

The provisions of propping up failed aspects of ObamaCare and banning association health plans is contrary policy to what will drive down healthcare costs, which is choice, competition, innovation, and State's jurisdiction.

Making the Federal Government a monopoly over healthcare is exactly the wrong thing to do if we want to achieve the goal of quality, affordable healthcare for all. This goal can be accomplished while assuring a safety net is in place, protecting preexisting conditions, and keeping Medicare strong.

Additionally, bringing to the floor and passage of the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada agreement, known as the USMCA, is critical to our continued economic growth.

I state this as an objective outsider. House Republicans and the President continue to focus on growing the economy for all Americans, a strong national defense, including orderly humanitarian border security, reducing healthcare costs, free- and fair-trade agreements, revitalizing our stressed communities, regulatory reform, and improving the quality of life of American families. We need bipartisan policy which puts Americans first, not America alone, but country first.

□ 1100

REAUTHORIZE NUTRIA ERADICATION AND CONTROL ACT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about a challenge that we have in California's waterways. It is a challenge of an invasive species called nutria.

Nutrias are commonly known as swamp rats to many. They came from South America decades ago, but they raise havoc wherever they go.

They are a problem for California's already challenged water system. They destroy canals and levees, which, in turn, could lead to flooding and threaten water delivery to our farmers and our farm communities.

Usually detected in large numbers, they rapidly reproduce, which makes eradication difficult.

Last week, I cosponsored legislation with fellow Congressmen JOSH HARDER and TJ COX to help fight the nutria population growth. The bill will reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 and provide \$7 million toward efforts to rid the species from California once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation for California.

CELEBRATING PORTUGUESE HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as National Portuguese Heritage Month.

Representative COX and I have introduced legislation, along with the Portuguese Caucus, to officially recognize the key role that Portuguese Ameri-

cans have played in the growth of our Nation and highlight their valuable and significant contributions to our society.

Portugal was the first neutral nation to establish diplomatic ties with the United States over 240 years ago. They have contributed to every facet of American society, from manning the early whaling ships in New England to the introduction of agriculture throughout the country.

They have served with distinction and proudly in our military and have been leaders in government at every level in our country. In 1979, Tony Coelho, my friend from California, was elected as the first American of Portuguese descent to the United States House of Representatives.

In addition to lawmaking, Portuguese Americans have made lasting contributions to science, music, and in other areas of business, through people like former Secretary of Energy and nuclear physicist Ernest Moniz and the famous March King, John Philip Sousa, who wrote the iconic song "Stars and Stripes Forever" as he headed the Marine Corps band.

They are also leaders in agriculture throughout our Nation—in California, most notably in the dairy industry.

The Portuguese American story is the American story of immigrants past and immigrants present who have come here through generations to have a better life for themselves and their families.

Values that my own parents and grandparents instilled in myself and my sister have never been far from my heart, that family and tradition and that an ethic of hard work are important in our country for all immigrant groups, and realizing that with that ethic, anything can be accomplished in America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing and celebrating the many ways in which the Portuguese American communities have changed, shaped, and influenced our country through our industries and, most importantly, through their ideals and their love of family and becoming a part of that American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

STRENGTHEN U.S.-ARMENIAN RELATIONS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize another ethnic group that has made so many contributions to America, the Armenian community, to underscore the importance and the strong relationship between the United States and Armenia.

The United States has enjoyed a long history working with the Armenian people toward a shared vision of a free and democratic society.

The Armenian community has risen over the past 100 years, after facing one of the most atrocious acts in human history: the first genocide in the 20th century.

Notwithstanding that, they have prevailed and continue to grow stronger, not only in Armenia, but also throughout the world.

In 2018, we witnessed the Armenian people standing up and peacefully demonstrating for change in their country, and it happened. Nearly 1 year later, the dawn of a new era represents an opportunity for the country and its people to reach their full potential.

The United States can provide valuable support and help to empower the Armenian people in this new and exciting chapter in their country.

I am pleased, therefore, to support H.R. 452, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with my colleagues to continue to strengthen the bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of Armenia.

RESOLVE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT SOUTHERN BORDER ON BIPARTISAN BASIS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, finally, let me say to my colleagues in the House that what is going on at the border between the United States and Mexico is simply not the American way. We can find solutions to resolve the humanitarian crisis that is taking place at our border, but we must work together on a bipartisan basis.

We must support the supplemental legislation today that will provide additional funding while working for meaningful changes to take care of people, to not separate children from their families, and to act in a humane way that reflects our values.

SOCIALISM RISKS LOSING TRUST IN COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a story of power, people power.

This story doesn't take place in the Halls of Congress, in the department of such and such, or in D.C., which is too often called "the most powerful city in the world." This story takes place at Hope House, a women's homeless shelter in Spokane, Washington.

Hope House, which is expanding because of a grant made possible because of tax reform, helps women find a second chance.

Heather Thomas-Taylor is the director. As The Spokesman-Review reported, she knows everyone staying at the house by name. She feeds them from donations from restaurants and churches.

Once, a bride and groom, still in their dress and tux, donated 2 weeks' worth of food left over from their reception. Around the holidays, Hope House fridges are so full they can't even "fit a slice of bologna" in them.

Mr. Speaker, this is what an empowered community looks like, and it has provided more than mandates and centralized bureaucratic power can ever provide.

Why is that? Because people like the employees at Hope House, the director leading its expansion, the bride and groom, and our church congregations have the power to improve the world around them.

I have another story to share, but it isn't one of hope. It is one of people losing their ability to serve their community.

Nearly 14,000 people live in Pend Oreille County in my district. Many work in timber, mining, the hospital, or elsewhere. However, in the entire county, we are down to one childcare center, just one, which is run by the local Tribe, and they have a long waiting list.

Statewide regulations are making it too difficult for local providers to comply with licensing requirements. As one provider said in Washington, "There's a rule for a rule for a rule."

Even the public hospital in Pend Oreille County, with its resources and lawyers, couldn't comply to open a daycare center.

Just imagine if these one-size-fits-all rules were coming from the Federal Government for every single neighborhood in America. It is not that far from reality.

I hear every day from local officials, schools, farmers, and people who are overwhelmed by costly mandates forced on them by the Federal Government. This is not what a government of the people, by the people, and for the people should look like.

I rise to share these stories so that we will protect the people's voices and, ultimately, their power to create those solutions that will work in their lives and their communities.

By design and common sense, the institutions closest to the people yield the best results as well as build trust. If you were suddenly in need, who would you trust, Hope House, which you can look in the eye and know by name, or a phone number that directs you to someone sitting in a cubicle in Washington, D.C.?

Losing that trust in community solutions is what we risk when we start embracing socialism. Socialism will diminish our individual liberties, isolating us from the institutions that empower us to make a difference in the world around us. It will concentrate power, where the people's voices don't stand a chance against corruption.

That is why power doesn't belong behind an unelected bureaucrat's desk, where scandals like we have seen at the IRS, the VA, and the FBI can run rampant.

The promise of America is where people, not the government, is trusted with the potential to achieve our dreams. We have a voice. We have that power in our community.

The promise that socialism can provide these things is a false one. It never happens.

Mr. Speaker, I will say it again: We are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. For those

words to be true, the people's House must recognize where the people have the most power and freedom to make the best decisions for ourselves and our families. It isn't in the Federal Government.

Like in Pend Oreille County, it is in the community. It is our community, our neighborhoods, our homes, our schools, PTA meetings, churches, local governments, and, yes, at Hope House and daycare centers, too. It is neighbor helping neighbor. We all need each other at different times in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is community that we must stand for, for the American Dream to flourish.

MAKE COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER AND SAFER

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about making our communities healthier and safer for all Americans.

Let me start out by urging my colleagues to join me and my colleague, JIM SENSENBRENNER, in supporting the Functional Gastrointestinal and Motility Disorder Research Enhancement Act, legislation that we are introducing today.

There are millions of Americans who suffer from gastrointestinal and motility disorders. These are very common gastrointestinal disorders in the general population, but they affect tens of millions of Americans.

Symptoms of these disorders include pain in the inner organs, lack of motility, altered immune function, and altered central nervous system function. Although these symptoms can be life-threatening, effective therapies exist. Treatment, generally, focuses on management of the symptoms.

For nearly 30 years, patient advocacy organizations, like the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders in my district, have been working to support affected individuals and their families.

Mr. Speaker, we are asking all of our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, while I am here addressing healthier and safer communities, I would be remiss if I did not mention the need to aggressively attack a crisis, a health crisis, a public safety crisis that is affecting all of our communities, and that is gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said that it takes a village to raise a child, but it takes a village to protect children, too.

That is why I am so inspired by my own hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to see what our community is doing collectively to address gun violence. That is why I am inspired to see that Milwaukee hospitals are working to combat accidental shootings by offering free gunlocks as a tool to protect children from guns in homes. The city is also working to put violence in-

terrupters in our community to teach people how to deescalate violence.

Communities like Milwaukee have always stepped up when Congress falls short, but now, Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act to pass common-sense gun violence prevention measures that have widespread support.

It has been over 100 days, Mr. Speaker, since the House has passed H.R. 8, strengthening background checks; H.R. 1585, the VAWA reauthorization that includes new provisions to prevent abusers from accessing guns; and H.R. 1112, closing the Charleston loophole that allows individuals to get a gun if their background checks haven't been completed within 3 days, all legislation that would prevent the gun violence that is hurting all our communities. Yet, the Senate has failed to act, as key Senators have opposed taking any action.

That is irresponsible.

□ 1115

We are not the only country that experiences gun violence, but it seems that we are the only ones not to do anything about it except to offer thoughts and prayers and moments of silence.

Well, I will tell you, no more silence over gun violence, from Sandy Hook where 26 were killed to the Pulse nightclub shooting where 49 were killed, to the third anniversary of the Oak Creek Sikh temple shooting where 6 were killed, to Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida where 17 were killed, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where, last fall, a 13-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet. Bullets don't have eyes. This spring, an 11-year-old was wounded by a stray bullet.

Enough is enough. Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Senate to take up H.R. 8 and to promote health and safety in our communities.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL TORPY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. Michael Torpy, who passed away on June 10 at the age of 20.

Diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone cancer as a senior in high school, Mr. Torpy refused to let the disease break his spirit. He spent nearly 100 nights in the hospital receiving chemotherapy treatment, had numerous surgeries, and even had a prosthetic right leg.

Yet Mr. Torpy went on to attend the University of Georgia, maintain straight A's, and was named a Presidential Scholar.

He continued his favorite hobby of backpacking, kept up his wrestling form with his old coach, and made an effort every day to make his friends smile.

Although not a long life, Mr. Torpy's mother remembers that he lived his