

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call vote 447 cast on July 13, 2016.

On Roll Call Vote Number 447, on agreeing to Mrs. GRAHAM of Florida's Amendment, I voted "No." It was my intention to vote "Aye."

H.R. 1270, RESTORING ACCESS TO MEDICATION ACT OF 2015

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the misnamed Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2015, H.R. 1270.

Once again, the Republican leadership has decided to bring a bill to the House floor that is harmful to Americans instead of doing the people's business and voting on a life saving bill that would decrease the ever-rising toll of gun violence. Our constituents are urging and counting on Congress to pass commonsense laws to establish universal criminal background checks and prevent terrorists from buying guns. Instead, Republicans have scheduled a vote for the 64th time to undermine the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—a law that has given 20 million additional Americans access to health care, eliminated discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, and reduced health care spending.

This bill repeals funding mechanisms that help pay for the ACA. Defunding these provisions would have devastating effects and put millions of Americans at risk of losing access to affordable health coverage.

Rather than considering commonsense gun legislation or raising the minimum wage, House Republicans choose to fight old battles by once again voting to repeal the ACA. I oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to vote no.

CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN OUR MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thoughts on H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016. I voted in favor of this bill on July 6 of this year because it is a step forward in improving the lives of many Americans affected by mental illness.

I support numerous key provisions of H.R. 2646, including reauthorizing grant programs to promote efforts that curb suicide deaths and substance abuse, requiring the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop a strategic plan to improve services for individuals with serious mental illness, and allowing Medicaid Managed Care

coverage of certain stays in psychiatric hospitals and other treatment facilities.

However, there remains much more work to be done in the mental health sphere. While H.R. 2646 addresses many of the pressing issues individuals affected by mental illness face, it misses the opportunity to address key areas that would greatly improve our mental health system.

H.R. 2646 could be improved by placing more emphasis on the benefits of community integration for people with mental health illnesses in conjunction with treatment by a medical professional. While hospitalization may be critical for some patients, a multi-faceted approach to treatment that includes community engagement and peer support has proven to be more effective in the long-term treatment of patients with mental illness.

I am also concerned by H.R. 2646's definition of "anosognosia," which states that people with psychiatric conditions may be unable to make sound decisions regarding their own care because they lack reasoning and judgment. Evidence has shown that people with psychiatric disabilities make reasonable decisions about their care comparable to others with chronic health conditions. I fear that this definition may further stigmatize those living with mental illness and may jeopardize their privacy in making health care decisions for themselves.

While this bill improves mental health services for people living with mental illness, I take exception to the Majority's premise that it in any way addresses the prevalence of gun violence. H.R. 2646 conflates the ideas that reforming the mental health system is a means of reducing violent gun crimes, when in fact, it is a false and manufactured narrative that people with mental illness are more prone to violent behavior. The truth is that researchers have not found any correlation between psychiatric diagnoses and mass murder and people with mental illness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violent crimes.

I was pleased to vote in favor of H.R. 2646, as it marks an effort by this body to address our critically broken mental health system, but our priorities in this effort must remain focused on the health, security, and privacy of people living with mental illness. It is my hope that we will continue to improve upon this first step to guarantee that Americans with mental illness have access to effective mental health treatment while also remaining an integral part of our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. JUANITA TUNIS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Juanita Tunis, a longtime resident of Livonia, Michigan and an original Rosie the Riveter. Juanita was born on November 18, 1913 and passed peacefully on May 23, 2016 in South Lyon, Michigan. She lived her full life of 102 years as the cherished matriarch of her family, and an American hero.

Juanita was among the trailblazing women who stepped up during World War II to fill the

industry positions traditionally held by men. Collectively nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter", these inspiring women entered the workforce with grace and gusto to build planes, tanks and other armaments that sustained the war effort and kept American industry afloat. Juanita worked for three years at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti building B-24 bombers. She often recalled the camaraderie among the women working at the plant, and remembered the bus rides to and from work with her fellow Rosies with particular fondness. In a time of worldwide strife, these pioneering women pulled together and went to work every day to keep our country going.

The contributions of Juanita and the original Rosie the Riveters made victory in World War II possible, and their patriotism and hard work will forever remain part of the American story. They instilled a newfound hope in their communities, embodying positivity in a time of great turmoil and uncertainty, and inspired a social movement that forever redefined the role of women in the workplace. The number of working women in the United States increased to 20 million in 1944, and has never since fallen to pre-war levels. Juanita and her fellow Rosies paved the way for generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Juanita Tunis for her contributions to the war and her role in inspiring generations of American women. Her story is one that embodies the best of American values and spirit and one that we will continue to share with our children and grandchildren for decades to come. The values that Juanita and the Rosies embodied patriotism, bravery and resolve are ones we all must strive to emulate. We salute the Rosies for their contribution to American history. Their legacy will forever remind us that we all have the power to do something more for our country.

HONORING DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER MICHAEL KROL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dallas Police Officer Michael Krol, who was tragically killed during the recent shooting in Dallas on July 7, 2016. Officer Krol was just 40 years old when he lost his life.

According to his family, Officer Krol knew from a young age that he always wanted to be a police officer. His goal was to serve in law enforcement and when the opportunity within the Dallas Police Department presented itself, Officer Krol took the risk by moving halfway across the country to Dallas in pursuit of his dream. After years of hard work and preparation, Officer Krol graduated from the Dallas Police Academy on April 25, 2008.

Officer Krol was described as a caring person with a gentle heart. He was a dedicated public servant who worked his way up from a position as a security guard for a Michigan hospital, to a Wayne County sheriff's deputy, and ultimately a Dallas Police Department Officer. Officer Krol selflessly gave up his life in order to protect the crowds in Dallas from the violence.