

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Since Charlie founded Turning Point USA in 2012, when he was 18 years old in his garage, he became and remained a prominent voice in our political discourse.

He was the strongest defender of our First Amendment. He worked tirelessly to promote unity without compromising his convictions.

Mr. Speaker, my message to all Americans is, we live in a dangerous world. Stay vigilant and let us keep an eye on each other. If you see something, say something, do something. Charlie's death is tragic and sober, but I can already see God is turning this tragedy into a greater good. Charlie will be laid to rest this Sunday in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, from a grateful nation, we thank Charlie for all he has done. May he rest in peace.

Well done good and faithful servant, Matthew 25:21.

REMEMBERING JARED KNEALE

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak out on an important issue impacting this Nation and my community in Ohio.

As you may know, September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to pause and recognize mental health and the tragedy of taking one's own life.

Today, I rise with both a heavy heart and a hopeful spirit, because while my community has felt the devastating toll of suicide, I also believe in the power of advocacy and awareness in order to save lives.

Suicide Prevention Month is an opportunity for us to reflect and discuss stigmas around mental health and affirm, once again, that mental health care is healthcare.

Today, I will specifically address the sacrifices of our police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders. These are the women and men running toward danger while others flee for safety.

At the end of the day, after news stories publish details of their heroism, the weight of the trauma may linger long after sirens fade.

In 2021, the CDC acknowledged that law enforcement officers and firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

Jared Kneale is one such story from northeast Ohio. Born on October 5, 1981, in Euclid, Ohio, Jared graduated from Wadsworth High School in the year 2000. After working for the city of Wadsworth as a fireman and paramedic for 15 years, Jared transferred to the nearby city of Canton, Ohio, in Ohio's 13th Congressional District where he would serve his community for 8 years.

On Friday, May 17, 2024, northeast Ohio and Ohio's 13th District lost a dutiful public servant and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

The Canton Fire Department would later announce in a post on social media that Kneale's death was the result of a suicide due to a post-traumatic stress-related illness and that in his final moments, Jared signaled to us his wishes to use his death to help bring awareness to firefighter mental health. That is why I stand today before you, Mr. Speaker, to do exactly that and carry out Jared's last wishes.

Mr. Speaker, far too many suffer in silence, afraid of judgment or showing signs of weakness, but it is time we stand up for those who run toward danger, that we acknowledge our collective strength far surpasses the individual, and that asking for help is truly the greatest form of strength.

Rarely have I seen a better example of this than in the immediate aftermath of Jared's passing. Upon hearing about the tragedy, over 70 firefighters descended upon the local hospital to pay their respects.

As my community continues to grieve, cases like Jared's cannot be ignored because when we invest in mental health, we invest in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to talk a little bit about Jared and his life and the person that he was.

Jared, who worked with the 2nd Battalion and was assigned to ladder truck one, was loved by his colleagues. During his tenure with the city of Canton, he earned two Medals of Commendation and two meritorious citations for heroic actions on the job.

He was the head chef at station one and took great pride in sharing meals with his colleagues. Jared was known for his infectious laughter and he was the ringleader of the pranks at the station.

He also had a love for peanut butter M&M's and Chewy SweetARTS, always making sure his candy was stocked, knowing full well the rest of his crew would sneak handfuls out of his locker.

Jared was a devoted husband to his wife, Carrie, and a loving father to his six children: Tim, Shaunna, Caden, Aidan, Olivia, and Isabella. He was a fan of the Cleveland Browns, loved riding his Harley, and was a talented carpenter and mechanic. Behind every uniform is a person just like Jared who feels, grieves, and may struggle to cope with the toll of the demands of their work.

According to the National Firefighters Association, 20 percent of firefighters and paramedics meet the criteria for post-traumatic stress at some point during their careers. Additionally, the suicide rate for firefighters is much higher for them than the general public. The connection between PTSD and traumatic rescue work is quite clear. We, as a legislative body, must do more to ensure that first responders never have to carry this burden alone. We also, as human beings, must do more to be there for one another.

In the wake of Jared's passing, the Canton Fire Department said: "We

urge our fellow brothers and sisters to reach out to one another." We must remember that we have more in common than we do that separates us. We must do more to reach out and care for our neighbors who are struggling.

Before I take my seat, Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that everyone knows that if you are struggling, if you know someone who is struggling, you can call or text 9-8-8 for personalized support during these difficult times. They are not alone.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank Jared's family for allowing me to share his story and uplift a firefighter and someone who is so very important to our community but lost their life tragically.

□ 1040

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today still in shock and saddened at the political assassination of Charlie Kirk. There is no place for political violence in our country, and it is antithetical to who we are as Americans.

The beauty of our Nation and the First Amendment is that anyone from anywhere has the right to express their beliefs, engage in dialogue, and disagree peacefully. That is the heart of our democracy. We need to get back to embracing that dialogue.

Charlie often said that when we stop talking, that is when violence happens. I don't want to live in a society where we don't talk to people we disagree with and resort to violence. Leadership is never easy, but it falls on us to lead the way by carrying on the mission that Charlie lived for of open debate in a free society in the greatest nation that the world has ever known.

When al-Qaida terrorists attacked our Nation 24 years ago, they had one goal—to destroy America. They didn't see us as Democrats or Republicans, red States or blue States. They just saw Americans, one nation under God, and their goal was to destroy us. When we lose sight of seeing the humanity in our fellow Americans who think differently than us and convince ourselves they are the enemy instead of our neighbor, we are feeding into the very thing our adversaries want, and destroy our great country from within. We are better than this.

America is the greatest country in the world. All 340 million of us have different perspectives, values, and beliefs. I can't count how many issues I disagree with my colleagues across the aisle on, yet we know we can disagree without turning to violence. Charlie Kirk was an example of this. He did things the right way, having healthy debates with people who saw differently than him and sparking a movement that transformed an entire generation. Charlie believed in the promise of America, and his life's work

was making sure we lived up to that promise.

Audrey and I continue to pray for Charlie's wife, Erika, who has two beautiful young children, and his family, friends, and supporters. Last week, President Trump invited the Nation to commit to praying for the country for 1 hour a week ahead of our 250th birthday. I would encourage us to accept that challenge. It is hard to hate someone when you pray with them and for them regularly.

One of the greatest blessings of this job is that I get to know and spend time with Kansans all across the Big First District, and because of that, I know that we are better than this. America is still the greatest country in the world, and I am hopeful that we will all take the opportunity to follow Charlie's example by engaging on the issues with our neighbors and living up to the promise of our great country.

RETURN TO REGULAR ORDER

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt stands at \$37 trillion. For years, elected officials from both sides of the aisle have come to Washington ringing the alarm on our national debt, and rightly so. The only problem is, often they get to the Nation's Capital, and there is little to no appetite to make hard decisions to get our spending in check.

At the start of President Trump's historic second term earlier this year, he did the unthinkable. He paused Federal spending, went line by line through the Federal budget, and seriously evaluated how we are spending our tax dollars. For some people in this town, it was heartburn. However, Mr. Speaker, Kansans in the Big First District welcomed this fiscal sanity.

The reality is, our national debt is unsustainable. If every single household was to contribute and bring our debt to zero, we would each be responsible for \$289,000. Consider that the average mortgage in America is about \$245,000. No one in this body would allow a loved one to make continuously poor financial decisions like this. Why do we do it with our government?

House Republicans have been clear that we would like to return to regular order, pass 12 individual appropriations bills, and get our spending under control. Despite this reality, the consensus among too many in Washington is that they would rather see President Trump fail than work together to fund the government responsibly. It is frustrating, and rather than coming to the table to work together, they prefer to grandstand to try to score some political points.

We are better than this, Mr. Speaker. I urge my Democratic colleagues to come to the table, return to regular order, and let's get our fiscal house back in order.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND HEALTHCARE

(Mr. MAGAZINER of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, it was just announced this week that health insurance costs in Rhode Island are going to go up by as much as 22 percent next year, costing working people thousands of dollars more per year to pay for their health insurance. This is money that people don't have. Most people in my State, most people in this country are just barely getting by. They can't afford to pay thousands of dollars more for their health insurance.

It is not just in Rhode Island that it is happening. It is all across the country. State after State is announcing next year's insurance rates with double digit increases. We know why this is happening. It is happening because Republicans and the Trump administration just cut a trillion dollars from Medicaid, and now they are also trying to let the Affordable Care Act tax premiums expire.

When you do that, when you take trillions of dollars out of the healthcare system, you are not just taking away health insurance coverage from millions of Americans, you are also taking revenue away from hospitals, community health centers, and doctors' practices. The only way that those healthcare providers can stay in business is to raise prices on everybody else, and that is exactly what is happening.

We told our Republican colleagues that this is what would happen when they passed that trillion dollar cut to Medicaid. We told them that health insurance costs were going to go up for everybody else in the country, but they didn't want to hear it. They were so desperate to give away tax cuts to the rich, and now those people watching at home are going to be paying the bill in the form of higher healthcare costs.

However, it is not too late. We can still restore funding for healthcare so that everyone back home isn't hit by double-digit cost increases on their insurance.

Congress is about to pass a budget for next year, and we can pass a budget that restores funding for healthcare, that extends the Affordable Care Act tax premiums, that restores funding for Medicaid so that working people aren't stuck with higher costs for their health insurance. Not only can we do this, we must.

I want to vote for a bipartisan budget that funds the government and protects healthcare for the American people, but if, as has been advertised, the Republican majority tries to rush a vote on a budget that does not fix the healthcare crisis, the healthcare crisis that they created, then I will be a "no." All of my colleagues should be, as well.

Republicans control the House, Senate, and the White House. If they refuse to pass a budget that protects

healthcare, they own the consequences. If they choose to shut the government down instead of fixing the healthcare crisis that they created, the American people will not forgive them.

RESTORING LIFESAVING FOOD AID

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the 41st time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for children starving around the world. Edesia Nutrition in my district is about to send 15,000 boxes of this lifesaving food aid to children who are starving in Gaza.

Now, in the past, this would have been done with support from America, from the U.S. taxpayers, and the boxes shipped to Gaza would have said "from the American people." However, because the Trump administration has cut off lifesaving food aid for children, instead this shipment is being funded by the Israelis and nonprofit organizations working with Edesia Nutrition.

This is a missed opportunity for America to be building goodwill in a very unstable part of the world, one of many missed opportunities because when we act to save the lives of starving children around the world, we are not just doing the right thing morally, we are helping make America stronger by building goodwill around the world.

The Trump administration has promised repeatedly that they are going to restore this program, but promises do not save the lives of starving kids. Only nutrition can do that.

I will continue to speak on this floor every day until the Trump administration honors its word and restores this program.

HEALTHCARE SUBSIDIES AND RESCISSIONS

(Mr. OLSZEWSKI of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today marks 257 consecutive days that this Congress has failed to take meaningful action to address the cost-of-living crisis weighing heavily on struggling American families.

Regrettably, the President and Republican leadership have made life more difficult and less affordable for hardworking families across our Nation through chaotic trade policies and devastating cuts to healthcare and food programs.

□ 1050

The pending expiration of health insurance subsidies at the close of this year, in particular, threatens to impose a severe and unwarranted tax hike on the middle class.

Allowing these subsidies to lapse will cause out-of-pocket premiums for enrolled Americans to soar by an astounding 93 percent.

This drastic reduction in subsidies will also compel many healthy individuals to forgo insurance altogether, leaving a sicker population behind and forcing insurers to raise premiums