

one-half—close to 500,000 of my constituents—are Medicaid recipients. They receive primary and emergency healthcare. Almost 4 million residents in New York City, one-half of the city, rely on Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, this discussion that will be held in the middle of the night when most Americans will not be tuned in is a life-and-death discussion about cuts to perhaps the most important Federal program that impacts the daily health and life of people across the country, the Medicaid program.

Again, over 3 million New York City residents are also enrolled in the New York State Medicaid Pharmacy program, the so-called OTC program, the Over-the-Counter program, which allows coverage of prescription drugs and certain over-the-counter medication and goods, including food. So this is a life-and-death discussion that our Republican colleagues are having in the middle of the night after promising the American people that Medicaid will be safe from deep cuts.

Republicans have spent time and will spend time delivering a bill that will devastate—again, Mr. Speaker, will devastate Medicaid enrollment rates. This, again, will happen in the middle of the night. They are scheduled to meet at 1 a.m. in the morning.

Mr. Speaker, 14 million Americans will lose their healthcare, and safety net hospitals will be in danger of closing. Yes, even senior homes, nursing homes, will be facing severe cuts and potential closing, and people could die. This is a life-and-death discussion, Mr. Speaker. All of this is to pay for severe tax cuts for the very wealthy.

The bill will require harsh work requirements for Medicaid recipients. It will force people who are ill or sick to go to work to receive the benefits that the program offers that will terminate coverage for millions of low-income Americans including seniors, children, and veterans.

Republicans also have introduced a \$300-million cut to the SNAP program, yes, on food stamps, which would impact 300,000 people in my district, many of them children and seniors who rely on the benefit to eat.

Mr. Speaker, 35 percent of them are children.

This will be the largest cut to the Food Stamp Program in our Nation's history. In the middle of the night, Republicans will cut Medicaid and will cut food stamps when people are not watching. This is nothing more than a GOP tax scam that gives billions of dollars in tax breaks to millionaires and gives nothing back to working-class families but empty stomachs and Medicaid debt to the working class.

Mr. Speaker, the billionaire wins and families lose with this bill. Let's fight back.

PROTECTING AMERICAN MARITIME RESEARCH

(Ms. McBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ANCHOR Act, a bipartisan bill to protect American maritime research and strengthen our national security.

The University of Delaware's research vessel, the *Hugh R. Sharp*, is a floating lab used by scientists and students to study everything from our ocean health to fisheries and coastal storms.

All of this is happening right off of the coast of Delaware. Right now, these vessels are often running on outdated technology, and that makes them sitting ducks for cyberattacks from hackers and foreign adversaries.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor the ANCHOR Act, which directs the National Science Foundation to develop a plan to upgrade cybersecurity and communications across the U.S. academic research fleet, including the *Sharp*. This is because a secure country relies on secure labs, even the ones at sea.

Protecting the *Sharp* and our entire academic research fleet helps Delaware track sea level rise and protect our coastal communities. This is a big deal for the lowest lying State in the Nation.

That is why I have also submitted a \$1.5 million funding request to make sure the *Sharp* gets the upgrades that it needs.

The ANCHOR Act passed out of committee with bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to vote to get it over the finish line.

BETRAYING OUR VETERANS

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I joined veterans, families, and care providers to celebrate 75 years of service at the Wilmington VA Medical Center, a facility that provided 338,000 appointments last year alone. That is visits to a primary care doctor, a dentist, and drug and alcohol counseling. Every single one of those visits is fulfilling a sacred promise that the government has made to show up for those who have sacrificed for all of us.

As we head into Memorial Day weekend, we must recognize the responsibility that we have as elected officials, not just on Monday but every day of the year, to honor those who have given their last full measure of devotion by fulfilling our commitment to all of those who have served our country.

Our country has long recognized the value of service by promising our veterans that no matter who sits in the Oval Office or behind this dais, they will be cared for and protected.

However, today, that promise is in jeopardy. Nearly 6,000 veterans have already been summarily fired by the Trump administration, and now they are pushing a plan to lay off 80,000 of the very workers who process benefits and facilitate lifesaving care through the VA. Moreover, if that weren't enough, as I speak, congressional Republicans are continuing to advance a budget that would slash support for

veterans, even further undermining healthcare, housing assistance, and food support.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: We don't support veterans by handing them a folded flag with one hand and cutting their lifelines with the other. More than 1.6 million veterans rely on Medicaid for their health coverage.

If House Republicans succeed in their slash-and-burn proposal, it will mean real harm for veterans and their families. My constituents are warning me, and they are right, that cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, and VA services will fall hardest on disabled and aging veterans, especially in rural areas and communities of color.

House Republicans have chosen to unilaterally pursue a budget that puts tax cuts for billionaires ahead of care for the people who wore the uniform. That is not just bad budgeting, it is a betrayal of our promise.

□ 1045

Delaware's veterans and veterans across this country don't need slogans. They need support. They need stable housing. They need accessible healthcare. They need us to keep our promise to them. Veterans who fought for our country should not be forced to fight for the coverage and assistance that they earned long ago.

I didn't come to Congress to sanction cruelty. I came to keep our word, to ensure that the veterans I met at the Wilmington VA and the tens of thousands more across Delaware are treated not as political props but as patriots deserving dignity.

This Memorial Day, I urge my colleagues to follow the famous charge of President Lincoln. Any Nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure. No mission is more important or righteous.

INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

(Mr. TAYLOR of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine light on a critical subject that impacts each one of us, as well as the ones we love: mental health.

Established by Congress in 1949, May was designated as Mental Health Awareness Month to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness.

Mental health is about more than just illness. It is about well-being, resilience, and the ability to cope with various challenges we experience day to day. These challenges don't discriminate. They impact people of every age, background, and community. Many suffer in silence out of fear of being judged or misunderstood.

For many years, this topic was highly stigmatized, but this is, fortunately, changing. This month, I am honored to bring attention to it. Mental Health Awareness Month is part of that

change and a reminder to prioritize rest, connection, and the things that contribute to our overall wellness.

In our great Buckeye State, we are grateful to have multiple resources available to help Ohioans in times of need. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction provides resources and readily available services with their Ohio CareLine available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to offer emotional support. By simply dialing 988, anyone in our Nation can access the national mental health hotline, which offers free and confidential support from trained counselors around the clock.

I thank our local mental health providers, support workers, and first responders for the critical work they do to intervene in times of need. Without their timely response and attentive care, our region could not be the healthy and supportive place it is today.

I recognize our local police officers, who are often the first ones on the scene of an emergency and the first wave of assistance for someone experiencing a mental health emergency. They are heroes, lifesavers, and an irreplaceable cornerstone in our communities who help Ohioans live their lives to the fullest.

With agriculture being the backbone of southern Ohio, our region is home to countless farmers, ranchers, and producers who work hard to secure our Nation's food supply and put food on our families' tables. They work long hours out in the fields, often on their own, trying to turn a crop and a profit in a challenging farming economy.

Being isolated from the resources that are available in more urban areas, farmers and farming families are facing a significant mental health challenge. With 96 percent of farms in Ohio's Second Congressional District being family farms, this demonstrates how close to home this issue hits my district.

With the devastatingly high rate of mental health challenges and substance abuse issues across our country, where a person lives shouldn't dictate their ability to access critical healthcare services.

Tragically, Ohio's Second Congressional District has the highest rate of unintentional drug overdoses in our entire State, which is often linked to mental health challenges. That is why I was proud to introduce the Rural Wellness Act in March of this year, which will reauthorize the prioritization of grants for telemedicine projects addressing behavioral and mental health, including substance abuse. These grants are part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. It will make mental health care services more accessible to those who need them.

Congress should pass this bill to deliver critical care to farmers and rural

families who so desperately need it. However, in order to access telehealthcare services, Congress must also prioritize broadband expansion for our Nation's rural areas.

Rural families desperately need telehealthcare services. These are only accessible if families have internet access. Large swaths of my district lack access to high-speed internet, which means rural families are isolated from critical healthcare options, as well as business and education opportunities that could support families and alleviate some of the stress that providers are feeling.

Congress must tackle this problem holistically. In this case, getting broadband to our rural families could make the difference between life and death. All in all, expanded broadband access would lead to significant mental health benefits in our rural communities.

As we recognize Mental Health Awareness Month, may each of us take a moment to prioritize wellness and reach out to those around us who might need a helping hand.

I thank each friend, family member, teacher, community leader, or public servant who has lent their support to someone experiencing mental health challenges for their service. It is because of people like them that communities are safer, healthier, and more supportive places to live.

SUPPORTING AGRITOURISM

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the more than 28,000 farms that engage in agritourism across the country, 1,500 of which are in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Agritourism, for those who don't know, is exactly what it sounds like. We are bringing tourists to farms or agricultural venues and offering experiences related to farming, rural life, and food.

From wineries like Stone Tower in Leesburg, farm breweries like Wheatland Spring in Waterford, you-picks like Great Country Farms in Bluemont, and llama and alpaca farms like Double 8 Alpaca & Llama Ranch in Purcellville, agritourism offers growing opportunities for farms to diversify their revenues, connect with our communities, and become more resilient.

Agritourism isn't just a trend or fad. It is an economic imperative for many farmers.

In Virginia alone, agriculture is our number one industry, but the majority of farmers are not full-time farmers. They need ways to pay for taxes and maintenance of their land, and agritourism has helped families across Virginia do just that.

This isn't just happening in Virginia. Agritourism is now a billion-dollar industry across the country, and it keeps growing. It is revitalizing local, rural,

and small-town workforces. The tourist dollars are also expanding hotels, restaurants, and businesses nearby.

These farms also offer unique educational and recreational opportunities for children and families and help connect the public to our food systems. That is what I love about agritourism. It is a win-win for everyone. Farmers get to share their work and support their farm, and visitors learn about where their food comes from, who grows the flowers they send on Mother's Day, and so much more.

This year, my family picked tulips from Burnside Farms in Nokesville. We ate strawberries at the Strawberry Festival this past weekend at Wegmeyer Farms in Lincoln. We visited Cox Farms for their delicious cider donuts.

For many farmers, there is a lot of uncertainty about Federal resources available to them and where they should go to ask questions about agritourism. Since agritourism is a form of nontraditional farming, the Federal Government simply hasn't done much to help the industry, which is why I am proud to work with Congressman NEWHOUSE to introduce the bipartisan AGRITOURISM Act, which will ignite the industry and provide a one-stop shop of resources like grants, loans, and technical assistance for farmers who want to participate in agritourism.

These resources will attract private investment not only in agritourism but also support tourism and hospitality industries in rural areas, which will keep our farms and rural communities strong, resilient, and thriving.

I also plan to relaunch the bipartisan Agritourism Caucus with Congressman DAVID ROUZER to highlight the progress of this industry and how we can continue to promote it. This was first championed by my predecessor, Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to sign on to this bill and join the caucus when we relaunch it so that we can champion agritourism for farmers and rural communities across America.

EFFECTS OF MOODY'S DOWNGRADE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, Moody's, a credit rating firm, downgraded America's credit rating this past weekend. What does this mean? It is like when your credit score goes down. It will make it more expensive for a country to borrow money, and the interest rate on our \$36 trillion debt will go up.

How much do we spend on interest right now? In 2024, we paid \$892 billion in interest payments. That is 13 percent of our budget. That is more money than we spent on law enforcement, education, science, and transportation combined.

Now, it is going to get worse because this one big, beautiful bill coming up is going to explode the deficit so we can give tax cuts to billionaires and the largest corporations while also slashing Medicaid, food assistance, and