

cost of substance abuse and drug addiction to our health care system totals \$705 billion annually and the human costs of this disease are nothing short of devastating for many American families.

Providing health care services and treatment resources to those who suffer from substance abuse is critical. However, millions of Americans who need treatment go without services each year. This shortfall is a symptom of outdated policy that limits the availability of substance use disorder services, particularly for those who require residential care to address their addictions.

Under current law, Medicaid beneficiaries are barred access to community-based residential treatment for severe conditions due to the IMD exclusion that prohibits reimbursement care of patients at facilities with more than 16 beds. This nonsensical exclusion has effectively deterred facilities from serving those in dire need of care.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation addresses this problem by eliminating the IMD exclusion and allowing those who suffer from severe addiction to have equal access to treatment and become productive members of society. It will also reduce the social and economic consequences associated with substance abuse. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and addressing a devastating problem affecting far too many communities across the nation.

RECOGNIZING WANDA RAE POWELL OF DANVERS, ILLINOIS RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Wanda Rae Powell, a cadet volunteer in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

Wanda Rae Powell was raised in Towanda, Illinois and had a love for aviation for as long as she can remember. As a child, Wanda's heroes included Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh. Upon moving to Bell, California in 1944, Wanda served as a volunteer cadet in the Civil Air Patrol while still attending high school. As a cadet, she studied silhouettes of military airplanes and learned to salute, march, and drill. In the summer of 1945, Wanda served in a factory overseeing the manufacture of military life jackets.

After graduating from high school, Wanda returned to Illinois and attended Illinois State University, known as Illinois State Normal University at the time, where she studied Home Economics. Because of a teaching shortage in 1949, Wanda earned an emergency teaching degree and taught in Central Illinois before returning to finish her degree at Illinois State. After receiving her degree in 1955, Wanda continued to serve the Central Illinois community by teaching at Danvers High School. Additionally, she served our community as a Brokaw Hospital volunteer, a Brownie Girl Scout leader, and in the Parent Teachers Association.

I am honored, today, to recognize Wanda for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

Since the age of seventeen, she has shown what it means to be a true American, serving her country in the Armed Forces, as an educator, and community volunteer. On behalf of the 18th District, I would like to thank her for her service, and wish her my sincerest congratulations on this much deserved award.

GUN VIOLENCE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, two issues have been plaguing communities across the nation: gun violence and excessive force by police.

Make no mistake, these are very separate issues. They're problems that people in my district care deeply about and that deserve to be addressed in their own right.

But both of these are urgent crises that are making our communities less safe.

These issues deserve action here in Congress, but they'll both take much more than that.

Solving these issues won't just happen in this House, it's a discussion that needs to happen in every house across America.

It will require us to come together and really listen to each other, to understand things from a perspective that many of us haven't experienced.

Many of us will never know what it's like to lose someone to gun violence, just as many of us don't know what it's like to have to sit your kids down and explain to them that they need to be careful because they won't necessarily be treated fairly by law enforcement.

Addressing these two issues will take a level of empathy and cooperation that, frankly, we haven't seen a lot of in Washington lately. And it will take a will to act.

These are complicated problems, with no single, simple solution, but that shouldn't stop us from trying.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote 451, I voted No. I intended to vote Aye.

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO CURBING THE OPIOID CRISIS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard-working medical professionals and law enforcement staff of Morrison County for their successful work in the fight against opioid abuse.

The fight against the epidemic is centered at the St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls, Minnesota, where a collaborative care team fo-

cuses on the unique needs of patients to help them on their individual roads to recovery.

Recently, I was pleased to host the leaders of the collaborative care team at a briefing here in Washington, so that they could share best-practices with Congressional staff. Their comprehensive model for dealing with the crisis focuses on the causes of opioid addiction and utilizes systems like Minnesota's Prescription Monitoring Program to prevent the over-prescribing of pain medication. St. Gabriel's approach involves the entire community and creating healing, holistic partnerships between health care providers and the community based on self-determination, safety and respect.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing the dedicated professionals at St. Gabriel's for their outstanding work which has reclaimed and saved so many precious lives.

S. 524, COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I voted to support the Conference Report accompanying S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. Although I support this critical legislative effort to begin fighting back against the opioid abuse and addiction crisis that has swept our country, there is much more work to be done to combat this epidemic. Passing this bill is encouraging, but it is only a first step.

Unfortunately, many of the programs laid out in the legislation are not supported by the funding necessary to be fully effective. To achieve any measure of success, we must ensure that health care and treatment providers have the resources they need to effectively curtail opioid abuse and addiction, including robust funding and educational support for state and local initiatives.

I ask my colleagues that we build on the progress made today and work to provide adequate funding and support to those who care for our communities and constituents as we address this enormous challenge.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MOTOR TRUCK ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JIM RUNK

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Jim Runk, President of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association (PMTA). Jim will be retiring from the PMTA on July 20, 2016, after 44 years of service to the association, the last 25 as its president. As a leading transportation advocate in my home state, Jim's voice, presence, and thoughtful guidance will be deeply missed, but he leaves behind an indelible mark on the trucking industry of Pennsylvania and the country.

Jim began working for the PMTA in 1972 after serving in the U.S. Army, and became