

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

emphasize the importance of blood donation and independent blood centers in America.

Blood transfusions help save millions of lives each year. However, blood cannot be manufactured, so our entire national supply depends on the selfless generosity of blood donors. Because donated blood is perishable, it has a limited shelf life. It must be continually replenished.

Last year, when a shooter attacked the Republican baseball team and hit my friend and roommate, Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE, the donors who visited their local blood center in the days prior to the shooting made a crucial difference in saving his life. Volunteer blood donors ensure that patients suffering due to natural disasters, accidents, diseases, or acts of violence always will have access to lifesaving blood.

This week, in honor of World Blood Donor Day, I want to thank our Nation's blood donors, as well as encourage others to join the 7 million Americans who choose to donate blood each year. I also encourage my colleagues to visit their local blood centers to learn more about the continuous need for blood donation and to support their lifesaving work.

AMERICA'S GROWING HEALTHCARE CRISIS

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the crisis facing families across the country whose fear is growing daily about their healthcare.

This week, I took John to the doctor, and so many people stopped us, it ended up being an unscheduled town hall meeting.

A 50-year-old woman who had had a stroke last year, who was now walking and talking, scared to death that she would lose her insurance and about what she had to do.

A mother of an 8-year-old who has juvenile diabetes crying and saying: What am I going to do? I don't know how I will afford it, or if her life could even end.

There were 10 more stories that morning. This isn't a war of words. These are real people with real consequences, and, for some, it is a matter of life and death. They are depending on all of us. We must come together.

So many of my colleagues said: "We will never go back to the days that people would be denied insurance because of preexisting conditions." Let's work together to help people who need us.

OPTIMISM ABOUT THE TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, President Donald Trump arrived in Singapore for the historic meeting with Kim Jong-un of North Korea, the first-ever meeting between a sitting President and the leader of North Korea. I applaud President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and National Security Advisor John Bolton for their successful efforts.

This summit was a substantive step forward, but to protect American families, the United States will continue to insist that North Korea take concrete, verifiable steps toward denuclearization.

I remain hopeful that North Korea will commit to regular, unannounced nuclear inspections by both U.N. and American experts, leading to prosperity for the people of North Korea, as has been achieved phenomenally for the people of South Korea.

As one of only two Members of Congress who have visited Pyongyang, I am especially grateful that President Trump has maintained his effective foreign policy of peace through strength, without which this summit would have never occurred.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations to State Representative Katie Arrington on the dynamic primary victory yesterday to represent the historic First District of South Carolina.

□ 1215

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 13, 2018, at 11:13 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2229.

That the Senate agreed to without an amendment H. Con. Res. 111.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

HONORING HUMBERTO LOPEZ

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend, Humberto Lopez, for receiving the Ari-

zona Lodging & Tourism Association's Hotelier of the Year Award this past May.

Humberto Lopez rose from humble roots and is the true definition of the American Dream. He provided for his family as a young boy after his father passed away, worked diligently in college at the University of Arizona, and became a CPA.

In 1975, he founded HSL Properties, Inc. and Arizona's tourism industry owes him its thanks for bringing excellence in hospitality and service to the outstanding hotels he manages.

More importantly though, Humberto Lopez created the H.S. Lopez Family Foundation, which works to improve the quality of life for communities and families across southern Arizona through education, health, and welfare. Humberto Lopez's work to provide for Arizona and those in need is a testament to the success of the American Dream and the character we need in our citizens.

CONGRATULATING TITUSVILLE AREA HOSPITAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Titusville Area Hospital on earning an achievement award from the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania for its outstanding efforts to improve healthcare in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The hospital's entry was titled: "Enhancing Emergency Care: Because Seconds Count in an Emergency," and it was chosen as an Excellence in Care Award winner. Twelve award recipients were selected from 91 total submissions. It is a tremendous achievement for CEO Lee Clinton and everyone on the staff at the Titusville Area Hospital.

The goal was to lower the overall wait time for patients seeking emergency care. The hospital began collecting data in November 2016. At that point the door-to-doctor wait time was 46 minutes, and today the current average wait time is approximately 21 minutes. This is below the State and national averages.

The progress that has been made during this time is remarkable. It translates to not only better patient experience, but better care.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate CEO Lee Clinton and everyone at the Titusville Area Hospital on this outstanding achievement. The community is most proud of their efforts.