

the risk of transmitting the disease to others.

Finally, we have an obligation to each other to do everything we can to prevent the further spread of this disease.

Again, if you do not feel well or you have any of these symptoms, do not go to work. This includes my colleagues and my staff here in the Capitol, some of whom have already made the responsible decision to self-quarantine themselves.

We have had briefings from administration officials leading the national effort to get this outbreak under control. We know how serious this is. Now is the time to lead by example.

That is why, last week, Congress approved a massive \$8.3 billion emergency appropriations package to address the scale and seriousness of the coronavirus epidemic. I was especially glad to see that this package included several key provisions that meet needs specific to my home State of Rhode Island, where we have three confirmed cases already.

This includes nearly \$1 billion for drugs, masks, lab tests, and additional resources that will be provided to State and local health agencies; \$7 billion in low-interest loans to affected small businesses, to help cushion the economic blow of this public health emergency; \$3 billion for research and development of treatments and vaccines; and \$300 million to ensure those vaccines are affordable.

Most importantly, this bill gives doctors and public health experts the resources they need to do their jobs.

We have the best doctors, scientists, and researchers in the world. Now is the time to let them do what they do best without feeling pressure from politicians, including the President.

I am pleased also that the Speaker yesterday sent a Dear Colleague letter which identifies some of the issues that remain of importance to us that we are going to focus on in sort of the second effort by the Congress: paid sick leave, enhanced unemployment insurance, food security, clear protections for frontline workers, widespread testing for the coronavirus, as well as affordable treatments for all, anti-price-gouging protections, and increasing the capacity of our medical system.

I really want to thank the Speaker for identifying those issues which remain unaddressed and which the Congress must address in a full and comprehensive response to this public health crisis.

FORGING NEW HOPE FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of the Alzheimer's Association.

This month, over 1,000 men and women will come together in Wash-

ington for the annual Alzheimer's Impact Movement Advocacy Forum. These advocates, like so many of us, have faced the pain of Alzheimer's, either through a friend, a loved one, or their own experience. By sharing their stories, we can raise awareness and, hopefully, implement policies that improve the lives of those suffering from this disease.

One of these policies, Mr. Speaker, is the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act. I encourage my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of the bill, which will provide Medicare outreach and reporting on Alzheimer's care.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Alzheimer's Association and the many advocates who will be in Washington this month for sharing their stories, especially Kanada Yazbek, a constituent of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

Not only does she have family members who have been diagnosed with the disease, Kanada has Alzheimer's. Everywhere and anywhere people will listen, Kanada spreads the word about Alzheimer's and its impact on families and the urgent need to find a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in standing up to stop this devastating disease.

TEACHING FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR LIFE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the McKinley Area Learning Center in Waite Park, Minnesota, for their participation in the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association's annual Capitol Hill Challenge.

This challenge, which matches teachers and students with Members of Congress, gives teams of three to five middle or high school students a hypothetical \$100,000 portfolio of stocks, mutual funds, bonds, and liquid assets. The 10 teams with the best performing portfolios win a trip to Washington.

The challenge highlights essential financial literacy, like investing. The students also work together to manage this portfolio and, in the process, learn the value of teamwork.

Good luck to the McKinley Area Learning Center students participating in the Capitol Hill Challenge. We look forward to hearing more about your progress, and good luck in the competition.

RECOGNIZING NEXT GENERATION OF ASTRONOMERS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

The Minnesota program distributes funds to sponsor student fellowships and scholarships related to space research, education, and public service. These grants can accelerate the diversity of the STEM field for future generations by supporting women and other students from underrepresented groups.

Mr. Speaker, I want to particularly highlight the work of St. Cloud State University, which is working with the

Leech Lake Tribal College to develop Native American knowledge of astronomy and model rocketry in the community and workshops for teachers across our State.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the universities and colleges across Minnesota that are contributing to the program, and I thank all the students whose work today will advance our future in space.

CONGRATULATING MARY DEGIOVANNI, CHAMPION FOR SARTELL

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Degiovanni, who announced in January that she is retiring in July after 16 years of working for the city of Sartell.

After serving as city administrator in Annandale, Mary joined the city of Sartell as finance director in 2004. Since 2013, she has served as a strong and capable city administrator.

In her tenure, Mary has overseen rapid growth in Sartell, with projects from updating facilities at Watab Park and Lake Francis Park, to building a new community center and public safety facility.

As a community leader, Mary has helped build a Sartell that is ready to welcome new generations of citizens. Rapid expansions in the area, including into industries like medical technology, presented challenges that Mary overcame.

Congratulations on your retirement, Mary. We are grateful for your service.

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CONGRATULATING THE CHAMPION ANDOVER GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Andover High School Huskies women's hockey team, who won the class AA State championship just a couple of weeks ago. The Huskies' win is the first Minnesota State high school league championship in the history of Andover.

In the championship game at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Andover upset the highly favored Edina High School Hornets by a score of 5-3. The Huskies' championship is all the more sweet considering the favored Hornets had won three straight State championships.

Congratulations to Coach Melissa Volk and the Huskies on making history for Andover.

CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a doctor and a public health expert, someone who has spent his time in Congress thinking about global health security and pandemic preparedness. I rise today because the novel coronavirus is on everyone's mind. We have to talk about it, and we have to think about how we got here, what we know, and where we are going.

First, let's think about how we got here. If you think about it, in late 2019,

we heard the first reports that there was a novel virus occurring in China. In early January, we saw China take unprecedented steps to enact containment, locking down Wuhan and large portions of their country.

We had our first briefing about 7 or 8 weeks ago. At that briefing, I identified four areas that the administration really had to focus on:

Number one, you need a command control structure. You have to identify one person who is not political and not partisan but is a public health expert who has that ability to work across the interagency process.

Number two, you had to do an emergency supplemental and get resources out to the hospitals, the public health experts, et cetera, to make sure those who were on the front line had what they needed.

Number three, we had to get our scientists and experts—we have the best in the world at the CDC and NIH—to the epicenter, to the hot zone in China. That was delayed not because we didn't want to get there, but the Chinese would not allow us direct access.

Number four, we had to be transparent with the public. We had to let people know the facts as they were occurring.

Fast-forward, 6 weeks ago, I held the first hearing in my Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation on what was going on. We focused on the first step: containment. It was evident at that hearing with the public experts that we had that you really couldn't contain this novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19. We knew, based on the public health recommendations, that we would likely be seeing community events and community spreading; that was pretty evident.

We lost time. The fact that China tried to contain things gave us a little bit of time, but the fact that we didn't develop a test and we didn't put things in place really set us behind the eight ball.

Two weeks ago, we had the first community case in my home county, Sacramento County. That patient was transferred to UC-Davis, which is my home facility. Based on that, we changed the testing criteria. We still don't have enough tests out there, but we changed the criteria to allow the health professionals, if they suspect a case of coronavirus, to be able to order that test. Now we have got a problem though. We don't have the tests that are available.

We now are moving into the second phase of coronavirus, which is mitigation. In order to do that, Congress took the first important step last week with the \$8.3 billion emergency supplemental. We have to get the resources, the protective gear, the masks, and the tests out to the community who is on the front line.

The reason why I am saying that is, yesterday, we had the first community case in my home city of Elk Grove, in

the school district. We had a grammar school child who tested positive. Both his parents have also tested positive. Elk Grove Unified School District became the first school district in northern California to shut down for a week. I don't know if that is the right move or the wrong move, but I understand, having spoken to the superintendent, the security and health of the children are paramount.

Now we have to make sure that our folks on the front line and the folks who are having to make some of these decisions have the best advice possible. That is why we have got to make sure the CDC puts out guidelines and updates those guidelines on a regular basis.

We have great personnel at the CDC: Director Redfield, Dr. Messonnier, and others. We have got to let them do their work. Even if it is not what the administration wants to hear and even if it is bad news, it is important for us to put out transparent information and guidance to the public.

Now, I also got on the phone and talked to my hospital directors and others. What is concerning to me is they are starting to get those calls, et cetera. They still don't have the testing capabilities that they need. That is of paramount urgency right now.

I applaud Vice President PENCE for allowing the commercial sector to step in here and start developing those tests. Let's remove those bureaucratic barriers and give our private sector, public health labs, and academic health centers the support that they need to get testing capabilities up and running.

Now, I think about this as a doctor. It is important for us at the local level to have good command control structures in place and good lines of communication. Let's let the doctors and the scientists do their jobs. Our job as Congress is to support those on the front line and make sure they have the resources that they need, and we will get through this.

PRECIOUS LITTLE SON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary citizen, Ms. Crystal Skidmore of West Virginia.

Between 2000 and 2001, around 127,000 children were adopted in the United States, one of whom was Crystal's son whom she gave up for a better life. That same year, only 44 percent of the 3.1 million unintended pregnancies ended in birth.

Instead of giving up hope and having an abortion, Crystal looked to Jesus and chose life for her child. To this day, she protects her son's name when she shares her story. But by the grace of God, she still has a close relationship with him and his adoptive family.

Isaiah 40:31 reads: "... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow faint."

She has described the miracle of her son in a poem she wrote, titled, "Precious Little Son." It goes like this:

Today's the day that you were made
A new life has been begun
Within the womb inside of me
My precious little son.
From this first day you changed me
Now through your eyes I see
Do I want your eyes to look at
The same things that I see?
I look around at this world of mine
In a way I have never done
I think . . . Is it safe here
For my precious little son?
Sadly I know
The answer is no
So I drop down to my knees
I cry as I ask Jesus
Please help you and me.
Where are the smiling faces
For your new eyes to see?
They are not here in my world
If I die, they may never be.
I can only protect you for a while
While you are safe inside of me
So I search for smiling happy faces
For your brand-new eyes to see.
Again I ask Jesus
To help me find someone
To love this life inside of me
My precious little son.
I know someone is waiting.
God has chosen them
To give you all the love you need
And make you part of them.
How I know you need them
How they have prayed for you to come
So they can share a part of their world with
Their precious little son.
I found the happy smiling faces
That I want you to see
And they can't wait to meet their son
Who lives inside of me.
Their world is so much brighter
So I share my love for you
With lots of happy smiling faces
And they will let me love you too.
I will always love you
I want you to know
You are in my heart forever
You are everywhere I go.
Now we wait on your arrival
We can't wait for you to see
How good it feels to share a love
That only through God can be.
Our happy smiling faces
Stand together now as one
To love this life inside of me
Our precious little son.

May God be with you.

ALL-FEMALE TEAM WORKING ON COVID-19

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the all-women team of scientists from the Novavax Vaccine Lab in Gaithersburg, Maryland, who are working to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Nita Patel, the director for vaccine development and antibody discovery at Novavax, is leading the team of scientists who have been working on a