

on which I sit—reported out basically the same version of H.R. 3.

And it is, again, a matter of just a couple of weeks for the Congressional Budget Office to finish scoring the bill that we are going to take up that measure for a vote.

What does it do? It basically unhandcuffs the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate with the pharmaceutical companies. By law, they have been prohibited, with what is called the noninterference clause, from negotiating lower drug prices.

The VA system has been negotiating prescription drug costs for decades, and, in fact, they get a much better price for veterans in America than the folks who, again, are covered by Medicare.

So that noninterference clause is going to be scaled back. DHS is going to be able to negotiate the 250 highest brand-name drug costs tied to an international price index—because America pays the highest drug costs by far. The next highest country is Switzerland, and they pay 25 percent less than we do here in the U.S.

Again, what do those savings mean in terms of folks on Medicare? Already CBO has told us, for people on part D, which is the outpatient prescription drug benefit, they, again, will see a reduction in the out-of-pocket costs, which today are unlimited in terms of any copayments that they are paying for medications. That will be capped at \$2,000.

I have a constituent up in Killingly, Connecticut; she is a retired teacher. She has AFib. She is on Medicare part D. It has been a great help to her. But those copayments, because the AFib medication is so expensive, cost her \$13,000 a year.

That will be brought down to \$2,000 a year if we pass H.R. 3, and that is just one example of the benefits—\$350 billion in savings to Medicare over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Again, this is a program, Medicare, which is slated to go into negative territory, according to the trustee, starting in 2026. We are giving a \$350 billion lifeline to Medicare to make sure that it is an enduring program moving forward in the future.

That is why organizations like AARP, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Patients for Affordable Drugs Now, and the Small Business Majority are supporting H.R. 3.

It is time to sit up and pay attention to what just happened last week to Medicare and pass H.R. 3 for America's patients and seniors.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT MATTHEW WILLIAMS

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native of the 21st Congress-

sional District of Texas, Master Sergeant Matthew Williams.

Master Sergeant Williams received the Medal of Honor at the White House 2 weeks ago for his heroic actions while serving as Weapons Sergeant, Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha 3336, Special Operations Task Force-33, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

According to the Medal of Honor citation, on April 6, 2018, Williams, his team, and roughly 100 Afghan commandos were airdropped from helicopters into a mountainous area in Afghanistan's Shok Valley.

The terrain was too rough for the helicopters to land, so the soldiers jumped from 10 to 12 feet off the back of the helicopters to start the mission. Some landed on jagged rocks. Others landed waist-deep in a river. None of them were detoured from the mission.

After making their way through fast-moving water and up rocky terrain, an element of Williams' team faced an onslaught of machine gun fire, sniper fire, and rocket-propelled grenades.

Williams and his group were forced to take cover. Once Williams learned members of his team were trapped and taking heavy fire, he quickly joined a small assault team to assist the wounded and the troops taking heavy fire.

Williams led the group up the mountain and across a 100-meter valley of boulders and difficult terrain toward the American troops in danger.

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Quickly, they set up a human chain to bring the wounded down the mountain. As they were setting up the chain, one of his fellow soldiers was hit. Without a moment's hesitation, Williams braved enemy fire to give the soldier first aid and get him out of the line of fire.

After helping his fellow soldier, Williams immediately turned around and fought his way back up to the mountain to where his teammates were pinned down.

After taking out multiple insurgents, Williams worked to get his unit organized. He then went back to putting himself between enemy fire and his fellow soldiers, to protect them as they were making their way to safety.

Insurgents began attacking a small house at the base of the mountain the American troops were using as the collection point for casualties and injured soldiers. To buy time for helicopters to extract the wounded and get them to safety, Williams led a counterattack against a group of over 200 insurgents, fighting them off as his troops were being saved.

Master Sergeant Williams' actions were critical in helping to save the lives of four wounded soldiers. There is no doubt that Williams protected his fellow soldiers from grave danger. Because of his actions and that of his brave teammates, no American servicemembers were killed.

Master Sergeant Williams exemplifies the selfless commitment our men and women in uniform give to the United States of America, our values, and our way of life.

Master Sergeant Williams from Texas-21, from Boerne, Texas, the State of Texas and the entire Nation is proud of the honor you received 2 weeks ago.

HONORING SERVICE OF RICK PERRY

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I also want to say a few remarks quickly about my friend and former boss, and the former Governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry. He is going to be ending his service as the Secretary of Energy, I believe at the end of this month.

He is a patriot, a proud veteran of the Air Force, and a proud Aggie, which he and my Aggie wife like to remind me of regularly.

He was born in Paint Creek, Texas, in a house that didn't have indoor plumbing. He lived in that house for 5 years without indoor plumbing.

He worked up to graduate from A&M, serve in the Air Force, serve as a State representative, as the Texas Agriculture Commissioner, the Lieutenant Governor, and the 14-year Governor of the State of Texas.

He is my friend. I respect him immensely. I thank him for his service as the Secretary of Energy.

I would just say that when I worked for him, I was battling Hodgkin's lymphoma, and the Governor could not have been more gracious and more supportive of me and my young family at the time.

He will always be someone for whom I will be happy to crawl across broken glass for any day, any week, anywhere in the United States. I know his public service is far from over because he loves this country so much.

QUESTIONS FOR MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would make only one other point in my remaining 20 seconds.

I heard the distinguished majority leader talking about the whistleblower. We are in the middle of the Nation focusing on what the House of Representatives is doing, and the Nation is wondering why we aren't working on the things that will make their lives better: lowering healthcare prices, balancing the budget, securing the border, and doing the work that we should be doing to make their lives better in the United States of America.

To listen to the majority leader talking about the whistleblower in some hallowed respect when that very whistleblower had an attorney who was talking about a coup in 2017, I would ask one question: Why hasn't this alleged whistleblower fired that attorney?

Did the whistleblower know that the attorney was talking about a coup in 2017? If he did, why did he hire him? If he didn't, why hasn't he fired him?

Those would be my questions for the distinguished majority leader.

RECOGNIZING GLOBAL COALITION TO DEFEAT ISIS

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a bipartisan resolution I am introducing today, together with a group of Democrats and Republicans, recognizing the global coalition to defeat ISIS.

This resolution recognizes the critical contributions of the counter-ISIS coalition partners; the value of those partnerships to countering threats, both today and tomorrow; and the importance of building and maintaining trust among partners for the sake of future fights—as well as reaffirming Congress' commitment to defeating ISIS.

It is important to remember how this coalition of 60-plus countries came together in the first place. Take yourself back 5 years. ISIS had taken over wide swaths of Iraq and Syria. They had huge amounts of territory. They were systematically slaughtering the opposition. They were targeting ethnic groups. They were targeting Christians. They were targeting Yazidis. They were systematically raping women. They were setting up bureaucratic structures, charging taxes, and extorting people.

They were projecting violence and threats out of that territory into places like Europe, into places like Russia, and into places like the United States. So the Department of Defense and the Department of State pieced together 60 nations to contribute to a coalition.

Some of those countries provide F-16 air cover. Some provide overhead imagery. Some provide human intelligence. Some train the Iraqi security forces and police. Everyone has a part to play.

Today, as I speak, Secretary Pompeo is convening the counter-ISIS coalition at the highest levels in an emergency session to discuss the future of the counter-ISIS mission, following President Trump's decision to pull out U.S. forces from northern Syria.

Our allies and partners are rightfully questioning the future of this coalition. The President surprised these nations, all 60 of them, with the pullout. Many of our partners found out about the pullout, in which they are involved, via tweet and via the media.

As the counter-ISIS coalition partners come to Washington, I, therefore, want to take a moment to recognize their partnership, their contributions, and their commitment to the counter-ISIS fight.

Why is it important to have a coalition? Why is it important that 60 nations come together to fight this terrorist group? It is not just for show. For every airman, marine, soldier, or sailor from the U.K., Spain, France, or Norway who comes to contribute to the fight, that is one fewer soldier, airman, marine, or naval officer who needs to

come from the United States. For every piece of intelligence that they risk their lives to collect, that is one fewer piece that we need to collect and risk our lives for.

Most importantly, working in coalition keeps the American homeland safer than it would be simply if it were up to us to defend. In an era of globalized threats that can come from anywhere, we need a global coalition before the threats land on our shores.

As we know in Michigan, our handshake is our bond; our word is our reputation; and we are stronger together than we are apart.

I am, therefore, proud to be introducing this resolution, together with a bipartisan group, as a signal of our appreciation and our word and as a sign of our commitment to our counter-ISIS partners today and into the future.

HONORING SERVICE OF DR. DWIGHT VINES

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, the people of Louisiana lost a great man when former University of Louisiana at Monroe President Dwight Vines passed away at the age of 88.

Dr. Vines was born in Jackson Parish in 1931. After earning his doctorate degree in business administration, he became a professor at Northeast Louisiana University, which would later become ULM.

Under his leadership as president, from 1976 to 1991, ULM developed 40 new degree programs and built a school of nursing, an aquatic center, and a sports stadium, and it expanded its library.

In addition to his time at ULM, Dr. Vines served as economic development officer for the city of Monroe and district director for former Fifth District Congressman Dr. John Cooksey.

Please join me in honoring a great Louisianan, Dr. Dwight Vines.

SUPPORT LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are just days away from another funding cliff for our community health centers.

This is unacceptable. Our Nation's community health centers need stable, long-term funding to serve the most vulnerable patients in our communities effectively.

Community health centers are a bright spot in our Nation's healthcare system. Last year, they served 29 million patients across the country, including 693,000 who visited 74 different sites in my district alone. Community health centers like Clinica Romero in Boyle Heights provide care to immi-

grants, low-income individuals, communities of color, and the homeless.

For many Americans, community health centers are the first and only place they turn when they need to see a medical professional. Making sure that these Americans receive the care they need is good for our healthcare system, for our economy, and for working families in all of our communities.

We have long had bipartisan support on community health centers, but our failure to provide long-term funding hurts their ability to budget and plan. It creates uncertainty and has an impact on the patients they serve, including hundreds of thousands of my constituents.

With them in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me to support stable, long-term funding for our Nation's community health centers.

APPRECIATION FOR FSA MARKET FACILITATION PAYMENTS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, last week, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced another round of market facilitation payments to help farmers and ranchers deal with the continued impacts of ongoing trade disruptions.

President Trump is delivering on his promise to help agriculture producers while he works to open new markets and deliver free, fair, and reciprocal trade agreements for farmers and ranchers. While these payments serve only as a short-term solution, a Band-Aid, President Trump and USTR continue to fight, both day and night, to secure a deal with China.

I also want to give a special shout-out and thanks to Farm Service Agency State Executive Director for Kansas David Schemm, my good friend. David and the men and women of Kansas' 105 FSA county offices work tirelessly to process tens of thousands of MFP applications for Kansas farmers.

Thank you, David, and your team, for all you do for Kansas agriculture.

IMPEACHMENT EVIDENCE SHOWS NO HIGH CRIME OR MISDEMEANOR

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Democrats began the public hearing phase of their partisan impeachment sham, which continues in a completely unfair, unjust, and unprecedented manner.

There are at least four indisputable pieces of evidence showing no high crime or misdemeanor committed by the President.

Number one, the July 25 call summary, the best evidence of the conversation, shows no evidence of pressure or conditions.

Number two, President Zelensky and President Trump have both said there was no pressure on the call.

Number three, the Ukrainian Government was not aware of a hold on U.S. assistance at the time of the July 25 call.