

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.

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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

across the board. As a result, even families who do not receive these subsidies will see their premiums increase by 18 percent.

This single policy shift would strip health coverage from more than 5 million Americans, adding to the 10 million projected to lose insurance due to President Trump's Medicaid cuts.

Those fortunate enough to retain their insurance will face a staggering cost increase. A family of four earning just \$90,000 annually could see their premiums escalate by as much as 69 percent. That is an increase of over \$3,000 per year, and that is crushing for a working family.

The expiration of these subsidies will also inflict substantial harm on entrepreneurs and small business owners. These are people who comprise roughly 30 percent of marketplace enrollees.

I am deeply concerned about the chilling effect this premium hike will have on business creation and job growth, both of which are already under significant strain in Trump's economy.

Democrats stand ready to work collaboratively with our Republican colleagues to fund the government in a bipartisan spirit. We are eager to negotiate in good faith on a responsible budget that delivers for all Americans.

Extending these vital tax subsidies is but one of many critical items on the table.

Let me be unequivocal on one other issue. No budget proposal that permits additional rescissions is worthy of any serious consideration. Any long-term budget should be shielded against further rescissions because we have already seen this administration's willingness to rescind funds approved in a bipartisan fashion by Congress, canceling support for foreign aid and public broadcasting programs that enjoy broad bipartisan backing.

The administration has also announced plans to exploit a little-known mechanism known as a pocket rescission to unilaterally cancel even more foreign aid.

Of deep concern to myself and Marylanders, President Trump has threatened to rescind funding that is vital to the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, a project critical not only to our local economy but to the Nation as a whole.

I urge my colleagues to insist that any budget we pass categorically reject any further illegal impoundments.

The power of the purse rests solely with Congress. If the President seeks to cut funding, he must do so through proper channels: by coming to Congress and requesting a lawful change.

Let's be sure to remember that in the days ahead.

VACCINES PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

(Mr. CISNEROS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the dangerous actions of the Health and Human Services Secretary in regard to vaccines.

Vaccines play a critical role in protecting our entire population in the United States. They are the most powerful tool we have against serious infectious diseases. They help our immune system learn how to fight against viruses and prevent disease from spreading to our neighbors, communities, and loved ones.

A 2024 CDC study showed that routine vaccines have prevented over 508 million cases of illness in children. The impact is immeasurable. That is hundreds of millions of children who are saved from having to suffer through a miserable illness. On top of that, their family, friends, neighbors, classmates, and loved ones are all able to stay guarded from these viruses and diseases.

It is really all thanks to modern medicine, science, research, and the proven success of vaccines.

The United States military administers 17 vaccines to military personnel on the basis of occupation, location of their deployment, and mission requirements.

Once common diseases like polio, tetanus, and hepatitis B are now almost unheard of, thanks to routine vaccinations.

Vaccines have become so effective that people have forgotten the serious threat that they guard against in our communities, and now, they are trying to politicize one of the most revolutionary developments of modern medicine.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy has been on a mission to spread misinformation and fear-mongering to scare parents away from getting their kids lifesaving vaccines. Not only that, he is attacking the research and medical institutions that advance our health systems. He has canceled nearly \$500 million in contracts to develop vaccines.

This blatant disregard for the health of our communities is reckless and puts all of us in danger.

As Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon, I oversaw public health efforts at the Pentagon during the COVID-19 pandemic, which included acquiring and distributing vaccines to military personnel.

In order to maintain the strength of our military, we need people equipped for whatever the world throws at them, and that includes diseases.

Operation Warp Speed was a success. Over 95 percent of Active-Duty personnel were vaccinated. While no vaccine is perfect, only three individuals who took the vaccine while on Active Duty died from COVID-19 complications.

Operation Warp Speed was so much of a success that Secretary Esper included a binder labeled "Operation Warp Speed" in his official portrait. It

is just too bad that no one can any longer see it hanging in the Pentagon.

I find it ironic that the President who spoke out against the distribution of the vaccines for so long is now trying to embrace its success.

Our society has become healthier and more productive because of vaccines. Vaccines have become a global investment in a strong public system.

In our modern times, we no longer need to worry about sending our kids to school, going to large sporting events or concerts, or even traveling, all because of the major reduction in the spread of disease. Vaccines are to thank for that.

There are several consequences to rejecting vaccines and the science behind them. Mr. Kennedy's recent comments attacking vaccines are destroying decades of work and community trust that has fostered safer and healthier communities, trust that is based on good science. It is careless and dangerous, but he continues to follow in the footsteps of the President and create false narratives to spread fear and distrust.

This anti-vaccine mission he is on is going to prevent families and children from getting the proper healthcare that they need. It is going to significantly limit the resources that families have to keep themselves healthy and protect themselves against infectious disease.

It should not be a political issue. This is about the health of our people, the health of our Nation.

Every American should be alarmed about the detrimental impact that this will have on our communities across the Nation and globe, which is why I am fully committed to keeping our country safe and healthy, lowering the cost of healthcare, and making medical resources more accessible.

All Americans deserve access to quality healthcare, including critical preventive care like vaccines.

Secretary Kennedy should be lauded for his campaign to remove dyes from food, and I think that is admirable, but removing dyes from drinks and foods won't protect kids from the threat of measles, chicken pox, polio, or other diseases.

Vaccines are safe, effective, and our best defense against life-threatening diseases.

I urge all Americans to trust our scientists, our doctors, and decades of research. Get vaccinated to protect yourself, your families, and our communities. We have the power to maintain a healthy society and prevent deadly infectious disease.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.