

they liked their health plan they could keep it.

Alice of Dennison, Ohio, contacted my office and let me know that her insurance premium went from \$235 to \$520 a month, more than doubling. Alice told me that she goes to bed at night wondering how she will pay for the increased premiums. But Alice isn't alone. Her story is just one of the many stories from Ohio I have received.

We must continue to fight this misguided law and work to return control and choice of health care to the American people. Hardworking Americans deserve better than ObamaCare.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DR. PAMELA TRANSUE

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Dr. Pamela Transue, who has served as Tacoma Community College's president for 17 years.

President Transue has established an effective and successful learning environment that has opened doors of opportunity for its students. Under her tenure, Tacoma Community College has become a more vibrant and modern place, and her efforts have brought the college national recognition. As a former board member of Tacoma Community College, I saw firsthand how she helped shape the lives of countless students.

Alongside her service as president, she has also been actively engaged in the community, whether giving a speech at the Metropolitan Development Council breakfast or participating in a local economic development association. Dr. Transue has long recognized that education and job growth and self-sufficiency all go hand in hand.

Dr. Transue will retire at the close of this year, and with her retirement, she will be one of the longest serving presidents in higher education in Washington State's history, serving as Tacoma Community College's president for almost one-third of the college's existence.

Her nearly two decades as president of Tacoma Community College have impacted our region's economy and generations of students young and old. I am pleased to recognize her service today in the United States Congress.

#### RECOGNIZING PHIL HOGAN, JOSH ALLEN, JAMES WESTON ABBOTT, AND SHEA LASSETER

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Phil Hogan, Josh Allen, James Weston Ab-

bott, and Shea Lasseter for their work for Coweta-Fayette electric cooperative, located in my district, and Habersham electric cooperative.

Coweta-Fayette initiated a partnership with Habersham for these gentlemen to travel to Costa Rica as volunteers for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation. They helped construct an electric distribution system and worked alongside employees at Coopeguanacaste, the electric co-op in the town of Guanacaste.

Their volunteer efforts included extending access to electricity for families in this community. Electricity is a critical element in improving the quality of life. It enables better health care, education, clean water, and other vital services. These men also shared safety and best construction practices with the Costa Rican cooperative employees.

NRECA International has been active in rural electrification development in Costa Rica since 1963. The four electric cooperatives in Costa Rica serve approximately 750,000 folks. Thanks to these volunteers, more families in the world now have a chance for a better life.

Thank you, Phil Hogan, Josh Allen, James Weston Abbott, and Shea Lasseter for your hard work and dedication.

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#### SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, December 15 will mark the 1-year anniversary of the conflict in South Sudan. Since fighting broke out last December, a humanitarian crisis has plagued this young nation. Almost 2 million people have been displaced, and an estimated 50,000 civilian deaths have occurred. And the situation is only likely to get worse in the coming months.

The United States has played a vital role in supporting an independent South Sudan, and we have a vital role moving forward to ensure that the conflict does not deteriorate.

As we have seen in protracted crises around the world, such as in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the longer that a conflict continues and tears at the social fabric of a country, the more difficult reconciliation becomes.

As cochairs of the bipartisan Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. CAPUANO of Massachusetts, and myself are urging Members to sign a letter with us to the administration requesting the President to increase his political and diplomatic efforts to help bring this conflict to an end and to prevent further bloodshed.

With 1.5 million people experiencing food insecurity in South Sudan, now is

the time to ensure that we use diplomacy to bring this crisis to an end. So we are asking you to join us in this effort because we must continue to work in a bipartisan way with the administration to increase our political and diplomatic efforts.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S LAWLESS IMMIGRATION OVERREACH

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, President Obama came to Nashville to defend his unconstitutional immigration overreaches, but Tennesseans aren't buying it.

I asked my constituents what questions they would ask the President during his visit to the Volunteer State, and the response was overwhelming. Penny in Springfield asked, "Why has he chosen to ignore the voice of the people on the immigration issue?"

Janice in Gordonsville asked, "What does he say to the legal immigrants who obeyed the law to become citizens?"

And Kimberly in White House simply says, "I want to know why our laws are no longer valid."

My constituents said it best. We are a Nation of laws, and this lawless immigration overreach must not stand.

#### WHERE IS OUR AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE?

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on August 8 of this year, we went to war with ISIL. Since that day, we have launched over 1,700 airstrikes, we have put thousands of men and women in harm's way, we have committed billions of dollars, and the President has said this effort will take years.

Many of my colleagues and I have waited patiently for Congress to deliberate on the Authorization for Use of Military Force; yet all of these months later, we have not had a single debate. We recessed this summer without debate. We passed a defense bill last week without debate. And now, once again, we are leaving town without debate.

Mr. Speaker, it is the duty of this Congress to make determinations of war and peace, and we are shamefully ducking this responsibility. America deserves better.

#### AUTHORITY TO FILE REPORTS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all committees may have until 5 p.m. on December 30, 2014, to file reports to accompany measures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?