

What we found in Los Angeles County is that 18 percent of the total bill for the Federal Government for hospice in America went to one county. You had thousands of people registered as hospice providers billing hospice for hundreds and hundreds of patients that no one can find.

We are going to continue to work with auditors. We hope that whistleblowers will come forward in California like they did in Minnesota, and we are going to try to identify this and hopefully work with authorities in Minnesota who have prosecuted over two dozen people already in Minnesota for fraud.

We are serious on the House Oversight Committee, the Republicans are, about doing something about the massive amounts of fraud we are seeing. We want to get the backs of the American taxpayer. The hardworking taxpayers who work hard every day and send their tax dollars here to Washington are frustrated that we are losing so much money to fraud. We are going to do something about it.

#### RECOGNIZING CO-OP CITY NAACP

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, let me recognize the outstanding work of the Co-op City branch of the NAACP for its many contributions to the life of African Americans in their area.

The branch is ably led by president Leslie Peterson, and she is aided by Tracy Edwards, Brenda Brown, and Anika Green-Watson and has been connected and involved in numerous programs in their community.

The branch meets on the fourth Sunday of each month in their offices in the Einstein, room 36, with interesting programs and speakers.

The branch has also hosted and sponsored major events during February's Black History Month, the January celebration of the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King and in June for Juneteenth.

The group joins other NAACP branches, notably the next-door Williamsbridge NAACP, for events like Know Your Rights seminars. Their advocacy of national NAACP legislative priorities bring them to lobby their elected officials on matters promoting education, healthcare, and anti-discrimination policies.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, I salute the Co-op City branch of the NAACP for their persistence and their moral leadership at a time when it is needed the most.

SALUTING SENIOR CITIZEN COUNCIL OF  
TUCKAHOE AND BRONXVILLE

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the outstanding work of the Senior Citizen Council of Tuckahoe and Bronxville and the services that they provide to address the issues of isolation and loneliness to seniors in both villages.

Their programs include a host of different activities, social and recreational programs, health and wellness, arts and crafts, musical programs, guest lectures, luncheons, and day trips.

The council is led by chair Eleanor Gustavson, along with Sarah Belair, Maryann Dennen, Barbara McGraw, Jean Murrer, and a host of other active board members.

The weekly senior programs are offered at both the Father Fata Hall in Tuckahoe and the Reformed Church of Bronxville. They are sponsored and supervised by Tuckahoe senior director Michelle Oliva and Bronxville senior director Lisa McGovern.

The council is also helped by a community advisory board of prominent Tuckahoe and Bronxville leaders who give assistance and counsel to the council.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, I salute the Senior Citizen Council of Tuckahoe and Bronxville and will tell both of those senior groups I will be stopping by sometime soon with the cookies.

#### STAFF SALUTE

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, every freshman member comes into this institution with much to learn, and it is impossible to do that and function every day to represent the people of your district without the help of a committed, talented staff.

Let me publicly express my gratitude for the hard work of the staff that I have had the pleasure of working with in this first term: chief of staff, Rich Orsillo; senior adviser on policy, Rob Hoch. My D.C. team is led by Jessica Merritt, deputy chief of staff and legislative director; along with Ryan Reed; Sidd Gannu; Jeremy Hoffner; Samantha Kirschner; and Ellie Lockhart. My Westchester team is led by Ellen Hendrickx, the district director; Michelle Gewanter, Edili Espallat, Daphney Sintyl, Tara Conte, and Channah Haigh. My Bronx team is led by Tremaine O'Garro, Bronx director, and Kelly Saunders. I owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them.

#### RECOGNIZING JANIS BLOCKER

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Janis Blocker, a South Carolinian whose legacy and impact on those around her has been nothing short of remarkable.

Janis was born in Colleton County in 1938. Following what she saw as God's calling for her, she became a devoted teacher for many years and was deeply beloved by all of her students.

She first attended Charleston Southern University where she graduated summa cum laude and later received a master's degree in teaching English from The Citadel in 1981. That is the degree that she used to teach for over 49 years.

She taught a range of topics, including English honors and journalism, and was heavily involved in the State education system. Her students honored her with Teacher of the Year in 1987, and she had a yearbook dedicated to her as a testament to her hard work spanning many years.

Janis is also known for her complete dedication to her local community, serving for all of the 24 years as a chair of the Colleton County Republican Party and as a delegate to three national Presidential conventions.

She was even recognized with the Dr. James B. Edwards Award for her dedicated and conspicuous service to the South Carolina Republican Party. These achievements are nothing short of exceptional.

She is now the vice chair of the Colleton County Board of Elections and has served as a chair of the Colleton County Library Board of Trustees from 2019 to this day, as well as a long-standing member of the Colleton Library Board of Trustees.

Janis has served as a board member of the Colleton County Board of Voter Registrations and Elections. She served two terms on the County Council and is a former member of the United Way board. As if this wasn't enough, she is also a member and officer of the South Carolina Artisans Center Board and the Colleton Historical Society.

Faith has always been an integral part of her life story. Janis not only graduated from the South Carolina School of Theology, but she is a lifelong member of the Bethel Presbyterian Church in Walterboro, South Carolina, where she has been a choir director for 67 years.

□ 1045

She was also a clerk of sessions at Bethel Presbyterian Church for 25 years, among many other church activities.

Her outstanding life's work has led her to receive numerous awards. Janis received the Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award; the Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Achievement in Education Award; the First Star of the Southeast award from Delta Kappa Gamma Southeastern District; the State Achievement Award from the State teachers' society, Alpha Eta State; and the Order of the Rose award from the Zeta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

I would be remiss to omit that she has a husband, a beautiful family, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

This is only an inkling of the life and legacy of Mrs. Janis Blocker. She has deeply impacted her students, her community, and her home State through her vested commitment to building up all those with whom she comes in contact.

Janis Blocker's legacy demonstrates a life truly well lived. I am proud to

recognize her today in the United States House of Representatives Chamber, and I thank her for her service.

#### 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the families of Ohio's 13th Congressional District as we mark a momentous occasion: the 16th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare.

This law, championed by former President Barack Obama, changed the course of history and brought affordable, accessible healthcare within reach for millions of Americans.

For 16 years, the ACA has been a lifeline. It has shown what is possible when we put people first. Because of ObamaCare, more than 50 million Americans have gained health coverage, including tens of thousands of my own constituents.

In my district, about 32,000 people currently rely on ACA coverage. Ninety percent of them depended on the enhanced premium tax credit to make that coverage even more affordable. Four out of five were able to find plans for \$10 or less per month.

The ACA has allowed more than 133 million Americans with preexisting conditions to be protected, and young people can stay on their parents' health insurance until they are 26 years old. Essential benefits, from prescription drugs to preventive care, are guaranteed.

These are not just policies. They are protections that people rely on every single day.

Democrats worked to strengthen the Affordable Care Act by lowering premiums and putting an average of \$2,400 back into the pockets of working families. We pushed to extend these tax credits and keep costs down.

I have cosponsored legislation and supported efforts to force a vote on the House floor because my constituents cannot afford delays and the impact of the enhanced tax credits no longer being available. It is why I have continued to prioritize lowering costs that place real pressure on families from healthcare to housing, gas, groceries, and energy prices.

Lowering healthcare costs isn't just one issue. It is central to whether families can afford to live, work, and thrive.

That safety net is now gone. On January 1, the Republicans let the enhanced ACA tax credits expire. Now, families across Ohio's 13th Congressional District are seeing their premiums jump by hundreds of dollars a month or thousands of dollars a year. Americans cannot afford to continue paying the price for Republicans' failed leadership. The consequences are real, and they are immediate.

I constantly hear from my constituents that the cost of living is too high,

and it is only getting worse. Our economy is unaffordable for working people, and it is pushing the American Dream out of reach. Eight out of every 10 people enrolled in the ACA marketplace plans are experiencing higher premiums this year. Three out of four are worried about affording emergency care. Nearly 80 percent say that ending these tax credits was the wrong decision. I agree.

Families are having to cut back on groceries to afford prescriptions. Seniors are skipping care. Workers are dropping coverage altogether because they simply cannot keep up with the rising costs and Trump's tax from the war.

Instead of action, we, unfortunately, keep seeing obstruction. This is a part of a broader and very deeply troubling pattern. For 16 years, Republicans have tried to dismantle ObamaCare and oppose our healthcare reforms, with nothing else to offer. They tried to take us back to a time when care was out of reach, when people could be denied coverage for preexisting conditions, and when a single diagnosis can mean financial ruin.

Now, they are closer than ever. Through their big, ugly bill, Republicans cut more than \$1 trillion from our healthcare system, gutting marketplaces, driving up premiums, and making it harder for families to get the care that they need, all while prioritizing tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and corporations.

The American people are feeling the squeeze.

Madam Speaker, the choice before us is clear: We can continue down this path where premiums soar, coverage disappears, and families are left to fend for themselves, or we can act, restore affordability, strengthen the ACA, and stand up for the people who sent us here to serve them.

For the families of Ohio's 13th Congressional District and for millions across this country, the time to act is now. Trust and believe, I will be right there with you.

#### REMEMBERING BRYAN ROSICA

(Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember Bryan Rosica of Doylestown, a beloved educator, devoted husband and father, advocate, and truly good man.

For more than 26 years, Bryan served the children and families of Buckingham Elementary School as a teacher and guidance counselor. Early in his tenure, he established the school's character education program and coined a phrase that captured both the spirit of the school and the spirit of his own life: Home of the Mighty Knights.

It was more than a motto. It reflected what Bryan believed at his core: that very few things matter more than kindness and respect, and that char-

acter is formed not in grand gestures alone but in the small, daily choices that shape one's life.

Bryan did not simply teach those values. He lived them. After being diagnosed with ALS in 2020, at just 49 years old, Bryan met that battle every day with extraordinary courage, grace, and his signature positive spirit. In the face of a cruel and unforgiving disease, he became not only a source of strength for his beloved wife, Lisa, their three children, and all who loved him, but a powerful advocate for others walking that very same path.

Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the ALS Caucus, I have seen the heartbreak this disease leaves behind and the extraordinary strength of those who face it. Bryan was one of them. Working alongside ALS warriors in our community, we fought to advance the Right to Try Act so that those facing terminal illness would be met not with indifference, but with urgency, compassion, and every single possible avenue of hope.

Bryan's life is a reminder of why that work matters and why it must continue. Bryan brought joy, inspiration, humor, and hope wherever he went. He will be remembered forever as a beloved pillar of our community. His legacy will live on in the family that he loved, the countless lives that he touched, and in the fight we will continue in his honor.

#### HONORING FLORENCE KAWOCZKA

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Florence Kawoczka of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, a trusted partner, dear friend, and leader who has spent her life helping families in our community build not only homes but lasting foundations.

For more than 14 years as CEO and executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, Florence has understood that the work of building a home reaches far beyond the lumber, brick, and mortar. It is the work of building homes for people who are facing uncertainty, dignity where there has been struggle, and conditions in which a family can begin to imagine a different future.

Madam Speaker, I have had the honor of working alongside Florence and witnessing those unforgettable moments when a family crosses the threshold of a home of their own, not simply receiving a set of keys, but entering a new chapter of possibility.

Under Florence's leadership, Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County has partnered with more than 50 new homeowners, completed repairs on almost 400 homes, launched the Almost Home financial empowerment program, and pioneered a permanent workforce housing model that ensures that every home sold since 2022 remains permanently affordable. It is a legacy that will continue opening doors for Bucks County families for years to come.