

How are we going to adequately address the opioid addiction crisis when they want to tear away affordable healthcare, including the protection on preexisting conditions?

We need a robust solution here, a comprehensive solution. Otherwise, this is simply nibbling around the edges.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the negotiations with North Korea. I do so in my role as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

I point out that, just a month ago, I joined with the chairman of that subcommittee, Mr. YOHO, in sending a letter to the President saying we now need tougher sanctions on North Korea. In particular, we need to make it clear to the large banks in China that they can no longer do business with North Korea.

We had our foot on the neck of Kim Jong-un. We needed to press it down a little harder to get the concessions that we need. Instead, we have a lifting of the efforts. Instead of ratcheting our sanctions up, we are going to relax them. The word is out to businesses and banks in China: You can do a little bit more today and a little bit more after that.

This is a giant victory for Kim Jong-un. The negotiations will go forward, but those negotiations will go forward with Kim Jong-un being able to breathe because we no longer have our foot on his neck.

Four hours ago, the President tweeted: "There is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea." He might as well have smiled with Kim Jong-un and said: "Peace in our time."

Now, I am not saying that what happened in Singapore is as fraught with danger for the world as was what happened in Munich in 1938, but what happened in Munich will illustrate for us that just because you have a summit with smiles does not mean you are leading toward peace.

The President tweeted: "There is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea." If you believe that, you probably believe that he has been faithful to all three of his wives.

We hope that these negotiations lead to real peace. But so far, they have led only to a big win for the person President Trump calls "Little Rocket Man." That is a big win for Little Rocket Man.

You see, the President's most famous book has been reissued. It is now called "The Art of the Capitulation."

How do you exercise the art of the capitulation? You make enormous concessions to the other side. You settle for vague platitudes. Then you go on TV and say: This is the best deal ever.

Let's look at the concessions. The President has referred to our military exercises as provocative and indicated that they will be scaled back or eliminated. He has given the green light to Chinese business and bankers to do business. He has given Kim Jong-un the prestige of a meeting with the President of the United States, not necessarily our most prestigious President, but a President of the United States nevertheless.

What have we received in return? A vague statement about denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. But, as far as we know, North Korea doesn't intend to do that until the entire world is denuclearized. He also has released three American hostages and says he will help us, allow us, to find some of the bodies of our fallen heroes from the Korean war. Those are basic in human civilization. He releases hostages, and for that, we give major concessions.

The one concession that we did not get is a halt for even a minute in the creation of fissile material at Yongbyon. There, North Korea, throughout the negotiations and while the President was tweeting, makes more enriched uranium, more plutonium, and is building more bombs. That didn't stop for a minute.

So we are told that there has been at least a pause in their testing program. Keep in mind, Russia hasn't tested a nuclear weapon since 1990. Are we going to say that they don't have nuclear weapons capable of reaching the United States and destroying our cities?

The fact is, North Korea has proven its nuclear capacity, so they can go a while without testing. They are continuing to make more bombs that they have already tested and proven.

We all hope that we reach a peaceful settlement. This has not been a good start.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Daniel C. Gunn, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and School, New Providence, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech You that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Your name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to Your law, we may show forth Your praise among the nations of the Earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in You to fail; all which we humbly ask in Your most holy name.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ALLEN 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. DANIEL CUBE GUNN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reverend Dr. Daniel Cube Gunn, who has so eloquently opened our session in the daily prayer. Father Gunn joins us in the House Chamber from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and School in New Providence, New Jersey, a beautiful community in the district I have the honor of serving.

Father Gunn's professional ministry, education, and service to his and my faith of Christianity has spanned several States and experiences. He graduated from Lee College, earned his master's degree in divinity at the Church of God Theological Seminary and a master's degree in philosophy at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. Father Gunn later completed a master's degree of sacred theology in

Anglican theology and ethics at Yale University's Divinity School.

Father Gunn heard the call of ministry at a young age. During service in Tennessee, he served the Department of Corrections, bringing hope and wisdom to those incarcerated. He then brought his ministry to St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, completing a clinical residency where he brought comfort to patients and their families.

Father Gunn was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 2002, and his assignments brought him to Bronxville, New York; Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Clarksboro, New Jersey; and Ridgewood, New Jersey. Father Gunn was then named priest-in-charge and superintendent of St. Andrew's in New Providence, New Jersey.

I thank him for his stewardship at St. Andrew's. Its mission statement gives the church the welcoming moniker of "a big heart, making God's love known to the world."

I thank Father Gunn for being here and for offering our daily prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S REFUSAL TO PROTECT PATIENTS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 115 people in America die from opioid overdose every day—115. While we are spending the next 2 weeks passing bipartisan legislation to combat the opioid crisis, President Trump's Department of Justice is abandoning the Affordable Care Act and its popular rule that protects Americans from preexisting conditions like opioid addiction. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 130 million adults under the age of 65 have preexisting conditions.

This action taken by the Justice Department is bad policy, and it will do more harm to Texas, which already has the highest population of uninsured in the Nation.

In fact, it will add more uncertainty to the Affordable Care Act markets at a time when Americans throughout the country will witness double-digit rate increases for the ACA plans next year. We can't combat the opioid crisis if we deny treatment and access to care for Americans with substance abuse.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, speak out, and oppose the huge health insurance premium increases.

RECOGNIZING THE ILLINOIS MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY, HOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCIENCE FAIR

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aurora's Illinois Math and Science Academy as the first-ever U.S. host of the International Student Science Fair.

This month, 35 STEM schools from 20 countries will focus particularly on "significantly influencing life on our planet through cooperation and collaboration."

IMSA began with an idea from Fermilab Director Leon Lederman and leadership from its first president, Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall. Its own mission is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition.

IMSA knows that careers in STEM are not just about learning math and science as isolated individuals. It is about how mastering these subjects as a team can solve problems and improve lives, as I have seen in the high school students that are part of my own STEM Scholars program.

IMSA has consistently pushed students to work together in a community, propelling their graduates to Silicon Valley and beyond. This year's science fair is in good hands, and I congratulate IMSA on this historic achievement.

AMERICA'S OPIOID CRISIS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House is voting on bills meant to address the opioid crisis, a crisis facing communities across the country. This crisis deserves our full attention and bipartisan action. Mr. Speaker, 115 people die every day from overdose. These are real human beings.

I think of Katie Lethbridge, from my home community of Brendan Bye, lost to this terrible, terrible addiction, this terrible tragic disease.

We need more than just the legislation that is coming before us this week. We need a serious commitment to treatment, to funding treatment, not just with direct funding to ensure that the programs that support treatment are in place, but actually making sure that people have healthcare coverage that includes coverage for treatment.

When this House works to undermine the guarantee that people with a pre-existing condition, which could include addiction, if it is taken from them, we are really not living up to the promise that we owe to these folks.

AMERICA'S OPIOID CRISIS

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, in America today, in every State, in too many families, there is a profound sense of pain, loss, and suffering caused by the horrendous opioid crisis.

Unfortunately, my home State of Georgia is not immune to this growing epidemic. Many of my closest friends have lost family members or children, and the question is always: Why? How can this happen?

From 1999 to 2014, prescription opioid deaths increased tenfold in Georgia. We saw over 500 deaths in 2015 as a result of opioid abuse.

Over the next few weeks, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives are bringing opioid addiction out of the shadows and voting on over 50 pieces of legislation to prevent further opioid abuse and assist those currently dealing with addiction. We must take proactive steps to fight opioid addiction and focus on treating the mind, the body, and, most important in my view, the spirit.

The road to recovery may be long and hard-fought, but the American will be as strong as ever and shall prevail. We are at war with drugs, and we must defeat this enemy.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting the nearly 40 opioid-related bills before this House this week. America needs us.

MEDICARE IS THE BEST PUBLIC HEALTHCARE OPTION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department last week said to a Federal court that it will not defend against efforts to dismantle the individual market and protections for preexisting conditions of the healthcare law.

Mr. Speaker, the 50 to 64 demographic in America that buys health insurance on the exchanges is about to get clobbered with 30 to 40 percent premium increases and no protection against denial for preexisting conditions. The 60 million people between the ages of 50 and 64 need the protection of Medicare now by allowing them to buy into the program to give them medical coverage.

Medicare is fully compliant with the Affordable Care Act, and Medicare always covers preexisting conditions. Medicare is the best health care insurance, and it is the best public option that already exists. Let's make that accessible to the people who are age 50 to 64.

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for and