

immigration, the effort to unnecessarily complicate this aid is ironic considering that bill was called the One Subject at a Time Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is one subject that ought to be at the top of our minds right now: the defense of democracy. Every moment we fail to act disheartens our allies and emboldens the enemies of freedom.

Hamas doesn't have to question its allies' commitment to their cause. The Houthis have made their devotion clear, as have Iran, Hezbollah, and other Iranian proxies.

Putin knows he has the backing of the new axis of evil, as well. North Korea supplies him with artillery shells and ballistic missiles that rain down on Ukrainian civilians. Iran sends him suicide drones that buzz over trenches and through city streets across Ukraine.

Iran gives those same weapons to Hamas and its other proxies to use against the people of Israel.

We, on the other hand, are sowing doubt daily for our allies and for our enemies.

At least 132 Israeli and American hostages remain in Gaza awaiting rescue. Innocent Palestinians await our humanitarian aid as Hamas continues to use them as human shields.

In Ukraine, our allies scavenge the husks of burnt-out Russian tanks for spare parts. Ukrainian commanders are forced to ration ammunition. Artillery crews wait days for resupply, and when it finally comes, they can often count the number of shells on one hand.

Has the wellspring of freedom run dry? We must answer them now. Our answer must be a resounding no. Our actions now will be our only reply that is heard. The strong words of yesterday will be drowned out by the thunder of inaction today.

America, a beacon of freedom and democracy, stands inactive in the light of Putin's criminal aggression and Hamas' terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, let us come together and let us act. There are over 300 votes in this House for Ukraine. There are over 400 votes in this House for Israel and for humanitarian relief. Let us not stand silent, inept, inactive, unable to help those who are on freedom's front line this very hour.

□ 1015

PERRY STRONG

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

Mr. NUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, just 2 weeks after the horrific violence that ripped through the small town of Perry, Iowa.

On the morning of Thursday, January 4, students woke up and returned to school after their winter break. They did not know what that day would entail. Before school had started, some students arrived for a break-

fast program just before 8:00 a.m., and reports of shots rang throughout the school. Law enforcement rushed to Perry High School.

The violence that day left four students wounded, the death of sixth grader Ahmir Jolliff, and now, most recently, the life of Perry High School Principal Dan Marburger. The Butler family also lost their son that day.

Like many Iowans, when I first heard the news, I was angry. No parent, no child, no teacher should ever have to wonder if it is safe to be able to go to school. We have a duty, a sacred oath, to protect our children, our families, and our educators.

In addition, no family and no parent should ever have to feel the pain that Ahmir's mother, Erica, felt that day when she learned that her 11-year-old son, Mr. Smiley, had been shot and killed simply for going to school.

Ahmir was an incredible kid. His mother shares that he loved soccer, played the tuba, and sang in a choir. Most importantly, that day, he got up excited to go back to school because he wanted to see his friends and his teachers.

This past weekend, this horrible attack claimed another life, Principal Dan Marburger. The multiple injuries Dan sustained were a result of his truly heroic effort to save his students. Dan was a loving father, a grandfather, a husband, a son, and a great educator.

He worked in the Perry School District since 1995, but when Dan heard the danger happening in his school, when others fled, when he could have run to save his immediate staff, he swarmed toward the danger, and there is no doubt that his actions saved lives.

Perhaps no one could share the story of Principal Marburger better than his own daughter, Claire, who said: As many of you know, Dad is a gentle giant, an amazing dad, just an amazing person. When I heard of a gunman, I instantly had a feeling my dad would be a victim, as he would put himself in harm's way for the benefit of kids and his staff. It is absolutely zero surprise to hear that he tried to approach and talk Dylan down and distract him long enough for some students to get out of the cafeteria, because that is just Dad.

There is no doubt he saved many lives through his selfless action. His legacy will live on through many students that he both mentored and educated, and his sacrifice will never be forgotten—not in Iowa, not in America.

Today, while our hearts mourn over this tragedy, we will be there for our community.

In the evening and days that followed the violence, we heard of students who helped each other get to safety. We learned the story of a kind stranger who drove an injured student, fleeing from the school riddled with bullets, to a hospital to help get treatment.

Going forward, we learned of law enforcement who were able to be on the scene within minutes, helping to protect even more students and securing

the school quickly. We learned of doctors, nurses, medical professionals, and an incredible Life Flight crew who landed on the Perry High School football field to shuttle those casualties and those wounded to trauma centers across the State from this rural community. We learned of all who worked tirelessly to help those who were injured. We also heard the stories of vigils and community gatherings in the days that followed the shooting.

As we continue to move forward, now is the time for healing, a time to ensure that our communities are safe, our kids feel confident to return to class, and that families and educators know that Iowa has their backs.

We all have a responsibility to ensure safety for our students, and that begins with mental health, preventing youth suicide, hardening our schools, and ensuring our law enforcement and our schools are prepared to respond when these violent acts occur. Together, we have led on this, but there is more work to be done.

From this tragedy, there are lessons learned. These lifesaving actions that took place at Perry High School must be shared across the country, and I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in learning from this horrible event so that we can save lives into the future.

Mr. Speaker, these are hard days ahead of us, and much work remains to be done, but we will get through this together, because, today, we are all Perry strong.

DIABETIC SHOES

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as I face the last 50 weeks as a Member of this Congress, I am appalled at the amount of time we waste on performances on things that will never become law, that shouldn't become law, and, in fact, the American public doesn't care that much about.

However, yesterday, the front page of The New York Times was something that people should care about, talking about the problem of diabetes and the complications that can lead to amputations, especially among men.

It is no secret we are facing an epidemic of diabetes. Nearly 15 percent of American adults, more than 38 million people, have diabetes, and it is even worse among Americans 65 years or older, with a rate of nearly 30 percent. It is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States.

Right now, we are marking up a commission to deal with the budget deficit in our Budget Committee. The direct and indirect costs of diabetes alone in 2022 were \$413 billion, and the extra costs for a diabetes patient were more than \$12,000 per patient.

We should make improvements in delivery that prevent the disease and the progression, not only for the health of

the patient but also for our healthcare system.

Type 2 diabetes is a huge factor dealing with modern diet and our health habits. These factors, combined with genetics and limited access to healthcare, can make it a challenge to control blood sugar levels and contribute to the progression of the disease. It can result in serious, life-threatening consequences on relatively minor events.

People can have a problem with their foot. It starts small with some nerve damage and maybe a foot ulcer, but it explodes, if untreated, to more intense conditions like gangrene and requires amputation to save the life of the patient.

Nearly half of diabetes patients develop this nerve damage, and many go on to develop the foot ulcers I referenced. It is worse for people of color. African Americans are two to three times more likely to need an amputation.

When we know that millions of Americans suffer from diabetes and face dire complications, why wouldn't we take the opportunity to do everything in our power to limit the progression of the disease? There are, in fact, low-cost solutions that can remedy the situation.

One that I have been working on for several years is a simple treatment of diabetic shoes, which deal with the foot conditions that are such a problem for people with diabetes, that can help prevent the problems that lead to those amputations.

Unfortunately, diabetic shoes require a prescription from a doctor. I mean, it is not rocket science. It could be done by a nurse practitioner or by a physician assistant, but we don't allow that. It is also an extra barrier for people who have problems navigating the healthcare system; they might give up or ignore it. It results in extra cost and extra time.

These delays can have profound consequences, as I mentioned. It is not a barrier for people with private insurance; if they needed these shoes when they were at 64, it wouldn't be a problem.

Congressman LAHOOD and I have a simple legislative fix to address this unnecessary quirk in our healthcare system. It would allow nurse practitioners and physicians assistants to satisfy the documentation requirements, at no extra cost to the patient, no extra delays, and do it directly. You shouldn't need a doctor to prescribe these shoes.

This is just one of dozens of examples of commonsense, bipartisan reforms that will reduce spending, improve outcomes, and, in fact, save lives and limbs. I hope we can focus on simple, commonsense things like this that are bipartisan in nature that aren't expensive and that make sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to save a life and save a limb.

TRIBUTE TO MADISON MARSH

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the new Miss America, Madison Marsh; that is, Second Lieutenant Madison Marsh of Fort Smith, Arkansas, crowned Miss America 2024 in ceremonies in Orlando, Florida, last Sunday.

Now, for the record, Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that she competed under the title of Miss Colorado, having been a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

This amazing young lady graduated from Fort Smith Southside High School in 2019, and it was in the foyer of her high school where I first became acquainted with her. She met with me to discuss the possibility of her attending the Air Force Academy. After a brief discussion, it became clear to me that she had all the attributes we look for in future military officers, and she earned the designation as my principal nominee to the academy that year. Soon thereafter, the academy brass agreed with my nomination and gave her an appointment.

In her 4 years at the academy, Lieutenant Marsh excelled at everything, and she graduated and received her commission in the Air Force in June of 2023.

Just prior to graduation, however, she won the title of Miss Colorado and earned a trip to the Miss America Pageant, where she became the first military officer in the history of the pageant to compete for the title of Miss America. Then, on Sunday, last Sunday, just before 10 o'clock eastern time, she was crowned Miss America.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to put into words how proud I am of this young lady. In this job, I have the opportunity to work with a lot of very special people. She is certainly one of them.

Few people have the blend of intellect, talent, poise, fitness, and beauty as Madison Marsh—an astrophysics major, selected for pilot training, Truman Scholar, Rhodes finalist. Accepted into Harvard Kennedy School, she is well on her way to her advanced degree in this prestigious university—now, Miss America.

All of that is impressive, for sure, but one of the most redeeming qualities of this young lady is her passion for finding the cure for pancreatic cancer, a cause she has taken up due to the untimely death of her mother, Whitney, at age 41. That led to the founding of the Whitney Marsh Foundation, purposed in raising awareness and funding for pancreatic cancer research.

This new platform will give rise to an increased awareness of this dreadful disease, and Lieutenant Marsh is the perfect spokesperson.

I have had the privilege of being associated with three Miss Americas: Elizabeth Ward from my hometown of Russellville, Arkansas in 1982; Savvy

Shields, Miss America 2016 from Fayetteville, Arkansas; and now, the reigning Miss America, Madison Marsh.

What an honor, Mr. Speaker, to have played a small role in this young lady's success. We join her family, her father, Mike; sisters Heidi and Sarah; brothers Nick and Chris; and her extended family in congratulating Madison Marsh for this terrific honor.

I know Whitney, who is looking down from Heaven, is enormously proud of her daughter for what she has become. Now, the rest of America knows.

□ 1030

DTE WINTER OUTAGES

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

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, DTE Energy, an investor-owned utility monopoly in southeast Michigan, charges some of the highest rates in our Nation but provides some of the most unreliable service. They also carry out hundreds of thousands of cruel utility shutoffs per year.

Over 100,000 DTE customers in southeast Michigan were forced to go days without power and heat during extreme cold and hot weather. This is because, instead of investing in reliability, DTE invests in profits and pays their shareholders and executives first. DTE's own CEO makes \$10 million a year while families in southeast Michigan are going without power, again, during some of the coldest days this past week.

Investor-owned utilities like DTE have failed to invest in the infrastructure upgrades to the grid that are necessary to prevent these outages. Instead, they are choosing to maximize profits for their shareholders while spending millions on campaign contributions to avoid real accountability in Lansing.

My residents are sick and tired of wealthy corporate executives lining their pockets while our neighbors are exploited and price gouged. That is why I am proud to have introduced a resolution with Congresswoman CORI BUSH and Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN. It is a resolution recognizing the human right to utilities.

It is important that we understand that access to utilities is not a privilege. It is a fundamental human right. In the richest country on Earth, every single family should not go without electricity, heat, and water.

We need utilities that serve the people, not shareholders. We need to take the profit motive out of the services we all need to live and thrive.

YEMEN STRIKES

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the billions of people all around the world who are demanding a cease-fire now.

The majority of Americans support de-escalation and a lasting cease-fire, yet the President has threatened to escalate this into a regional war instead