

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.

Madam Speaker, as Florence enters retirement this summer, I and our entire community offer our deepest gratitude for the life of service that she has lived, which has, without a doubt, made our community a better place.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate and thank my friend, Florence, and extend best wishes to her as she enters this next chapter of her life.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable group of graduates from the Bucks County Opportunity Council's Economic Self-Sufficiency program.

Since 1997, this program has helped families in our community build brighter, more stable futures through education, skill building, and a path to lasting economic independence.

Today, I am proud to recognize this year's graduates: Thais Defalco, Haussine Guengous, Kelsi Klinger, Amanda Leary, Haleigh Oliemuller, Tanya Quiles, Allina Ramirez, Jacklynn Ramsey, Ashley Reukauf, and Katlynn Whiteley.

Madam Speaker, these graduates now join more than 420 families whose lives have been transformed through this program, families who have broken cycles of poverty that, in many cases, had stretched across generations.

That kind of change does not happen by accident. It takes courage, discipline, perseverance, and supportive people willing to invest in their potential. That is exactly what my friends and longtime partners at the Bucks County Opportunity Council have delivered for decades.

As Bucks County's leading anti-poverty organization, BCOO has worked tirelessly to reduce poverty, expand opportunity, and help our neighbors at home.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, ICE is an untamed agency that continues to overstep the bounds of legality. They have shot and killed American citizens in Minnesota, and almost 50 people have died under their custody. They continue to pound people all over the country.

We saw how they lurked around schools, bringing fear to American families. They body slammed a sitting Member of the U.S. Senate from the State of California. They tear-gassed and threw chemicals at duly elected Members of the House of Representatives in California. They continue to establish that they have no civility and no respect for sensitive locations, for houses of worship, schools, and hospitals. Instead of addressing these issues and protecting constituents, Republicans have withheld hundreds of thousands of dollars from FEMA, TSA, and Coast Guard personnel.

This week, Madam Speaker, we are voting on a dishonest resolution that supposedly shows support for Department of Homeland Security agencies. Republicans are also putting the same DHS funding bill on the floor that has already failed in the Senate numerous times.

This is a disingenuous effort, a failed proposal, and, frankly, a lie. If Congress really supported these workers, then we would be having a serious discussion, a conversation, about how to end the shutdown.

Let's fund TSA. Let's separate TSA from ICE. Let's make sure that the men and women who work at our airports get their salaries. We can do that.

ICE deserves to be dismantled because of their rogue behavior and because of their deadly behavior. A discussion must be had about the future of any agency, and TSA agents deserve to get their salaries.

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Passengers across the country that are waiting hours upon hours and missing their flights deserve not to have their lives disrupted. Let's pay the TSA agents, and let's have a full discussion about the wrong ways of this deadly agency called ICE.

Meanwhile, more than 400 TSA officers have already quit since the shutdown on February 14. The FEMA disaster fund is now depleted. DHS employees have been forced to go without pay for nearly 6 weeks.

Airline travelers are experiencing the worst wait times in the history of our Nation, and some are being harassed at the airport by ICE agents.

The President has not helped this disaster by insisting that Republicans reject any and all proposals that come before his desk. Any attempt to pass a bill to resolve this matter the President has automatically rejected.

In fact, he has thrown gasoline on top of this conflict by adding a voter suppression bill, the SAVE Act, to this discussion, something that has nothing to do with the airports or TSA.

In fact, many Americans, including married women, seniors, and others feel that this is a voter suppression effort, trying to throw us decades back from the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act legislation that protected all Americans.

We must hold this effort, dastardly effort, accountable. ICE's mission under Trump was never to keep America safe. It was to keep immigrant communities frightened through fear and intimidation tactics. We must hold this agency accountable, and we begin to do that by dismantling it.

CONGRATULATING PURDUE UNIVERSITY WRESTLING CHAMPIONS

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate four Boilermakers from

Purdue University who competed in the NCAA wrestling championships.

These student-athletes are Joey Blaze, a 165-pound weight class junior; Blake Boarman, a junior in the 133-pound weight class; 174-pound weight class senior Brody Baumann; and senior Ben Vanadia in the 197-pound weight class.

Purdue junior Joey Blaze wrapped up a sixth place finish, becoming the 13th two-time All-American in Purdue wrestling history.

Brody Baumann is a three-time NCAA qualifier and was one of the only three Indiana natives to qualify for the nationals in 2026.

Blake Boarman went to the nationals for the second time, his first time as a Boilermaker.

Competing in his fourth year, Ben Vanadia went to the nationals for the first time.

Congratulations to these outstanding student-athletes. They should be proud of their hard work. Boiler up.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BETOURNE

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate an unbelievable young speller from northwest Indiana.

David Betourne recently won the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee of northwest Indiana after seven rounds and nearly 2 hours of intense competition. David ultimately triumphed by spelling the word biomimicry, proving that every letter truly counts.

With this impressive victory, Mr. Betourne now has the opportunity to represent the Lafayette area at the National Spelling Bee in May in our Nation's Capital. Competing on the national stage takes not only knowledge but focus, preparation, and a vocabulary that would impress the dictionary.

I know David will do an excellent job, and I want him to know and remember that we are all rooting for him. I congratulate him again on this well-deserved and well-earned achievement. He will make Indiana proud.

CONGRATULATING WABASH COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two Wabash College students who were honored at the North Coast Athletic Conference track and field.

Quinn Sholar was named the 2026 NCAC Men's Field Athlete of the Year. Brock DeBello earned the NCAC Newcomer of the Year award as a freshman. Quinn Sholar won shot put with a top mark of 16.42 meters. He also made a conferencewide and school record throw of 18.69 meters to win a February 27 weight throw competition.

As a freshman, Brock DeBello is having quite the season. Producing intense executions on the track, he broke a school record at the February 27 400-meter preliminaries with a time of 48.6 seconds. DeBello returned in the finals to secure a fourth-place finish at 47.47 seconds.

Congratulations to these two and to the entire Wabash track and field team for an amazing championship run.