

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are, once again, waging war on our healthcare system.

Their big, ugly bill restricts access to Federal student loans for advanced degrees, including in high-demand healthcare sectors like nursing, physical and occupational therapy, social work, and so many more.

When I went to school to become an occupational therapist, I had to take out loans. I remember filling out those forms, hoping that I would have enough to cover tuition, books, and other expenses. The weight of those payments followed me for years.

I took on that debt because I wanted to build a better future for my family and because I wanted to help people as a healthcare practitioner.

This administration wants to force aspiring healthcare professionals to mortgage their futures before they treat their first patient. Worse, this move will deter them from answering their calling, taking an ax to the very system that trains them.

Due to the Republican healthcare crisis, our hospitals are understaffed, clinics are closing, and rural communities are being left behind. Our nurses are burning out. Therapists are stretched thin, and practitioners are retiring faster than we can replace them. Every healthcare system in America is screaming code blue, warning us that the future of our workforce is flatlining before our very eyes.

This means fewer nurses at the bedside, fewer therapists helping patients recover, fewer specialists serving rural communities, and fewer mental health providers at a time when this Nation is desperate for them. It means Americans are waiting longer for care as hospitals operate with skeleton staffing.

It means communities are growing sicker all because this Congress, under Republican control, decided that access to advanced healthcare education is a privilege for the few rather than a pathway to service for all. This is a callous assault on the very people who hold this Nation together: every prospective student who dreams of helping people in healthcare.

This misguided policy, which caps graduate student loan borrowing for certain advanced health degrees, means that these students will be permitted to borrow only half as much in Federal loans compared to their counterparts.

Not only will healthcare professionals be impacted but teachers, architects, accountants, engineers, and many other professionals who will lose the ability to finance their education through reliable, flexible Federal loans, pushing them instead into the arms of predatory private lenders and adding to the mountain of debt that our students already endure.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that we need to fill nearly 200,000 nursing positions every year through 2033

just to keep pace. The United States also needs tens of thousands of new mental health professionals and rehabilitation providers annually. Cutting off our healthcare system's talent pipeline also is not just cruel, but it is shortsighted and will drive up the cost of healthcare. It is reckless, and it further strains a healthcare system already in crisis.

Gutting the healthcare workforce will shrink the care economy, and it will stifle job growth at a time when families are desperate for getting control of their lives and ensuring that they can afford their daily cost of living.

Under this thoughtless Republican rule, if you want to save lives, prepare to drown in debt. If you want to do a job that this Nation needs, prepare to pay a steep price for it. If you want to look after the sick, don't expect your government to look after you.

In the richest country in the world, Trump and congressional Republicans are saddling an already overburdened healthcare workforce with an even more unimaginable financial burden, but the American people know better. They remember the nurse who sat with their parents in hospice, the physical therapist who got them back on their feet, and the social worker who helped their family get the support that they needed.

They know that healthcare workers aren't to be taken for granted or pushed aside, and they know that Donald Trump and congressional Republicans have failed them once again.

As the only occupational therapist in Congress, I will not sit idly by while Trump and congressional Republicans sabotage the very workforce that keeps this Nation alive. House Democrats will continue to fight like hell to protect every student, every patient, and every community that Washington Republicans are abandoning.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Randall Holstead, one of his secretaries.

#### RECOGNIZING RON HAUENSTEIN

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Ron Hauenstein, who has served as the executive director of the Spokane Fatherhood Initiative since 2018.

Throughout my time representing eastern Washington in Congress, I have seen firsthand the transformative impact that this organization has had under Ron's leadership. The Fatherhood Initiative has become a pillar in our community, equipping fathers with values like commitment, resilience, gratitude, and honor.

Their guiding principle and their guiding belief is simple but powerful: When fathers are present and engaged, children do better and entire communities prosper. Time and again, families across Spokane have been reunited, and lives have been changed for the better, one dad, one child, and one family at a time.

Earlier this month, my team had the honor of joining the Spokane Fatherhood Initiative's Building Legacy gala, where our community rallied to raise nearly \$175,000 for life-changing programs.

With weekly classes, some lasting half a year, and special outreach to men reentering society after incarceration or dealing with drug addiction, Spokane Fatherhood Initiative is helping dads restore relationships with their children and strengthen the fabric of our region.

I express my gratitude and extend my congratulations to Ron Hauenstein and everyone at the Spokane Fatherhood Initiative. Their dedication to building stronger fathers is building a stronger Spokane and a brighter community for every child in our community.

#### HONORING SCOUTS ACROSS AMERICA

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scouts Across America. Scouts Across America carries forward with a remarkable legacy that began with Robert Baden-Powell, a British Army officer whose simple idea was that outdoor skills, teamwork, and service could build better citizens and a better world.

Robert Baden-Powell served with the British military in Afghanistan and against the Boer in South Africa, and the ideas that he saw there and the skills that he saw that were needed to be developed in young boys. From that, grew a global movement and in our country inspired what is now Scouting America, chartered by Congress to serve our Nation's youth by instilling the values of the Scout oath and law.

As a proud Scout dad, I rise today to say very clearly: Scouts is an outstanding program, and America needs more Scouts, not less.

It takes real effort from moms and dads and volunteers to get kids to meetings, campouts, and service projects. That effort pays off in character, confidence, civic service, and self-reliance of our young people.

Eleanor and I are father and mother to three boys and two girls, and we look forward to hopefully one day being the proud parents of five Eagle Scouts.

Today, Mr. Speaker, let's honor the Scouts, the volunteer leaders, the parents, and the enduring legacy of Robert Baden-Powell, whose vision still calls each new generation to duty, service, and leadership.

May we always support this movement so that more young Americans, especially the young people of eastern Washington, can discover a lifetime of impact and purpose, guided by the Scout oath and the Scout law.

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# RECOGNIZING THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVES

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize two Thanksgiving food drives held in my district last week.

First, Santa Ana's Nicholas Academic Centers hosted a food drive for students and their families to pick up groceries and Thanksgiving meals to enjoy during the holidays.

The second is, in Anaheim, the YMCA joined forces with the legendary Frank Garcia to host the annual We Give Thanks food drive.

Thanks to hundreds of volunteers and donations, thousands of Orange County families had a Thanksgiving dinner with their families.

## RECOGNIZING ANAHEIM HIGH'S FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Anaheim High School girls' flag football championship win.

Earlier this month, the Anaheim girls' flag football team brought home their first-ever division championship. Thanks to their strong defense, aggressive offense, and dedicated coaching staff, the Colonists again earned a well-fought victory.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Anaheim, which has again made us proud.

## RECOGNIZING MAX MADRID'S RETIREMENT

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the retirement of my very good friend and longtime staff member, Mr. Max Madrid.

Max has worked for me as a field rep since I started in Congress and, before that, when I worked in the State senate.

Max is a Navy veteran, a Vietnam war veteran who served our country for 20 years in the Navy. Today, Max is again retiring from public service.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Max, even though I don't really think he is retiring, and I thank him for his good work.

## HONORING GILBERT AVINA

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and memory of Anaheim's true son, Gilbert Avina.

A graduate of Anaheim High School, he went on to dedicate 32 years of service to the city of Anaheim. Gilbert also served as the president of the Anaheim Car Club, where he gave back to the community that meant so much to him.

Above all, Gilbert's heart belonged to his family. Married to his beloved wife, Teresa, he was a father, stepfather, and proud grandfather. His kindness, strength, humor, and work ethic touched all of us.

Mr. Speaker, Gilbert will be missed.

## SHARING SONIA TALAVERA'S STORY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concerns over

how healthcare costs are rising in our communities and how they are impacting our communities back home.

Today, I want to share the story of Sonia. Sonia is an elderly and disabled individual who relies on disability retirement and Social Security to get by.

Today, she can't afford a full-time caregiver, so her son is taking over to take care of her on a full-time basis. I have to ask, how long can her son take care of Sonia? Is this how we are meant to take care of our seniors in this country?

Sonia's story is not unique. Without renewing the Affordable Care Act tax credits, millions of Americans could face the same situation that Sonia is facing today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sonia for sharing her story.

## CONGRATULATING PARRY MCCLUER BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of young athletes from Virginia's Sixth Congressional District, the Parry McCluer High School boys' cross-country team, who have achieved a rare and remarkable feat. This season, the Fighting Blues captured their third consecutive VHSL State championship, securing titles in 2023, 2024, and now 2025.

At this year's State meet, the team delivered a dominant performance. Kebryl Chandler claimed the individual State title, finishing first overall. He was followed by outstanding efforts from Caleb Cooper, who placed sixth; Josh Cooper, eighth; Logan Wheelock, ninth; and Hinckley Lovelace, who finished 12th. Their combined strength, discipline, and endurance propelled Parry McCluer to another well-earned championship. They were joined by their teammates, Sebastian George and Sam Carpenter, who helped make the team a success throughout the season.

This exceptional program thrives under the leadership of coaches Chris Poluikis and Jacob Zimmerman, whose guidance, training, and belief in these athletes have built a true championship tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate each runner, their coaches, their families, and the entire Parry McCluer community. Their three-peat victory is a testament to perseverance, teamwork, and excellence, and it continues to make the city of Buena Vista, the Sixth Congressional District, and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia proud.

## CONGRATULATING BROADWAY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exceptional group of young athletes from Virginia's Sixth Congressional District, the Broadway High School girls' softball team, who captured their school's first-ever VHSL Class 3 State championship.

The Gobblers completed a remarkable 23-4 season, earning Valley District, Region C, and State titles. Their dominant run included two perfect games and 12 shutouts, and they outscored opponents 216-48 along the way.

This championship was made possible by the outstanding efforts of the team's players: Cathryn Caffrey, Lilah Deavers, April Gingerich, Annaleah Grither, Sarah Grither, Kaleigh Harper, Courtney Hensley, Savannah Janzen, Alexia Lambert, Emma Morris, Ashlyn Spitzer, Brooklyn Spitzer, Hannah Tinnell, and Madalyn Wolfe.

Their success was guided by Head Coach Becky Cantrell and Assistant Coaches Daren Lam, John Jenkel, Emma Earhart, Morgan Landes, and Aleisha Lambert.

Special commendation goes to pitcher Lilah Deavers, a Division I commit and first-team all-State, and to catcher Madalyn Wolfe, also first-team, All-State, whose leadership anchored the team throughout the season.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these great athletes, their coaches, and the entire Broadway community on a historic and inspiring championship year.

## TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DISMANTLING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest possible terms the illegal and unconstitutional dismantling of the Department of Education by the Trump administration.

Congress created the Department of Education. Only an act of Congress could eliminate it. The administration knows this, so they are trying to circumvent the separation of powers by chipping away at the Department until it is gone. What a sad and terrible message that sends to the country and the world.

The administration's latest attack on the Department of Education is with six interagency agreements that will move critical programs and services out of the Department of Education to other agencies without the needed expertise, funding, or staff.

The programs this administration illegally reassigned to other departments include Title I, which provides funding for schools with high populations of low-income students; the McKinney-Vento grant program for youth experiencing homelessness; grant programs for English learners, rural schools, literary initiatives; and more.

Programs like TRIO and GEAR UP help underserved students access and succeed in higher education, and they moved those, too. They moved programs that support HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions.

These are statutory responsibilities that Congress directed the Department