

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

entire Affordable Care Act. To do so would threaten the lives of millions upon millions of Americans, including 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions.

If President Trump and Republicans get what they want and the entire ACA becomes invalidated, then the current cost of healthcare for millions of people will skyrocket.

More than 130 million Americans, more than one-third of our people, live with preexisting conditions, and they would no longer receive protection under Federal law.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a caring President and Congress; they deserve a President who is committed to expanding access to affordable healthcare; they deserve a Congress that is committed to protecting those with preexisting conditions; and they deserve a government willing to stand up to the insurance industry and Big Pharma, whose profits will soar even more if the Affordable Care Act is struck down.

We were elected by the people to work together to strengthen our healthcare system, not destroy it. I thank Representative ALLRED for introducing a resolution condemning the administration's attack on the American healthcare system, and I urge its swift passage through this House and Senate.

□ 1700

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, as I often do these Special Order hours here on the floor, I want to start by stating the fundamental reason I am here and my Democratic colleagues are here. I harken back to a very famous American, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This is actually etched in stone down at his memorial on the other end of the plaza here. He said: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

That "we provide enough for those who have too little," a fundamental value, a fundamental statement of purpose, a fundamental statement of why we seek elective office, not to provide more for those who have much, but, rather, for those who have too little.

In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why a man who says he has much would purposely set out to harm those who have too little.

Why, Mr. Speaker, would the President of the United States put in place a policy to take healthcare away from Americans? Obviously, he has much, or at least he says he does. But millions

of Americans rely upon the Affordable Care Act for their insurance, for their health insurance, literally for their ability to stay alive.

Why would the President of the United States ask the court to repeal, to find unconstitutional, the Affordable Care Act that has provided insurance coverage to more than 20 million Americans and healthcare benefits to millions upon millions more?

Why would our colleagues on the Republican side of this aisle fall in lockstep to support the President's effort to take away healthcare from Americans?

I do not understand this. Where is the compassion? Where is the empathy? Where is the concern for Americans, not one or two, but millions upon millions of Americans who have come to rely upon the Affordable Care Act to give them their basic insurance?

More than 20 million Americans found insurance coverage through the expansion of the Medicaid program, not in every State, because there were State Governors who were willing to go along with the President and the Republicans and not institute the Medicaid expansion. But there are still 20 million more Americans who have comprehensive healthcare coverage today.

Why? We must ask the question of the President and any of his sympathizers: Why would you do that?

It is not just those people who have been able to get coverage in the Affordable Care Act, but it is every senior who is on Medicare who will lose coverage. Every senior on Medicare has an annual visit to a doctor to determine if they have any medical problems, a free annual check-up. That, too, would disappear.

For seniors who had hundreds of dollars, if not thousands of dollars, in annual expenses for drugs because of the Medicare drug doughnut hole—yes, the infamous doughnut hole that was created in the expansion of the Medicare program in 2003—that doughnut hole is literally closed as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Eliminate the Affordable Care Act, Mr. President, and seniors who rely upon expensive drugs are going to, once again, pay billions of dollars of additional costs right out of their pocket.

Here it is: "Whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Think of seniors who are in nursing homes. Most of the Medicaid dollars are for nursing home care. The expansion will affect them, if it is repealed.

Remember the bad old days when your insurance policy had a cap, a \$50,000 lifetime cap, maybe a \$100,000 lifetime cap? If you had a bad car accident, you would blow right through that. If you had cancer, guaranteed within the first month of treatment, you would blow through that cap, and it would come right out of your pocket.

Remember the bad old days when the great majority of personal bankruptcies were a direct result of medical expenses?

Mr. Speaker, does the President remember those days, that now he wants to eliminate the Affordable Care Act? Is that where we are in this country? How mean-spirited.

Maybe his test of progress is whether we add more to those who have much.

Look at this. The Affordable Care Act actually raised taxes on the superwealthy. Maybe that is what the President wants, to, once again, give a massive tax cut to the superwealthy. If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, the average tax cut for the superwealthy, the top one-tenth of 1 percent of Americans, will be nearly \$200,000 a year. Is that what our President wants?

Apparently, he took the first half of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's statement about values and said: Oh, yes, we want more for the wealthy.

That is precisely what will happen if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, to the tune of more than \$197,000 for the top one-tenth of 1 percent of America's wealthy.

What in the world? What is going on here in America that the President of the United States, in league with many of our Republican colleagues, would rip out of the hands of Americans a healthcare program that is working?

That is not where we are on the Democratic side of this aisle. We have fought this fight for 8, 9, 10 years. The Affordable Care Act passed in 2009 and 2010, and here we are. Our Republican colleagues gained control of this House and the Senate, and we fought the fight over those years to stop the repeal.

Now, the President, once again, is going around Congress, this time to the courts, asking the Supreme Court of the United States to rip out of the hands of Americans the healthcare that they have come to rely upon.

We will continue this fight. Not only will we continue this fight, but we are stepping up to improve the Affordable Care Act, and we intend to do it with a piece of legislation. We call it the Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions and Making Health Care More Affordable Act of 2019, H.R. 1884, protecting pre-existing conditions.

You heard my colleague, just before I stood up here, talking about pre-existing conditions. 130 million Americans have preexisting conditions: high blood pressure, being a woman who might get pregnant, you name it. We all, at least 130 million of us, have pre-existing conditions.

Here is what we intend to do: improve the Affordable Care Act and reduce premium costs for consumers by expanding the eligibility for the premium tax credit, expanding affordability for working families, protecting comprehensive coverage for small businesses and workers, and eliminating junk insurance policies.

I was the insurance commissioner in California for 8 years, and I can talk for hours and hours about insurance companies that sold junk to people. They worked until they had an illness, and then it failed to work. We would