

physician ratio in rural areas is only 39.8 physicians per 100,000 people compared to 53.3 physicians per 100,000 in urban areas. Recruitment and retention of experienced professionals, including primary care physicians, is an ongoing challenge.

Furthermore, the opioid epidemic that is sweeping the Nation has ravaged our rural communities, leaving even more of the population in need of crucial health services.

Adolescents and young adults living in rural areas are more vulnerable to opioid abuse than their urban counterparts. The prevalence of fatal drug overdoses has skyrocketed in rural areas. High unemployment and a greater rate of types of injuries that result in prescriptions for opioid medications have contributed to this.

On March 5, 2010, Congress passed sweeping legislation—the Affordable Care Act—which fundamentally realigned our Nation's healthcare system. Since passage of this bill, my worst nightmares have become a reality, as the law's interpretation continues to drive up costs, saddle small businesses with burdensome regulations, and impose unfunded mandates on people throughout the Commonwealth by shifting costs from the Federal Government to the States.

Unfortunately, what we have also seen since the passage of this law is the consolidation of providers in the healthcare industry. Small and independent providers were unable to bear the burden of the ACA's various mandates, and many of them were forced to merge with larger health systems that have dramatically consolidated care over the last decade.

Luckily, Congress has been able to repeal key components of this bill since it was first enacted, including the individual mandate. Additionally, as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic that uniquely strained rural healthcare systems in Pennsylvania and across the country, we must always look for ways to stabilize and recover from what has been a turbulent few years. Moving forward, we must provide commonsense reforms that improve our Nation's healthcare system and access across the country, including those in rural America.

One of the best ways to do this is by promoting access to telehealth. As part of the National Telehealth Awareness Week, this week I plan to reintroduce the HEALTH Act, which allows community health centers and rural health clinics to continue to provide telehealth services and receive fair reimbursement for doing so. It is these types of policies that promote access to care for all Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to fix our flawed healthcare system.

Currently, healthcare costs have gone up, premiums have increased by double digits, but choices have decreased. That is not right. It is not fair, and it is not feasible. There must be a better way, and I know that together

we will work to find a stable transition to a 21st century healthcare system that works for everyone in America, particularly those who live in rural regions where the need is great and services are scarce.

HONORING LISA ECK

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am taking a moment to recognize a cheerful, spirited, and vibrant community member residing in my district, Ms. Lisa Eck, for her 40 years of public service at the downtown Roseville library.

Ms. Eck embarked on her journey as a young teen, starting at the library as a quotidian shelver in 1983. In her tenure, she has become one of the most beloved librarians in our region.

She is well known for her ability to captivate the magic of childhood through her lively readings. Dressing in full costume and performing books theatrically are just some of the ways that she captures the attention and adoration of Roseville children and residents.

Ms. Eck's determination and dedication to bringing these stories to life knows no bounds, and her unique approach makes her storytime sessions a cherished tradition. Her special touch reaches all generations, as she has marked the lives of tens of thousands of people over the years.

Ms. Eck has an unfaltering commitment to promoting literacy and educational opportunities for our local youth, and her efforts have made an indelible impact in our communities.

As a former English teacher, I understand the importance of developing a love for reading in students and value the efforts of those like Ms. Eck to foster that passion through her creative and innovative storytelling abilities.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to join the Roseville community in celebrating and recognizing Ms. Lisa Eck for her four decades of leadership as a librarian and her continued commitment to inspiring children and adults alike with a desire for knowledge and learning.

CELEBRATING VIRGINIA LAKES RESORT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am taking a moment to recognize the centennial anniversary of a special business in my district, the Virginia Lakes Resort in the heart of the High Sierra, located in Mono County, California.

In 1923, Walter Foster and Charles Foster signed an agreement with the Forestry Department to build a fish camp at Virginia Lakes. After the first year of operation, Walter Foster and his wife, Anita, became the sole owners and operated the business for 30 years.

They quickly found success, as within the first 5 years of the business they built several cabins that housed guests

such as Hollywood stars Fred MacMurray, Betty White, and Lon Cheney. They are also known for hosting the 1938 USC football team for training before the team went on to win a national championship.

The resort had a few different owners, such as the Coopers and Bill Newman, before the current owners, John and Carolyn Webb, began their journey in 1974. The Webbs will celebrate their 50-year anniversary as owners next year and are well known by others for their commitment to community engagement and dedication to providing an exceptional experience for their visitors.

Today, the Virginia Lakes Resort offers key amenities such as rental cabins, boat rentals, tackle shop, and a cafe. Visitors enjoy the stunning scenery of the Sierra Nevadas while participating in a variety of recreational activities at the resort, such as camping, fishing, and hiking.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize the Virginia Lakes Resort for their 100-year anniversary and commend them for their significant contributions throughout the years to their community and the local economy.

THANKING JAIME ROBLES

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I recognize an exemplary individual who interned in my district office this summer.

Jaime Robles ensured that people's voices were heard, by taking down their concerns and sharing them with me. He even helped people renew their passport and access the services and benefits they are entitled to receive from the Federal Government.

Jaime is a recent graduate of Sierra College in Rocklin and will be attending UC Berkeley in the spring to major in economics. He served as vice president and student senator of the Sierra College Student Senate, vice president of student engagement for the social science club, and is a Phi Theta Kappa honor society member. Jaime is also bilingual, and I have repeatedly been impressed with his ability to utilize that skill and serve our Spanish-speaking constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Jaime has been a pleasure to have in my office and, like all our interns, has been a tremendous help to me and my team in serving the people of the Third Congressional District of California. I am incredibly grateful that he chose to invest his time and talents with us.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I thank Jaime for his commitment to public service.

CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, once again, the members of the far left are disregarding this document, the United

States Constitution, in order to undermine Americans' right to keep and bear arms.

Just a few weeks ago, New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham issued an executive order suspending the right to carry firearms in public across Albuquerque and Bernalillo Counties for at least 30 days and fining those who don't comply.

This political power grab is a blatant attack on the Second Amendment and should infuriate every American. It sets a dangerous precedent for the rights of law-abiding Americans and threatens the very freedoms we hold so dear. We cannot allow it to go ignored.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the resolution condemning the actions of Governor Lujan Grisham for attempting to deprive the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms.

The people of this great country understand that the House Republican majority will always fight for their Second Amendment rights and uphold the Constitution.

CONGRATULATING THE CLARKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Clarke County High School women's soccer team for winning the Class 2 State title, the program's second State championship in 3 years.

After working hard all season, the Eagles left it all on the field and defeated the Central of Wise County Warriors by a score of 7-0.

These talented student athletes include Avery and Sidney Shinabery, Danyelle Franz, Makenna Jarvis, Kelsey Elrod, Ivana Betancourth, Heather Cartagena, Bailey Mayo, Olivia Morise, Summer and Madison Toone, Audrey Price, Campbell Neiman, Morgan Walker, Ella O'Donnell, Lilly Suling, Tatiana Garcia, Kyleigh Goforth, Leah Mitchell, Krysna Miranda, and Noelle Whalen.

Throughout the final game, the team overcame challenges, displayed superior skill, and dominated possession of the ball.

This was Coach Ray Hawkins' first year as head coach; and under his leadership, the coaches, players, and staff built up their confidence to achieve their goals, and they did just that.

Congratulations, again, to the Clarke County High School women's soccer team on this incredible achievement.

RECOGNIZING MARTHA'S MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Martha's Meals on Wheels in Staunton, Virginia, for 50 years of service to our local community.

In 1973, Minister Jo Lotz of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church and Martha Wilkerson began preparing meals in the church for those in need for Staunton residents, and their efforts eventually became Martha's Meals on Wheels.

Five decades later, Martha's Meals on Wheels has gone from serving 20 people 5 days a week to now 30 to 35 people per day within the city limits

with the help of Armstrong's Restaurant in Verona, which has been preparing the meals for 20 years.

In 2019, the program fed 4,900 people, and last year fed 7,700 people. With 60 to 80 dedicated volunteers today, the program is expected to feed 7,800 people this year.

Martha's Meals on Wheels' longevity stands as a testament to the civic spirit of the town and an example we should all follow: to always lend a helping hand to others.

I thank Martha's Meals on Wheels and the volunteers for their selfless service and wish them many years of success to come.

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 at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, on this day, grant us Your wisdom, for who is wise and understanding among us? But Your wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy.

Enable us to show that in living a good life, free of envy and ambition, boastfulness or falsehood, all that we do in the course of our day is born of Your wisdom.

And in our discourse with one another, teach us to show love. May we harbor no hate in our hearts. May we not reprove our neighbor, lest we ourselves be found wanting. May we not take vengeance or bear a grudge, but instead, love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

In fact, may the love we first received from You abound more and more. Remind us that You call us to offer this love to one another in knowledge and discernment so that we may perceive what is best in our service to You and to this country.

May You be glorified as we offer this day and our prayers to You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DICTATORS OR DEMOCRACIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, the world is in a conflict we did not choose, between dictators with rule of gun opposing democracies with rule of law.

War criminal Putin began the current murderous conflict invading Ukraine in February 2022, shocked to find that the Ukrainians courageously resisted. President Donald Trump provided Javelin missiles and tried to deter Putin with troops in Poland.

Today, the West is united, with Sweden and Finland joining NATO, as the European Union surpasses American aid for Ukraine. Simultaneously, the Chinese Communist Party denies Taiwan's existence and the regime in Tehran continues nuclear missile development to achieve death to Israel, death to America.

Fellow dictators clearly see the conflict as dictator or democracy as North Korean Kim Jong-un joins Putin. Supporters of democracy must remain united as there is no third side to achieve peace through strength. The choice is clear: Dictators or democracy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden's open borders.

ELEVEN DAYS AWAY FROM A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we are 11 days—11 days—away from a government shutdown and the rightwing of the Republican Party is busy fighting with the far rightwing. The sham plan Republicans have cobbled together this week gets us nowhere closer to funding the government. It goes back on the bipartisan deal struck earlier this year and is dead on arrival in the Senate,