

been held without charge or trial ever since, and has been frequently denied access to his family, to counsel, to care, and to adequate food.

Peter was one of Sudan's "Lost Boys," he resettled in Philadelphia, and attended La Salle University, where I taught for 10 years. I knew Peter as a brilliant student and a leader. He later went on to Harvard and to Cambridge.

He is a dedicated peace activist who co-founded South Sudan Young Leaders Forum. In his work, he has criticized South Sudan's leaders for failing to secure a permanent peace for their people.

Incredibly, Peter is now under investigation for crimes including treason and terrorism. If charged and convicted, Peter could be sentenced to death. In reality, he is being persecuted for his speech.

I call on President Kiir to release Peter and all other political prisoners in South Sudan.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD D. WESLEY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard D. Wesley, who retired from being a Savannah River pilot after over 40 years of guiding ships to port through the Savannah River.

This expertise cannot be overstated. An incredible asset to our economy in coastal Georgia, river pilots risk their lives by jumping onto moving container ships, and then guiding them safely into harbor, keeping the ship itself, the cargo on board, and the entire area's economy moving forward.

A graduate of the Maine Maritime Academy in 1976, Mr. Wesley has piloted over 11,000 ships safely in and out of Savannah River. These trips included nearly any situation you could imagine; for example, Coast Guard visits that discovered stowaways, along with previously undiscovered contraband.

He has also seen the ships change dramatically over his tenure, going from 460 feet in length to around 1,200 feet in length. But, all of this accumulated experience over the years enabled him to mentor up-and-coming bar pilots through any situation, and to ensure that they are also going to have safe careers, which keep the economy of our State moving.

Thank you for your work, Mr. Wesley, and enjoy your retirement.

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IF THIS LAWSUIT SUCCEEDS, CENTRAL VIRGINIANS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND

(Ms. SPANBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, last week the administration asserted that the Affordable Care Act should be invalidated in Federal court. If this effort succeeds, protections for those with preexisting conditions would vanish.

Approximately 51 percent of central Virginians under the age of 65 have a preexisting condition. If this effort succeeds, we would see the return of caps on lifetime coverage, and those over 65 could be forced to pay higher Medicare premiums.

If this effort succeeds, we would lose the ability to keep our children on our insurance plan until age 26. In Virginia, where we just saw Medicaid expansion become law, this would be upended as well.

If efforts to scrap our healthcare system succeed, Medicaid expansion would be completely gutted, and with it, our efforts and ability to deal with the opioid epidemic across our State.

Right now, we need a bipartisan effort to stabilize and fix our healthcare system, not a hyperpartisan lawsuit focused on settling old scores.

Central Virginians deserve better. We are here to solve problems, and if there is a problem with our healthcare system, we should fix it, not upend our system, not hurt those with preexisting conditions, not get rid of the prohibition on lifetime caps, not eliminate a provision that allows young people to stay on their parents' insurance.

This is why, among the other efforts we are making in this body, I am proud to cosponsor the Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions and Making Healthcare More Affordable Act of 2019.

HONORING CORPORAL HERMAN JENKINS TURNING 100 YEARS OLD

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Herman Jenkins, a native Floridian, African American, and World War II veteran who, today, turns 100 years old.

Mr. Jenkins enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 when he was 24 years old, was stationed in northern France, and fought to defend Western civilization against the Nazi regime.

He rose to the rank of corporal and received numerous recognitions, including the Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, and a World War II Victory Ribbon.

After being honorably discharged in 1946, he returned to Lakeland, Florida, where he married his wife, Essie Mae Bryant, and together gave birth to their daughter, Sheila.

Upon returning to Lakeland, Mr. Jenkins entered the retail industry and enjoyed a successful career as a manager of several stores in our community. He also owned his own photog-

raphy business and continues to be a skilled photographer, chef, and musician. However, his greatest passion is being a loving husband to his wife, Essie, daughter, Sheila, four grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Jenkins has made a permanent and positive impact in defending our Nation and building our community, and for that, sir, I thank you. I wish you a very happy birthday and hope that your next 100 years are better than your last.

WE COULD LOSE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in the 2016 election, as the candidate who now is in the Oval Office said that ObamaCare is a disaster, the question was asked: What do you have to lose?

Well, now we know. It is the Affordable Care Act, which has provided 20 million Americans, for the first time, with security and peace of mind in healthcare.

I rise to support H. Res. 271, and I thank the gentleman from Texas, my colleague, COLIN ALLRED, because we know that the Texas case is the epicenter of destruction of the Affordable Care Act.

The administration's flip on us to now be against the position of survival of the Affordable Care Act tells us we have a lot to lose: 1.8 million Texans have gained coverage; 1.1 million Texans have purchased high-quality marketplace coverage; 913,000 individual Texans have received financial assistance.

More importantly, there are 1.1 million Texans who have insurance. If all the States adopted ACA's Medicaid, we would have that as well. We did not do it.

But, as well, Texans have no lifetime caps. They have the ability to have their children on their health insurance plans.

This is a tragedy. Mr. Speaker, I condemn the action of the administration in filing their opposition to the Affordable Care Act.

WE MUST VOTE TO PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF NEWBORNS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the discharge petition that was signed by me today on this floor, as well as 189 total Members of this House, and a special thank you to Representative ANN WAGNER and Whip STEVE SCALISE for their great work on this issue.

This discharge petition is to force consideration of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, known

as H.R. 962, which so far has been blocked by the majority in this House.

I am willing to bet most Americans assume that doctors and nurses would do everything they can to help a baby who has somehow miraculously survived an abortion. You would be surprised and saddened to know that that is not always the case.

In 2002, Congress recognized the simple fact that an infant who survives an abortion is, indeed, a person. So why is there still no legal protection for those newborn babies who have been born alive after a failed abortion attempt?

It is past time to hold abortion providers accountable for ensuring the best possible care for any newborn baby regardless of whether that baby happens to survive an abortion. We must vote to protect the sanctity of newborns, and I hope the American people will call their Member of Congress and have them sign on to this discharge petition and support this act.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and the hundreds of women in STEM who made incredible contributions to our country and to the cause of scientific research and exploration.

Katherine and her team of mathematicians and engineers were pivotal to one of our Nation's greatest triumphs: landing the first man on the Moon. Yet, as Black women in America, they faced pervasive discrimination. They were subjected to segregated facilities and their careers were stifled by an explicit and implicit culture of racism and misogyny.

I will also note that today is Equal Pay Day and that the gender pay gap is even more stark for women of color. It takes a Black woman 7 months longer to earn what a man takes home in 1 year, which is why I have been a strong supporter of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I will further note that we were supposed to send the first all-woman space walk on March 29 up into outer space, but we had to cancel that trip because of lack of proper suits for women. We must do better.

Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and the hundreds of other women in STEM were never properly recognized for their brilliance and determination, which is why I, as a Member of Congress, am a cosponsor of the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, more than 4 million women in the United States experience physical violence by a domestic partner every single day. This staggering statistic underscores the great importance of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization.

This critical legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor, provides the support and protections that victims of sexual assault and domestic violence need and deserve.

In my community, we have many organizations, like the Willow Domestic Violence Center, that provide life-saving services to women in need and rely on funding authorized by the Violence Against Women Act to operate.

I am especially pleased that this reauthorization includes vital provisions to keep guns out of the hands of those accused of stalking or dating violence.

I look forward to the passage of this important legislation and will continue working with my colleagues in the House to advance policies that support and empower women and ensure a safer community for all people.

MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the importance of honoring our government handshake agreements.

Medicare and Social Security are cornerstones of America's safety net. Social Security enables millions of Americans to retire with invaluable peace of mind, and Medicare is an effective tool that provides greater healthcare to millions and millions of Americans.

These programs are a golden handshake agreement between the Federal Government and the people of the United States that must be honored, and I will not stand for any attempts to undermine our commitment.

Our seniors rely on Social Security and Medicare, and it is our responsibility to ensure that these programs are always there for them.

Our word is our bond. Keeping the promises made to the people is essential to the success of our Nation and to the success of our government.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act.

Congress first enacted this bipartisan law 25 years ago to unite our Nation in the fight against domestic violence. It ushered in a new era of protection for all Americans and continues to provide

essential support so that victims have the legal tools and resources to seek justice and receive care.

Domestic violence is a horrific crime experienced by one out of three women and one out of four men. We must do all we can to stop it.

Recently, I visited the WINGS domestic violence shelter on the southwest side of Chicago, and I was joined by Chicago Police Officer Gino Garcia. Gino was only six when his mother, a Chicago police officer, was killed by her boyfriend. Gino was inspired to become an officer and now works with shelters and other domestic violence organizations.

By reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, we help organizations like WINGS, and we empower victims and save lives. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Unfortunately, I know all too well what it is like to have family members without healthcare coverage.

My mother went 15 years without health insurance, 15 years without seeing a doctor. My father used to drive to Mexico to get his diabetes medication because he had no insurance to cover the high cost.

The Affordable Care Act has provided over 20 million people with insurance and allowed them to have access to healthcare; 9,000 of them are in my district. It has also provided protections for those with preexisting conditions, protections that this administration and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have tried to take away.

I have spoken with so many parents who may have a child with a heart condition, childhood diabetes, or asthma. If these protections are taken away, so many families won't be able to afford the necessary surgeries or medications for these kids.

Let's do what is right for kids. Let's do what is right for families and protect the Affordable Care Act. Let's protect healthcare.

CONDEMNING REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE SABOTAGE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn President Trump and his anti-life Republican enablers in Congress as they seek to repeal the Affordable Care Act, cutting off millions of Americans from their lifeline of affordable healthcare.

Just last week, the Trump administration announced its support of a Federal ruling that would strike down the