

BREAKING ADDICTION TO OPIOIDS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act.

Like the TREAT Act, which I introduced, this bill would allow qualified physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe the medical treatment patients need to break their addiction to opioids. Utilizing these healthcare professionals is crucial to combat this epidemic, especially in medically underserved areas.

The bill would also increase the number of patients that physicians can prescribe Suboxone to from 100 to 250 per year. This is a step in the right direction. But there is no cap on the prescription of opioids, and it is counterproductive to cap treatment for opioid addiction.

The TREAT Act would eliminate this cap. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions has reported out a version with an annual cap of 500 patients. I urge my colleagues to support the Senate position so that more Americans can access this lifesaving treatment.

I thank the sponsors of this bill, Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. TONKO, and the Senate sponsor of the TREAT Act, ED MARKEY, for their work on this important initiative.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Police Week, a week we set aside to thank the 780,000 police officers who put on a badge nationwide and risk their lives to protect our communities.

We thank them for their brave service. Our police officers play an essential role in our community, working to keep us safe, upholding the rule of law, and responding to emergencies. The 18th District of Illinois is home to many upstanding, honorable, courageous, and self-sacrificing police officers.

Mr. Speaker, we also take time this week to mourn the loss of our fallen officers whose lives were lost in the line of duty. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 61 hours.

That is why I am proud to support a measure on the floor this week to extend the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020. We need to ensure our officers have the necessary equipment to keep them safe.

Just this winter South Jacksonville, Illinois, in my district grieved the loss of one of its very own police officers in the line of duty.

I also want to take this time to thank the support network that supports our police officers, their parents, wives, husbands, and children, for the sacrifices they make when their loved ones serve as police officers.

Let us show our men and women who wear the badge how much we value their crucial work.

OPIOID AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the crucial importance of addressing the heroin epidemic that is sweeping across this Nation.

I have been holding a series of regional briefings in my home State of New Hampshire to hear firsthand from communities working to fight this crisis. I have heard from far too many families who have lost loved ones to this epidemic because no treatment options were available.

In the fall of 2014, a high school French teacher in one of my towns who was beloved by her students died of an overdose, in part, because she could not get access to the treatment she needed.

And my good friend, Kriss Blevens, lost her stepdaughter, Amber, to addiction when no treatment beds were available.

This is simply unacceptable. We need to take action now to fight back against this epidemic and arm our communities with the resources to help individuals struggling to overcome the devastating pull of addiction.

I am a cofounder of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. We recently announced a package of 15 bills. I urge my fellow members to pass these bills this week. Let's help American families.

WHITE HOUSE DECEPTION ON IRAN ARMS DEAL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend The New York Times published a disturbing story about the Obama administration's efforts to manipulate press coverage of the Iran deal.

When the deal was signed last year, many of my colleagues and I warned that Iran could not be trusted to follow these temporary restrictions on their nuclear weapons program, but key staffers in the White House worked to create an echo chamber for their false claims about the Iran deal.

The Obama administration spun a concocted story about a moderate regime coming to power in Iran that was suddenly willing to change their approach to their pursuit of nuclear weapons and their relationship with the rest of the world.

As it turns out, the administration had already begun talks with Iran well before new President Rouhani took office. Iran already knew how desperate President Obama was to sign this or any deal which allowed them to extract several key concessions. The deal only provides temporary restrictions on Iran's nuclear weapons program while giving Iran permanent relief from sanctions.

Meanwhile, Iran will continue to support terrorism and further destabilize the region as well as violate the missile test program in the agreement.

The Obama administration's misleading campaign to convince the American people to support the Iran deal has dangerous consequences for us deceiving the public and their trust in government as well as putting our allies around the world, such as Israel, in danger and that trust as well.

LEAD CONTAMINATION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is not a new problem. Lead in school drinking water has been a problem in communities across this Nation for years. So why isn't there more outrage and talk about it among my colleagues?

Even Chris Christie has ordered lead testing in New Jersey public schools. When New Jersey's Governor starts to admit that there is a problem that demands government action, you know the situation must be dire.

No child takes a drink from a water fountain in school and thinks about whether the water is contaminated or not. It is our job to protect our children, and that means ensuring the safety of school drinking water.

Congress should pass and the President should sign my TEST for Lead Act. The bill requires States to help schools establish programs to test for lead in the drinking water if those States receive Federal funding for safe water programs. It would ensure transparency by requiring disclosure of high levels of lead in schools. Most importantly, it would help keep our children safe.

OPIOID OVERDOSES

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I am concerned by the great opioid epidemic that is sweeping our Nation.

Every day more than 78 Americans die from opioid overdoses—78 Americans. Think about that. That is more than three every hour. Nearly 2 million Americans are addicted to or abuse opiate-based painkillers.

Unfortunately and, frankly, very sadly, my home State of Utah is all too