

constituents do not get the care they need due to skyrocketing costs. Too many seniors can't afford their prescriptions, and they are cutting their pills in half to stretch their medicine. Too many young people cannot afford the insurance premiums to even get access to a doctor.

At the beginning of this Congress, I met with stakeholders in my district to solicit their help. I will continue to support the Affordable Care Act and oppose Republicans' attempts to dismantle this critical legislation, because if Republicans had their way, nearly 30 million Americans would lose their healthcare—an unconscionable and sobering statistic.

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am fighting for the people of the Third Congressional District of Ohio.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JANE PAULEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Jane Pauley Community Health Center, with locations across Indiana, on 10 years of helping patients of all ages and backgrounds in need of care.

Founded in 2009, these healthcare centers continue to service communities across the Sixth District, providing affordable healthcare to Hoosiers. The Jane Pauley Community Centers embody the spirit of humanity and altruism by serving those in need, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

Congratulations on a decade of service.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the New Castle High School women's volleyball team for winning the 2019 class 4A State volleyball championship. This marks New Castle's third year in a row on achieving this tremendous victory.

The coaching staff and players' hard work have brought pride to the New Castle community. Congratulations to the Trojans, and a great job on the three-peat.

CONGRATULATING THE GREENFIELD-CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greenfield-Central High School marching band for winning the class B Indiana State championship.

I recently visited Greenfield-Central High School and was able to meet some of the band members and see their incredible facilities firsthand. The 160-member Cougar Pride Marching Band spent hours every day working toward this goal, and it is an accomplishment they are sure to remember for the rest of their lives.

I congratulate the Cougars on their awesome achievement.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA HINKLE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Barbara Hinkle of Connersville for receiving the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Respect Life Award.

As a member of the St. Gabriel parish, Barbara started the Compassionate Visitors and Vigil Keepers Group, which serves local nursing homes. Barbara started the group to bring, as she said, "joy and hope to the lonely and peace and comfort to the dying."

I congratulate Barbara on her award and thank her for her servant's heart.

CONGRATULATING MUNCIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the Muncie Public Library receiving the Historic Preservation Education Grant.

The funds from Indiana Humanities, in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be used to help the library share its history and preservation needs with the public.

Carnegie Library was the first library building in Muncie and one of the first to be built in Indiana on a full donation from Andrew Carnegie. This facility serves as an icon of history and a modern workspace and receives my full support in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF AMERICORPS

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about one of the great service-based programs in America, the AmeriCorps program.

Since 1994, more than 1.1 million Americans have served in AmeriCorps. Today, more than 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve each year at over 21,000 locations across the country, including nonprofits, schools, public education agencies, and community and faith-based groups.

AmeriCorps members come from all across this country. They are young men and women looking to learn leadership and give back to our country and our communities.

They serve critical needs like fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, responding to and preparing for disasters, and mentoring youth.

They mobilize and coordinate millions of volunteers to serve alongside them, which promotes a lasting impact on the volunteers and the communities that they serve.

I was recently fortunate to speak at the induction ceremony for the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, one of three AmeriCorps programs. AmeriCorps NCCC members are assigned to one of four regional campuses, one being Sacramento, California, the district I represent.

Before becoming AmeriCorps members, the inductees have to take the

AmeriCorps member pledge; and, as I read that pledge, I thought this is something that we ought to think about as Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, let me read that pledge to you right now. It says:

I will get things done for America, to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.

Imagine, if these young Americans can take that pledge, what if we just changed that last line to "I am a Member of Congress, and I will get things done"?

We can learn something from these young people. Let's come together as a body. Let's emulate what we are teaching that next generation, and let's get things done, Congress.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Adoption Awareness Month.

According to the Adoption Network, one out of every 25 families in the United States has an adopted child. That means adoption has directly touched the lives of one-third of the U.S. population.

Yet, despite the widespread impact of adoption, many more children still need a loving home. The average child waits for an adoptive family for more than 3 years, and nearly 115,000 children are waiting to find their forever home. We can do better.

Many barriers prevent these children from being placed in loving homes. They include the high and often unpredictable cost of adoption, and families and birth mothers simply not having enough information about the option of adoption.

To reduce these barriers and help support increased adoption placement, I recently introduced the Improving Adoption Outcomes and Affordability Act. My legislation provides assistance to State or local governments, public and private adoption agencies, faith-based organizations, and eligible nonprofits for the purpose of improving adoption education, providing prebirth counseling assistance to birth mothers choosing adoption, and helping to cover mental health or substance abuse treatments to mothers struggling with addiction and other personal challenges during pregnancy.

Not only will this increased education and counseling improve the outcome of the adoption for both birth

mothers and adopting families, but it will also provide more pricing stability to the overall fees that families pay during an adoption. Adoptions often cost tens of thousands of dollars, which is a financial impediment to families making this life-affirming choice. Injecting more price predictability into the adoption system may be the help that families need when making the decision to adopt.

Last Congress, bipartisan legislation that I introduced to reduce known barriers for foster placement was signed into law. This bill builds on that effort to improve adoption outcomes, and we all will remain committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving home.

RECOGNIZING ANN LETORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Ann LeTort Elementary School in the Penn Manor School District on being recognized as the 2019–2020 National Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. Speaker, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program was founded nearly 40 years ago to recognize outstanding public and private schools, who are making a difference and exemplify excellence. LeTort Elementary was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School.

I would like to thank Penn Manor superintendent Dr. Michael Leichliter, the Penn Manor School Board, and the leadership and teachers at Ann LeTort Elementary for working very hard for this achievement. We know how a quality education prepares students for success throughout the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, in their application for recognition, school principal Mrs. Carly McPherson notes that, “it is evident how individuals throughout the community are vested in the education of every LeTort student.”

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate that community for making a difference in the lives of their students and for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD

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

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important time in Alabama's history.

I am proud to lead the efforts joined by my colleagues from Alabama in introducing a resolution today, which honors the 200th anniversary of Alabama's statehood.

On December 14, 1819, Alabama was incorporated into the Union as the 22nd State. December 14, 2019, will mark 200 years since the historical day of our State's incorporation. This is a monumental occasion in our State's history, and we are looking forward to joining Alabamians in a year full of memo-

rable celebration and commemoration of the bicentennial.

It is my greatest honor to represent and serve the people of Alabama's Second Congressional District, which includes Montgomery, our State's capital city. Alabama is currently experiencing extreme economic development and job growth across the State, which makes this special time even more exciting for us all.

I join my colleagues in recognizing this milestone in our State's history. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the people of Alabama as we celebrate the birthday and history of the beloved State we all call home.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless all Members with wisdom in good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—that the legacy of great legislators of our history might be carried on with integrity for the benefit of all.

In the proceedings this day, may all Members be impelled by the spirit to perform as their best selves, mindful of the great responsibility they have to remain faithful to the Constitution which guarantees all of our security as Americans.

May all that is done in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CRAIG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RESPONDING TO RAIL-BASED INCIDENTS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, a train derailed in Niagara Falls, New York, tossing several cars filled with butane on their side within yards of neighborhoods, residences, and local restaurants.

The Niagara Falls Fire Department and Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station responded quickly and, fortunately, this time, the emergency didn't rise to the level of placing the community in great danger.

According to the United States Department of Transportation, over 1,300 train derailments took place in 2018 alone, leaving no doubt that situations like this will occur again.

That is why I have introduced, along with Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER, the Fire Department Proper Response and Equipment Prioritization Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that our brave first responders have access to Federal grants that support the specialized training and equipment necessary to respond to rail-based incidents, making the safety of our communities a priority.

THE TIME TO PASS THE USMCA IS NOW

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