

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 119 and YEA on Roll Call No. 120.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL ALBERT A. AGUILERA AND LANCE CORPORAL MARCELINO M. GAMINO

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, we gather on the floor of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to two United States marines who died in service to our Nation. Lance Corporal Albert A. Aguilera of Riverside and Lance Corporal Marcelino M. Gamino of Fresno were both killed in a tragic vehicle accident while on deployment as part of Joint Task Force-Southern Border.

Both were combat engineers with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, and both were far too young to be taken from their families, friends, and fellow marines.

It is a terrible grief that these families now carry, and it is incumbent on all of us as a Nation to remember the sacrifice of these young men.

I ask all my colleagues to join us in a moment of silence in memory of Lance Corporal Aguilera and Lance Corporal Gamino.

MEDICAID RUMORS

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

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I am sure what you are going to hear on the floor today is what you have heard in the past, these rumors that somehow those mean, nasty Republicans are going to cut Medicaid.

It reminds me of what Groucho Marx once said: Who you going to believe, these claims or your lying eyes?

This is the graph of what the Republican plan is for Medicaid spending over the next 10 years. This assumes that we actually get all the able-bodied, single people without children on Medicaid to agree to work 20 hours a week or volunteer at a church or train. It doesn't seem like too much. The average American thinks that is pretty reasonable.

If we eliminate all the fraud, waste, and abuse—and there is plenty of it—

we are left with at least a 25 percent increase in Medicaid over the next 10 years from the current spending level. Only in Washington could anyone claim that is a cut.

Mr. Speaker, who are you going to believe, the claims or your lying eyes?

MENTAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue that touches every community in this country: mental health.

More than one in five adults in the United States live with a mental health illness. These are our friends, neighbors, coworkers, or family members. For many of us, this is a deeply personal issue.

Whether you live in a big city or a small town, almost everyone has a person in their life who is struggling, and chances are you know someone who has struggled or you could be struggling yourself.

In Ohio, we have seen just how urgent this crisis has become, where we have only about half the behavioral health workforce we need to meet the demand. In fact, there is just one psychiatrist for every 6,000 Ohioans. That is not just a workforce problem. It is a public health emergency, a safety issue, and a challenge to our quality of life.

When I came to Congress, I promised to work with anyone from either side of the aisle to address the challenges that matter most to the people of Ohio's 13th. That is why I have reintroduced the Mental Health Improvement Act, a bipartisan bill to provide tens of millions of dollars annually to expand our behavioral health workforce, helping to train, recruit, and retain mental health professionals across the country.

It is a commonsense solution that will bring resources directly to communities like mine, helping to address addiction, reduce suicide, and ensure more Americans get the care they need when they need it.

I hope that everyone joins me in passing this bipartisan bill. Our country demands it.

□ 1745

PROTECTING MEDICAID

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

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, why is the Federal Government spending more taxpayer dollars on healthcare for illegal aliens and basement bums instead of those who truly need it? For the past several weeks, there have been fearful rumblings on both sides of the aisle about reforming Medicaid.

Here is the bottom line. If we fail to act now and allow millions more working, capable adults to continue to free-load off ObamaCare expansion, taxpayers will bear the burden of what will become a \$1 trillion program.

ObamaCare significantly expanded Medicaid, and it is quickly bankrupting the program. Ironically, Medicaid expansion has shifted resources away from the most vulnerable Americans—single moms, infants, and the disabled—in favor of adults capable of working.

Mr. Speaker, if 30-year-olds living in their parents' house get more Federal Medicaid benefits than pregnant, single mothers, then it is clear the system is utterly broken and in dire need of reform. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity before us to finally do what we said we would do.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I represent more than 180,000 people in western Pennsylvania who receive Social Security benefits. Those are earned benefits. My constituents receive more than \$350 million of those monthly benefits.

I join my colleagues in sounding the alarm on this administration's attacks on the bedrock national promise of Social Security, which Mr. Musk called a Ponzi scheme. We have already seen firings in the Social Security Administration, threatening to close field offices, a website crashing several times in March, a plan to end paper checks as an option, and DOGE accessing sensitive data systems.

All of this puts people at risk, and the impact will be clear. It means longer waits and travel times to get the benefits people have earned, putting those benefits at risk.

My office has gotten hundreds and hundreds of calls from constituents who are worried about their Social Security benefits. My Social Security telephone townhall had nearly 18,000 people. More than 2,000 folks responded to my survey about these problems. Why? People are worried about their earned benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to stand strong against these attacks on Social Security.

HONORING LINDA JOHNSON WADE FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the over 50 years of service that Linda Johnson Wade has provided the citizens of Pooler, Bloomingdale, Garden City,

West Chatham County, and Effingham County as a pharmacy technician.

Linda began serving patients at Elliott's Drugs and continued her work at Rupert Heller's Prescriptions, at Carter's Pharmacy, and, most recently, at Pooler Pharmacy.

Throughout the years, she provided crucial healthcare services to generations of patients, counseling and aiding patients, and providing for their healthcare needs. Patients depended on her. She took care of them, and she became a trusted resource for their healthcare needs.

Linda recently announced her well-deserved retirement and now will devote her full talents and attention to her family: her husband, Jimmy; her children, Jan and Jared; and her grandchildren, Carly, Abby, and Coleman.

We congratulate Linda on her retirement. A grateful community thanks her for her devotion to providing quality healthcare to generations of our community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ELAINE WYNN

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the loss of a true caretaker of Las Vegas, my dear friend and mentor, Elaine Wynn.

There are no words and certainly not enough time to express my sadness and share the enormous impact that Elaine had on Las Vegas, on Nevada, and on this country.

Her trailblazing philanthropy touched the lives of millions, whether it was a kid able to play in afterschool sports, a struggling student who was able to graduate high school, or a kid who received food backpacks each weekend. Of course, there was her strong support of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Elaine was an incredible businesswoman because her bottom line started with taking care of her employees first and her customers second.

While my heart is still heavy, I can't be anything but grateful that I was able to know her and to learn so much from such an amazing woman. Her memory and impact will be felt forever.

CELEBRATING NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPION REECE BARNHARDT

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible athlete and a historic moment for North Dakota. Reece Barnhardt of Bismarck has made history as the first NCAA Division II national champion in the University of Mary's wrestling program.

With a dominant 10-4 victory, Reece showed the Nation what we in North Dakota have long known. His toughness, work ethic, and determination set him apart. Success like this takes years of discipline, sacrifice, and resilience.

I have had the privilege of watching Reece compete long before he stepped onto the national wrestling stage. He played football with both my sons at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, and I loved watching him fly down the field with reckless abandon. He was fearless then, and he is fearless now.

Reece's journey is an inspiration to young athletes across our State. His hometown, his school, and all of North Dakota are proud of him. We congratulate Reece on this well-earned and well-deserved national title.

PENDING OPM CLAIMS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I have been hearing from so many constituents in northern Virginia about the Office of Personnel Management. That is because there are 16,000 retirement claims pending at OPM, and a lot of them are my constituents.

We were making progress towards reducing that backlog. Then what happened? DOGE and this administration came in and started indiscriminately firing OPM employees. This even included the congressional liaisons who help our offices resolve retirement issues for Federal retirees.

I have heard directly from my constituents who spent their careers serving this country. These folks are now waiting months or even years for their retirement benefits that they earned. This backlog directly impacts their ability to pay their bills, remain financially stable, and live with dignity.

Our constituents are paying the price, and we are hearing about it. Let's inject some common sense and fix this process instead of firing key staff for short-term savings.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY AND BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the House Natural Resources Committee is doing exactly what we said and what President Trump has called for. We are unleashing American energy and using our own resources to build a stronger economy.

Through budget reconciliation, we are generating over \$18.5 billion in savings and new revenue by getting Washington out of the way and letting

Americans do what we do best, which is work and produce.

We are expanding clean, safe energy production here at home and ramping up mining for critical minerals so we are not relying on China. We are cutting the red tape that blocks progress.

We are also protecting taxpayers by managing our forests and public lands better, so we are not paying out billions later in disaster response, wildfire costs, and cleanup. We are reversing the Biden policies that locked up land, killed jobs, and handed too much power to Federal bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, the plan is really about energy, jobs, and putting America first. It is long overdue.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican's budget plan that would gut funding for Medicaid. In 2023, my home State of North Carolina achieved a historic victory by finally implementing Medicaid expansion after a decade of political gridlock.

Medicaid expansion has helped new moms and their babies during a critical phase of life. It has supported older Americans living in nursing homes. It has ensured that individuals with disabilities get the care that they need.

Republicans want to roll back this progress to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. Their current budget would immediately terminate Medicaid expansion, ripping away healthcare from more than 600,000 North Carolinians and shuttering rural hospitals that may never be able to open their doors again.

Mr. Speaker, don't be fooled. The Republican budget is cruel, and it will cost the lives of North Carolinians.

CLEANING UP MEDICAID ROLLS

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, evidently, this is what gutting Medicaid looks like. You see it goes up 25 percent over 10 years. This only happens in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, the difference between the last administration and the current one is the last administration restricted the States from cleaning up the Medicaid rolls and verifying eligibility. I don't know what coalition in the House of Representatives is for that. Apparently, it is the same one that is for over \$100 billion lost annually to improper payments.

There is a coalition here, Mr. Speaker, that wants to take tax dollars and pay \$100 billion, losing it annually to improper payments. What we are asking the States to do is verify eligibility