

medication. He had no real answer to my questions.

It doesn't stop there. These exorbitant markups extend to drugs for leukemia, prostate cancer, kidney disease, and more.

At this hearing, I unveiled H.R. 9096, the bipartisan Pharmacists Fight Back Act with DIANA HARSHBARGER, a pharmacist. Pharmacists Fight Back will stop the most nefarious of PBM price gouging abuses.

PFB is the most muscular reform ever introduced at the Federal level. It will implement a transparent pharmacy reimbursement model using market-based pricing benchmarked to the national average drug acquisition cost. It will end patient exploitation in Federal healthcare plans and impose criminal violations for such behavior. No family should suffer the loss of a child from PBM greed.

Ahead of Thanksgiving, we reached our goal of 50 cosponsors to Pharmacists Fight Back, 25 Republicans and 25 Democrats. This is not a partisan issue.

Cole had his whole life ahead of him. Because Cole was forced to choose between paying his rent or shelling out hundreds of dollars to cover his medication out of pocket for a drug that did not need to be that expensive, his family is without their loved one. There is no justification for a family facing Thanksgiving without their child. Cole's death was preventable.

Since Cole's passing, Bil and Shanon, who are here today, have fought tirelessly for PBM reform. I am grateful for their presence today and that they have chosen to tell their story so no other parents experience this pain.

Cole's parents said that Cole walked his own path in life. He was known by his loved ones to have deep care and compassion for those whom he encountered.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow Members to protect patients like Cole and his family and to sponsor H.R. 9096, the Pharmacists Fight Back Act. In honor of Cole Schmidtknecht, we will carry forward the fight to end the price gouging abuses of pharmacy benefit managers.

RECOGNIZING JANELLE JONES FOR MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER FOR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible strength and resilience of Janelle Jones, a grieving mother who has turned her profound loss into a mission to protect others.

After the tragic loss of her beloved son, Makaili "Mak" James Evans, to a distracted driver, Janelle has shown extraordinary determination in advocating for pedestrian safety. Her courage is a testament to her strength and

a meaningful way of honoring Mak's memory.

Janelle's advocacy has brought much-needed attention to the importance of protecting our children by making our roads safer. Her efforts have led to enhanced pedestrian safety measures, including improvements at the same intersection where young Mak tragically lost his life. Her work serves as both a tribute to her son and a call to action for all of us.

As we remember Mak and others who have lost their lives on our roads, let us commit to honoring their memory by taking meaningful steps to prevent tragedies like this as we draw inspiration from mothers like Janelle.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in the world of sport, my favorite discipline has always been women's Olympic figure skating. I have to share I still remember way back in the 1990s when I was crestfallen and felt betrayed to see the sport reduced in stature after U.S. figure skating champion Nancy Kerrigan had physical harm perpetrated against her by an opponent on the U.S. team.

As a young woman, I was perplexed and shocked and, frankly, have never fully accommodated that horrific incident that tarnished the reputation and standing of the Olympics itself.

As a lifelong citizen of Ohio, the dean of Ohio's congressional delegation, and a grateful graduate of the University of Michigan, today, as well, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to speak out on a recent degradation of worth in Big Ten football.

I shuddered this past Saturday at the Michigan-Ohio State football game when after the game itself a fracas developed on the field with the largest viewing audience of the year. It should have been a moment of sterling sportsmanship and national pride. Instead, it devolved into adolescent chaos.

Ohio's and Michigan's traditional rivalry, and it is strong, should have elevated our Nation to its best. In past decades and generations it has.

The best among us in sport often rose to higher purpose in life. Gerald Ford, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, served as captain of the University of Michigan football team. He later became President of the United States.

Even earlier, during the difficult decades of World War II, Jesse Owens of Cleveland, Ohio, who had been the finest runner ever on the Ohio State track team, led America's Olympic team to Berlin, Germany. When he entered that stadium carrying our flag, fascist dictator Adolf Hitler, who was sitting in the stands, turned his back on Jesse Owens, the greatest male runner in American history.

It appears last weekend's lack of sportsmanship was not just an occur-

rence in the Ohio State-Michigan game. There also have been brawls between Florida and Florida State, North Carolina State and University of North Carolina, and Arizona State and the University of Arizona.

Is this sport?

America is watching. Our children are watching.

The Big Ten Conference quickly and justly fined both teams \$100,000. That is not much in that world.

That was a useful but small gesture. The universities and athletic organizations must investigate and disclose those who initiated these violations of sportsmanship and set standards of play.

They must stop these abuses and must issue full, formal apologies to the people of our Nation for disgracing America's finest traditions. This moment must become a turning point and recommitment to the values that good sportsmanship should teach us: respect, cooperation and team spirit, physical and mental discipline, and, yes, good times too.

This is about more than football games or storied rivalries. Sport is about setting an American standard on the field and in the classroom. Winning isn't everything, but, as we know, living a life with honor, integrity, and respect for others is.

MANY THANKS TO THE VILLAGE WHO HAS SUPPORTED ME THESE LAST 2 YEARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, as we get close to the end of the 118th Congress, my first term representing the greatly diverse Illinois Third Congressional District, I rise in full gratitude for all of those who have supported me and held me during these not-so-easy 2 years in what we call the people's House.

We have heard that it takes a village to represent, to fight, and to deliver for our communities. However, recently, 219 Members of this body opted to persecute the village, passing a bill that puts all of civil society at risk. They took that action at the precise moment we should be uplifting and celebrating civil society as the first and most resilient line of defense for many vulnerable communities.

Without a robust civil society, countries can descend into instability, their governments becoming more prone to authoritarianism, human rights abuses, and the erosion of democratic freedoms.

While some of my colleagues came to the floor to do harm to civil society, I have come to the floor to commend the countless nonprofit organizations, faith communities, schools and universities, advocacy groups, and cultural institutions that compose the powerful civil society of Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Since my time as the executive director of a nonprofit in Chicago, I have seen community organizations nurture and sustain a healthy democracy by providing lifesaving services, including housing and warm meals while holding those in power accountable.

It is clear that strengthening, repairing, and defending our democracy is not solely the work of government. It requires the fabric of our communities, it requires civil organizations who are weaving their work together on the front lines to protect, to defend, and to enrich our communities and our neighborhoods.

Today, I am grateful for faith communities like the member institutions of the Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance and DuPage United; for community organizations like Onward Neighborhood House, La Casa Norte, and Habitat for Humanity DuPage; for schools and universities like Northeastern University's El Centro and North Park University; for early childhood centers like Educare DuPage and Chicago Commons; for human rights advocates like Palenque LSNA and AFIRE; for cultural organizations like the National Veterans Art Museum and the Mexican Cultural Center of DuPage.

There are too many strong civil society organizations to name. To the many, many civil service organizations across Illinois Third, I want to say, "thank you," "gracias." I appreciate the opportunities and possibilities they create for our neighbors independent of their ZIP Code, independent of their citizenship status or past actions, and the way they keep me rooted in a community ready to fight like hell for our neighbors.

As I celebrate the work of civil society, I also want to uplift the team that puts in the long hours, that makes so many sacrifices for the people of Illinois Third, and who are seldom mentioned and seldom seen in public. That team is my staff.

My staff, who despite the challenges of this Congress and despite a Congress that oftentimes negates the humanity of their own family, has used their professional and lived experiences to introduce and champion transformative and progressive legislation, has pushed the government to work for our constituents and deliver resources back to Illinois Third, and has ensured our neighbors receive the lifesaving services that they deserve.

To my entire team: Ellen, Luis, Claudia, Karsen, Deepa, Noemi, Jowen, Marina, Daniela, Valeria, Kat, Jennifer, Nataly, Vianey, Micaela, Magda, Levi, and Rogelio, as well as the countless interns, fellows, and past staffers who have supported our work, I say thank you. They are seen, they are appreciated, and I am so proud to have worked with them in this first term and as we prepare ourselves for the next.

Through gratitude I find hope. Both the community at home and the team

I have here in Congress have reminded me that in uncertain times one thing is certain: Our communities are prepared to organize, to protect each other, and to unite no matter what the next 4 years brings us. I am forever grateful and I am ready.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BLACK MEDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of outstanding Black media in the 18th Congressional District in the great city of Houston.

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Houston is one of America's most diverse cities, and it has a large, vibrant African-American community.

Black media has always been a critical component in keeping us informed, speaking truth to power, honoring unsung heroes, and shedding light on racial injustice.

Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter once said: "Without a free press there can be no free society."

I recognize the important contributions of those who have blazed a path for us.

May 2, 1919, Clifton Frederick Richardson, Sr., founded and became publisher and editor of the African-American newspaper the Houston Informer, which published its first issue a few weeks later. It ran for 20 years and covered so many critical moments in Houston's history, and it continues today through a foundation.

In 1930, the Houston Defender was founded by Clifton F. Richardson, Sr., and he was born after the vestiges of slavery in 1897 in Marshall, Texas. He learned the basics of journalism and printing during his studies at Bishop College. Today, the proud tradition carries on through CEO Sonny Mesiah-Jiles, who publishes it weekly and manages a vibrant online community.

The Houston Forward Times was founded in 1960 under the leadership of the late founder and publisher Julius P. Carter. Mr. Carter, no relation, founded the Forward Times as a means of uniting Black Houston to overcome the obstacles that were holding Blacks in the shackles of second-class citizenry. Now, his daughter, Karen Carter Richards, carries the torch as CEO and publisher.

The Houston Sun, founded in 1983, was published by Doris Ellis, who is still at the helm today. This community newspaper focuses on education and historical events in the African-American community.

Our legacy also continues with the more recently established journals, Houston Style magazine and Dee Morris magazine.

As Houston's Black community continues to grow, our media has grown with it, and Black radio became an undeniable influence.

I celebrate notable institutions, including KTSU, which is now 52 years old, having been established June 23, 1972, following approval from the FCC. KTSU 90.9 emerged as an educational FM radio station at Texas Southern University's campus. It is known for its "Gospel Sundays" that uplifts us all.

Former general manager of KTSU 90.9 FM for 18 years, George Wilson Thomas became a launching platform for "The Tavis Smiley Show" and other HBCU public radio stations that were soon to follow. It is now led by Ernest Walker as he takes it into the next generation of radio.

KMJQ 102.1, known as Majic 102, is a commercial radio station owned and operated by Urban One. Originally founded in 1961, it has had many disc jockeys who are now in the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. It also partners and is coowned with our urban station, 97.9, KBXX, The Box.

I salute the legendary radio DJs "Uncle Funky" Larry Jones, who has had a 50-year career and is in the Texas Radio Hall of Fame, as well as Kandi Eastman, who is "the only Kandi mom wants you to have," who is a 43-year radio veteran.

In addition to those, I salute the legendary Don Patrick Samuel, Sr., affectionately known as Don Sam, or The Original DS. He began his professional career at KYOK Radio in Houston in 1973 and spent 32 years at KCOH Radio as director and a radio personality. He was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2018.

Last but not least, an important name and influence in my growing up in Black media is Benjamin Thompson. For over two decades, he has been the voice known as the Madd Hatta, a voice of inspiration, entertainment, and empowerment. He started in Houston in 1993 and ascended to new heights, taking over the morning show on 97.9, the "Madd Hatta Morning Show."

He is a mentor and an advocate and a community leader who, in 2014, was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. He continues to be on many stations, and you will often see him out and about throughout Houston.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute Houston's rich legacy of Black media. I commend those who continue to use their voice to express the pains, passion, needs, and wants of our community.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RETIREMENT OF JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCILMAN MARION EDWARDS

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable career of my dear friend, Marion Edwards, as he prepares to retire from Jefferson Parish Council.

A proud Louisiana native, born in Monroe, Marion Edwards has dedicated