

States Secret Service, and for other purposes.

SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a proud descendant of the enslaved people who made cotton king and America great; the enslaved people who had a hand in the construction of this Capitol, who had a hand in the construction of the White House; the enslaved people who constructed roads and bridges across the length and breadth of this country, who worked for more than 200 years without a payday. They made the difference for what we call the United States of America on the global scene at the time.

I am honored to be a descendant, and I am honored to say also that this House, on July 27, took the historic step of according them Slavery Remembrance Day, a day to remember their lives and commemorate their accomplishments.

It is important that we do this because, for too long, we have reviled the slaves and revered the enslavers. For too long, we have placed them in such a position as to cause the people who are the very descendants to be ashamed of who they were associated with, with reference to their heritage.

I am proud that this House has taken this important historic step with Slavery Remembrance Day, but I am also proud to say that at 2 o'clock tomorrow in Room 145A at the Washington Convention Center, we will continue to talk about this piece of legislation that we passed, H. Res. 517, the Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution.

We will talk about this. We will give a legislative update. The Reverend Al Sharpton will be there, and he will give insightful information on this very topic.

I am just proud that we no longer fear having those persons who made this country great recognized by this Congress, and that had been the case in the past.

I thank all the Members of the Congress, 218 of whom who voted for this legislation. I thank the President, who recognized Slavery Remembrance Day. I thank all of the leadership for allowing this resolution to come to the floor.

I thank Ms. ELIZABETH WARREN, the Senator who supported it, and I thank Mr. HOYER. Mr. HOYER was a man of his word, a person of his word. He said this resolution would come to the floor for a vote. He supported it, and it came to the floor for a vote.

I thank you for the courage that you showed, Mr. HOYER, and the judicious insight that you utilized to make sure that we had this opportunity.

Tomorrow, we continue what I cannot finish today at the convention center, 2 o'clock, Room 145A.

STANDING WITH IRANIAN WOMEN

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the people of Iran protesting the ayatollah's regime after a 22-year-old young woman, Mahsa Amini, died after being detained by Iran's morality police for allegedly incorrectly wearing a hijab.

Iranians are standing up to the ayatollah's regime's oppression of women by cutting their hair, burning their hijabs, and demanding freedom.

The Iranian Government began a violent crackdown on the protests that have resulted in dozens of protesters being killed, including women and teenagers.

I want Iranian women to know that the United States stands with you in your fight against the ayatollah's oppression and that the Iranian people have our support in your fight for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in amplifying our voices for the people of Iran and holding the regime accountable.

BRETT FAVRE CONTROVERSY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is very troubling. It is an issue that needs to be addressed.

You see, I rise today because of the outrage and shock that Brett Favre stole money that was supposed to be used to buy formula for babies in Mississippi to build a volleyball stadium at the school his daughter played at.

Today, I join the calls of millions of Americans demanding that he and the corrupt Mississippi Republican Governor be held accountable for this action.

Brett Favre is a millionaire. In a 20-year football career, he made over \$100 million. It would take an average Mississippian 20 years to make just \$1 million.

Instead of coming out of his own pocket, he used his power, influence, and relationships with corrupt Republican lawmakers to steal the money from those in Mississippi who need it the most. His actions were criminal, shameful, reckless, and irresponsible.

Brett Favre is from Mississippi. One might think he should have cared that his home State is one of the poorest in the Nation and suffers from one of the highest rates of child poverty in this country.

He should have cared that one in every five Mississippians lives in extreme poverty. One might think that he should have cared that in Jackson, Mississippi, the capital, almost 25 percent of the households depend on minimum wage. In these families, most earn less than \$15,000 a year.

One might think he should have cared that hundreds of thousands of Mississippians often have to boil their water due to the corruption and the neglect by the leadership in Mississippi, the Republican leadership, neglect that Brett Favre was a key and influential factor of, neglect that he and the corrupt Governor benefited from, but Brett didn't care.

In July 2019, Brett texted Governor Bryant, telling him how much he loved Nancy New and John Davis for what they did for him and Southern Miss.

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He called the theft of funds amazing. Governor Bryant knew that the money could have been used to provide thousands of low-income families with a year's worth of rent. He knew that it could have covered the cost of their electricity and their childcare bills. He knew that it could have provided thousands of Mississippi families with as many as nine meals a day.

But they didn't care. They didn't care that year after year many of Mississippi's most vulnerable people can't shower, cook, or bathe for weeks on end due to the systemic neglect in their water system.

In a report released earlier this month by Vox, Benji Jones explained the water crisis in Jackson, Mississippi, perfectly. He wrote: "However, infrastructure is often poorly maintained or intentionally overlooked in particular places, leading to a lack of access, affordability, and safety for many communities of color."

Brett and Governor Bryant intentionally overlooked the needs of Mississippi's poor people for a volleyball stadium. Perhaps this New York Times headline says it best: Brett Favre's most memorable stat may now be the \$8 million he helped steal from the poor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this is a travesty in this country to take from the poorest of the poor and to neglect what they have done. Brett Favre and that government should atone and pay for what they have done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

REPUBLICAN COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the American people are at their wits' end.

They fear that our great country has fallen into a state of disrepair the likes of which have never been seen before.

They have watched as our time-tested institutions have become engulfed by a smog of bureaucratic rot.

They have gathered at their kitchen tables for nights on end wondering how much further they could stretch their budgets to support their families.

All the while, Washington has trudged onward with more spending schemes and irresponsible policies that are poisoning America.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot overstate the severity of the catastrophes that this administration has created. From the southern border being overrun to inflation that has robbed hardworking Americans and their families, no matter where you turn, the carnage is palpable.

Republicans are taking a stand to end this madness and move America in the right direction. That starts with our Commitment to America. The American people deserve an economy that is strong, a Nation that is safe, a future built on freedom, and a government that is accountable.

These are the tenets of the Commitment to America.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear, the American people can no longer afford one-party Democrat rule in Washington.

Under one-party rule, Americans are bearing the brunt of 40-year high inflation.

Crime has exploded in major cities across the entire country.

Millions of illegal aliens have poured across the southern border.

Gas and grocery prices are growing by leaps and bounds.

The list goes on and on. Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that.

Americans are not witnessing progress under one-party rule, they are watching our Republic crumble by the second.

It is time for a serious change in leadership in Washington.

No more reckless spending. No more policies that are antithetical to the will of the American people.

No more bureaucratic assaults on the freedoms and values that this country was built upon.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve much better than the hand that Washington Democrats have dealt them. In a few short weeks, Americans across the country will make their voices heard, and I can guarantee you that they will not speak softly.

The disarray, incompetence, and negligence in Washington must be put to an end. It is time that Washington truly delivers on the priorities of hardworking taxpayers and families across our country. There is not a second to lose.

NEW SAVINGS FOR MEDICARE PART B

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, a couple days ago, Medicare beneficiaries all across America received very welcome news. For 2023, Medicare announced that the part B premiums, which are deducted from seniors' Social Security checks, will actually be reduced by \$6 a

month. That is the first time in 11 years that the Medicare program has actually cut the premiums that erode month by month Social Security checks.

There is a reason for this, which is that last year there was a spike in terms of the part B premiums. It was driven by the fact that a new drug, Aduhelm, was approved just about the same time the actuaries were calculating the part B premiums.

Aduhelm's cost, when it was initially approved by FDA, was about \$58,000 per patient. That one medication resulted in half of the increase last year in terms of Medicare part B premiums. There was a hue and cry about the cost of that drug after the new premium had kicked in. They cut the price from \$58,000 per patient to \$26,000. Medicare also limited the use of that drug in terms of experimental, controlled settings because it was so brand new.

Unfortunately, the premium had already kicked in, and a number of us were working with the Department of Health and Human Services saying that the premium should be adjusted because it was based on data which had been overtaken by events. At that point, it was too late for Medicare to readjust the premium in the last calendar year, 2022, but next year they will make the adjustment, and those premiums will go down.

In about a week or so, the government is going to be announcing the COLA for Social Security for 2023 for seniors, which is obviously a very intensely watched event. Right now, the projection, based again on the market-basket system that they use to calculate COLA, looks like it is going to be an 8 percent increase for Social Security for 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that in past years some of those COLA increases have been eroded, as I mentioned earlier, by increases in the part B premium. In 2023, the opposite is going to happen. There will actually be, not only a COLA increase but a reduction in the premium, and that means more money in the pockets of seniors and people on disability.

Again, this is very welcome news. Obviously, inflation has been really tough for a lot of families, and particularly seniors on fixed incomes, but in 2023 there is going to be, again, more relief coming their way.

It also coincides with the new Inflation Reduction Act, which will be capping the cost of insulin, starting in January, at \$35 a month. For seniors who are on Medicare today who need insulin, which is a life or death drug, insulin roughly costs about \$160 per month.

There will be savings, not only in terms of a new COLA and a reduced part B premium, but also the cost of insulin will be capped at \$35 a month. In 2024 and 2025, under the Inflation Reduction Act, because of savings resulting from price negotiation, which the bill finally enabled and empowered, we

are going to see an overall cap on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs at \$2,000 for seniors through the part D program.

If you talk to anybody who has an MS condition or an MS patient in someone's family, the mere infusion of a monthly MS treatment basically forces most seniors onto Medicaid because it is thousands of dollars per treatment.

Starting with this new program, their overall cap for a year will be \$2,000. That is why the Multiple Sclerosis Society endorsed this bill, as did many other patient advocacy groups. As valuable as Medicare was for prescription drugs, the existing system still is way too expensive.

With the Inflation Reduction Act, we are going to cap insulin, we are going to cap the overall cost of medications. Unbelievably, just a few days ago, the minority came out with their commitment for America where they actually want to repeal the law on which the ink is barely dry, that is going to provide a ray of hope for seniors to pay for the cost of lifesaving drugs. We can't let that happen.

Starting in January, we are going to see the real benefits of that law, as well as welcome news in terms of a higher COLA and a smaller part B premium.

RESIDENCY AND RURAL HOSPITALS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, fourth-year medical students submitted their applications to residency programs across our country, preparing to enter the workforce as surgeons, specialists, and family doctors.

As these students begin the process of choosing the hospitals where they will work, I urge them to consider working in rural communities. Working in facilities that are struggling right now to recruit new physicians, and these new medical students—these new, highly-trained individuals—will be able to serve communities that desperately need them.

For too long, a lack of doctors has been a significant barrier to care for families in rural Pennsylvania. To address this critical shortage, I am proud to have created the Homegrown Healthcare Initiative, which pairs third- and fourth-year medical students with hospitals across Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

So far we have been able to place nearly 30 students in hospitals in Blair, Cambria, Fulton, and Franklin counties. It is time to ensure the students who were raised in rural communities return to these communities to live, to work, and to practice medicine.

To all of the medical students applying for residency today, good luck, and