

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

yards wide. Coach Trimble was the most successful high school coach in Oklahoma history with 13 State championships, and in 2017, Jenks High School affectionately renamed their stadium the "Allan Trimble Stadium" in his honor.

He was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2018. Trimble believed that when you make better people, you make better players. For Coach Trimble, winning on the field was a by-product of winning off the field, keeping your priorities of faith, family, and football, in that order.

Coach Trimble was a master mentor who spent his entire adult life pouring his wisdom into high school students and young adults. Countless people were blessed by his mentorship.

Despite his battle with ALS, Coach Trimble continued to believe that he was blessed and needed to bless others.

Coach Trimble spent his last year developing the Trimble Strong Foundation, a continuation of his efforts to serve others and mentor the next generation.

Last week, Coach Trimble left this earthly pain to join our Father in Heaven.

He is remembered a hero by thousands of lives he touched both on and off the football field. Oklahoma will never forget his legacy of service and of selflessness, faith, and football.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of three high school football teams in my district who won statewide football State championships this weekend.

In 6A Division I, Owasso High School, coached by Bill Blankenship, had an impeccable and undefeated season, earning their second State championship in 3 years.

In 6A Division II, Bixby High School, coached by Loren Montgomery, cruised to an undefeated season as well, winning State for the fifth time in 6 years.

In 3A, Lincoln Christian School, coached by Jerry Rieke, also went undefeated this year. They sailed through the playoffs to a victory in the State finals on Saturday.

Congratulations to the Rams, the Spartans, and the Bulldogs. These players and coaches worked hard all year to earn these championships.

In addition to these championship teams, Oklahoma's First District had several teams make it to the finals. Jenks High School took runner-up in 6A Division I. Metro Christian School is playing in this weekend's 2A championship game. And Regent Prep is playing for the Class B championship.

With so many exceptional teams, Friday nights are never boring in Tulsa.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAKE BURTON CARPENTER

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2019, only 3 weeks ago, Vermont lost a great Vermonter and an inspiring American, Jake Burton Carpenter, the person who started Burton Snowboards, the person who actually created the whole sport of boarding.

Jake was a great Vermonter and pioneer of snowboarding. He was a great husband to his wife, best friend, and business partner for decades, Donna Carpenter, and the proud father of George, Taylor, and Timi, snowboarders or riders all.

Jake's life was one of great effort, inspiring originality, perpetual decency, and deep love of the snowboarding sport Jake created, deep love of the people who came to the sport, and deep love of his community and all the people who worked in his company.

Snowboarding in 2019 is a wildly popular sport that Jake started. It has a prominent place in our Winter Olympic Games, and it has extraordinary champions. It was once shunned and prohibited in all our ski areas.

Mr. Speaker, you couldn't bring a board to a mountain, and it was because the kids who wanted to do this were rambunctious, energetic, and Jake would sometimes say disrespectful of their elders. But they loved to ride, loved to be outdoors, and loved to be with each other. It was this culture of community that Jake created as much as this extraordinary sport that allowed people to demonstrate amazing physical skills.

He started this company in Stratton, Vermont. He worked as a bartender at night. During the day, he worked not in his garage but in a barn at a house where he was housesitting. By himself, he was making these snowboards.

This is one of his early Burton Snowboards.

With Donna, whom he met in 1982 and married in 1983, he then started promoting to ski areas to let these rambunctious kids ride. Ski area after ski area relented and ultimately came to see riding as the economic future of their mountains because as ski trips have gone down, boarding has gone up.

The company that Jake left behind that he started out of nothing now has about 32 percent of the sales in this huge market, about \$400 million. It is over a \$1 billion industry. It has over 1,000 employees in six different countries.

Riding today is something you do if you dare. It wasn't always so. When Jake started in 1977, he started from nothing, but he loved it.

After he graduated from NYU in 1977 and a short stint on Wall Street, the last time I think Jake ever wore a suit, he went to pursue his dream in Vermont. He marketed this board initially to 22-year-olds. Then he realized that when he was a kid, the first time that he got on something that was the predecessor to these beautiful Burton Snowboards, it was two skis bound together with a rope at the top called a Snurfer, and he was 15 or 16. He started

marketing to even younger kids. They went outside, got on the mountain, and then a sport was born.

Mr. Speaker, so many champions have been folks who rode these boards in their glory. One of them, of course, was Shaun "The Flying Tomato" White. The Flying Tomato got so many awards that he has become one of our greatest Olympic champions.

Now, Jake's life was not without real suffering. He lost his beloved brother, George, in the Vietnam war. His mom, Kitty, died when he was 17.

I want to end with Jake's words: "The riders, the product, the process, this is my heart and soul. I just love the freedom snowboarding gives you to do whatever you want."

USMCA WILL CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump for the recent bipartisan deal with Congress to replace NAFTA with a new and significantly improved free trade agreement, the USMCA.

This deal will create jobs, boost our agriculture exports, and grow the economy in Kentucky. It is good for our farmers and manufacturers, and it will benefit all Americans.

The USMCA also encourages innovation, opens new markets for our farmers, and strengthens enforcement and accountability with our trading partners in the global economy.

Unfortunately, it took far too long for Speaker PELOSI and the House Democrats to come to the table and move toward action on an important priority to the American people. Their excessive, unfounded focus on impeaching the President has created months of needless delay on a vote on the USMCA, a vote we continue to await.

However, it is good news that a deal has finally been reached. It is one that will provide our economy with increased stability and confidence. But now that we finally have an agreement on a deal negotiated by the President over a year ago, Democratic leadership must act quickly and bring the USMCA to the floor for a vote. My constituents and all Americans deserve no less than a government that works for them rather than one that plays political games with our economy.

The need for a modern agreement with our major trading partners has been neglected for long enough. We must now do our duty and take a vote on the USMCA, which will help us remain competitive in the 21st century economy.

RECOGNIZING CUMBERLAND COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE JOHN PHELPS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Cumberland County Judge Executive John Phelps, for his recent selection to serve as president of the Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association.