join all of Rochester in mourning her passing and extend my prayers and deepest sympathies to the entire Mitchell family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUSTICE WILLIAM NEWSOM

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to talk about a very special person in our community who recently left us. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pray tribute to a gentleman of exceptional generosity, deep principles, and extraordinary wit: Justice William Newsom, or, as many called him, "Bill."

A dedicated public servant with a commitment to the arts and conservation, he leaves a lasting legacy for America. Any one of us who knew him considered him a cherished friend.

Bill was a proud fourth-generation San Franciscan, who was born to a large Irish brood. As a commissioner of the San Francisco Superior Court, judge on the Placer County Superior Court, and then California Court of Appeals judge, he worked relentlessly to uphold liberty and justice for all.

Again, Bill's charitable and civic contributions to our city and our State are legendary. He was endowed with great decency and humanity and took the golden rule literally. He considered an injustice and indignity to one an injustice and indignity to all.

A passionate student of natural history and a lifelong enthusiast of the