

HONORING IGA NEPHROPATHY
AWARENESS DAY**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May 14th as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day. IgA Nephropathy is a rare autoimmune disease that causes a person's immune system to attack the kidneys. In the United States, fewer than 200,000 people are diagnosed with this incurable condition per year. Yet, it is one of the most common diseases affecting the kidneys other than those caused by high blood pressure or diabetes.

Although IgA Nephropathy can develop at any age, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) notes that it most often affects younger Americans, usually appearing between the teen years and the late 30s. Tragically, according to the IgA Nephropathy Foundation, as many as half of those affected by IgA Nephropathy will develop end-stage kidney disease and eventually require dialysis or a kidney transplant. Sadly, IgA Nephropathy can recur in the transplanted kidney, and after a period of increased quality of life, families find themselves in yet another familiar battle.

The diagnostic journey to IgA Nephropathy tends to be long. There are usually little or no immediate signs and symptoms. The disease causes inflammation that can trigger complications, including high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease. In fact, many patients are not diagnosed until they show some of these complications and blood or protein in the urine.

IgA Nephropathy was first identified in 1968, and it is viewed as a condition without a cure. While some patients have been able to delay kidney decline and failure through lifestyle changes, supplements, and medication, many others have seen no effective treatments for almost four decades.

This is all beginning to change, and IgA Nephropathy patients finally have the tangible hope of new treatments here today, and a growing number of clinical trials are underway. Mr. Speaker, this new hope results: from a combination of a number of things, including the renewed medical cures innovation environment Congress helped foster on a bipartisan basis with the drafting and enacting of the 21st Century Cures Act. Rare kidney diseases, in particular had been an area of little to no development in promising treatments for those suffering from these devastating diseases. The FDA approved the first-ever medication for IgA Nephropathy in late 2021, and progress is picking up even more speed, as earlier this year, the FDA approved another new drug therapy which proved to demonstrate rapid and sustained proteinuria reduction—a key to maintaining healthy functioning of the kidneys.

These advancements in IgA Nephropathy treatment and hope for more on the horizon, are providing lifechanging care options for so many patients struggling with this chronic disease. It's important we help raise awareness of this condition to counter the fear and uncertainty that can come with an IgA Nephropathy diagnosis. More needs to be done to develop the means for patients to manage their conditions and live normal lives even while dealing with this cruel disease.

IgA Nephropathy May 14 is the 19th anniversary of its founding, the IgA Nephropathy Foundation. On May 14th, 2004, Bonnie Schneider and her husband established the IgA Nephropathy Foundation from their home. Eddie, their 13-year-old son, had been recently diagnosed with the condition, and they saw firsthand the unmet need for answers, resources, and a supportive community for individuals with IgA Nephropathy and their families.

Yesterday, the IgA Nephropathy community and partners came together to raise awareness about this disease while celebrating the strength of the patients and caregivers who battle this daily. Their hope is that this important day will drive people to check their risk and recognize symptoms, including getting routine urinalysis, improve awareness among primary care physicians, build a more robust network of support for patients, and encourage further research to build on the new therapies helping to improve the lives of those battling this disease—and to one day find a cure. As a Texan, I know that it is not our challenges that define us but rather how we rise above them. The IgA Nephropathy Foundation and the IgA Nephropathy community are working to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the IgA Nephropathy Foundation for creating this important opportunity to improve awareness. Today, I stand with the many Americans and their families, doctors, and other caregivers who must battle this disease and continue educating the public and partnering with those working on new treatments. We honor them all this IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 75TH
ANNIVERSARY**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Israel is a shining beacon of democracy in the Middle East. As she celebrates her 75th anniversary, I appreciate being joined by my colleagues to mark this important milestone of affirming our support for the U.S.-Israel relationship.

As chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, I am grateful to mark the historic 75th anniversary of Israel with a strong commitment to the partnership of our two countries.

Since its creation, the United States has supported the Jewish state with bipartisan support from Congress, working to build a strong security, intelligence, and defense relationship enshrined by shared values and mutually strategic interests.

A strong and secure Israel is a vital pillar of the national security policy of America in the Middle East for mutual benefit of stability for all countries of the Middle East.

Congress has continually worked to support Israel with annual security assistance, defense cooperation, and an emerging relationship in key areas, including agriculture, high tech, homeland security, cybersecurity, science, space, and health.

Both of our countries are committed to democracy and justice, and we continue to look

for new ways to integrate Israel into the region, such as expanding the historic Abraham Accords that were promoted by President Donald Trump that normalized ties between Israel and our Arab allies—the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan.

Instead of boycotts and isolation, I am encouraged that our Gulf allies see the future of Israel as working with the Middle East to tackle regional problems.

Most importantly, Congress has marked the historic Abraham Accords by passing the Israel Relations Normalization Act of 2021 and encouraging more of our Middle East allies to deepen and expand their cooperation with Israel.

Israel is the democratic anchor of the Middle East, and Congress will continue to support important regional cooperation through partnerships for peace and prosperity, including the Negev Forum.

We support Israel's right to defend herself against terrorism, and we are inspired by the Israeli resistance in the face of mounting threats. The borders of Israel are continually threatened by Iranian-backed groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Congress reaffirms its support for Israel's security by annually funding \$500 million for cooperative missile defense programs to help Israel meet these growing threats funded by the Iranian regime.

Without lifesaving defensive systems like the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 3, both Israelis and Arabs living in the region would be more endangered than ever.

Israel is also threatened by continued efforts of the Iranian regime to get nuclear weapons. We are all concerned by the Iranian regime advancement of highly enriched uranium, advanced centrifuges, and its ballistic missile program, which it has never stopped despite every effort of the Iran nuclear deal, which was such a fraud.

Sadly, the Iranians never stopped developing ICBMs to attack Israel and attack, ultimately, of course, sadly, the people of the United States.

When the extremists chant "death to America, death to Israel," they pledge to wipe Israel off the map by vaporization.

We will continue to support efforts to enforce sanctions on the Iranian regime to cut off their resources and commitment to obtaining nuclear weapons.

As we look to the growing challenges ahead and compete with the Chinese Communist Party, we must continue to work with our trusted and strategic ally to advance U.S. interests, as we also need to address war criminal Putin in his invasion, aggression, and mass murder being conducted, sadly, in Ukraine as we speak tonight.

I am grateful to have authored H.R. 1777, the United States-Israel Future of Warfare Act, to meet increasing threats in areas of emerging technology by establishing a research and development fund to deepen defense collaboration with Israel.

Having visited Israel on several occasions, including the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in 2018, a highlight of my service has been to lead the House delegation to the U.S. Embassy May 14 opening in Jerusalem with Ambassador David Friedman, fulfilling promises made, promises kept by President Donald Trump.

I will always cherish the warmth of the people. I am grateful to partner with Israel and look forward to engaging with our ally under the valued leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the charge ahead to prepare and confront the challenges of the next 75 years.

May the U.S.-Israel relationship continue to flourish. May we continue to promote our shared interests in supporting democracy, peace, and cooperation throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, over the last week, I have had an extraordinary opportunity to truly appreciate the people of Jewish faith and what they have had to face. I visited Nuremberg in Germany, Courtroom 600, where the Nazi leadership anti-Semites were convicted of the Holocaust, murdering 6 million Jews. I was there to see the site of where these perpetrators, these Nazi murderers were ultimately executed.

Additionally, I had the opportunity over the weekend to visit Warsaw, Poland, the extraordinary people today of Poland, where I witnessed the Museum of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, where Jews heroically resisted the mass murder by the Nazis as the Soviets, sadly, were adjacent, shamefully stood by within sight of the city of Warsaw and did not help.

This really reminds us that the Russian people have been abused in the past by their leadership, whether it be Joseph Stalin or now-war criminal Putin. However, the people of Poland have resumed, they have the second fastest growing economy in the world, as they have escaped from Communist totalitarian oppression. So we know that ultimately good will prevail, as we see in the State of Israel today.

Mr. Speaker, as we proceed, it should always be remembered that the United States and Israel have a long experience of a strong mutual beneficial relationship based on shared values and security interests, while also promoting peace and regional stability.

The United States and Israel face many shared threats. It is critical that Israel and the United States are at the forefront of emerging technology.

I was grateful to introduce the bipartisan U.S.-Israel Future of Warfare Act of 2023, which provides for collaboration between the two countries in the areas of defense, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and directed energy. This is done in a bipartisan manner with Congressmen STEVE COHEN of Tennessee, DAVID CICILLINE of Rhode Island, and DEAN PHILLIPS of Minnesota. Over and over again, this is bipartisan, and I am grateful that we worked together to promote our shared mutual interests with the people of Israel.

Israel's experience in combating terrorism is an invaluable resource in developing strategies to protect American families. The U.S.-Israel partnership supports over 255,000 American jobs. Bilateral trade has grown to over \$49 billion annually.

Israel is the leader in healthcare development. From cancer development to emergency response, Israel is a trusted partner to improve quality of life around the world.

As we conclude, I would point out that my appreciation of the Jewish State of Israel is something that I was born with. I was very grateful to be born in the holy city of Charleston, South Carolina.

As we claim holy, it is not to disparage Jerusalem. We just have a significant number of

churches that legitimately it can be the holy city of Charleston.

Growing up in Charleston, a very important fact is that at the time of the American Revolution the largest Jewish population in the New World was in Charleston, South Carolina.

The first provincial constitution to recognize Judaism as a religion was the provincial constitution of the province of South Carolina.

The first Jewish elected official was in the provincial assembly of South Carolina.

Sadly, the first Jewish American patriot killed in the American Revolution was in Charleston, South Carolina.

The people of South Carolina just cherish our relationship with the people of Jewish faith, and we are strong supporters of the State of Israel.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DYLAN ROCKEY ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. Latta. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Dylan Rockey of Bryan, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Dylan's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2027. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Dylan brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2027. While attending Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, Virginia, Dylan has participated in JROTC and was on the honor role. Throughout high school, Dylan was involved with lacrosse and football, becoming varsity captain of his football team. I am confident that Dylan will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dylan Rockey on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Dylan will excel during his career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

SECURE THE BORDER ACT 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. Connolly. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 2, the "Child Deportation Act."

I remind my colleagues that seeking asylum is not a privilege, it's a basic human right, enshrined in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I cannot support a bill that will deport unaccompanied children, end asylum, restart the disastrous "Remain in Mexico" policy, jail immigrant families, and impose restrictions on NGOs, including faith-based organizations that provide shelter, transportation, food or legal assistance to vulnerable immigrants and asylum seekers.

I have to tell you Mr. Speaker, I couldn't believe my eyes when I read that in the very first part of this bill, Section 102 of Division A, Republicans would actually seek to restart border wall construction with U.S. taxpayer dollars.

I don't know about my friends on the other side of the aisle, but I was under the impression that not only had Trump finished the wall, but that Mexico had paid for it.

The truth of the matter is that Trump only built 80 miles of his wall in places where no kind of barrier existed previously. That's not even 5 percent of the total southern border.

But that's not all. The Trump administration eviscerated our asylum and refugee admission program, and effectively denied those fleeing violence the right to seek asylum.

Mr. Speaker, no one chooses to be a refugee, and in the face of nearly 100 million people forcibly displaced worldwide, the highest level ever recorded, America must reclaim its status as a safe haven for the downtrodden and once again open its door to refugees.

But opening our doors to refugees and immigrants is not just about our compassion and humanity.

It is estimated that draconian Trump-era restrictions on asylum seekers, many of which are included in H.R. 2, permanently shrank the United States economy by \$9.1 billion each year of his administration.

The Trump party claims they want to grow the economy, but not at the expense of their own xenophobia.

Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to imagine that this Republican conference could offer a serious bill that would address the situation at the border.

This is the same Republican conference who had prominent members calling for defunding the Department of Homeland Security just months ago.

This is the same Republican party that voted against \$7.2 billion for Border Patrol operations, which included the hiring of 300 more border patrol agents.

Mr. Speaker, Emma Lazarus's poem, "The new colossus," written just 18 years after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, cast into bronze at the turn of the 20th century inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, provides the instructive message that Lady Liberty herself represents.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The only thing Republicans have forgotten to do in this bill is amend Emma Lazarus' poem to say, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free and send them back to face the violence they are fleeing."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this inhumane, wasteful, dogmatic legislation. The priorities of this body must include passing comprehensive immigration reform, protecting dreamers, rebuilding the asylum