

have fewer rights than I did. I am exhausted that Roe is gone.

Yet, we must not tire. No matter how long the fight, whether in this Congress or the next, we must restore a woman's right to legal abortion.

PREPARE NOW FOR ATTACKS

(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, 2 days ago, I issued a heartfelt warning for all families in America. This is bipartisan in that the terrorists consider all Americans as targets.

I had been excusing the irresponsible open borders as recruiting millions of low-information voters to perpetuate Democrat elitist power. Sadly, well-respected Members of Congress, last weekend, clarified open borders is purposeful insanity, putting American families at risk everywhere of murderous attacks.

With terrorists and millions of illegal aliens, more 9/11 attacks will lead to growth of government for elitist power. The "ends justifies the means" concentrates power in their worship of government run by elitists.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that all American families, having full gas tanks, should prepare now with an attack rally point when communications are cut. Families should have a pre-chosen refuge of safety to face the terrorists that are facing our country.

Most at risk of mass murder and starvation are the homebound and disabled elderly. There should be plans for their recovery.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who have protected America for 20 years in the global war on terrorism as it continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists. It is sadly clear that there will be more 9/11 attacks across America, as the FBI has indicated.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE O'NEILL'S ELECTION AS FIRST MINISTER OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle O'Neill on her election to serve as First Minister of Northern Ireland, the first Irish nationalist leader in history to hold the seat, and also for the tone she set by pledging to be a leader for all the people of Northern Ireland.

After 2 years of delays and two successive elections in which the people made their voices heard, parties will once again sit in government and resume the difficult work of legislating.

The democratic institutions established by the Good Friday Agreement

have been critical in sustaining peace and prosperity on the island of Ireland. As a guarantor of that agreement, the United States has the indispensable role of continuing to uphold these principles of self-government, ensuring that progress made over the last years will continue into the future.

I have no doubt that the people of Ireland should be proud of these institutions, and I look forward to the realization of renewed stability with the return of a power-sharing government.

CELEBRATING 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALVO'S INSURANCE

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Calvo's Insurance, a company that has been a pillar of support for thousands in my island community.

In 1938, Eduardo T. Calvo began selling fire and typhoon insurance out of his home. What began as a small part-time job has grown into the largest and oldest insurance provider on Guam.

This success is a true testament to Calvo's Insurance's unwavering commitment to serving the people of Guam. Their ability to provide comprehensive and affordable insurance has significantly benefited our community, and their growth over the decades has infused Guam's economy while creating new jobs.

As they celebrate this momentous occasion, I want to wish Calvo's Insurance continued success and prosperity in the years to come. May they continue to serve as a shining example of excellence in the insurance industry.

RECOGNIZING AMIRAM COOPER

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to share the story of Amiram Cooper.

Amiram is 85, a husband, a father, a grandfather of nine, a composer, and a poet. His love for the arts and writing inspires everyone around him.

On October 7, he was 1 of more than 240 men, women, children, and elderly who were kidnapped by Hamas.

Amiram was one of the founders of Kibbutz Nir Oz, one of the sites of this horrible attack. This tight-knit community was left devastated by the brutality of that day.

Amiram and 135 others are still held captive in Gaza today. Their families continue to live a nightmare—devastated, not knowing what conditions their loved ones are in. It has been 123 days.

We must demand that medical and aid organizations be able to treat the hostages and negotiate on their behalf.

We must continue to do everything in our power to keep these hostages

and their families in our hearts and to keep telling their stories.

We must bring every single hostage home and end this violence.

RECOGNIZING 114TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the 114th anniversary of the Boys Scouts of America, the Nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

On February 8, 1910, Chicago businessman William D. Boyce, who grew up in western Pennsylvania, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America. It later went on to be chartered by the U.S. Congress.

Since then, millions of young men and women have joined the Scouts and learned the values of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance.

I have been involved in Scouting for more than 50 years, including serving as a Scoutmaster and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977. Scouting helped me discover my life purpose: helping others.

I take the lessons learned throughout my own Scouting career and apply them in every aspect of my life today, including in my job as a U.S. Congressman.

As co-chair of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I am proud to introduce a resolution, alongside my fellow Eagle Scout from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), designating tomorrow, February 8, as Boy Scouts of America Day, to honor the tireless service of Scout volunteers and participants in our communities.

In challenging times like now, I think we could all learn a lesson from the Scout slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily."

CONDEMNING BIDEN'S ENERGY POLICIES

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Biden's disastrous energy policies that have hurt consumers with skyrocketing costs and jeopardized national security.

On day one, he launched a war on American energy by killing the Keystone pipeline. Most recently, he announced a pause on all pending natural gas permits and that he would no longer hold court-ordered offshore gas lease sales. These shortsighted decisions embolden adversaries in their aggression toward American allies who rely on U.S. energy.

Mr. Speaker, we must support commonsense measures, like those contained in the Lower Energy Costs Act, to restore American energy dominance,

lower costs for consumers, and protect our national security.

PROTECTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL PATIENTS ACT OF 2023

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 485.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 996 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 485.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 485) to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of quality-adjusted life years and similar measures in coverage and payment determinations under Federal health care programs, with Mr. MEUSER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 485, my Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act, which affirms every person's life has value by banning the use of quality-adjusted life years, or QALYs, and similar discriminatory measures from all Federal healthcare programs.

As many of you know, my son Cole was born with an extra 21st chromosome. Most of you know it as Down syndrome.

When Cole was born, the doctors gave us a long list of challenges and chances for heartache. It was difficult, but I could have never imagined just how positively he would impact my life, my family's life, and the world.

Today, Cole is a fun-loving 16-year-old with big dreams. He wants to be a football player, a pastor, and a race car driver. He is on the basketball team. He plays the drums. For Cole, the sky is the limit.

Cole and others with disabilities deserve every opportunity to succeed. We shouldn't be discounting their potential or prejudging the quality of their life just because of their disabilities.

Unfortunately, several tools frequently used in our healthcare system do just that. QALYs, and other similar discriminatory measures, assign a dollar value on the life of a patient to decide if a certain treatment is cost effective, oftentimes discounting an individual's worth and the need for care solely because of their disability or chronic illness.

It means a bureaucracy coldly determines the value of someone's life and could deny necessary healthcare due to that calculation.

Measurements like QALYs remove the consideration of unique circumstances and health conditions of a patient and their doctor's judgment from deciding what is best for the patient.

I am not alone in opposing the use of these measures.

Democrats acknowledged this when they passed the Affordable Care Act, and they banned the use of QALYs in Medicare.

In 2020, the Democratic National Committee platform stated that: "Democrats will ensure that people with disabilities are never denied coverage based on the use of quality-adjusted life year (QALY) indexes."

The nonpartisan National Council on Disabilities wrote a report in 2019 titled: "Quality-Adjusted Life Years and the Devaluation of Life with a Disability" that condemned the usage of QALYs and they have continued to write additional letters to Congress urging us to ban their use.

Additionally, we have heard from nearly 200 advocacy groups spanning the political spectrum who are calling on Congress to prohibit the use of QALYs and other discriminatory measures.

This legislation, the Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act, bans Federal payers, like Medicaid and VA healthcare, from using QALYs or other discriminatory measures that devalue the lives of people with disabilities and chronic or rare diseases, and it does it by simply applying the current ban on QALYs and other similar measures that exist in Medicare today to all Federal payers.

In passing this bill, it will mean that healthcare bureaucracies can no longer discriminate against the weakest and most vulnerable patients, and it will help ensure that people can get the healthcare that they need and that their doctors think is best.

This would be a big deal.

Medicaid is the largest payer for people with disabilities, and we are letting

it use measures that discriminate against the very people it was designed to support.

That is nothing to say of the millions of injured or disabled veterans who rely on the VA for their healthcare, which is also allowed to use these types of measures.

However, let me be clear in this: H.R. 485 does not prohibit healthcare programs from rewarding value or finding other ways to hold down costs.

For example, if a treatment does not work or shouldn't be covered or it is more appropriate to start with other more cost-effective treatments first, nothing in this bill will preclude the Federal payers from continuing to make these kinds of coverage decisions.

In fact, the National Council on Disability has already identified alternative ways to measure value that do not devalue the life of someone with a disability or chronic illness.

Because of Cole, I have spent my time in Congress as an ability advocate, encouraging people to focus on every individual's God-given talent and potential.

Millions of Americans like Cole need their voices to be heard. Whenever I meet someone with a disability or chronic illness, or with their family, I hear the same thing over and over: They want the same chances to succeed in life as everyone else.

You know what? We are all just one car accident or one diagnosis away from having a disability ourselves.

I hope that banning the use of discriminatory measures by Federal payers against people with disabilities and chronic illness and affirming every person's life has value is something that we can agree on. Let's give people with disabilities, rare diseases, or chronic diseases hope.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 485, the so-called Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act, a bill that, unfortunately, does not live up to its name.

This legislation is not about protecting healthcare for patients. Instead, it is a Trojan horse intended to undermine the progress that President Biden and Democrats have made in lowering prescription drug costs for American families.

My Republican colleagues say this bill is intended to prevent the Secretary of Health and Human Services from using a measure called "quality-adjusted life years," or QALYs, which could be discriminatory against Americans living with disabilities, but Federal law, including the Inflation Reduction Act, already prohibits Medicare from using QALYs in its coverage determination, and State Medicaid programs are required by law to cover all drugs.