

insurance companies that deny patients care and rip off the American taxpayer.

I have spent 35 years taking care of patients. The amount of treachery in the healthcare industry at this point in time continues to boggle my mind.

A few months ago, the House Ways and Means Committee hosted representatives from the Nation's leading insurers. There was bipartisan outrage against what they are doing to the American patient and the American taxpayer.

Healthcare is no longer affordable and, in large part, it is due to the ever-increasing, insurance-company-driven middleman apparatus. These megacorporations are squeezing every last penny out of patients and physicians, all in the name of profit.

Today, I want to discuss an interesting event, how the American taxpayer is subsidizing stock buybacks by the United States' largest health insurers. A buyback is when companies, flush with cash, our cash, are buying back their own stock.

In 2025, the seven largest for-profit health insurance conglomerates took in nearly \$1.7 trillion in total in revenues, yielding over \$50 billion in profits. The true number was much higher because of the way they hide their finances.

Regardless, that was a great year for these companies, which receive record sums of American taxpayer dollars. In fact, UnitedHealthcare now gets more than three-quarters of its revenues from government programs, even though it covers almost twice as many people in its commercial plans. No wonder they lobbied so hard to keep the ObamaCare subsidies in place. They love that taxpayer Federal dollar.

What is even more sinister is the amount of money that these giants have spent on their own stock buybacks. Instead of using money to lower the cost of care for patients across the country, they pump it in to boost up their own profits.

□ 1215

In 2015, the top seven companies spent more than \$137 billion buying back stock shares. United has more than 50 percent of these buybacks, and guess who makes the most profit? United does. They are flush with cash—so flush, they even own a bank.

Why is this important? As they buy back their own stock, it makes their stock more expensive, drives up earnings, and, guess what, makes their executives richer because of their compensation plans. It is all at the expense of patients.

Further, they have become more diversified, vertically integrated conglomerates that have swallowed up nearly every part of our healthcare system. Mark Cuban and I agree completely. The middleman is destroying American medicine.

As it stands, we are now allowing an oligopoly to take nearly \$2 trillion

from the American people, while making it more expensive and harder to access healthcare.

As I have said before, if it were up to me, I would break up these giants and eliminate for-profit health insurance.

Medically necessary healthcare cannot be treated the same way as other customer goods and services. I believe that patients must take responsibility for their well-being, but I also think it is a marked way that we incentivize making people healthier. I also understand that people cannot afford healthcare right now.

We are all impacted by emergencies and illnesses at some point in our life, even the most robust and healthy individuals. A visit to the emergency room should not be a life-altering financial event.

Therapy for cancer we know how to treat should not be a death sentence because of the cost of care. Access to a lifesaving medicine that sustains your life should not bankrupt you.

I am an equal opportunity offender. I will go after any entity in the healthcare industry regardless that is causing the cost of healthcare to be so expensive. These greedy and egregious practices of our health insurance companies top the list.

Countless patients are denied medically necessary care every single day because these companies want to save a buck. They want to save a buck to buy back their stock and increase their profits.

Make no mistake, the health insurance industry is the most powerful one in Washington, D.C. But fortunately, the American people are waking up. They are waking up to the nonsense and demanding change.

I have dedicated my entire life to taking care of patients. I am happy to take on this fight. We cannot deal with this anymore. The insurance industry is destroying American healthcare.

I will not rest until this job is finished and we break up these insurance company monopolies.

CONGRATULATING VICKY TORRES

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vicky Torres on receiving her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Cal State Fullerton.

Vicky was born in the city of Orange and raised in Santa Ana, where she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma at the age of 7. For over a decade, she fought through countless rounds of chemotherapy, surgeries, and rehab.

The support and kindness she got from the medical teams inspired Vicky to pursue a degree in nursing. She enrolled at Santa Ana College's associate's degree program in nursing before transferring to Cal State Fullerton.

Navigating college was hard enough, let alone doing it with multiple sur-

geries. Of course it was very hard, but her determination carried her through.

I ask you today to join me in commending Ms. Torres for her accomplishments and for her degree.

RECOGNIZING NORMA E. MARTINEZ

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ms. Norma Martinez, superintendent of Centralia Elementary School District where she has been the superintendent since July 1, 2015.

A graduate of my alma mater, Anaheim High School, Superintendent Martinez was named Superintendent of the Year by the 2026 Association of California School Administrators Region 17.

For the past decade, she has led Centralia Elementary School District with strength and commitment to student success.

I thank Superintendent Martinez for her support of her students, for her leadership, and for providing our children with an excellent education.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MANUEL CASTRUITA LICERIO

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the late Manuel Castruita Licerio, a member of the Greatest Generation, a proud World War II veteran, whose service reflects courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our Nation.

Manuel served in the U.S. Army during one of the most defining moments in our world history. Through his commitment and leadership, he rose to the rank of staff sergeant, earning the respect of those who served beside him.

For his service, he was awarded the American Defense Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Today, let's pause to express our deepest gratitude not only for what he did in uniform but for the freedoms his service helped secure for generations to come.

I thank Manuel for his service to our great Nation which will never be forgotten.

HONORING BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, teachers, and the proud parents of Brevard County Public Schools for earning an A grade from the Florida Department of Education.

As a former history teacher myself, I know that success is not measured by a single test or a single classroom. It is the result of years of hard work by students and dedicated teachers who value learning.

This A rating reflects academic performance, student achievement, graduation rates, and college and career readiness for our future.

On Florida's Space Coast, our schools are preparing for the next generation

of engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, servicemembers, and community leaders.

I commend the school board: Megan Wright, Gene Trent, John Thomas, Katye Campbell, and their chairman, Matt Susin, for their incredible work along with our superintendent, Dr. Mark Rendell.

Their leadership and their passion make this A grade possible.

RECOGNIZING BREVARD COUNTY MEDAL OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of young leaders in our Space Coast.

Recently, I had the privilege of honoring the 2026 Brevard County Medal of Merit recipients, a tradition established by my predecessor, the late Congressman Bill Posey.

Each year, local high schools select one graduating senior who exemplifies academic achievement, character, leadership, and service to others.

These students have distinguished themselves not just in the classroom but by setting an example to others in their school.

As a former history teacher, I have always believed that education not only opens doors but it is the ultimate civil right and opportunity.

These students recognized in this Medal of Merit program represent the best of our public schools, and they are why I am very excited about the future of America. I congratulate this year's recipients and wish them the very best in their future academic endeavors. I know they will serve us well.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS WOYTOWITZ

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important man in our community, Dennis Woytowicz of Cocoa, Florida, who is making a real difference on Florida's Space Coast and the health of the Indian River Lagoon.

As the founder of Space Coast Water Sweep, Dennis has dedicated himself to locating and removing derelict crab traps and marine debris that threaten wildlife and the lagoon.

Working under a permit authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Dennis and his volunteers help remove these hazards from our waterways. Dennis also created an online tool that allows other citizens to submit photos and solve problems.

I thank Dennis and his volunteers of Space Coast Water Sweep for their commitment to preserving the Indian River Lagoon.

HIGHLIGHTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an innovative effort on Florida's Space Coast to improve the health of the Indian River Lagoon.

The city of Titusville has partnered with local organizations and businesses to pilot a new water treatment technology that uses nanobubbles to im-

prove water quality and also reduce harmful nutrients in our lagoon.

The Indian River Lagoon is one of North America's most diverse estuaries. It supports marine wildlife, recreational fishing, tourism, and thousands of local jobs.

This project brings together local government, private industry, and community stakeholders to test new solutions that could help restore and preserve this national treasure.

From launching astronauts into space to developing new technologies here at home, innovation is part of what we are on the Space Coast.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, make our love increase. In the face of the trials and testing which we inevitably encounter, let our faith enable us to stand firm and united, and may the overflow of our mutual love strengthen us to work toward the common good of our communities and our country.

Strengthen our hearts that we will withstand all that dares to divide and distract us from working together despite our differences. Rather, may our unique gifts and our varied perspectives be used to build up this body in its service both to this Nation and to You.

May we strive for wholeness and holiness, that we may appear blameless in Your presence.

In the sure hope of the perfection that is ours when we pray in Your name, we offer ourselves to You this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SCHOLTEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-165)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and Executive Order 13810 of September 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2026.

The existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 22, 2026.