

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

least one victim of gun violence in their lifetime. Imagine who that might be in your own life.

344: That is the number of days that have gone by since House Democrats passed not one but two safety bills to help bring an end to senseless suffering. For 344 days, both of these bills have been met by MITCH MCCONNELL's wall of obstruction. These are bipartisan bills that are also supported by 90 percent of Americans across political ideology, and they require immediate action.

Senator MCCONNELL, your complacency is lethal. Every day you fail to act is another day that more Americans suffer loss. Stop the silence. Start doing your job, and change the course of gun violence in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward Members of the Senate. Members are further reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

SENATE SHOULD ENACT COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the great State of Colorado. Unfortunately, Colorado is no stranger to gun violence.

I was 14 years old when my high school was put on lockdown. Soon after, my classmates and I learned that, just a couple of miles down the road, a terrible tragedy was unfolding at Columbine High School, a terrible tragedy in which 13 people were shot and killed.

One of those 13 victims was a 14-year-old boy named Daniel Mauser. This week, I brought Daniel's father, Tom Mauser, to the State of the Union to highlight the urgent need for action on the gun violence epidemic. He sat here in the gallery just a few days ago as the President delivered his State of the Union and heard that the President failed to mention any effort to engage in gun violence prevention and to deal with the public health crisis that we face.

For 20 years, Tom has bravely converted his pain and his anguish into action, pushing for gun violence prevention. Yet 20 years later, he and, frankly, the entire State of Colorado are still waiting on Congress to address the most basic and commonsense solutions to gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise for Tom. I rise for his son.

I rise for the so many victims that we have lost to gun violence across Colorado and across our country. I rise today for the more than 100,000 Americans who every year survive a gunshot wound and now face the lifelong physical and emotional toll surviving gun violence takes on an individual.

I rise today to give voice to the millions of Americans across this great country who are tired of the Senate's leadership being held hostage by the special interest gun lobby.

I rise today because all Americans have a right to make their communities safe from the onslaught of gun violence that this country witnesses day after day. They have a right to demand the dangerous loopholes like the Charleston loophole are closed. They have a right to demand an end to the unbelievable number of military-style firearms flowing through their streets.

And demanded they have, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, a majority of Americans support creating a red flag law, by way of example, allowing police or family members to request a judge to temporarily remove guns from individuals who may be dangerous. A majority of Americans think that it is absolutely ridiculous that we do not require universal background checks for gun purchases at gun shows or other private sales. And a majority of Americans think that it is beyond comprehensible that Members of Congress would stand in the way of working to ensure that individuals do not have access to weapons of mass murder.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker. Let us be clear. The gun violence epidemic that has gripped this country is neither a Democratic nor Republican issue, but, rather, one of national importance, the solutions to which must not face further delay.

We have grieved together; we have demanded change together; and we have been shocked by the paralysis that has gripped this institution when it comes to tackling our country's gun violence epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I will close simply by saying the time has well since passed when we should have enacted these commonsense reforms. We should have done it 20 years ago. There is bipartisan legislation in the Senate right now that will address these pressing issues, and it is time for the Senate majority leader to bring that legislation to the Senate floor for a vote. Coloradans and Americans have waited long enough.

SUPPORT PUERTO RICO EARTHQUAKE SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the thousands of our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters surviving the loss and trauma of ongoing natural disasters that have ravaged the island of Puerto Rico, the youth, the elderly, the ill, the unhoused, those in poverty, and those living with disabilities who find themselves disproportionately harmed by food and healthcare insecurity, frequent power outages, infrastructure collapse, and barriers to transparency.

Just last month, 13-year-old Jaideliz Moreno Ventura died due to chronic medical supply shortages. The only medical center on her island, Vieques, has not reopened its doors since Hurricane Maria 3 years ago.

To this day, 240,000 students and their educators must stay home because their schools are still too unsafe to open, and 5,000 families remain displaced from their homes.

But the fear and anguish are not limited to those remaining on the island. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts proudly boasts the fifth largest Puerto Rican community in the country, and in the Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District, I represent 35,000 Puerto Ricans.

I have borne witness to both the strength and the pain of those who were displaced after Hurricane Maria who now call Boston home and those Puerto Ricans who have called Boston home for decades who fear for their family members who are still on the island. They share with me their ongoing fear for their families in Puerto Rico facing ongoing threats to their homes and their lives.

For too long, this administration has turned its back on the people of Puerto Rico. It is shameful, and we must not allow it to continue.

I am grateful for the leadership of Chairwoman LOWEY and Chairman NEAL in working to organize this much-needed funding package that we will vote on later today. I also recognize my colleague from New York, Representative VELÁZQUEZ, for her unwavering love, which has informed her unwavering fight for the island.

In my own district, I thank IBA, Chelsea Collaborative, Somos de Sabana Grande, the Puerto Rican Veterans Association, and many more. I urge my colleagues to support this package, H.R. 5687.

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 43 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. DESAULNIER) at noon.

PRAYER

Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, perhaps our petitions weary and tire You but, as Your children, to whom else do You suggest we turn for guidance, strength and consolation. So, God, let's make a deal: If