

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today carrying the voices and the lives of the people in the Massachusetts Seventh whose survival depends on the Affordable Care Act tax credits: the grandmother skipping meals to pay for her prescriptions; the young mom lying awake at night wondering how she will afford her baby's asthma inhaler if premiums go up; families like Deborah's in Boston, staring down premiums that will double while they care for loved ones, serve their community, and do everything right.

These are not abstract numbers. These are real people with real lives and real fears about whether they will be able to see a doctor, fill a prescription, or keep their families healthy.

In my district alone, 29,000 people will be forced to pay more for healthcare if Congress fails to act, and up to 35,000 could lose their coverage entirely.

This is a shameful policy choice. It is a choice, a choice by my colleagues across the aisle, and it is a violent one at that.

Let me tell you more about Deborah. Her family buys insurance through the Massachusetts Health Connector. Right now, for a family of five, they pay just over \$1,000 a month. If these ACA tax credits expire, they will pay nearly \$2,000 a month for an even worse plan, and that doesn't even include their daughter, who has aged out of the plan, is underpaid in her job, and whose premiums they will have to help cover.

Deborah told me they are fortunate they can afford it, but that affordability does come at a cost. Between paying for their premiums, their son's college tuition, and caring for her disabled sister, Deborah's husband, a dedicated public defender, now works weekends just to keep up.

As Deborah told me: Even work you love shouldn't require you to give up every day of your life just to survive.

Mr. Speaker, Deborah's story is no anomaly. It is the reality for millions of families across this country, and this crisis did not happen by accident. No, this is manufactured, man-made. It was manufactured by an occupant of the Oval Office and a Republican Party that is hell-bent on making families poorer, sicker, hungrier, and less safe. It is the same party that was content to let these lifesaving tax credits expire until Democrats had to force them to vote on a clean 3-year extension. That is the shame and the sham of it all.

Dr. King once profoundly said: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane because it often results in physical death." His words still ring true today.

Mr. Speaker, healthcare isn't a nice-to-have. It is a fundamental human right. It is a matter of life and death.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do right by the people who sent them here and join us in passing this extension before it is too late.

CONGRATULATING RANDOLPH BLUE DEVILS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Massachusetts Seventh's very own Super Bowl champions, the Randolph High School Blue Devils.

Showcasing electric offense and stifling defense, the Blue Devils shut out West Boylston at Gillette Stadium, capping off an undefeated season with another championship.

These student-athletes have made their school and families proud and proven to themselves and the Commonwealth that the town of Randolph has the talent, commitment, and the tenacity to succeed on and off the field.

I thank Superintendent Stovell Haddon, Principal Licorish, Head Coach Jon Marshall, the players, and the entire team for putting teamwork on display at the highest level.

Congratulations on earning the Division 8 Super Bowl title. Go, Blue Devils.

IN MEMORY OF ALICE WONG

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Alice Wong. Alice was a civil rights and disability justice activist who called the question that changed the conversation. She stoked our consciousness, built community, and saved lives.

She was a published author, community organizer, and a beloved friend. Alice was unapologetic in her pursuit of building a more just world and shining a light on issues society hesitated to address. She saw the humanity of everyone and spoke about intersectionality from her hometown to Capitol Hill to Gaza to the border. She affirmed that mutual aid was not a nice to have, but a lifeline.

She loved science fiction as it gave her the ability to think of a world where choices weren't limited because of a person's disability. She gave us all permission and fortitude to dream of what is possible.

Mr. Speaker, Alice is already deeply missed, and her legacy carries on.

CONGRATULATING MILEY MEREDITH

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, some achievements don't just earn applause, they open the door for others. Today, we honor someone who has done just exactly that: Miley Meredith, the first female Eagle Scout in Nassau County, Florida.

From Troop 9152 of Scouting America in Yulee, Miley has shown outstanding dedication, creativity, and a genuine commitment to serving others, qualities that earned her the rank of Eagle Scout. The accomplishment, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is impressive for any Scout, but for Miley's achievement, it also marks an historic moment for our community—expanding what is possible for young women in northeast Florida.

As part of her service project, Miley devoted more than 155 hours installing a 25-foot flagpole and creating a 6-foot mural for the Yulee Lions Club, strengthening a valued community organization.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I proudly congratulate Miley Meredith, an Eagle Scout whose achievements earn and deserve applause and whose example will continue opening doors for others.

AMERICANS IN STATE OF DESPERATION

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, Americans are in a state of total desperation. For weeks, Floridians have been calling my office in tears. They are looking at their budgets with panic while President Trump rips away their healthcare, sends ICE to neighborhoods, deploys soldiers to new global conflicts, and floods billionaire and megacorporations with free money.

People cannot pay their bills, and Republicans here in Washington, D.C., are totally unfocused, busy defending the latest cruelty done by the administration.

Healthcare open enrollment ends next week. Enrollment is down. Americans can no longer afford their coverage. We are in a healthcare crisis.

Democrats don't control the House, the Senate, or the White House, but we still managed to get this bill to the floor to extend the Affordable Care Act tax subsidies. We are fighting with every tool, with every option we have to save healthcare for our people.

I am voting "yes" to get this bill passed this week. I encourage every single Member of Congress, whether they are a Democrat or Republican to do the same. I say this as someone who represents a community in the State of Florida, the largest Affordable Care Act marketplace in the entire country. We have millions of people in the State of Florida that will be impacted by this, and I encourage everyone to vote "yes."

RENEE NICOLE GOOD

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today deeply disturbed, distraught, and angered by the shooting and the killing of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent that happened just yesterday in Minneapolis.

This is a direct result of Trump's dangerous weaponization of our immigration system and Federal law enforcement. This is the direct result of an agency that is so emboldened by the President that they truly feel like they can do anything with zero impunity and zero accountability.

It shows up in small ways, like when I showed up to tour an ICE facility in my own community and was asked by a Federal agent, in a very condescending way, how old I was, to what we saw yesterday, which was the killing and shooting of a U.S. citizen in her own damn community.

Then yesterday, on the Oversight Committee, my Republican colleagues voted “no” on a simple subpoena so we can get information, documents relating to the murder of a U.S. citizen by a Federal agent. Then my colleagues broke into this righteous debate: Let the process play out, let DHS do their investigation, the agent gets due process.

Yes, all persons in the United States are entitled to due process. Renee Nicole Good didn’t get that due process because the agent was the judge, jury, and executioner in the middle of a residential neighborhood. There was no process or due process before the administration that runs our Nation labeled her as a domestic terrorist just minutes after this happened.

We won’t allow this President to gaslight us, and we won’t allow this administration to lie to us about what we have seen before our very eyes.

Not only am I going to vote “no” on any funding bills that gives this agency more resources to do this type of thing and terrorize our communities from the State of Florida to across this entire Nation, but I am going to continue to show up physically at bases of operation, field offices, detention centers, and the so-called Alligator Alcatraz to conduct oversight and work with our communities to keep our people safe.

Renee Nicole Good was the mother of three, had a daughter and a son aged 15 and 12, and a 6-year-old with her husband who tragically died in 2023. She was a devout Christian who participated in youth mission trips to Northern Ireland when she was younger. According to multiple reports, she was a poet, a writer, a wife, and a mother.

She had lived most of her life in Colorado and briefly moved to Kansas to stay with her parents after her second husband, a military veteran who suffered from PTSD, died in 2023.

We will honor her life with action, of course fighting to end gun violence because what happened yesterday was gun violence, but also to fight to end ICE’s campaign of terror on our communities and our people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GOVERNOR JAMES BAXTER HUNT, JR.

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Governor James Baxter Hunt, Jr.’s story is inseparable from North Carolina’s.

From humble beginnings growing up in Wilson County, North Carolina, to his historic service as our Lieutenant Governor, he was first elected as Governor at 38 years old. He served four terms as our 69th and 71st Governor.

North Carolina’s longest serving Governor was a farmer and loved North Carolina State University—a die-hard fan—although he later completed law school at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Governor Hunt believed that public service should lift people up and create opportunities for everyone. His unwavering dedication to education changed the lives of countless children and families.

Through heartfelt initiatives such as Smart Start, early childhood education, teacher support, and school accountability, he helped generations of children have a stronger foundation and a brighter future.

Beyond policy and politics, Governor Hunt led with honesty, with humility, gentleness, and genuine care for others. He believed that the government, guided by fairness and compassion, could be a force of good.

His leadership modernized North Carolina’s economy, strengthened its institutions, and elevated the State as a national leader in education and innovation.

Throughout decades, bridging party lines and his unmatched energy, his influence defined an era.

Governor Hunt was not only a dedicated public servant but also a mentor, inspiring many elected and appointed officials. He was my constituent who didn’t mind sharing his thoughts and, above all, sharing his support and encouragement.

He was devoted to his family. His legacy of love and service lives on through his family that he cherished and those he inspired.

Governor Hunt was admired, respected, and loved deeply by the people of North Carolina. His reach went beyond our State and made America stronger. Through his leadership, our Nation saw the best of eastern North Carolina. His vision, humble leadership, and faith that came from his days at Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church and later at First Presbyterian Church of Wilson, drove him.

He passed away at 88 years old on December 18 on his farm in Rock Ridge, where he grew up and lived with his beloved wife, Carolyn Joyce Leonard Hunt, for 67 years.

Our Governor and First Lady shared a deep, deep partnership built on love and friendship. He took great pride in his children’s accomplishments, especially seeing his daughter Rachel follow in his footsteps as our Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts are with Carolyn, Rebecca, Baxter, Rachel, and Elizabeth. North Carolina will miss one of its greatest public servants. His family will miss a beloved husband, brother, father, and grandfather. I will personally miss a dear friend.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOTHER PEGGY NOBLE

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mother Peggy Noble. She was an inspirational leader and a champion for economic justice and for working families.

Mother Peggy has dedicated her life to her College Park neighborhood where she lived. She was a community organizer, supporting her neighbors, advocating for children, and bringing people together. She believed deeply that real change is built through relationships and advocacy and showing up for our communities. Year after year, that is what she did.

Peggy was a fierce advocate for our families from standing up for her neighborhood to fighting for fairness in our broken auto insurance system. Detroit is stronger because of her voice, her leadership, and her unwavering belief in people. We carry her spirit forward in how we organize, how we protect one another, and how we show up for our neighbors.

My thoughts are with her loved ones, Rochelle, Eugene, Kimberly, Jaimi, Asante, and all of Peggy’s loved ones, during this difficult time. May she rest in power and in love.

ACA TAX CREDITS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we always seem to have money for war, to bomb countries, but we never have money for healthcare for our families.

On January 1, Republicans ended the Affordable Care Act tax credits and raised healthcare premiums for millions of Americans, our neighbors throughout the Nation. This comes, of course, after Trump’s big budget betrayal ripped healthcare away from 17 million Americans and cut Medicaid by nearly \$1 trillion.

Last year, Congress did approve over \$1 trillion for the Pentagon budget, which just failed its eighth audit in a row. I want folks to think about that. They are cutting money for healthcare and spending it on bombs and death.

The ACA tax credits are what help keep insurance affordable for many of our neighbors across the country. They are the difference between my neighbors having insurance or going without healthcare. It is heartbreaking to read the emails and messages I get from so many families that are putting off seeing a doctor and filling their prescriptions and now rationing their medication.

No parent, Mr. Speaker, should have to choose whether to take their child to the doctor because healthcare is too expensive. Our healthcare system is already broken, and it is inhumane.

My residents always tell me: Don’t call it healthcare. Call it sick care. Because we know right now the for-profit schemes within our healthcare system are making it so unaffordable for our families. Why have we not passed the tax credits for the Affordable Care Act?

Again, we are so grateful for the leadership of HAKEEM JEFFRIES as we push forward a force vote for a 3-year ACA tax credit extension today.