

Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

After being named the District 10 Middle School Principal of the Year, Clifford was then nominated by his peers at Greensburg Junior High School and across the State to become the State Principal of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Matthew for this tremendous honor and thank him for his dedication to improving the lives of Hoosier kids and families.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH GRANT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the grant application submitted by the First Christian Church of Columbus. This grant will save one of America's treasures in my district.

The First Christian Church has been a staple in the Columbus community for years and is a jewel of architecture and history.

Since 2001, the First Christian Church has been designated by the National Park Service as a U.S. National Historic Landmark, but now it needs essential renovations. I pledge my support for this program so that this church may be restored to its original beauty.

IU HEALTH COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for IU Health's investment of \$1 million into the Muncie community.

Over the next 3 years, IU Health will give \$1 million toward revitalization of the Thomas Park-Avondale and South Central neighborhoods in southeast Muncie. The investment plans include bike lanes, walking trails, access to better food, a new health center, and much more.

I applaud IU Health for investing in our local community and promoting healthier Hoosiers.

INDIANA BROADBAND EXPANSION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for \$1.3 million in rural broadband expansion in the Sixth District.

In my time in Congress, I have worked with local groups to address broadband in schools and hospitals and supported Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants. I have introduced a bill to make sure Federal agencies effectively work together in this arena.

I am glad to see the Governor announce a boost for grants to counties like Jennings, Scott, and my home county of Bartholomew.

I look forward to seeing the State's continued work on this as I fight for rural high-speed internet on behalf of the Sixth District.

□ 1030

WAYNE COUNTY VETERAN APPRECIATION DINNER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hoosier veterans and their brave families I met at the Veterans Christmas Appreciation Dinner of Wayne County.

Nearly 600 veterans, including World War II vets, gathered in Richmond to

enjoy an evening of celebration and holiday cheer. A career fair was held before dinner to help those in need to access work opportunities, resources, and support.

It was a privilege to speak at this appreciation dinner, and I stand today to wish every veteran across this country and Indiana's Sixth District a very merry Christmas.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS RISING COST OF HEALTHCARE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask, for the American people, Congress to do its job and address the rising cost of healthcare, but Speaker PELOSI's H.R. 3, is not the answer.

H.R. 3 will limit choice and innovation. It is a partisan messaging bill that will not be considered in the Senate or signed into law. We are letting the American people down by not voting on bipartisan legislation that will actually address skyrocketing drug prices.

H.R. 3 would increase premiums while punishing American innovation and enabling foreign competitors to flourish.

H.R. 19, the Republican's alternative drug pricing bill, is filled with more than 40 bipartisan, commonsense reforms that reduce prescription drug costs and increase access to affordable, high-quality and lifesaving care for Americans.

H.R. 19 expands low-cost options for patients by bringing more generic competition to the market.

It lowers out-of-pocket spending, protects patients' access to new medicine and cures, increases transparency, and boosts innovation. The American people should be empowered by bipartisan proposals not restricted by partisan politics to make the best healthcare choices for themselves and their families.

INABILITY TO AFFORD PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SHOULD NOT BE A DEATH SENTENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine named Josh aged out of his parent's health insurance when he turned 26. Josh was a Type 1 diabetic and by then, his insulin cost was nearly \$1,200 per month.

So he switched to over-the-counter insulin because, like so many others, he couldn't afford the prescription brand recommended by his doctors. Already on a tight budget, Josh was engaged and wanted to save up some money for his wedding and building a new life with his fiancée.

His mother knew that he had changed his medication and when she would check on him, his blood sugar would be high, but he assured her that he was all right and the insulin was working.

He was alone at work in June of this year when he suffered a series of

strokes that would prove fatal, and it was his fiancée who found him.

We have miracle drugs that can save lives, but they don't do any good when the American people can't afford them.

In April, I hosted a roundtable with constituents and healthcare providers about the skyrocketing price of diabetes medication. Nurses and pharmacists shared stories about patients who had no option but to ration their insulin, putting their lives and their health in serious jeopardy.

One, who ran a free clinic, spoke about how refugees were absolutely stunned at how much more Americans were paying for their prescription drugs than they had in the countries that they were fleeing from.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act because the inability to afford necessary drugs should not be a death sentence in the United States of America.

We are going to give HHS the power to negotiate lower drug prices for the American people. And those lower prices will be available not only to Medicare beneficiaries, but also to Americans with private health insurance.

With the projected savings from this bill, nearly half a trillion dollars, we will provide vision, dental, and hearing benefits for all Medicare beneficiaries and invest in new medical research.

American families and seniors should not pay more for their medications than what the drug companies charge people in other countries.

This bill is a win for the American people. It represents a historic investment in Medicare and historic savings on the cost of prescription drugs. Without this legislation, the rising price of prescription drugs will continue to take a toll on the finances of American families, and in worst cases, cost lives.

What happened to Josh should never happen to anyone in this country. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this lifesaving legislation.

SOCIALISM IS A PHILOSOPHY OF FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill once said: "Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. Its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."

Despite the truth of these words, unfortunately, more and more young Americans hold positive views of socialism and negative views of capitalism. A recent Gallup Poll found that 51 percent of young Americans view socialism favorably, while only 45 percent view capitalism positively. That marks a 12-point decline in the popularity of capitalism just this decade.

So the question is, Why are increasing numbers of our young people supporting socialism?

The answer is, because they have been told that it is somehow “moral” and “compassionate” and “fair” by leading socialist voices in media and government, mostly concentrated in and around Washington, D.C.

On the surface, one might think that taking from the prosperous for the betterment of the poor is a decent and fair policy. But just under the surface lies a fundamental ignorance of one of the most foundational principles of human behavior, and that is, incentives.

Socialism doesn't reward people for hard work, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit. In reality, the overwhelming taxation necessary to support socialist policies penalizes people who work hard by forcing them to send their earnings, perhaps thousands of miles away, to Washington, D.C.

The incentive that is created is one of mediocrity; that it would be just easier to settle for economic scraps instead of shooting for the Moon and pursuing the American Dream.

And what about the supposed beneficiaries of socialism, the middle and the lower-class workers? Under that system, not only do massive amounts of other people's money flow here to Washington, but so does the decision-making capacity, over large swaths of people's lives, from your healthcare decisions to how you power your home, or your car, or what school your child can attend.

Liberal Democrats often mock Republican economic policies as trickle-down economics. But the socialist view essentially constitutes trickle-down bureaucracy. The theory is that if we give more money and power to Federal bureaucrats in Washington, that the benefits will somehow trickle down to those who need it the most.

Furthermore, it is fundamentally immoral for decisions over your life to be fundamentally outsourced to a far distant Capital hundreds or thousands of miles away with the dim promise of support after the Washington swamp has had its say.

The best way to combat the rise of socialism is to educate Americans on the devastation that it has caused in other countries around the world.

In Greece, socialist policies have crippled investment, innovation, entrepreneurship, and led to a shortage of food, money, and medicine.

In Venezuela, the socialist policies of Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro have led to mass shortages of critical medicine, widespread starvation, skyrocketing crime, and a terrible refugee crisis.

In contrast, countries that have adopted the capitalist principles of economic freedom have fared much better. After trying Socialist policies in the 20th century, Israel, India, and the United Kingdom realized that their economies were hopelessly stagnated, and as a result, all three countries

stopped allowing the government to dictate economic decisions and made the switch to free-market policies as a way to jump-start their economies.

After embracing economic freedom, India now has the largest middle class in the free world. Israel is rated as the third most innovative economy in the world, and the United Kingdom's economy grew faster than nearly every other economy in Europe.

As a strong supporter of economic freedom, I stand firm in my commitment to combat the rise of socialism. This dangerous ideology has failed in nearly every country where it has been tried, and we must do everything in our power to educate the next generation of Americans about the true nature of socialism.

Socialism is not what made America great. Socialism is not who we are. America will never become a Socialist Nation.

WE HEAR AMERICANS REGARDING SKYROCKETING DRUG COSTS

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act. This bill fulfills a promise that we made to the American people.

We heard America when you told us drug costs were so high you sometimes had to choose between buying your medicine and paying your heating bill.

We heard America when you spoke to us about skyrocketing drug costs compromising your quality of life.

We heard America when you said you had to ration drugs because you couldn't afford your next prescription.

No one should have to make those tradeoffs for themselves or their children.

In the United States, we pay more for drugs than any other country. For insulin alone, Americans pay four times the average of other countries. In my district in Maryland, people with Medicare are paying 4.9 times what they would pay in Australia; 3.5 times what they would pay in the United Kingdom; and 2.6 times what they would pay in Canada for prescription drugs.

Marylanders and Americans have been getting a bad deal, and it is time to change that. I come from the business world and in business you are successful when you negotiate a better price. Government should be able to do the same thing with pharmaceutical companies.

H.R. 3 will allow us to do this. It will allow the U.S. Government to negotiate lower prices for Medicare and private insurance and put a \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drugs. It will also expand Medicare benefits to add coverage for dental, vision, and hearing for the first time ever.

In total, this bill will save the Federal Government over \$500 billion over the next 10 years. Not only will this

save money in the pockets of the average American, but it will reinvest that money to help our children and our children's children.

It will do this by investing \$10 billion for biomedical research at NIH. NIH is the best investment in our future that we could ever make. Every dollar spurs \$8 in return. Investing money in NIH just makes sense.

It will also do this by investing \$10 billion to fight our Nation's biggest problem: the opioid epidemic. Unscrupulous pharma companies fueled this opioid epidemic with irresponsible and illegal schemes to flood the market with prescription pain pills. We have paid dearly for those pills in lives lost.

It is only right that the savings we create through lowering drug prices for Americans should go to fighting this epidemic.

I am proud that the bipartisan bill I introduced with the Freshmen Working Group on Addiction, the State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act, is included in H.R. 3 and will provide \$7.5 billion over the next 5 years for consistent and predictable funding for the communities that are fighting the opioid epidemic on the front lines. Opioids have killed more than 400,000 Americans. It is time to act.

Last month, I held a roundtable in Gaithersburg, Maryland, about the high cost of prescription drugs. At the roundtable, we had medical professionals and regular folks who wrote into my office about the incredibly high cost of prescription drugs.

One of those people was Suzette Cumberland. Suzette has Type 1 diabetes, and over the summer the price for her medication shot up 300 percent without warning or explanation. This is not fair, and it is not right.

I am standing on the floor of the House of Representatives today and say to Suzette: We all hear you. I hear you and the millions of people across the country who have to make decisions about whether to pay for food or the medication they need to survive.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act. It is time to stand up to the pharmaceutical companies and fight for those without a PAC or a lobbyist to represent them—the American people.

Let's fight for them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALLAN TRIMBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the passing of a great American.

Allan Trimble was first and foremost a man of faith, whose mission field for 35 years was 100 yards long and 53½