

Mr. Speaker, I wish Harry a happy birthday. May all of his courage and integrity continue to inspire us all.

HONORING HUMAIRA FALKENBERG

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Humaira Falkenberg as she retires from Pacific County PUD after nearly 15 years devoted to public service.

Humaira has stood for reliable energy, economic self-determination for rural communities, and the belief that the small things attended to with joy and diligence are the building blocks of a more beautiful world.

Beyond her work at the PUD, Humaira has brought her full self to her community as a leader for JEDI Outdoors, a ski instructor, an alpinist, a ski mountaineer, and a kite surfer. Her life reminds us that public service and personal passion can go hand in hand.

I have worked with Humaira on issues like grid capacity, support for existing power generation, and the well-being of rural communities. I have seen her integrity, vision, and dedication. She helped shape our community not just through power lines but through joy, service, and candor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her service and to wish her a retirement filled with continued purpose, community, and adventure.

#### ACA PREMIUM SUBSIDY EXTENSION

(Mr. LAWLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, for 43 days, the Democrats shut down the government, and they said it was over the issue of the ACA premium tax credits.

I went and confronted Leader JEFFRIES, and I asked him to sign on to a 1-year extension. He refused.

When the government finally opened, I and a number of my Republican and Democratic colleagues sat down in good faith to negotiate an extension of the ACA premium tax credits with reforms because we recognized that this system, as designed, is not working, that ObamaCare is not actually reducing healthcare costs in America.

In fact, since it took effect, healthcare premiums have risen by 96 percent, but we understood that to allow the premium tax credits to expire would hurt the American people. We sat down and negotiated, and we came up with several plans and compromises along the way to ensure not only that there was an extension but that we did eliminate fraud, that we did hold the insurance companies accountable, and that we did actually start to reduce costs.

□ 1100

We have put those bills forward on the floor in two separate discharge petitions. Eleven Republicans have signed on to those discharge petitions.

Now, why is that necessary? Because House Republican leadership will not allow a vote. It is idiotic and shameful. We have been forced to sign on to two discharge petitions, and yet my Democratic colleagues will not join us but for those that were at the negotiation table.

The Democratic leader will not release his Members to sign those two discharge petitions. Why? Because he doesn't actually want to solve the problem. He wants the issue. He wants the issue, which is precisely why Senator SCHUMER put a 3-year clean extension on the Senate floor that was doomed to fail, because it doesn't have bipartisan compromise.

This place is disgraceful. Everybody wants the upper hand. Everybody wants the political advantage. They don't actually want to do the damn work.

This problem could be solved today if everybody who says they care about extending this signs the discharge. It could be solved today. We could say to leadership on both sides: "A pox on both your houses." Both of you are failing this country. Both of you are failing this institution. Move the bill forward.

The challenge I have for every one of my colleagues is to put the party crap aside and sign the damn discharge today. If you want this vote to move, if you want to extend these subsidies, if you want to make sure that the American people's healthcare premiums don't skyrocket, then go sign the discharge now.

We all understand one thing. You need 218 here and you need 60 in the Senate. We saw the 3-year extension, with no reforms, fail last week. To just say that we are going to hold out and wait to see if four Republicans sign the 3-year extension, that you know is destined to fail in the Senate, is a failure of leadership and responsibility.

Leader JEFFRIES, come down to this floor, sign the discharge, and show real leadership because, sadly, my conference has failed to do that.

All of us, as Representatives of our own districts and our own constituents, have a responsibility to stand up. That is why I met with my Democratic colleagues as soon as the government was reopened to negotiate in good faith. It is why people like BRIAN FITZPATRICK and JEN KIGGANS and DAVID VALADAO have been leading on this issue with folks like JARED GOLDEN and JOSH GOTTHEIMER and MARIE GLUESENKAMP PEREZ and TOM STOZZI, because we understand this needs to get done.

There is failure of Members on both sides of the aisle who know it needs to get done, but they just want the issue or they don't want to do it because they hate ObamaCare. We know ObamaCare failed. We know it is not actually reducing costs, but you can't fix it with nothing. Do your job and sign the discharge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN EPPS). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### REESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate reestablishment of funding for PEPFAR and our public health support for poor countries.

I do so with a heavy heart, holding in my hand three documents that every Member of this body should read. One is a legal brief filed just days ago by Physicians for Human Rights. Another is a devastating new investigation released by ProPublica. The third is a status report on PEPFAR from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Taken together, these documents paint a picture of moral abdication that should keep every single one of us awake at night.

I want to talk about the data in these reports, Mr. Speaker, but first I need to speak from a place that goes beyond policy. I need to speak with you as a Christian.

Scripture teaches us that our responsibilities to one another are not limited by borders. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

The United States has been entrusted with much. We are the wealthiest, most powerful Nation on Earth. With that blessing comes a profound responsibility to the least of these. Today, we are failing that responsibility in a profoundly immoral way.

The legal brief I hold warns that the dismantling of our public health support for poor countries is causing irreversible losses. It estimates that the shutdown of USAID assistance has already cost 600,000 people to die, two-thirds of them children.

The numbers can be numbing, Mr. Speaker, so let me tell you about the people behind these numbers as detailed in this new ProPublica investigation.

While political appointees in Washington were literally celebrating these budget cuts with a sheet cake in a conference room, a 38-year-old man named Tor Top was in a canoe in South Sudan. He was paddling desperately trying to get his sick mother to a hospital 8 hours away. Why was he in that canoe? Because the local clinic, funded by U.S. humanitarian aid and run by Christian missionaries, had been forced to close its doors.

The IV bags needed to treat cholera cost just 62 cents, but because we cut that funding, his mother died in that canoe halfway to help.

ProPublica tells us about Rebecca Nyariaka, a 28-year-old mother living in a refugee camp. Cuts to these vital programs had stopped the sanitation services that kept the camp clean. Overflowing latrines spread disease. Rebecca died of cholera just days after

giving birth to a son she named “God is with us.”

It is not just cholera. Look at the KFF report on PEPFAR. PEPFAR is not a partisan project. It was created by President George W. Bush in 2003. It is perhaps the single greatest humanitarian achievement in modern history, credited with saving 26 million lives.

The report shows that the current administration’s stop work order has frozen payments and services. They have canceled 86 percent of all awards for this assistance. The result: We are losing thousands of HIV health workers in Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa. The KFF report warns that ending this funding could result in 565,000 new HIV infections over the next 10 years in sub-Saharan Africa alone. We are undoing decades of progress. We are actively allowing a plague to return.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, doctors are reporting that without USAID, they cannot even release Mpox vaccines that are currently locked in storage rooms. In Uganda, babies are being born HIV positive again after years of near elimination of mother-to-child transmission.

Some might ask: Is this our problem?

To that I answer with the words of my faith: We are our brother’s keeper.

To my colleagues who prefer a strategic argument, I say this: These diseases don’t respect borders. The legal brief explicitly warns that infectious disease knows no borders. When we stop treating tuberculosis or cholera abroad, we allow outbreaks to grow until they threaten us here at home. Our American global health surveillance was the reason the 2004 Ebola outbreak was contained, with only eleven cases ever reaching U.S. soil. We are dismantling the very fire alarm system that protects our own house.

Mr. Speaker, we are losing twice. We are losing our moral standing, and we are losing our physical security. Taxpayers will pay once for the dismantled programs, and then they will pay again, much more dearly, when these preventable crises reach our shores.

We cannot be the nation that celebrates savings with cake while mothers die in canoes for lack of a 62-cent IV bag.

I urge this body to reverse course. We must reestablish funding for PEPFAR. We must restore our lifesaving public health support for poor countries. Let us do it because it is the smart thing to do for our safety. But more importantly let us do it because it is the right thing to do. Let us not be the generation that walked away when we had the power to save millions of lives.

#### CONGRATULATING HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER FERNANDO MENDOZA

(Mr. GIMENEZ of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate my fellow Colum-

bus Explorer, Fernando Mendoza, winner of the 2025 Heisman Trophy.

Fernando’s remarkable journey began in Miami, Florida, and at Christopher Columbus High School, an institution known not only for producing elite athletes but for installing faith, discipline, leadership, and character.

Miami has long been a cradle of football excellence, and Fernando Mendoza now joins that proud legacy. His achievement reflects the values of perseverance, sacrifice, and opportunity that define our community.

As the first Cuban American to win the Heisman Trophy, Fernando’s victory carries special meaning. His story reminds us that in America, deep faith, hard work, and determination know no limits.

Miami is proud. The Columbus Explorers are proud. Today, the United States Congress proudly recognizes Fernando Mendoza for this historic achievement.

Congratulations to Fernando on a moment that will inspire generations to come. “Forward,” “adelante.”

#### LEGACY IMMIGRATION

(Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, President Trump ran on a promise to the American people that ICE would go after the worst of the worst.

Well, we are now coming up on a year of this Presidency, and I want to talk to the folks at home who feel disillusioned by what ICE is doing in our country.

What we have seen is that ICE is not overwhelmingly going after criminals. In fact, over 70 percent of people currently detained in detention facilities do not have a criminal record.

Who are they going after? They are going after 6-year-olds in my district. They are going after students and permanent residents for their political views. They are going after Americans born and raised in the United States. Time and time again, Trump has floated taking away citizenship from U.S. citizens based on their ethnicity.

At every point, this administration has lied to us about ICE in America while some of the wealthiest actors in our country have tried to sell us a myth to defend it, including private prison contractors. That myth, that ideology, is that our immigrant neighbors are our enemies and more dangerous than us. They sustain that myth because if everybody believes it, they can get away with robbing all of us.

I want to remind you where the real crime is. It is in the oligarchs taking \$170 billion of our money from healthcare and food assistance and public programs and taking that and funneling it into a secret police program.

It is the authoritarians trying to create a black box, because once it is es-

tablished they can put political dissidents inside of it.

But their hatred is a story, a myth, and we can choose to reject it. Donald Trump and Stephen Miller want you to believe that this is who we are as a country. We are here to say that it is not.

We are a country that has fought and defeated the Confederacy, that has defeated a history of civil rights violations, of secret police, and of fascism. We are a country guided by a monument to freedom on the waters of New York City who shines brightly and welcomes the “huddled masses yearning to breathe free” to our shores.

Right now, I ask everyone in our country to fight for that ideal, to fight for this legacy.

#### HONORING THOMAS BERNABEI

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life of the former mayor of Canton, Ohio, Thomas Bernabei.

As a focused and committed public servant, Mayor Bernabei served the city of Canton and Stark County for more than 50 years in various capacities, but with the same dedication that drew praise and admiration from across the region.

As a lifelong Stark County resident, Mayor Bernabei graduated from Lehman High before attending Brown University and later serving his country with the United States Army in Vietnam.

Mr. Bernabei later attended The Ohio State University College of Law before beginning his long career in public service.

Tom Bernabei got his start as an assistant prosecutor at the Massillon Municipal Court and then served as a Canton’s assistant law director, law director, and as a Stark County commissioner and interim director of the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority.

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Canton voters first chose Mayor Bernabei for mayor in 2015 where he served for two terms as a compassionate listener and problem solver.

When he first took the job, the city of Canton faced significant budget deficits, but by the time he left office, the city had a roughly \$12-million surplus.

Mayor Bernabei championed the cause of affordable housing, helping working families across Canton realize their own American Dream while calling Canton, Ohio, their home.

Before serving as mayor, Bernabei sat on the Stark County Board of Commissioners from 2010 to 2015.

In every role, he brought fairness, humility, and a true commitment to helping his community. As mayor, Mr. Bernabei worked tirelessly to make Canton better.

He oversaw the construction of Centennial Plaza and supported workforce