

Act. I thank Chairman UPTON and my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for all the work they've done advancing this important initiative.

For the past year and a half, we have been listening to experts and patients across the country detail how we can proactively address America's growing health care needs and areas where cures and therapies are lacking.

The single best thing we can do? Make sure that our ultimate goal should not be to provide lifelong treatment, but to find life-saving cures.

It shouldn't take 15 years and billions of dollars to maybe get a new medical innovation approved. We need to remove the unnecessary barriers between Americans and life-changing innovation.

This means prioritizing resources, cutting through red tape, and empowering scientists and researchers so they can discover, develop and deliver medical breakthroughs. 21st Century Cures does this.

I'm proud to have authored six major provisions in the Cures package. These are bills that modernize HIPAA laws, accelerate the discovery of new cures, create research consortia to treat pediatric disorders, and bring our regulatory framework into the 21st century by embracing technologies that focus on patient-specific therapies and the potential for powerful indicators, like Biomarkers.

Mr. Chair, we have a unique opportunity here today. Today we are offering hope for the millions of Americans suffering from currently incurable and untreatable diseases.

Hope for the Eastern Washington dad with ALS who just wants to see his kids grow up.

Hope for the high school student with cancer waiting for the FDA to approve a clinical trial.

This is our chance to help foster an environment where innovation is accelerated, not stifled. Where discovery and high paying jobs are here in the United States, not abroad.

This is our chance to offer the promise of real solutions to the American people.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues join me in taking advantage of this tremendous opportunity, and passing 21st Century Cures.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, which will help uncover the next generation of ground-breaking cures and treatments for the thousands of diseases that currently have none. H.R. 6 will streamline the delivery process, enhance research and development, and modernize the regulatory system for approving drugs and medical devices. For patients, families, and loved ones affected by serious illnesses, this legislation offers real hope.

Last summer, I was fortunate to meet a young man named Scott Andrew Mosley who lives in my district in Henderson, Kentucky. Scott is 13 years old and was diagnosed with Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) at the age of 6. DMD is a recessive X-linked form of muscular dystrophy, affecting around 1 in 3,600 boys, which results in muscle degeneration and premature death.

DMD begins in the legs and over time attacks all the muscles in the body. Young Scott became unable to walk at the age of 9 because of DMD, but has never complained about the hand he has been dealt. He offers encouraging smiles to everyone he meets, despite knowing he faces a disease without a cure. Last year, a group of gentlemen in the Henderson community rallied together and vol-

unteered to remodel and refit Scott's bedroom with his own shower and equipment necessary to transfer him from bed to bath. These gentlemen volunteered their time, talent, and money to help Scott and his family because it was the right thing to do.

Mr. Chair, as a Member of this esteemed body, I believe it is our duty and obligation to pass the 21st Century Cures Act so that people like Scott Mosley can have hope for a cure for DMD and so many other diseases. Many other Kentuckians and Americans across this country are also in need, and passing the 21st Century Cures Act will bring them hope, and it also is the right thing to do. My thoughts and prayers remain with Scott and the Mosley family, and I thank them for the opportunity to speak on their behalf.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act. Unanimously passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee with a 51-0 vote, the 21st Century Cures initiative will encourage innovation in biomedical research and development of new treatments.

With \$8.75 billion in mandatory funding over the next five years delivered to the newly created National Institutes of Health and Cures Innovation Fund and \$550 million for the Food and Drug Administration over the next five years, it is clear that Congress is committed to investing in health research. Developing a better system of funding towards high-risk high reward research and research by early stage investigators is crucial to finding better health outcomes. With a better focus on infectious disease, precision medicine, and biomarkers, I strongly believe that we will finally address these areas of unmet medical needs, which are often the most pervasive issues in our health system.

The modernization of clinical trials by supporting a more centralized system, moving to more adaptive clinical trial designs, and creating a national neurological disease surveillance system will help to develop better data and provide more patient success stories. The legislation also allows for better sharing of clinical trial information for researchers and scientists for more efficiency across the board. Also, the bill ensures that strategies will be developed to cast a wider net for clinical trials in order to increase minority representation.

Last October, I wrote a letter urging the White House to take into consideration UT-Southwestern's existing particle therapy research infrastructure and expertise in leading cancer treatment research in the U.S. when selecting the planning grant award recipients. The planned center would serve as a research adjunct to an independently created and funded, sustainable clinical facility for particle beam radiation therapy. Currently, the planning grant includes pilot projects that will enable a research agenda in particle beam delivery systems, dosimetry, radiation biology, and/or translational pre-clinical studies.

Mr. Chair, the advanced planning grant the UT Southwestern Medical Center received in February 2015, is exactly the type of medical and technological advancement the DFW Metroplex and country needs and is the type of federal investment we need to continue to lead the world in state-of-the-art medical research. Not only is this grant a major advancement for STEM, it is a crucial step in the right direction for cancer research and those affected by cancer here in the United States.

This legislation provides new funding opportunities for innovative cancer treatment approaches such as the development of America's first Heavy Ion Center for cancer therapy and would pave the way to keep America at the forefront of medical research and state-of-the-art cancer treatment.

While H.R. 6 contains many provisions regarding the biomedical research workforce, clinical trials, FDA improvements, I am most proud of the initiative's provisions regarding mandatory funding for the NIH and FDA. I strongly believe that the Congress has not placed enough importance on scientific research and this is a way to get us back on track. Investing in innovation will yield high rewards for the medical community, especially patients. I am proud to support H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. HARDY, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 7, the Obama administration once again ignored a deadline for the Iranian Nuclear Agreement while failing to set a new date to conclude discussions on what could prove to be some of the most important diplomatic negotiations of our lifetimes.

In March of 2015, I joined 367 Members of the House in sending a letter to President Obama requesting that any agreement would be provided adequate congressional oversight and approval. This was a bipartisan effort because both Democrats and Republicans alike recognized the magnitude of the challenges we face in confronting the possibility of a nuclear Iran.

The United States must promote an agreement that first and foremost advances our national security and the security of our allies in the region. A clear indicator of future performance has always been past performance. Unfortunately, Iran has a decades-long history of obfuscation when it comes to their nuclear program.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that negotiations do not result in simply delaying Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon for just a few short years but, rather, a strong deal that would prevent the current regime from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Speaker, as talks continue into the weekend, I am hopeful that negotiators will remember that no deal is better than a bad deal.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: CONFEDERATE FLAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the distinguished gentlewoman from California introduced a privileged resolution, not too different from the one my friend and colleague Mr. THOMPSON brought to the floor just last week. Mr. Speaker, that resolution called for the immediate removal of the Confederate battle flag from the Capitol grounds. And my colleagues across the aisle moved quickly to banish that resolution to die in committee.

Earlier today, the original home of the Confederacy argued, but agreed, that the Confederate flag and the history it represents belong in a museum. They decided that the flag should not serve as a bright, waving reminder of the discrimination and disparity of treatment for people of color that still lingers in communities across our country—hateful sentiments that resulted in the loss of nine lives at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

They decided that that flag should not hang high above the halls of State government, forcing all those who see it to wonder whether the emotions and ideology so closely tied to it are present in the hearts and minds of those who serve in that statehouse.

They decided that the flag had flown long enough, and that taking it down would be one small but critical step in healing the deep divisions present in their State.

They stood against the symbol of bigotry, they stood against years of complacency, and they stood for the principles of equality, justice, and unity for this Nation. They will take that flag down tomorrow.

But Republican leadership in this body refuses to do that. They took the path of cowardice and turned a blind eye to the struggles of generations of Americans. They used backhanded tactics last night to muddle the language of the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, including language intended to satisfy Members who would rather see that flag fly.

The fallout from that language led to the disappearance of that bill from today's scheduled debate and resulted in the chairman of that subcommittee disowning the final product.

Leader PELOSI's resolution offered another opportunity for my colleagues across the aisle to stand on the right side of history, but they turned that chance down resoundingly.

Mr. Speaker, let's not mince words. While I stand with my brothers and sisters of the South, the Confederacy itself fell far below even common decency for fellow man, violating human rights and taking advantage of every part of the lives of the men and women they enslaved, sometimes for profit and sometimes purely for pleasure.

The Confederacy used extreme violence and terrorism to subjugate millions purely on the basis of the color of their skin, and started the deadliest war ever to take place on U.S. soil to defend a disgraceful system. That flag is a symbol of the Confederacy's effort to keep that system intact. That is why, Mr. Speaker, before the holiday, I stood in this very spot on the floor to denounce the hate, bigotry, malice, discrimination, and division that the Confederate flag stands for.

But I also reminded my colleagues that a symbol, while significant, is only a stand-in for something far stronger. A symbol will never have the strength of a bullet fired from the barrel of a policeman's gun at an unarmed Black man because of ingrained bias. A symbol will never have the impact of a prison sentence that permanently prevents a young person from becoming a full-fledged member of society, a fate far more likely to befall a person of color. A symbol will never eradicate Black and Latino wealth like the predatory loan structures that put their homes underwater in a recession at rates that dwarfed their White peers.

But if we are not even willing to get rid of a symbol, as this body has so clearly expressed its disinterest in doing, how can we possibly move on to the real underlying problems, issues like education for young people, affordable housing, and access and training for jobs.

Removing a symbol is an easy thing to do, an easy thing that would have signaled one country, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Today, Republican Members across the aisle did more than just stand up for that symbol of hate and that symbol of degradation. These Members treated me and those issues that are vitally important and extremely sensitive to me in a manner that was both disrespectful, insensitive, and very hurtful, Mr. Speaker.

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Nonetheless, this will not go away. We will continue to raise this issue every day that it is needed, every week that it is needed, every month that it is needed, until my colleagues can recognize that a simple act of decency, the removal of this symbol of hate and disrespect and slavery, a mark on our history that needs to be removed.

Once we do that, Mr. Speaker, once we do that simple, little thing, and that is to stand together in taking down that ugly symbol that that flag represents, then we will be able to get on with the serious and important work that needs to be done to lift up this economy on behalf of all people.

That will be education for all people, and higher education that is affordable for all people, Mr. Speaker. It will be affordable housing. It will be jobs and job training. It will be adequate preschool programs and afterschool programs. It will be recreation programs and character-building programs.

It will be safe communities. It will be equal opportunity for all because that is the country that we live in, and that is the reason that we have this Congress, and that is the reason that I am here.

I, for one, will not be silent on this issue until we see this change that the 21st century demands.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for yielding, and I stand with her and what she has just said.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes, we forget how privileged we are, the Members of Congress, who have a chance to stand in this hallowed Chamber. We are the representatives of the people. We get elected to speak for the American people. We get elected to act on behalf of the American people.

Very few Americans, throughout the history of our country, have had an opportunity to stand right here where we are today and say that we actually can get things done, not just for the American people, for the people of the world, because there has never been a democracy like the United States of America.

There has never been a country that has had an opportunity to do so much for so many, and there has never been a democracy that has a chance to prove to the world that we know how to get this done and do it right.

Mr. Speaker, as we stand here in this Chamber, we have to admit, we have to be prepared on behalf of the American people to stand up, to step up, to do what is right, and to do what the American people expect us to do.

Now, they know we have to speak for them, but they don't want us just to talk. The time to just talk on so many issues has come and gone.

Mr. Speaker, I think the American public would agree that the time to just talk about what to do about the Confederate battle flag has come and gone. The time to just talk about what to do about the Confederate battle flag came 150 years ago when the chance to heal was upon us.

As President Lincoln said in his second inaugural address: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds."

If we needed to talk, Abraham Lincoln said it all. Lincoln wanted us to act, to move, to get things done for the American people.

The time to talk came after one after another Black church was suspiciously burned down throughout this country, and we knew something was going on.