

BIG PHARMA CORPORATE GREED

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, on March 1 of this year, drug manufacturer Eli Lilly announced its plan to institute a \$35 cap on out-of-pocket insulin costs. Two weeks later, Novo Nordisk announced plans to cut its insulin prices by up to 75 percent. Just 2 days after that, Sanofi announced their decision to cut the U.S. price of its most prescribed insulin by 78 percent and cap costs at \$35 for those with private insurance.

Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi make up roughly 90 percent of the insulin market in the United States, a market that for decades has been characterized by skyrocketing costs and unbelievable price gouging.

Some might say that these price-capping announcements are examples of corporate responsibility.

Let me correct the record: I say it is about damn time. I say this action is a hollow, decades-too-late example of big pharmaceutical companies attempting to shirk regulation as they face the most realistic possibility ever of being held accountable for price gouging Americans. I say it is not enough because for a century, pharmaceutical companies have been exploiting and profiting off Americans who depend on insulin and other lifesaving medications to survive.

In 1923, the inventors of insulin sold the patent for just \$1. They felt it was unethical to profit from a discovery that would save so many lives. How ironic. Since then, insulin costs have skyrocketed, jumping 500 percent in just the past decade or so, with a vial costing as much as thousands of dollars per month.

Americans represent 15 percent of the global insulin market, yet we generate almost 50 percent of the pharmaceutical industry's insulin revenue. That is not an accident. Big Pharma has for decades taken advantage of the nonexistent regulation on drug pricing in the United States to make billions in profit off insulin.

It is corporate greed, pure and simple, fueled by hundreds of millions in dark-money lobbying to intimidate Congress from reining in the industry. In 2022 alone, pharma and health product companies spent a record \$372 million lobbying against pricing regulations and Medicare negotiations. Big Pharma is well organized, well funded, and well connected. That is why last year's Inflation Reduction Act was so historic. It was the first successful attempt in decades to curtail this price gouging.

The work to lower drug prices is why I ran for office in the first place. It has been one of my very top priorities since day one in Congress, so much so that I have been called a dog with a bone when it comes to the fight to get drug prices down.

I cosponsored and voted to pass the Lower Drug Costs Now Act. I voted to

pass the Affordable Insulin Now Act to cap the cost of insulin at \$35 per month for everyone. I introduced the bipartisan Fair Drug Prices for Kids Act to lower costs for families by allowing States to purchase medication at the lowest price offered by drug manufacturers. I called on House and Senate leadership time and again to take swift legislative action to lower drug costs. I stood with my constituents affected by high insulin prices to call attention to the crisis they face. I called for Build Back Better to include a measure enabling Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and I helped pass into law the Inflation Reduction Act that finally, finally realizes so many of these priorities.

The Inflation Reduction Act capped the price of insulin at \$35 per month for Medicare beneficiaries. Now, Big Pharma sees the writing on the wall. Their decision to lower insulin costs for everyone does not come out of so-called corporate responsibility. This decision comes because corporations are afraid that Congress, now having momentum, will continue to take action to rein in their corporate greed. Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi could have, at any point in the last century, capped the price of insulin and saved many lives. They are only doing it now as part of a transparent PR campaign to stave off further congressional action regulating drug prices. They can lower costs at will, but they can also raise costs at will. That means we must act because your ability to afford lifesaving medications should not be dependent on the whims of Big Pharma's pricing decisions.

For the countless people across my district and across the country who depend on lifesaving insulin, I am telling you that I will never back down.

REMEMBERING DONALD A. STOTT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald A. Stott of Monticello, Iowa, who lost his life aboard the USS *Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

His remains were only recently identified due to the significant advancements in DNA testing. Stott's family has been working to identify his remains for over a decade until the Navy called, offering DNA tests to identify the remains of 35 soldiers who were previously labeled as unrecoverable.

As of last week, Stott's remains have been returned home to Monticello where his life and military service will be celebrated with a special burial service.

Donald Stott enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and spent the early parts of his career training in Great Lakes, Illinois, before being stationed aboard the USS *Oklahoma* in June of 1940. Stott served as a Seaman First Class, car-

rying out important duties such as steering, signaling, and standing watch.

We appreciate the Stott family's patience, and we also recognize and honor their family member.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the University of Iowa women's basketball team and Coach Bluder on making it to the Final Four. Good luck and go Hawks.

RECOGNIZING VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today is Vietnam War Veterans Day. As a Vietnam-era veteran and having a brother who served in Vietnam, I wish to recognize and acknowledge this day and the honorable service of those who served in Vietnam.

WISHING MY DAUGHTER A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, 33 years ago today, I was blessed with the most incredible of gifts, with the birth of our daughter, Taylor.

Happy birthday, Taylor. You are a blessing to both your father and me.

ISRAEL'S DEMOCRACY

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as President Biden recently said: The genius of Israel and America's democracy is they are both built on strong institutions, on checks and balances, and on an independent judiciary.

Israel's checks and balances, its independent judiciary, faced an attack from its own, Prime Minister Netanyahu. He tried to implement so-called reforms that would turn Israel's courts into nothing more than an enforcement tool for his policies.

By undermining the independent judiciary and disregarding the rule of law, sadly, Israel's own Prime Minister threatens the very foundation on which Israel's democracy depends.

Israel must remain a democracy that protects and lifts all of its citizens, Israeli and Palestinian. We all want to see a safe and successful Israel. To be pro-Israel means always to be pro-democracy.

I celebrate the estimated more than 600,000 Israeli protesters who knew they needed to stand up for their Nation, for their democracy, who took to the streets against the blatant disregard for institutions, checks and balances, and an independent judiciary. I applaud their bravery that made it clear they will not tolerate the undercutting of their judicial system, compromising their military readiness, and moving their country in the direction of authoritarianism.

For its future, its safety, and security, for those who love her, Israelis and Palestinians alike, Israel must not abandon that genius of democracy, just as America cannot.

HIGH HOPES FOR THE PHILLIES

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, spring has sprung, and opening day is on the sprung. Spring is meant for new beginnings.

What a run our Phillies had last season. This year, Phillies fans come to this season with, as the great Harry Kalas sings to us after every home win, "High Hopes" for our Fightin' Phils.

Madam Speaker, we have high hopes for Trea Turner, J.T. Realmuto, Aaron Nola, Zack Wheeler, Kyle Schwarber, and our world-class players being led to glory by our manager, Philly Rob; and high hopes for the return of Bryce Harper and the recovery of Rhys Hoskins from his devastating ACL injury. We wish him a full recovery.

In my hometown of Glenside, we have high hopes for our two Glenside boys, Mike and Sammy Siani. Mike was called up to the majors last season with the Cincinnati Reds, and Sammy is well on his way.

Good luck to the Glenside Siani men, and watch out for the Fightin' Phils this season. Let's play ball.

COVENANT SCHOOL SHOOTING

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, here we are again, talking about another school shooting.

When will enough be enough in this country?

How is it that we allow our schoolchildren to go to school each day with the uncertainty of their own safety?

How do we allow parents to drop children off and not be able sometimes to pick them up at the end of the school day?

At Covenant School on Monday, in Nashville, three 9-year-old babies were slaughtered and three of their teachers, or adults, were taken, as well.

□ 1045

It is a shameful number. We now in this country have had 15 mass shootings at schools. When will enough be enough?

I hear an appalling silence from the majority party in this House—an appalling silence. Call for the safety of every one of our citizens. Call for the safety of every one of our children as they go to school, that they can come home safely and not be terrorized by what is going on.

Here we are the greatest Nation on the planet, and we can't keep our children safe. Let's close the background check loophole. Let's keep guns out of the hands of violent people. Let's get weapons of war out of the hands of civilians, off our streets, and out of our schools. We are failing our children and our grandchildren—this greatest Nation on the planet.

Please stop the appalling silence. Partner with us to end gun violence in this country and to end this shameful nightmare.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. AIR FORCE FIRST LIEUTENANT THEODORE "TED" COHEN

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

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Vietnam Veterans Day to first and foremost thank the Vietnam veterans from my district and around the country who served, but also for a very special person, First Lieutenant Theodore "Ted" Cohen, a Staten Island resident who sadly passed away this past Saturday.

Ted was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Brooklyn College where he was a member of the ROTC. Not long after the start of the Vietnam war, he served his first tour in Spain with the Strategic Air Command before flying on 26 close air support missions in Vietnam.

Upon his return to the States, Ted spent his nights working with the Daily News before spending 25 years working for Avon in international marketing. When Ted's wife fell ill, he retired early. He decided to care for her and ensure that their last 9 years together were spent traveling the world.

After his wife passed away, his passion for caring for others, especially our veterans, became his mission. Ted served as a member of the United States Island Veterans Organization, the Air Force Association, and The American Legion. He would bring food to homebound servicemen and -women. He would provide rides to and from their appointments at the VA if they were unable to drive themselves. He even went to help them complete their paperwork, which we know can sometimes be cumbersome.

Not only was Ted a constituent and a champion for our Nation's veterans, but he was a dear friend to my office, having been a vocal member of our monthly veterans' roundtable. He always contributed greatly. He had many recommendations. We worked together to improve VA access and care.

He also served on our academy nomination board for the past several years where he provided invaluable assistance and advice to our youth throughout the entire academy nominations process, and he helped us select the next generation of servicemembers.

Our office, our local veterans, and our entire community will sincerely miss Ted and his invaluable service. His willingness to give back was so appreciated by all.

Ted exemplified the very best of what it means to be an American, to put your country, to put your community, and to put others first. He answered every call to serve with honor, integrity, and distinction. We owe him an immeasurable debt of gratitude, not only for his service to our country, but for his lifelong service to our community.

Please join me in extending condolences to his family. I thank Ted for his service.

AMERICAN GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today heartbroken by perpetual tragedy and outraged by perpetual inaction.

On Monday, a school shooting in Nashville left three 9-year-old students and three adults dead. The next day, when asked about solutions to the American gun violence epidemic, the majority leader of the House of Representatives offered his solution: prayers.

Let's be clear, thoughts and prayers don't save a single solitary life. Yet, after more than 130 mass shootings in less than 3 months, the Republican Party has still chosen to allow our children to be murdered in their classrooms.

To be clear, this is a choice. After every mass shooting, Republicans choose to offer empty thoughts and prayers instead of commonsense solutions, and then they turn around and cash their NRA checks.

I have spent my entire career in public service and every Sunday in church. I will never understand how a human being, let alone one elected to serve others, would willingly endanger the lives of their children for a little bit of money. Frankly, it makes me sick to my stomach.

Every American—Republican, Democrat, and Independent—wants to live in a country where they don't have to fear that dropping off their child at the bus stop may be the last time they see them alive.

Too many of us, however, accept this dystopian reality. The cycle of murder, devastation, and inaction has become so commonplace that most mass shootings don't even make the headlines. Outside of war zones, no country on Earth so consistently chooses to accept so much death and terror.

I certainly choose not to accept it. I choose to take necessary action to curb the scourge of gun violence in our country. I choose to fight for universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, and whatever it takes to protect our communities.

I dream of a safer America. I choose to keep fighting until it is no longer just a dream. Words mean nothing. Action is what we need.

CELEBRATING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COMMERCE

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

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 190th anniversary