

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the School Food Modernization Act which would help America's school cafeterias modernize its equipment and infrastructure.

Earlier this week, I was proud to introduce this act with Congressman MARK DESAULNIER. We know nutrition plays a critical role in a child's development and for far too many children, sometimes the only meal of the day is the one that they receive at school. That is why it is essential to help schools access funding to purchase modern kitchen equipment and infrastructure.

Some schools may be using the same equipment so long that it not only serves a student, but, quite frankly, served that student's parent as well.

Food service staff needs modern facilities to serve high-quality, nutritious meals that meet the school nutritional standards. Our bill allows schools to participate in a loan assistance program from USDA to help them acquire new kitchen equipment.

Schools would be eligible for Federal guarantees, up to 80 percent of the loan. It also strengthens training for food service personnel who want more education on how to prepare healthier meals.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation to help students form a lifetime of healthier eating habits.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETTY OFFICER RAUL GUERRA

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Petty Officer Raul Guerra and the work of the Bring Raul Home Committee.

Petty Officer Guerra was born in 1942, grew up in Los Angeles County, was beloved by his friends and family, and known for his love of journalism.

Petty Officer Guerra enlisted in the Navy Reserves in 1965 and was deployed to Vietnam as a Navy journalist. On the evening of October 8, 1967, Petty Officer Guerra volunteered for a combat mission to support a major airstrike over North Vietnam. His plane was tragically shot down and crashed. Due to heavy terrain and hostile territory, he was pronounced killed in action. His remains were not recovered.

A local paper, the Whittier Daily News, in 2007 reported that a local Navy seaman's remains had been found, which was part of a long process to return Petty Officer Guerra's remains home.

His former classmates, Ruben Valencia, and Donna and Gary Petersen formed the Bring Raul Home Committee. They worked over 12 years to diligently spread his story, search for living family members, and held many meetings with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

The DPAA, in February 2019, notified the committee of the closure of Petty Officer Guerra's case, that he would finally return home, whereby he received full honors at LAX, Los Angeles International Airport, escorted by numerous, caring people.

Petty Officer Raul Guerra was finally laid to rest after 52 years on April 25, 2019.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of fallen Petty Officer Raul Guerra and recognize the dedication and years of work shown by the Bring Raul Home Committee.

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM UNEXPECTED MEDICAL BILLS

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today our bipartisan group led by Dr. RUIZ is introducing Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act.

This commonsense piece of legislation will give patients peace of mind that an unexpected medical bill will not leave them in financial ruin, while setting up a fair, neutral process to resolve billing disputes between insurers and providers or hospitals.

For far too long, costly unexpected medical bills have caused financial stress, negatively impacting patients and their families all across the Nation. That is why our bill bans the practice of billing patients for unanticipated out-of-network care. It is not fair.

The patients may be incapacitated in an emergency or may have selected a facility that they believe is in network, to be met with a costly medical bill, all because one provider was out of network.

Similarly, providers are between a rock and a hard place because a Federal law called EMTALA requires them to provide care regardless of their ability to pay. Our bill resolves this by setting up a baseball-style arbitration between the medical provider and the insurer to compensate providers for care.

A similar New York State law has been proven successful with out-of-pocket billing records declining by 34 percent after 3 years.

It is time that all States have these protections. I urge support for this approach.

PREEXISTING CONDITIONS LAWSUIT

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give you some facts about healthcare.

Right now, the Trump administration is suing to eliminate the law that guarantees preexisting conditions healthcare coverage for Americans.

You might wonder what constitutes a preexisting condition. Well, I am going to give you some examples. Cancer, which affects over 22 million people is a preexisting condition.

Depression, which affects over 16 million people has been deemed a preexisting condition.

Alzheimer's, which affects over 5 million people has been deemed a preexisting condition.

Epilepsy, which affects over 3.4 million people has been deemed a preexisting condition.

If you, or a family member, or a friend have a preexisting condition, you are in deep trouble if the Trump administration succeeds in their lawsuit.

AMERICANS DESERVE QUALITY HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, since January, the House of Representatives has passed bills lowering prescription drug prices, strengthening protections for preexisting conditions, and making sure Americans can find affordable, quality health insurance coverage.

I know thousands of Delawareans, small businesses, and millennials all across the board are struggling to afford the healthcare that they need, and in 2019 that is unacceptable.

Many of us saw hope and help when the Affordable Care Act was passed, and my commitment to the American people is protecting the ground that we gained while strengthening this landmark legislation.

As part of that commitment, six bills stabilizing the ACA and lowering the cost of prescription drugs were incorporated into my bill, the MORE Health Education Act, and the entire package passed the House a few weeks ago.

This bill will help lower the cost of prescription drugs by bringing generics to the market faster, helping Americans understand health insurance options available to them, and protect those with preexisting conditions.

I am proud that this legislation passed the House of Representatives, and I look forward to working with the Senate to ensure that these bills become law.

Every American deserves quality healthcare that is accessible and affordable, and we will keep fighting for our States and for the country.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, the House Appropriations Committee has the distinction of being the only congressional committee enumerated in Article I of the Constitution.

It is our job to allocate funding across the Federal Government to best serve the American people. To put it more simply, it is our job to solve problems.

That is why I wanted to take an opportunity to call attention to some of the problems that the committee has worked to solve over the past few weeks.

The gun violence epidemic has devastated communities across our country, including my own. And that is why I am proud that the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for the upcoming fiscal year has set aside funding for the first time for \$25 million for the CDC to study and develop solutions for this epidemic.

The bill also makes meaningful investments in combating the opioid crisis that has torn far too many families apart, increasing funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

It also ramps up funding to protect title X family planning, helping low-income families access the healthcare that they need.

These are only a few of the ways that the House Appropriations Committee has worked to provide real, tangible results to lead to better health outcomes for the American people.

I am proud of the work the committee has done, and I look forward to our continued work.

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PROTECTING PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, one of the proudest moments of my career in this Chamber was the passage of the Affordable Care Act, not because it was perfect—it wasn't—but because it changed the lives for the better of tens of millions of Americans. Now, of course, we are threatened with repeal.

Mr. Speaker, here is what repeal would look like by the numbers. Overturning the ACA would raise the number of uninsured people in the United States by 20 to 21 million people. Due to preexisting conditions, more than 100 million Americans could face higher health insurance premiums or the possibility that they might not get insured at all.

Now, remember, as you consider the claim from my Republican friends that they will preserve preexisting condition coverage, remember that they promised for 10 years to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and they didn't do it. Then they promised to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, and they didn't do it. So when they promise to preserve preexisting conditions, take that with a grain of salt.

But this is not just about the numbers. This is about real people in my

district. People like Tom, who was able to start his own business once insurance didn't tie him to his job, or Robert, who was forced into bankruptcy by healthcare costs, but doesn't have to fear that anymore because of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker, I do not exaggerate when I say that repealing or striking down the Affordable Care Act would be a tragedy of enormous proportions. I ask all of my colleagues to join the fight to protect Americans' healthcare.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week the Department of Justice tried to argue in Federal Court that the United States Government did not have to provide detained children with soap, toothbrushes, or even beds. The department refused to answer whether or not the children's ability to go to sleep was a requirement of providing safe and sanitary conditions.

This is another despicable example of this administration's harmful policies that are meant to do nothing more than strike fear in the hearts of those who come to our border.

They continue to try to hide this from the American people. They told Congress that there was no family separation policy. That was a lie. Now, they are trying to explain away the inhumane treatment of the very children they have chosen to separate from their families. I have been to the border. I have seen the cages and the foil blankets. I have talked to the children and the parents they have been separated from. This is a crisis.

Yesterday, thankfully, the House passed \$4.5 billion in emergency funds to strengthen health and safety requirements for migrants of all ages, to protect parents from unnecessary separation or prolonged detention, and to help address the root causes that are forcing people to flee their own countries.

America is the greatest country in the world. There is no reason that children should be in cages or people should be dying in the custody of our government.

MITCH MCCONNELL needs to do his job, pass this bill, and send it to the President's desk to be signed into law immediately.

SURPRISE BILLING

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the introduction of my bill, the Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act, legislation to protect patients from unfair and expensive surprise medical bills. By working together as a bipartisan team of 30 origi-

nal cosponsors—and growing—we are gaining momentum because we agree that patients must come first.

For too many middle-class families, receiving an unexpected and very expensive bill from an out-of-network provider is devastating and can lead to severe anxiety, depression, and financial ruin.

Our bill creates the most fair and transparent system to end surprise bills without picking winners or losers. This bill is the best solution to protect middle-class families from receiving an unexpected and very expensive bill from an out-of-network provider.

As an emergency room physician, I know patients come first and must be protected. That is why this bill includes the strongest patient protections of any surprise billing legislation proposed in this House or Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Dr. ROE and the 30 Members who agree that the Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act is the most effective legislation in Congress to end surprise billing once and for all.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY AT CAPITAL GAZETTE

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, 2018, a gunman shot and killed five employees of the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland. The Annapolis community, which I have the privilege of representing, was shaken to its core and will continue to grieve for years to come. But that same community also reached deep within itself to find an amazing resiliency which helped lift up the families who were victimized by this unconscionable act of violence.

On this anniversary and in solidarity with those families as well as hundreds of friends, coworkers, and acquaintances, we honor the memory of Rob Hiaasen, Wendi Winters, Gerald Fischman, John McNamara, and Rebecca Smith.

We must also confront the fact that those targeted by this cowardly assault were members of our valued local press corps. In America we cherish our free and independent press. We honor our journalists who follow the facts and find the truth. This terrible tragedy struck at the heart of newsrooms large and small across the country.

The day after this tragedy the Capital Gazette went to press—an inspiring act of courage and determination that rallied the Annapolis community.

Today, as we remember Rob, Wendi, Gerald, John, and Rebecca, let us also honor the courage of the whole Capital Gazette staff. Their dedication, their service to our community, and their commitment to a vibrant free press are a tribute to the journalism profession.