

old and can't take any new capacity and actually are polluting our rivers, and clean water is not available to people in some of the largest cities in the United States of America.

Where is the Federal partner? There is no Federal partner with the Republicans in charge. Let the States do it. Let's devolve this obligation to the States. That is their solution: The States should pay for it.

Well, it didn't work in the fifties. How the heck is that going to work in the 21st century?

Even if one State decides now to increase capacity to move freight—say California wants to move all of the freight that comes into Los Angeles out of California to the rest of the Nation where it is going and bring the goods in to export from there, how is that going to work when you get to the Nevada State line and there is a two-lane road—or no road—on the other side?

This is an abject failure, and it is time for Congress to act. If the Republicans won't act, maybe we need to replace them with a party that will act to rebuild America and make us competitive in the world for the 21st century, not devolution. We need a Federal partnership. We need Federal investment. We need a coordinated 21st century national transportation system.

RECOGNIZING REBECCA OBERT-THORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize an educator in my district who is making a lasting difference in the lives of Bucks County students.

Rebecca Obert-Thorn, of Pennwood Middle School in Lower Makefield, was recently named the winner of the Axalta All-Pro Teacher of the Year Award. For this distinction, Rebecca has secured \$7,000 for Pennwood to be used on materials that promote STEM education and opportunities for students.

This program, which is in collaboration with the Philadelphia Eagles, honored Rebecca due to her dedication in the classroom, along with her work on the board of directors at Silver Lake Nature Center in Bristol and through STEM work at the Bucks County Community College. It also featured an event at Pennwood Middle School with Eagles wide receiver Bryce Treggs.

I applaud Rebecca for her work in promoting STEM education and her commitment to building our next generation of leaders in Bucks County.

RECOGNIZING COUNCIL ROCK HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, NASA is known for hiring the brightest and most adept people in the world to execute the functions of space exploration and research. I am proud to rec-

ognize some of their youngest employees, who work not out of Houston, Texas, but from Council Rock High School South in Pennsylvania.

Council Rock South is one of 125 schools in the Nation, and the only school in Pennsylvania, that participate in a unique program that enables students to develop projects that ultimately could be used by NASA itself. Indeed, NASA is currently working on one of the projects that originated from Council Rock South several years prior: a vibration isolation chamber that would protect fertilized eggs.

I applaud these students for their contributions and would like to thank the technology education teacher, Fred Bauer, for the guidance and direction he provides these impressive young women and men.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

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 talk about something critical to each and every person in the House and the millions of Americans whom we represent: our health.

It is no secret that the Affordable Care Act was an important start toward increasing access to care and addressing long-lingering health disparities that plague our communities. Thanks to the ACA, millions of Americans have access to quality, affordable healthcare, many for the first time. The impacts have been positive across the country, but especially in the African American community, where the uninsured rate has been cut in half.

Mr. Speaker, this is remarkable progress, but we still have a long way to go. Globally, the U.S. ranks 24th in healthcare. Let me say that again. We, the United States, the richest country in the history of the world, ranks 24th when it comes to healthcare. Nations like Slovenia, Antigua, and Barbuda outrank us. Mr. Speaker, that is outrageous. We can and must do better.

One area we desperately need to do better in is mental health. One in five Americans—that is more than 40 million of us—suffer from a mental health condition. Thankfully, the Affordable Care Act mandated, for the first time, that mental health services be included in coverage.

But stigma and a persistent lack of access to care continue to prevent many from seeking and receiving treatment. It is estimated that more than half of those struggling with a mental health condition cannot, or do not, receive the care that they need.

This Mental Health Awareness Month, I want to challenge my colleagues to join efforts to end stigma and bring these issues out into the open: join a rally, send a tweet on available services in your district, or host a roundtable with veterans who are struggling.

□ 1030

Do something, anything, to help deconstruct the stigma.

If every Member of this House did something, that is more than 440 moments to help tear down this stigma that keeps too many struggling without care.

This month, May, is also Lupus Awareness Month. Despite affecting more than 1.5 million Americans, lupus is poorly understood and often overlooked even by medical professionals.

It is estimated that a patient with lupus will go 6 years before they finally receive an accurate diagnosis.

More than 90 percent of those living with lupus are women, and a disproportionate number are people of color. In fact, African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are as much as three times more likely to be diagnosed with lupus than White Americans.

I hope that this House will mark May and Lupus Awareness Month by committing research, improved awareness, and increased access to care to support the 1.5 million Americans living with lupus.

This month, I also want to draw attention to the fact that more than 75 million of us suffer from high blood pressure.

Tragically, more than half—or 38 million—of us do not have this condition under control, leading to worsening complications, including heart disease and stroke, two of the leading causes of death in this country.

High blood pressure is often called the silent killer, and I know that nearly every one of us in this House has a story of losing a friend or loved one to stroke or a heart attack.

Again, as with nearly every disease, African Americans are disproportionately impacted. In fact, more than 40 percent of African American women and men have high blood pressure.

Our community often tends to develop this disorder earlier and experience it more severely than our White counterparts.

So this month I challenge everyone to “embrace the squeeze” and get your blood pressure checked. Knowing is half the battle, and it can save your life.

We have a chance for Congress to tackle these issues head-on.

Next week, my dear friend, mentor, and colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, will introduce the Health Equity and Accountability Act, also known as the HEAA bill.

This bill, that I have personally had the honor of introducing last Congress, takes a comprehensive look at where we need to address Americans' health disparities crisis.

I hope that all Members will take a careful look at this important bill and join us as cosponsors.

While many of these health disparities have existed for years, they don't need to persist. We can address them, we can solve problems, so let's get to it.

2018 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Police Week, I rise today to recognize the Dunlap, Tennessee, Police Department on its selection as a finalist for the 2018 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

This award, given each year by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard, recognizes employers who go above and beyond to support their employees serving in the National Guard and military reserves. Out of 2,300 nominations nationwide, the Dunlap Police Department was chosen as one of just 30 finalists for the award, whose recipients will be announced next month.

Under the leadership of Police Chief Clint Huth, who is himself a Navy Reserve Master Chief, the Dunlap Police Department has been active in their support for their guard and their reserve employees.

Like many employers across the country, Chief Huth and the Dunlap PD play an important role in our Nation's military readiness through their unwavering support of our reserve components.

On behalf of Tennessee's Fourth District, I would like to congratulate them on their recognition and offer my sincere gratitude for the commitment they have made to our citizen soldiers.

THE FARM BILL IS A FLAWED BILL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the debate this week in Congress centers largely around the farm bill, the most important bill that most people pay little or no attention to.

Currently, there is a mad scramble for votes for a flawed bill from a fractured Republican caucus.

Now, we are going to have some minor discussions on the floor. There are some amendments that will be bounced back and forth, but they are basically beside the point, not the big-picture issues that need to be debated.

There are fatal flaws. First and foremost, virtually everyone on our side of the aisle is adamantly opposed to the efforts to cut nutrition funding through SNAP, food stamps, rather than expanding opportunities to nutrition and healthy food.

For example, they are cutting farmers market funding, for heaven's sake, projects that are popular across the country and connect consumers directly with farmers for fresh, healthy food.

This is all while they are proposing to essentially hound people off food stamps with unnecessary restrictions for employment. The vast majority of people are already employed or have difficulty being employed or there aren't jobs available. They are going to have a job training program, about \$45 per person, which anybody who works in this field will acknowledge that the bureaucracy and the trouble will be more than it is worth in terms of a benefit to people. Essentially, they will hound people off food stamps.

This is at the same time where they are expanding subsidies for wealthy farming interests and expanding the ability to get those subsidies to people who aren't actively involved with farming. This bill is going to send subsidy checks to New York City and Chicago and San Francisco, people who are cousins and nieces and nephews, not actively farming.

The second major problem with this bill is it attacks conservation funding, cutting a billion dollars from essential services, cutbacks with the Conservation Stewardship Program, \$5 billion cut out of the Working Lands Project, and not strengthening the ability of environmental programs to produce results. There is no requirement that we have high-quality environmental outcomes.

In fact, the EQIP Program has a wide variety of things that we pay farmers to do that actually don't enhance the environment. We are paying farmers for the cost of doing business: fencing, hog lagoons. That is decidedly the wrong step to take.

The worst aspect that is not getting the attention it deserves is the so-called King amendment, the Protect Interstate Commerce Act, which would prevent State or local governments from regulating an agricultural product except to the extent it is already regulated by Federal law or the producing State.

Think about that for a moment. States are moving to deal with the opioid crisis, and they would be prevented from having drug prohibitions that go beyond what the Federal Government does or other States.

Food packaging regulations. Many States are concerned about BPA-free container requirements for baby food: prohibited.

Fishing regulations. In my State, and I suspect in many others, people are serious about being able to protect fisheries, commercial and recreational, but under this bill, they would be prohibited if another State has looser requirements. My colleague from Seattle might have some concerns in her State about protecting the clamming operations, but some State like Nebraska that doesn't have them could come in and not observe those limits.

The notion that we won't have invasive pest protections that are tailored to what our States want, product transportation laws, secure containers for animal carcasses and grease—lowest common denominator.

Licensing and permitting of commercial enterprises, for example, professional licensing and pet sellers; you could not prohibit a convicted animal abuser from having a license to traffic animals if the other State doesn't have it.

These are horrific provisions trampling on States' rights, consumer protection, environmental protection, agricultural protection.

This bill should be rejected.

NATIONAL SALVATION ARMY WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Salvation Army Week, and it is a time to recognize the good that this organization does, but also a time to raise awareness about the challenges faced by more than 40 million Americans who are living in poverty, many who are stuck in poverty, quite frankly, because of programs and regulations put forth by Washington, D.C., for decades that serve as a spiderweb and makes people feel more comfortable living in poverty, which is nothing we should ever do.

We should always be working to provide our friends, our neighbors, our neighbors in need with a pathway to opportunity. The Salvation Army is a great organization, actually, that accomplishes that.

With the help of 3.2 million volunteers, the Salvation Army serves nearly 25 million Americans through a range of social services, including food for the hungry, relief for disaster survivors, clothing and shelter for the homeless, and opportunities for underprivileged children.

National Salvation Army Week began in 1954 when Congress approved the joint resolution for President Dwight D. Eisenhower to proclaim a week to recognize the humanitarian efforts of the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army is one of the Nation's largest and oldest faith-based health and human services providers.

With a presence in every ZIP Code across the country, the Salvation Army uniquely understands the demands facing Americans in need.

Last year, the Salvation Army served more than 56 million meals and provided more than 10 million nights of shelter.

The Salvation Army is on the front lines of the opioid crisis, serving more than 173,000 Americans in 139 rehab centers across the United States.

Since the 1900 Galveston hurricane, the Salvation Army has served survivors and first responders of every major natural disaster and numerous man-made disasters. In any given year, it helps more than 275,000 survivors receive hope, healing, and comfort.

Through a wide variety of job training programs, including culinary, hospitality, and landscaping training, the