

CONGRATULATING AINSLEY
EARHARDT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ainsley Earhardt, co-host of Fox Television's "FOX & Friends," on receiving an honorary doctorate degree from the University of South Carolina on May 4, 2024.

Ainsley was born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to Lewie and Dale Earhardt, and grew up in Columbia. After graduating from Spring Valley High School, she initially attended Florida State University, before transferring to the University of South Carolina (USC) and graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

USC holds a special place in Ainsley's heart as her family has a long history of attending the University, including her grandparents.

Prior to Ainsley's successful career at Fox News, she got her start as a reporter for WLTX, the local CBS station in Columbia, while attending USC. She was soon promoted to the morning and noon anchor. After the 9/11 Attack, she went to New York City to cover South Carolina middle school students raising money for a new fire truck for the firefighters who had lost theirs at the World Trade Center site.

Since joining Fox in 2007, Ainsley has had her own segment on Hannity, "Ainsley Across America," and has co-hosted "Fox and Friends Weekend," "All-American New Year's Eve," and "America's News Headquarters." In 2016, she became a co-host of "FOX & Friends," where she continues to bring us real news and honest opinions as a leading, distinguished media personality and broadcast journalist.

As a fellow South Carolinian and USC alum, I am grateful to join Ainsley's family and friends in congratulating her on her honorary doctorate degree and to thank her for representing South Carolina so well.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING
MEDICAID CONTINUITY FOR THE
INSULAR AREAS ACT OF 2024

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for the Insular Areas Act of 2014, which would protect access to health insurance for our most vulnerable Americans in the territories. Specifically, my legislation would authorize the redistribution of unused Medicaid block grant funding to address shortfalls in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Medicaid programs in the U.S. territories are subject to a statutory cap, denying them the open-ended federal funding enjoyed by Medicaid programs in the states. Block grant programs, however, are inherently ill-equipped to respond to emergencies due to their fixed

funding structure. This disparity most recently became pronounced during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Congress knows well the challenges associated with block grant programs. That's why we designed contingency measures for other block grant programs, such as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In the event of a funding shortfall, states and territory CHIP programs have access to multiple contingency measures to protect and sustain access to healthcare services. Territory Medicaid programs face similar funding challenges as CHIP due to their shared block grant structure yet lack equivalent contingency measures.

My bill, the Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for the Insular Areas Act of 2024, fixes this critical gap in our Nation's health safety net for Americans in the territories. Under terms set out by my legislation, territory Medicaid programs—like CHIP programs—would be better equipped to address emergencies through the redistribution of unused territory Medicaid allotment funds to shortfall territories.

This bipartisan legislation presents a common-sense, budget-neutral solution, establishing a long overdue fail-safe for Medicaid in the territories. The well-being of our citizens and the care to which they have access to, regardless of their geographic location, must be our top priority.

The gentleman from Guam, Mr. MOYLAN, and the gentelady from American Samoa, Ms. RADEWAGEN, are original cosponsors of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation and uphold our commitment to providing equitable health insurance coverage for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
SARA CUNNINGHAM

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Director of Cheboygan County Veterans Services, Sara Cunningham. Sara's role in assisting Veterans and their families in obtaining county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled has been monumental for our servicemembers and their loved ones.

Sara served the country in the United States Coast Guard from 1999 to 2004. She was stationed in Texas and New Jersey during her five years of military service. She came to the Cheboygan area when her husband was transferred to the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Mackinaw* in 2014. She has worked in the Cheboygan County Veterans Services Office since December 2015 and also serves as the treasurer and secretary for the Veterans Memorial Park Committee.

In April 2022, Sara was recognized as the Hometown Hero of the Year by the Cheboygan County Veterans Subcommittee for everything she has done for local veterans. She was the first person to receive this honor for her exemplary work and humble service. Sara has also been the recipient of numerous statements of support and heartfelt appreciation from multiple Veterans and their families for the sacrifices she makes every day to serve those heroes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Director of Cheboygan County Veterans Serv-

ices, Sara Cunningham for all her hard work and efforts on behalf of Veterans. Sara is an outstanding example of the ripple effect of positivity that one individual can start for a community and a grateful Nation and I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FREMONT OEM AND
DOT

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fremont County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and Department of Transportation (DOT) for their life-saving work to keep roads clear and restore power during a record-breaking winter storm in March of 2024. This harsh winter storm brought over thirteen inches of snow and caused major power outages throughout the county.

Staff from the Fremont County Office of Emergency Management, led by Emergency Manager Mykel Kroll, and the Fremont County Department of Transportation, led by Director Mike Whitt, worked overtime and over weekends throughout inclement weather conditions to clear roadways and restore traffic to over 700 miles of mountainous roadways in the county. Together, they freed an elderly woman who had been trapped in her car by the snow, secured housing for a family who were victims of a fire, restored power to a residential care facility in Florence, rescued a man caught in his vehicle after an avalanche, and helped maintain power for a family with a young child who relies on a supplemental oxygen supply.

Under some of the most extreme conditions possible, Fremont County OEM and DOT did an exemplary job of saving lives and serving our community during this storm.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Fremont County Office of Emergency Management and Department of Transportation for their outstanding work and service to our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was present for the vote on the House floor and thought I had voted "AYE" for the bill using my member card but it did not properly count my vote. Had it been counted, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 186.

NATIONAL LIPID DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, as co-Chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition,

I want to recognize May 10th as National Lipid Day. More than 71 million adults have high levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), which increases their risk of developing heart disease—one of the leading causes of death in the United States. LDL-C accumulation in the arteries decreases the flow of blood and can deprive the heart or brain from an adequate supply of oxygen-rich blood.

Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), which can lead to a heart attack or stroke, is responsible for nearly 85 percent of cardiovascular deaths. More than 200 studies with over 2,000,000 patients have broadly established that elevated LDL-C levels unequivocally cause ASCVD.

Any comprehensive effort to reduce the number of adverse heart and stroke events across the country must be centered on cardiovascular disease prevention. We must also ensure that those who have already suffered a cardiac event do not suffer another. New data shows that there is a gap in care for Medicare beneficiaries who have had a heart attack. Less than 30 percent of Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries' LDL-C levels were tested in the 90 days after being hospitalized due to a heart attack, despite clinical guidelines recommending earlier and more frequent LDL-C testing to monitor and manage one's cholesterol levels. In fact, a third of those survivors did not receive an LDL-C test in the full year following their heart attack. The importance of timely LDL-C testing cannot be understated. Patients who fail to reach their LDL-C level goals are at a 44 percent higher risk of experiencing an adverse cardiac event. The lack of guideline-directed care represents a missed opportunity to prevent further adverse events.

According to an article published by the American Heart Association, Black Americans and other people of color suffered a disproportionately higher increase in cardiovascular disease-related deaths during the pandemic than their white counterparts. Black Americans experienced a 20 percent increase in cardiovascular disease-related deaths during the pandemic, compared to just a 2 percent increase among white Americans in the same timeframe. A person's race or ethnicity should not put them at a higher risk of incurring a cardiac event, yet this data shows striking disparities exist among racial and ethnic groups. All Americans deserve quality cardiovascular care with a focus on prevention and getting access to innovative treatments when needed. Special attention should be focused on the disparities in outcomes that occur among racial and ethnic groups.

On National Lipid Day, we must recognize the importance of routine lipid screening and management as a critical piece of the puzzle while we work to significantly reduce the frequency of cardiac events.

RECOGNIZING BOSMA ENTERPRISES

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional work of Indiana's very own Bosma Enterprises.

Bosma is the largest employer of people with vision loss in the state. Over half of its employees are blind and employed at all company levels, from production to executive leadership. Each year, nearly 900 clients benefit from their services, learning the skills necessary to live independently.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to support Bosma Enterprises and their work through the AbilityOne Program. They are truly making a difference in people's lives by creating opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired, allowing Americans to be independent and pursue their own version of the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING MARGARITA TIKHANOVA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margarita Tikhanova for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Margarita has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Margarita, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Margarita's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Margarita Tikhanova on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

IN MEMORY OF NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JIM TRUJILLO

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of one of New Mexico's most accomplished and best-loved public servants, former New Mexico State Representative Jim Trujillo. He demonstrated what it means to answer the call to public service and that public service is an act of love. I am grateful for the love Rep. Trujillo gave to the people of his district and our state. He also truly embodied what it means to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

His legacy now lives on in countless lives he touched in our beautiful state through both his important career as a financial professional and his broad public service in the New Mexico Human Services Department, six years in the New Mexico National Guard, and his outstanding 17 years in the New Mexico Legislature. I met with Rep. Trujillo numerous times when I was working on voting rights and tribal intergovernmental matters. He always listened with deep attention and gave clear directions and support. He was a man of his word. His tireless dedication to the people of New Mex-

ico proves to all of us how much we can accomplish together for our beloved communities.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Virginia, their children, and the entire extended Trujillo family. I carry his inspiration with me as I continue my own service in the beautifully diverse Third District of New Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR THEIR 170TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd for their 170th Church Anniversary. Formed in 1854, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd has triumphed through wars, economic turmoil, and the Civil Rights Movement. Their motto, "Guiding and supporting one another, to love and to serve, giving thanks to God for our rich heritage," embodies who they are and how they live their lives as a congregation. The Church truly has a profound legacy of being Alabama's oldest historically black Episcopal church. We are so grateful for the impact that this Church has on our great state and Alabama's First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTCARE FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the WestCare Foundation on their 50-year anniversary and thank them for their significant contributions to the Central Valley. For decades, WestCare has played a vital role in delivering essential health programs and services to communities across the nation. Since their founding, WestCare has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing individuals and families with the care they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. In the Central Valley, WestCare California provides essential services to youth, veterans, the homeless, and other vulnerable populations. WestCare California is passionate about supporting individuals that struggle with substance abuse. Through its adult residential and outpatient services in both Fresno and Bakersfield, as well as their Adolescent Services outpatient programs in Hanford and Corcoran, WestCare California delivers comprehensive counseling, education classes, relapse prevention, job assistance and family support services. The organization is also dedicated to serving Central Valley veterans through its San Joaquin Valley Veterans (SJVV) program. The SJVV program provides transitional living facilities for all veterans, as well as drop-in locations throughout the Central Valley that offer housing services, job assistance, supportive care, and referrals. WestCare California also addresses homelessness through its Veteran's Plaza and