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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### THE COST OF HEALTHCARE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is great to see so many youth in the audience today, and I look forward to sharing what I think is perhaps the biggest problem that is facing Americans right now, and that is the cost of healthcare. Not the cost of healthcare insurance, but truly the cost of healthcare itself.

When I look at the problems facing this country, most of us are very concerned about our national debt of over \$20 trillion. In fact, 28 percent of our Federal budget goes towards healthcare right now, and until we can start driving the true cost of healthcare down, we will never be able to fix this huge Federal debt.

When I talk to small businesses across my district, their number one concern is the cost of healthcare. A sixth of their budget is going towards healthcare.

Certainly, I believe that transparency, innovation, and consumerism are the basic principles to drive down the cost of healthcare, but I want to

stop today and applaud what the President and the Secretary of Labor did yesterday by opening up association plans. This is one small piece that will help drive down the cost of healthcare for folks who purchase healthcare as individuals or in small groups.

This will start to break down the State walls which prevent competition and once again allow different groups—all my farmers could join together through their associations, or other small businesses would be able to group together and have better purchasing power. This is going to give 400,000 people more health insurance and quality health insurance with true access to healthcare.

Now, on the House side, we passed H.R. 1101, and that bill basically codifies what the Secretary of Labor did yesterday. But like some 6,000 other bills, it has been sitting over in the Senate and, in this case, has been sitting in the Senate for over a year. We need leadership on both sides of the House to help drive down the cost of healthcare.

### IMMIGRATION AND CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHENEY). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as we stand here, a 5-year-old woke up in a cage. She committed no crime. She came here seeking hope and refuge.

Instead, Madam Speaker, she was taken from her parents, from her brothers and sisters, from all she knows and loves. She does not know where she is; she does not know where her family is; she does not speak the language of her captives; and she may never see her family again.

This morning, Madam Speaker, that innocent little child is crying in a cage, and we stand here doing nothing as in-

nocent little babies sit in modern-day camps.

That is not right; it is not fair; and it is not just. And, Madam Speaker, history will not be kind to us if we continue to pass this unbelievable injustice on to our children.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, there is only one word that goes through my mind when I think about what this White House is doing to children right now. It's "shame." Shame on them.

For years, we saw Republicans try to attack Democrats for having the gall to give millions of Americans healthcare or to address global warming. Your leaders stood up on this floor and said shame on us.

Shame on you for letting this happen, for being willing to let kids be kept in warehouses because you can't stand up to this President.

These are children, children who deserve the love of a mother and a father, not cages and concrete floors. These are children, babies in some cases. They need someone to comfort them when they can't sleep, to cool their food when it is too hot, to give them those basics of love and kindness that these children need.

What they don't need is to be used as hostages for President Trump to get his anti-immigrant wish list and a wall. They don't need to be demonized when their families are seeking refuge.

If President Trump and the Republicans don't think these families deserve asylum or protection, if they don't think these people deserve a chance of a life of safety, they are wrong. But these are matters that we can debate.

But you mean to tell me you don't think these children deserve the love of their mother and the comfort of their father? You mean to tell me that the Bible puts law above keeping families together? Absolutely not.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Shame on this White House and on everyone who stands with them. Shame on our country if we let this continue.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, this is what it has come to. We stand here in the well of the House appealing to—in a sense, begging—the President to acknowledge the undeniable truth, the undeniable truth that this is a crisis that he can end with the stroke of a pen. This is a crisis that he has created, and it is a crisis that he can eliminate.

The undeniable truth is that, if a President can see these babies crying and pleading for their parents—momma, father, papa—if the President can see this and not take action, his heart has hardened to the extent that he is unfit to be President.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, our Nation is mourning. Our Nation is crying out to save our little children, save our babies.

History will not be kind to us as a nation and as a people if we continue to go down this road. We must stop the madness, and stop it now.

There was a man by the name of A. Philip Randolph, who was the dean of Black leadership during the sixties when we were planning the March on Washington. He kept saying: “Maybe our foremothers and our forefathers all came to this great land in different ships, but we’re all in the same boat now.”

Our little children, our babies, our young people, are crying out for help. We need help from Members of Congress. We can do better.

#### ARTISTS ADVOCATING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of several young people in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who are advocating for environmental protection using their artistic talents.

Recently, the Countryside Gallery in Newtown featured an exhibit, titled, “One Planet: Wildlife Vulnerable to Climate Change.” This exhibit gave students, under the guidance of artist Bonnie Porter, the ability to share their wildlife paintings in an effort to spread awareness of the threat of climate change. I am proud to recognize them now:

Amelia Binkley, Bella Cacciatore, Allison Cirillo, Victoria Cirillo, Taylor Dahms, Amanda Gardner, Olivia Kelly, Brady Klein, Addison Kohler, Emily LaPlante, Kate Logan, Jessica Martin, Nicole Mercora, Grace Porter, Olivia Ralston, Nolan Riesenberger, Chris Riether, Violet Schroeder, Gabi Smith,

Abby Steadman, Erin Stone, Katie Sukunda, Ella Walsh, and Anna Williamson.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the activism, thoughtfulness, and impressive artistic abilities of these young citizens. I am proud to stand with them and will continue to fight with my colleagues to combat climate change and protect our environment.

#### RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY OUTSTANDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two outstanding law enforcement officials in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who are working tirelessly to make our community a safer place. Assistant District Attorney Megan Brooks and Deputy District Attorney Kristen McElroy were selected by fellow prosecutors in honor of their public service in pursuit of justice.

Megan received the Danny E. Khalouf Memorial Award for Outstanding Performance. Described as a rising star, Megan works for the Youthful Offender program and the Special Victims Unit.

Kristen received the Robert Rosner Memorial Award for Exceptional Service, Professionalism and Integrity. Known for her unparalleled work ethic, Kristen is the chief of the Special Victims Unit for adult sex crimes and directs the internship program.

I commend these fine public servants for their dedication to law, to safety, and to protecting our community.

I applaud District Attorney Matt Weintraub for leading such a fine team of attorneys that work tirelessly on behalf of all of us in Bucks County.

#### POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, June is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month, and I would like to take this time to recognize an organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that works to rehabilitate heroes who struggle with this illness.

Since 2014, Shamrock Reins in Pipersville has offered equine therapy to help veterans and first responders recover from PTSD.

Founded by Janet Brennan, a registered nurse whose father served in the Vietnam war, Shamrock Reins uses a range of equine services, including riding therapy, to help assimilate our servicemen and -women back into society following their tours of duty.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am continually in awe of the sacrifices that our soldiers and our first responders make every day. I applaud Janet for her service to our Nation’s heroes, and I encourage all of our constituents to follow her lead. Together, we can defeat PTSD.

#### IMMIGRATION AND CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. As a fa-

ther, as a grandfather, as a human being who cares about children, I ask: For God’s sake, America, what is happening to your soul?

There are 11,000 children who are being held in jail cells throughout the country. Families arriving at the border seeking asylum voluntarily, seeking refuge voluntarily, are being detained, and they are being held in jail. Children as young as the children here today—as young as the children here today—are being held in jail. Babies are being separated from their mothers, even while breastfeeding them. This constitutes child abuse.

Madam Speaker, show some basic compassion for these young children, their brothers and sisters and their parents. Every single Member of Congress should be able to stand behind the simple idea that families, regardless of where they are born, belong together.

I know that Jesus of Nazareth was a refugee, and he paid the ultimate price.

Madam Speaker, this is a historic fight for the soul of our Nation, whether we remain a nation of aspirations or we become a nation of deportation.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

□ 0915

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, you can hear the babies crying. When I went to the south Texas processing center, places where they were holding children, you could see the cages. You could hear and feel the warmth of Roger that was 9 months old who I held in my hands and who I did not want to let go. I could feel that because Roger’s relatives had been taken from him, and he was crying.

The babies are coming every day. There are 2,000 children who have been snatched from their families. It is child abuse.

Mr. President, you can come to the Republican Conference and make jokes and raise your fist, but you can sign right now on behalf of the American people that you will let these babies go to their families.

Pope Francis said: “A person’s dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee. Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity.”

This is a sin. Please, for Carlos and Alajerry, please let our children go to their families.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, look at these young, innocent faces. I suspect many of these children are seeing the House floor for the very first time.

It is unfortunate that their first experience in this temple of democracy, the people’s House, is to be here as we call our government to stop terrorizing children on the U.S.-Mexico border.

This past weekend, Madam Speaker, I traveled with Leader PELOSI and the