

In closing, I want to take a moment to recognize the names of the officers from my district who have made the ultimate sacrifice: Deputy Sheriff Brett Harris, Deputy Sheriff Anthony Joel Redondo, Police Officer Efren Coronel, Police Officer Jose Gilbert Vega, Police Officer Lesley Marie Zerebny, and K9 Sultan of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. I also recognize their families for their immense service and sacrifice.

As we close National Police Week, I urge my colleagues to follow words with action that will improve the lives of fallen first responders' families.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE IS HEALTHCARE

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a simple truth: Mental health care is healthcare. We have to start treating it as such because these challenges are more common than people may think.

Several members of my own family have struggled with mental health challenges, so I know from personal experience how hard it is to watch the people you love suffer and not be able to help them.

It is why I have introduced several bills that would put an end to the stigma, bring down costs, and expand access through peer support programs and telehealth to ensure more Oregonians and Americans get the care they need.

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, but raising awareness alone doesn't go far enough. We need bipartisan action on this issue. It is the only way we can put an end to the mental health and substance use crisis in America.

As co-chair of the Mental Health Caucus, I am working across the aisle to find consensus and get more policies passed that will actually help people who are struggling, people like my family members and probably yours, too.

I invite every single one of my colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, to join me in this fight. My door is always open, and I am open to forging solutions together.

CELEBRATING DR. RACHAEL MAHMOOD

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate Dr. Rachael Mahmood, a fifth grade teacher at Georgetown Elementary School in Aurora, Illinois, and the 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Mahmood's dedication to service, education, and equity has allowed her to make a lasting impact on the lives

of her students, whether it be helping them succeed in their studies or achieve their extracurricular goals. She has also become an indispensable leader beyond the classroom, pioneering various cultural and social initiatives to create an inclusive environment where students can connect with their peers.

As one administrator notes, she "embodies the qualities of an exceptional educator and inspiring leader."

At the end of the 2023–2024 school year, Dr. Mahmood will go on sabbatical, touring schools around the State of Illinois and sharing her valuable insights with fellow educators.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Rachael Mahmood on being named Illinois Teacher of the Year and thank her for her commitment to improving education for young people in the Aurora community.

MARKING GIANT DIPPER CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, today is the 100th anniversary of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's iconic roller coaster, the Giant Dipper.

This amazing roller coaster opened on this day in 1924 and took only 47 days to construct, making it the fourth oldest roller coaster in the United States and one of the 10 oldest roller coasters in the world.

Despite its age, it still packs a punch. Starting off by racing through a pitch-black mine shaft of a tunnel, then popping outside and clinking and clacking up a steep incline. After reaching its peak point, the coaster plunges straight down and provides a ride that races up and down its wooden brace tracks, lifting you up and down out of your seats.

Just like any good roller coaster, it is a ride that can turn your stomach. No matter how you feel, the Giant Dipper is exhilarating. It is exciting, and it is just plain fun.

It is no wonder that more than 68 million people have taken this thrill ride. It is no wonder that the Giant Dipper is recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

Happy 100th birthday to this famed roller coaster, and congratulations to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. I honor the Giant Dipper for providing a fun and exciting ride that has provided generations of families with fun and fulfilling memories.

□ 1115

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MICHAEL A. ALFULTIS

(Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rear Admiral and SUNY Maritime College President Michael A. Alfultis for his years of service and to celebrate his retirement.

Presidential Alfultis has served for 28 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, eventually rising from captain to rear admiral. After retiring from service, Admiral Alfultis began teaching at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and then went on to become the director and chief administrative officer at the University of Connecticut.

His consecutive years of academic and professional leadership culminated in his tenure as the 11th president of SUNY Maritime College.

President Alfultis' leadership has transformed SUNY Maritime and shaped the future of the maritime workforce. His tenure has been marked by significant achievements, including a \$100 million investment in institutional organizations such as the Institute for Community Resiliency and Climate Adaptation and the establishment of the Center of Excellence for Offshore Energy.

I was proud to have supported the Center of Excellence for Offshore Energy with an \$800,000 appropriation to support its curriculum development for New Yorkers.

As his time as president of SUNY Maritime College ends later this month, I would like to thank President Alfultis personally and on behalf of our community for his years of service to our country, academic institutions, and the people of New York.

We wish President Alfultis fair winds and following seas.

CONGRESS MUST PUT POLITICS ASIDE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, when insults, chaos, and name calling become the norm, it takes courage to come together and work through our differences.

America is facing significant challenges right here at home and around the world.

I believe that the people of eastern North Carolina sent me here to get things done. I work daily to be a champion for a part of my State that is often forgotten and left behind.

My grandmother raised me to look for the best in others because everyone is somebody. We must extend respect. We must extend dignity. We must extend civility to each other.

It is better to cross bridges together as opposed to sending one of the greatest institutions on Earth over a cliff.

We must put politics aside to achieve meaningful results for the people of eastern North Carolina and our country. May God bless us.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND
INCLUSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm regarding attempts to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion, referred to as "DEI," initiatives in medical education.

Any anti-DEI efforts endanger our Nation's healthcare and threaten our global leadership in medical science.

Many in this Chamber owe their health and lives to the groundbreaking work of physicians of color, specifically today, Black physicians. Many of our loved ones are living healthier and longer lives thanks to Black physicians and medical pioneers.

Madam Speaker, let me just ask this Chamber and those watching to listen and then you be the judge when I say to you: Let's start with Dr. Kizzy Corbett, who led in the development of the Moderna COVID vaccine.

Now, Madam Speaker, many in this very Chamber, Republicans, Democrats, and those in leadership, received the vaccine, and we can thank her for her pioneering leadership, for not contracting COVID or being hospitalized or dying from severe COVID symptoms.

What are we afraid of for physicians of color to be in medical schools that receive Federal funding and that the school is sensitive to cultural needs, to DE and I?

One in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime. Whether you are Republican or Democrat, if you or a loved one have benefited from early breast cancer detection, it is thanks to Dr. Myra Logan, a Black woman. She developed early methods for breast cancer detection and treatment, along with new antibiotics.

Others have benefited from advancements in chemotherapy because of Dr. Jane Wright who pioneered this vital cancer treatment in 1949 when it was still experimental.

Madam Speaker, there are people in this Chamber who have gone through chemotherapy. There are Members of this Chamber, Democrats and Republicans, who have benefited from the pioneering efforts of Black physicians.

Now, we want to say that we will remove Federal funding if a medical school wants to have programs for the underserved, for those who are representing the great diversity in this America in which we live?

Simply put, doctors of color, and Black medical doctors in particular, have shaped medical science, saving countless lives globally. Despite their essential medical contributions, systemic barriers cause their underrepresentation in the ranks of medical doctors.

As a result, DEI programs and practices are key to their increased partici-

pation in our Nation's healthcare system.

Listen to this, Madam Speaker, 60 percent of physicians in the United States are White, compared to just 5.7 percent of Black physicians, and that is with the support of DE and I programs and practices.

The question today is: What are Republicans afraid of? DEI offices in medical schools promote racial diversity and cultural competencies among physicians. Both improve healthcare for all Americans—all Americans, especially underserved communities of color.

DE and I practices and training help correct biases about racial differences that adversely impact medical judgments, treatment decisions, and patient interactions, regardless of socioeconomic status.

We, therefore, need to be doing more. Let me say this again. We, therefore, need to be doing more and not less to ensure that our Nation's healthcare workforce is diverse and culturally competent.

Why am I doing this today? Why do I take this hour to come to this floor in this Chamber where we will make decisions that affect the lives of all Americans? We celebrate our rich history, the 70th anniversary of Brown versus the Board of Education of Topeka, which is all about the education of our children. You would think in 70 years that we would have moved away from the systemic racism, that we would have moved away from not wanting us to be culturally sensitive to help us serve all Americans.

I am here today because some of my Republican colleagues supporting this bill, the so-called education act, which would cut off Federal funding to medical schools pursuing DE and I initiatives.

Let me say this again. I know it is hard to believe for those who are watching me in this Chamber, this Chamber where we are elected to represent all people—we know there is not a competitive edge. You have already heard the facts that only 5.7 percent of the physicians are Black Americans. This so-called education act, again, would cut off Federal funding to medical schools pursuing DE and I initiatives.

This harmful legislation and similar DE and I threats prioritize intolerance over innovation and stifle cultural competencies in the medical profession.

What if I suggested and wrote legislation that would say we will withdraw Federal funding from medical schools that fail to implement culturally sensitive and DE and I policies and practices?

What if?

Madam Speaker, oh, let's take it a step forward this morning. What if I were to say that legacy programs at medical schools should be abolished and that relatives and donors who simply write a check to have their name

listed on the wing of a medical school, that their children could not go there, that they would not be able to have a legacy program where simply because of writing a check you could be admitted to a medical school? Should they receive or should they not receive preferential treatment in medical admissions?

We know that this happens.

Over 60 percent of the United States' doctors are White while White people comprise just over 50 percent of the population. You do the math. Who is overrepresented here? Look at the legacy admission policies and other forms of systemic racism, and you tell me who has an unfair advantage.

We should support and not stop initiatives that help diversity or help to diversify our physician pipeline, such as a program called Made for Medicine and Adtalem.

Made for Medicine supports Black middle and high school students interested in medicine with training and mentoring to best position them for success.

This program, Made for Medicine, is such an incredible program. Madam Speaker, it gives me great honor today because the founder of that program, a young, brilliant physician, who just happens to be a Black American, just happens to be someone that I have watched grow up. I have watched the dedication of Dr. Laura Espy-Bell who decided for all communities that it would be good to be able to have a program that educated our children, so they could see faces like them. The research shows when we go into a hospital when you are Black how great it is to see someone that looks like you, whether you are Hispanic to see someone like you or Asian American, and the list could go on, to be able to have that appreciation.

□ 1130

The list could go on to be able to have that appreciation. You see, Mr. Speaker, not only is Dr. Laura Espy-Bell the founder of Made for Medicine, she could have just talked about herself, but she brought other doctors along with her. Some are photographed here. I have another photograph that we will get on the floor soon of Black male doctors.

You see, Madam Speaker, as shown in this photograph, you have a young physician. I call him Dr. B.J., Dr. B.J. Hicks. He is a cardiovascular neurologist. He did his internship and his residency at the Henry Ford Hospital. Not only is he a brilliant, brilliant neurologist, but he gives back through the national American Heart Association. He is revered in his field, one of the top in the Nation.

Guess what, Madam Speaker? He doesn't just serve Black Americans. He serves White and Brown Americans, like all of these physicians. This brilliant doctor, B.J. Hicks, comes from a line, a family line, of physicians. His father, a dear friend and constituent in