

they have lost; and we owe it to the communities that are forever changed by gun violence.

I stand in solidarity with the survivors of gun violence.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BUCKS COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking, a group working to eradicate human trafficking in Bucks County and in our entire region. The Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking is a project created by the Network of Victim Assistance, working to end this modern-day slavery.

Members of NOVA received recognition recently from the Bucks County Board of Commissioners for their work to educate our community and to raise awareness.

The project was established to encourage victim identification, community education, enhancement of arrests and prosecution of traffickers, legislative advocacy, and a coordinated response for survivor services.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 25 million people across the globe are victims of human trafficking, and approximately 75 percent of these victims are women and girls. Statistics show that one in seven children who run away from home end up being trafficked.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first bills I introduced this Congress, the End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2019, would increase the role of financial institutions in combating human trafficking, which is an incredibly important part of this fight.

I call upon the House to bring this commonsense legislation to a vote, and to continue to work to support the victims of human trafficking.

□ 1015

#### RECOGNIZING 2019 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST OF THE YEAR, DR. JULIA SZARKO

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Julia Szarko, who was recently named the 2019 School Psychologist of the Year by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Szarko is in her 23rd year as a school psychologist, currently working at Cold Spring Elementary in Central Bucks County, Pennsylvania. A former president of the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania, Dr. Szarko has worked for years to expand school-based mental health services in Pennsylvania and to address the national school psychologist shortages across the country.

Ensuring students have access to mental health resources is vital to their current and their future success, along with that of their peers as well.

With only 20 percent of America's youth receiving the mental health services they need, further action must be taken to expand access to these services in schools, which is legislation that Dr. Szarko helped us draft.

We need more people like Dr. Szarko working to ensure that children in Pennsylvania and across our Nation have the resources and support they need to succeed.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LESLIE KOLIFRATH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Leslie Kolifrath, who recently passed away after a brave and courageous fight with breast cancer.

A lifelong resident of Bucks County, Leslie always put the needs of others ahead of her own. She was very much beloved by her family, her friends, her pets, and her coworkers.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Leslie personally through the amazing work she did throughout Lower Bucks County, particularly Bristol Township, and helping so many people. The one thing that we all remember about Leslie is that no issue was too small for her to tackle when it came to protecting and serving the residents of Bristol Township and Lower Bucks County.

So we offer our prayers to Leslie's family. We stand by her family in this very difficult time.

She is now enjoying her eternal reward for a life she lived serving others in Bucks County and across our region.

#### RECOGNIZING IVY HILL THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, changing the lives for individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional, behavioral, and psychological needs.

For over 20 years, the Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Hilltown, Bucks County, has created therapeutic programs for people of all ages and levels of ability utilizing the equine experience.

In addition to equine-assisted activities, Ivy Hill collaborates with several community partners to provide job training through specialized programs dedicated to an exponentially-growing special needs population in our region and across the country. Through these programs, Ivy Hill serves over 150 program riders with more than a dozen trained therapy horses, led by nearly 200 staff members and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, their motto is: "Horses + Love = Hope" and, having heard firsthand the heartwarming testimonials of riders and their families, it is clear that this equation is holding very true. We are very thankful for all they do for our special needs population and everybody in our region.

#### GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gun Violence Survivors Week.

The gun violence epidemic in our Nation is destroying lives. A recent study found that 58 percent of adults in America reported that they or someone they care about has experienced gun violence in their lifetime. Think about that. More than half of the adults in America have been touched by gun violence. It doesn't have to be this way.

In January of last year, our former colleague and gun violence survivor, Gabby Giffords, joined me, the Speaker, and members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force as we introduced H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. It was 8 years to the day that she was shot. Gabby had one message for us in Congress. She said: "We must never stop fighting."

And the House did just that. We kept fighting, and we passed H.R. 8 almost 1 year ago, 344 days ago, to be exact.

Majority Leader MCCONNELL has had 344 days to act—to fight gun violence. What has he done? Nothing. Nothing. Not one vote, not one hearing. Survivors have called on him to act. More than 90 percent of Americans support the bill. Why won't he give the bill a vote?

Every time there is a mass shooting that makes headlines, the Republican leadership sends thoughts and prayers.

Survivors don't want your thoughts and prayers; they want a vote. They want to keep guns away from felons. They want to keep guns away from domestic abusers.

I call on the Senate to act. Honor survivors. Do your job. Pass H.R. 8 for Gabby and for every survivor across our country.

#### PROTECT MEDICAID

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to stand here today to support H. Res. 826, the protect Medicaid resolution. I am proud to go on record today to spotlight the administration's continuous attempts to take away healthcare for Americans, especially those most vulnerable, such as seniors and those with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid was created in recognition of the importance of healthcare for all Americans. Even though many low-income people have jobs, working every single day, the reality is that they don't have access to employer or private health insurance, and Medicaid fills that gap.

It is such a sad reality that we need to remind this administration that the purpose of Medicaid is to provide healthcare for low-income individuals and families. Medicaid recognizes the humanity of everyone, despite their socioeconomic status.

When I was on the Budget Committee, I repeatedly voted against pernicious efforts to change the Federal-

State Medicaid partnership through the per capita caps, onerous work requirements—I led a letter on that—State waivers to jettison core medical protections, repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It was just exhausting. And of course, the favorite tool in the toolkit was block grants. Block grants.

If you don't know what block grants are, just think, chopping block.

And why has Congress repeatedly not enacted these harmful proposals? Because block-granting Medicaid will only lead to gutting care for millions, including seniors and people with disabilities.

Block-granting Medicaid means setting caps on total funding and leaving the hard choices to governors and State legislators to decide which populations to serve and which ones to drop.

Seniors and persons with disabilities, those account for a good portion of Medicaid spending, and any attempts to cut costs, as a result of cap funding, will hit these groups the hardest.

Perhaps we should cut services to more healthy children to meet the needs of those in nursing homes. We literally pit the medical needy against the medical needy.

Healthcare providers whose Medicaid payments would be curtailed and cut so low that they may decide not to provide services, will make it harder for even those who are eligible for Medicaid to find those services.

And let me just remind you that Medicaid block grants are not responsive to recessions. Per capita cuts, block grants, and work requirements would undermine Medicaid's ability to help when the need is greatest, such as during an economic recession, as it was designed to do.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 826 to reject efforts to reduce access to quality and affordable healthcare for low-income patients, especially those with serious and chronic health conditions.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN RYAN PHANEUF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Captain Ryan Phaneuf, who died last week serving his country in Afghanistan.

His sacrifice is a solemn reminder that, after nearly 20 years of conflict, brave Americans regularly volunteer to take tremendous risks in order to keep us all safe. We are grateful for the service of our men and women in uniform.

Ryan grew up dreaming of flying. His commitment to service began at a young age. While at Alvirne High School in Hudson, New Hampshire, he joined the Junior ROTC program and was considered a leader by his peers.

After graduating from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, he signed up

for the United States Air Force. Ryan served his country with distinction and was a decorated pilot.

By flying communications missions, Ryan risked his own life to facilitate effective battlefield communication in Afghanistan which, in turn, helped keep servicemembers on the ground safe.

Tragically, Ryan's plane crashed in the snowy mountains of Afghanistan on January 27. Our thoughts and prayers are with his parents, Nancy and Donald, and his loving wife, Megan, during this tragic time.

We will never forget Ryan's commitment to protecting our country and our men and women in uniform. By the grace of God, we pray that the boy who dreamed of flying will forever rest peacefully.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF KATIE THYNE

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Katie Thyne, a Newport News police officer who died while serving her community on January 23, 2020.

Katie spent her formative years in New Hampshire and attended Alvirne High School in Hudson, New Hampshire. Her commitment to service began early. While at Alvirne, Katie participated in the Junior ROTC program, where she gained a reputation for hard work and kindness.

After high school, Katie enlisted in the Navy, serving her country with distinction and receiving commendation for her good conduct. Upon completing her service in the Navy, she continued to serve and joined the Newport News, Virginia police force.

Tragically, on January 23, Katie was killed in the line of duty. Her sacrifice is a reminder of the tremendous risks police officers take every day when they put on their uniform and go to work keeping our communities safe. Because of the service and sacrifice of members of law enforcement, all our communities are better for it.

Katie was irreplaceable, and she is dearly missed. She will always be remembered for her kind heart, her radiant and constant smile, and her love of family and friends.

We will keep Katie, and her family, and the Hudson community in our thoughts and prayers.

#### THE STAIN ON THE SENATE AND OUR CONGRESS FOR HISTORY

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, "Corrupting an election to keep oneself in office is perhaps the most abusive and destructive violation of one's oath of office that I can imagine."

Yesterday, Senator MITT ROMNEY outlined what so many of us know to be the truth; that the evidence of this President's guilt is beyond any doubt; that despite silencing witnesses and

shielding even more evidence, that this President abused his office to retain his slipping grasp on power.

□ 1030

Yet Senators voted to acquit, nonetheless. This will be a stain on the Senate and on Congress for all history.

But lost beneath the headlines and the attempts to justify the unjustifiable lies, the true motivation that guided almost every single Republican Senator and every last Republican Member of this House—fear, not just of losing a seat but of losing power; fear of what might happen if we allow this representative democracy to truly represent the interests and desires and agenda of all its people; fear of a country:

Where we actually address climate change because it is devastating our planet and threatening our lives;

Where women could have an unalterable right to bodily autonomy;

Where everyone would get the healthcare they need when they need it;

Where guns wouldn't shatter our schools and our churches and theaters and every place in between;

Where working families wouldn't go to bed fearful of what tomorrow may bring;

Where babies won't be ripped from their parents' arms and kids trapped in cages;

Where freedom means the freedom to be you, whoever you may be;

Where you count, no matter the God of your prayers, the color of your skin, the hand that you hold, the language that you speak.

The good news is, however, that their power, our power, as elected officials is temporary. The people's power is not.

It is our people who have always forced our Nation forward on civil rights, on healthcare, on justice, on war and peace, on liberty, on freedom. And it is our people who will hold every single person in Washington accountable for their actions yesterday, and that gives me faith. It gives me hope. It makes me sure that the best days of our democracy are still to come.

#### STOP THE SILENCE AND ACT ON GUN VIOLENCE MEASURES IN SENATE

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 15,208.

15,208: That is how many Americans lost their lives to gun violence in this country last year.

For each life lost, there is a compounding grief of the friends, the parents, the children, the spouses, the loved ones, survivors whose lives are forever altered, forever shattered by this preventable public health crisis.

At the current rates of gun violence, nearly every American will know at