

which is part of New York's 22nd District, during the very same time.

During the most recent district work period, the President signed into law the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention Act that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment—SUPPORT—for Patients and Communities Act, which included the Expanding Oversight of Opioid Prescribing and Payment Act, which I coauthored.

This bipartisan legislation directs the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, or MedPAC, to issue a report regarding perverse incentives that lead to overprescription of opioid-addictive drugs.

This legislation is important in my district because studies have shown that 29 percent of patients prescribed an opioid for pain, go on to misuse the drug. The Federal Government should be doing all it can to prevent overprescribing. Enacting this important bill is a critical first step in this process.

#### RECOGNIZING SMALL BUSINESSES

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to recognize a very important industry in my region, and it is a great honor for me to be able to represent a place called Revere Copper Company in Rome, New York. Yes, Revere was actually founded by none other than the great Paul Revere of our great history in this country.

This great company was North America's first copper rolling mill and it was founded, again, by our great patriot, Paul Revere, in Rome, New York.

It still resides in Rome, New York over 200 years later. Small businesses like this are the backbone of employment in New York's 22nd District, accounting for 98 percent of jobs created in our private sector. While everyone thinks all jobs are created by big companies, in fact, our small business community has 98 percent of those jobs created.

In Congress, we need to make sure that we keep empowering our small businesses, creating a fair tax and regulatory environment that allows them to grow, to hire more workers, and to reinvest in our communities. Too many of our local businesses are held back by skyrocketing healthcare costs which cut into their bottom line, and our regulatory code, which requires a team of lawyers to decode, just to comply with the endless amounts of bureaucracy—something that I have experienced personally as the owner of a small manufacturing business in upstate New York.

The time for debate and verbal platitudes need to end when it comes to our small business community, our employers need solutions. We must work to make the middle class and small business tax cuts permanent.

I am very proud to be a person who voted for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which tremendously helped our community. We have seen an unprecedented amount of gains in our economy locally; a glimmer of hope in an area where we have seen very little progress

over the decades because of some of the policies that have been enacted that really have hurt our small business community and have caused New York to have the highest out-migration of people in the entire Nation. Over 1 million New Yorkers have left New York State because of these policies just since 2010.

We must fight to continue to contain healthcare costs, to provide for a public healthcare system, but also an affordable care system for people who are just simply not able to see their doctors.

We must stand for a country that represents everyone and not just the powerful. That is something I have done as a corruption fighter. As a person who stood up to the leaders in both parties, to the most powerful and wealthiest people in our community, I stood up to them and fought for the middle class, and fought for the average worker, people across our Nation.

To our small businesses, I just want to say thank you so much for all you do every day. As a small business owner, I know how difficult the fight is, how difficult the struggle is. You are the American Dream in our communities. You provide the hope for our future, and you provide the most jobs that we are going to see as we grow into the coming years, and hope that we can keep our economy moving.

To my small business community, I just want to say thank you so much for all that you have done in adding jobs, in providing responsible employment for our communities, for individuals, for giving hope, for giving people first starts, for everything you have done in our community.

It has been an amazing opportunity for me to represent a community that really cares. My community is well-known for its generosity. I find that in our small business community, much like the business I own, we do so much for our communities that doesn't get recognized. We don't have big profits. Many of us operate at less than profit.

But what we do is we give dearly to our communities. We provide for the Little League teams, and for the people who are struggling from diseases that cannot be cured.

□ 1130

We provide in greater numbers. While, yes, big companies can provide a large check, our small-business community does what it can on a scale that is much greater by proportion.

So I am really grateful to all the people I have served in my community who do so much to help all of us. I want to make sure that our small-business community is recognized. Often in government, we hear an awful lot about the big businesses. But it is really the small businesses that are the backbone of our community. They are the heart of entrepreneurship.

I just want to say that, as a small-business owner, I am deeply grateful for all the work that you do, the late

nights, the hard work of your employees to put out a beautiful product. It is something that you are helping your local and fellow citizens, even across the country. I am just really grateful.

#### RECOGNIZING JASON GRAY

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, on another issue, I would like to make sure we recognize a man named Jason Gray. He is a paramedic from Norwich, New York.

Last month, when Hurricane Michael left Florida's homes, beaches, and businesses in ruins, Jason Gray uprooted his life in Norwich to assist in medical relief efforts.

What Jason Gray and his team at the National Disaster Medical System did to help the most vulnerable Florida residents is simply incredible. He provided on-the-ground medical help to hundreds of victims devastated by Hurricane Michael.

Our community is really lucky to have a selfless person like Jason Gray and so many others. I would like to give him special recognition for his willingness to go help others in need outside of our own State and to really use his skills and his talent to bring relief and some sense of sanity to people who are really suffering in the panhandle, in the tough parts of Florida.

I want to say thank you again to Jason for what he does for our communities and what he has done for Florida. It is a tremendous honor to represent him, and it is my distinct honor to represent him here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THE RULING CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we are living in interesting times. As Dickens said, it is the best of times and the worst of times.

There has never been a country in the history of the world with the amount of opportunity and freedom for individuals that has been found in the United States. Even in Solomon's Israel—great wealth there—there was not the opportunity and the individual assets that we have here in the United States of America.

It is incredible that even for the Nation's poor, obesity is a major health issue. That is just unheard of in world history.

It is deeply grieving to hear that so many of our Nation's college students and college graduates have been indoctrinated with the notion that socialism is so much better. Communism, really, is what we are talking about. They call it progressivism and socialism, what they are proposing, that that would be a superior form of government to what we have. What those students have not been taught—and it is an enormous gap

in education; it is an enormous area of ignorance for those students—is that you can't have socialism or communism without giving up a tremendous amount freedom.

That was one of the things that scared some people in the Soviet Union, when the Soviet Union came to exist no more. They had given up so much liberty, the idea that they were now free to find whatever job they wanted, and they didn't have to just take what the government told them to take. They could find whatever job they wanted. They could be entrepreneurs.

I talked to some. They were scared because with liberty and with freedom comes uncertainty.

But the Founders felt that government had always been a threat to people's freedom, to their liberty. They felt liberty, freedom, was far superior to security. It is often attributed to Franklin that those who would give up liberty for security or safety deserve neither.

When you really break down a socialist, communist system, you don't have a middle class. You have a ruling class, and you have a ruled class. That is what we are headed for.

I believe we saw the beginnings of that in this last election when billionaires poured hundreds of millions of dollars into this election like never before, because unlike many of our college students now, they know what happens in a socialist, communist system. You have the ruling class, and you have the ruled class.

Yes, it is true. It is so wonderful that the ruled class basically has the same amount of money. They get paid similar amounts. But I kind of like the idea of physicians being paid more than most people, because that means you draw the best and brightest into that profession. I found that not to be the case as an exchange student in the Soviet Union back when it was the Soviet Union. I got a glimpse of their socialized medicine, and thanked God, literally, that I lived in the United States and didn't have to be part of a socialized medicine system where the doctors were paid the same amount whether they saw one or two people or they saw the 40, 50 people who were waiting to see them. They didn't care. They were going to make the same amount every day.

Exactly that was what the farmers said at a collective farm when I asked in the middle of the morning when they worked out in the field, because it was midmorning. I have worked on farms and ranches. In the middle of July, like this was, you would normally start at sunup, so you could finish by midafternoon before the sun got too hot. Here these farmers were sitting in the shade.

I couldn't tell what was cultivated. There were thousands and thousands of acres out there. I couldn't tell what was cultivated and what wasn't.

I tried to use my best Russian to ask: When do you work out in the field?

I pointed. They laughed. I thought maybe I had said it wrong, but one of the farmers said: I make the same number of rubles if I am out there in the sun as I do here in the shade, so I am here in the shade.

That basically explains why the Soviet Union could never come anywhere close to being as productive with wheat and with crops as we were in the United States.

People, going back to the Pilgrims after the first winter, loved the idea of bringing all into the common storehouse. Everybody was sharing and sharing alike until after that first winter when so many Pilgrims died. They found that the idea of private property where people could keep what they produced was just fantastic. They were so much more productive. They worked harder, and it was better for the overall community.

But we seem to be slipping into a time when the concept of freedom will be forsaken for bigger and bigger government intrusion. You have to have, though, a totalitarian government for socialism or communism, either one, to succeed. That is how you eliminate the middle class. You have the ruled class, and you have the rich class and the powerful class.

Sometimes they may not have as much money as they do power, but I think the reason we see billionaires pushing us in the direction of socialism is because they see themselves in the ruling class and see themselves as being so much wiser, and they see what they perceive should be the ruled class as not being nearly as smart and as inventive as they are.

So things will be just paradise. It will be utopian, once you have the billionaires—and I think some people who want to push us in that direction who are not billionaires still have to consider they know so much better than individuals across the country, and we would profit so much more from having this intelligentsia be the ruling class and all the rest of us be minions and do what we are told. We never have to decide what job we have.

We have been moving in that direction. That is why I think you saw under the Obama administration the takeover of student loans. Then you will see, I think, in the next couple years a move toward more and more control over college students. You will see an effort to say: Look, there is so much student debt, why don't we tell these students that if you go to the location we tell you, if you go take the job we tell you, then we will start forgiving your debt, as long as you do what we tell you?

There again, we are on the road to giving up a middle class and to giving up our liberty and freedom, letting there be a ruling class that we will call the government.

When I was studying history at Texas A&M, I did a research paper on the Soviet government. I was intrigued that

Khrushchev, as Premier of the Soviet Union, understood that true communism theoretically did not have a government in existence. True communism means from those according to their ability, to those according to their need. People shared and shared alike. Regardless of how hard they worked, everybody shared equally. But in true communism, there is no government.

The Premier, Khrushchev, set up a commission to come up—they loved their 5-year plan for their economy—with a plan of how they could move to ultimate communism when there was no government. There would just be the people existing—loving, living together, and sharing together—without a government.

It didn't take too long—I can't remember, a year or 2—until the commission and Khrushchev realized that, in this world, you can never have communism or socialism without a totalitarian government. He disbanded the commission. They never achieved their plan of how they could move into ultimate communism with no government, and so they moved forward with a totalitarian government.

Of course, those who actually study real history know that no truly socialist or communist government has ever succeeded. They always fail. Margaret Thatcher said that they fail when they run out of other people's money to spend.

But we seem to be moving there. It wasn't lost on some that, during the Obama administration, we had millions more added to poverty and in need of government assistance. We had so many moved out of the middle class into poverty. At the same time, President Obama himself admitted—it is on video, and it is the only time it has ever happened in the history of the United States of America. Under President Obama's administration, for the first time in American history, 95 percent of the American income went to the top 1 percent income earners.

□ 1145

It had never happened before. I hope and pray it doesn't happen again. It has been fantastic in the last 2 years, or since President Trump has taken office, that we have seen the economy surge. We heard from President Obama that it is unlikely we would ever hit 3 percent growth again and that those days were behind us.

So the middle class shrunk. The ruling class got more and more power. People were standing in line saying: Oh, please, master government, give me more of this, give me more of that. And it has been so refreshing to see millions no longer needing government assistance in different areas and that they are getting better jobs.

But that shouldn't have been a revelation, because if you look at single-mom income when adjusted for inflation from 1965, when welfare began, to 1995, when a work requirement was

added by the brand-new Republican majority under Speaker Newt Gingrich, that single-mom income adjusted for inflation for those 30 years flatlined. Single moms had no increase in income adjusted for inflation for 30 years.

When the Republican majority in 1995 added a work requirement that you couldn't get welfare unless you worked, if you were able to work, for the first time single-mom income, when adjusted for inflation, started taking off.

I saw a graph by a dean at Harvard when I was there for a seminar. I was amazed, for one thing, that they would show that, reveal that at Harvard. But it was amazing.

So, on the one hand, you had people that say: We care more about single moms, so we are going to give them more money for every child they can have out of wedlock. What it did was pull them into a rut they could not get out of.

When I was a felony judge in Texas, one of the things that really began to deeply trouble me is seeing more women coming before me—single moms—for welfare fraud as a felony. I never sent any of those women to prison. I always gave them probation. But the stories were normally very, very similar. There were a number of different races. That wasn't the issue.

But the big point that seemed to be repeated over and over was often they were bored in high school. Someone would say: If you have a baby, you don't have to finish high school. The government will start sending you a check. And then they would have a baby out of wedlock. The government would send them a check, and then they find out you can't live very well like that.

So the ones that came before me—I know it is not a blanket case—but the ones that came before me, most of them would have another child, thinking maybe if I can get another check, I can get out of this hole. And they would get in a deeper and longer rut they could not extricate themselves from.

I have had great conversations with Star Parker, who can testify about the trouble with that. I have spoken to sociology classes at Texas college, a traditionally Black college, as well as Wiley College and Jarvis College in my district. They have done an amazing job of educating, so often it is the first person in a family to have ever gone to college. What is amazing is that once that first child gets to college, then their children end up going to major universities. It is just a wonderful, great step to help pull people out of poverty.

I heard from students—the most vocal were single moms in their late twenties, some in their thirties—who realized that I am not going to have a good life if I stay in poverty. They set about to improve themselves through education. It was amazing to hear some of them, just adamant, you have got to

have a mandatory work requirement, and another saying you have got to drug test people who are on welfare.

These are all African American single moms. One of them was saying: Nobody ever drug-tested me, so I can take government money and spend it on drugs. They were asserting that we should do things that this Congress has never ventured out to do. But they were adamant, because they have been lulled into, enticed into a hole, a rut that they were almost not able to get out of.

A government should not be about luring people into holes or ruts from which they cannot extricate themselves. We ought to be about pushing, encouraging people to reach their greatest potential. That can not, will not, does not, has not ever happened in a socialist or communist system. If you get rid of the middle class, you have a ruling class, and you have a ruled class.

If you wanted to call it sort of a middle class in the Soviet Union, they didn't make more money than the rest in the ruled class, but if people had a little bit of power or a lot, then people that were part of the ruled class that had a shoe store or a grocery store or some other kind of place where goods or services could be purchased—but especially goods—the storekeeper would reserve things in the back to give to people that might have a little power that could help them.

But I will never forget when, one morning, in a youth hostel in Moscow, a Ukrainian friend was staying in our room with me and two others—there were 8 Americans in the Soviet Union that summer—and a cleaning lady came in and she saw the Ukrainian and screamed and ran out of the room.

I said: Why did she scream? Why is she going?

He said: In your country, you are able to elevate yourself by working harder, making more money. You can elevate yourself. In my country, the only way you can elevate yourself is to step on other people. So she is going to run down and tell people I shouldn't be here. She will step on me. It will elevate her a little bit. That is what we do in our country to get ahead. We step on each other, trying to get ahead.

I said: That makes no sense. What has she got to gain by running down and saying that you are here?

He said: She will be elevated for ratting me out.

We are looking at major changes in this country. We are looking at a couple of years where there will be some socialist notions that will be brought here to the floor. But as we saw during the Obama administration, the economy doesn't do well, people don't do well, people don't see right.

We were moving dramatically in a socialist direction. ObamaCare was the first step toward total socialized medicine. But as I have told some of the Big Pharma lobbyists back when it passed and some of the big insurance people

and AARP, who sold their souls to endorse the program, yes, you are going to make more money than you ever made in the short term. But by endorsing this program, you may well have signed your own death warrant. Down the road, maybe it is 15 years, but at some point you will cease to exist or you will be making next to nothing.

But unfortunately, some of the big rich folks and some of the top corporate positions knew that if they made extra billions for their industry in the short term, they would have a golden parachute and they would be gone before their industry was destroyed by socialized medicine. And they didn't seem to care. Of course, AARP sold out to seniors, because ObamaCare had a \$716 billion cut to Medicare and the seniors are feeling it now.

But we had a new group of voters come out. They don't understand what happens in either socialized medicine or in a socialized system and they think it is going to be wonderful. Well, if you like less freedom, less assets, less opportunity, then socialism, progressivism, communism, whatever phase you want to call it, you will love a socialistic system.

We have seen also the courts moving us in that direction. They have taken over more and more. Though the Founders saw the judiciary as being the least threat to liberty of the three branches, we have allowed the judiciary to basically become oligarchs and run America. Presidents are no longer allowed to make decisions as the Constitution and the Congress both have directed, when it comes to immigration, refugees. So, it is not just voters. We have seen the courts do their share in moving us toward a socialized system.

But here again, like the billionaires, some of these judges—not all; I have been there, I have been a judge, been a chief justice—but some of these Federal judges see themselves one day alongside the billionaires as being part of the ruling class as we get rid of the middle class and have the ruling class and the ruled class.

My hope, my prayer, the reason I am still here in Congress—I ran again—is to try to get us off this track. I deeply regret that we wasted September, haven't done a whole lot this week, but I think the best Christmas present that this Congress, this current Republican majority could give America is—obviously, we are out now today until Thanksgiving—but stay in session through Christmas Day if we have to, through January 1, if we have to, and work out some of these issues, including money to build a wall where it is needed.

That is not only good for America. It will help reduce the 70,000-plus Americans who are killed from drug poisons coming from Mexico drug cartels, but it also would be the best thing we could ever do for our neighbors in Mexico. They ought to be a top 10 economy in

the world. The only reason they are not is because of corruption from the drug cartels.

Look historically at what they have got. They have got more natural resources than most countries in the world. They have got a better location than even the United States. They are between two continents, between two oceans. They have got it all going on. And they have some of the hardest working people in the whole world.

Why are they not a top 10 economy? Because of the drug cartel's corruption, the control they have over government.

□ 1200

We cut anywhere from 80 billion—some estimates say they made that much last year on drugs sent into the U.S. Some say they may be making as much from human trafficking, getting people into the United States.

Heck, they have people pay them to get them into the United States so they can be sent by DHS to a city where the drug cartels need them to sell drugs or be engaged in sex trafficking, human trafficking, and that is what has been going on all through the Obama years.

That is why Border Patrol said the drug cartels call us, the DHS, their lo-

gistics. They get them into our country illegally, and then we ship them wherever the drug cartels want them to go. They give them the address; our people would send them there.

That is being changed under this President, but it may not change for long with the new Congress. We will see.

We owe America better than we gave them the last almost 2 years, and I hope and pray we are going to come back and not just snap the ball and fall on it, but do some good that we should have done long before now in the next couple of months.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. STIVERS (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of National Guard duty.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on November 14, 2018, she presented to the President of the

United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2615. To authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3359. To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.

#### OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Kevin Hern  
Joseph D. Morelle  
Mary Gay Scanlon

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

##### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, HUGH HALPERN, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 14 AND OCT. 21, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hugh Halpern .....	10/14	10/17	Iceland .....		795.40		7,035.51				7,830.91
	10/17	10/19	Denmark .....		741.40						741.40
	10/19	10/20	Sweden .....		747.86						747.86
Committee total .....					2,284.66		7,035.51				9,320.17

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HUGH HALPERN, Oct. 26, 2018.

##### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, BEN NAPIER, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 14 AND OCT. 21, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Ben Napier .....	10/14	10/17	Iceland .....		795.40		6,876.93				7,672.33
	10/17	10/19	Denmark .....		741.40						741.40
	10/19	10/20	Sweden .....		747.86						747.86
Committee total .....					2,284.66		6,876.93				9,161.38

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BEN NAPIER, Oct. 30, 2018.

##### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PARKER POLING, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 14 AND OCT. 21, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Parker Poling .....	10/14	10/17	Iceland .....		795.40		6,876.93				7,672.33
	10/17	10/19	Denmark .....		741.40						741.40
	10/19	10/20	Sweden .....		747.86						747.86
Committee total .....					2,284.66		6,876.93				9,161.59

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.