

From his start on Capitol Hill working in both Bush administrations and then leading the Energy and Commerce Committee staff effort, he has this passion for public service. He is relentless in his devotion to serving the American people and to driving the committee over time and really putting together a great team.

As you have heard, because of his leadership, the committee successfully shepherded through dozens of pieces of really important bipartisan legislation for the American people that have made their lives better, such as the 21st Century Cures Act, modernizing our chemical safety laws, improving pipeline safety, among many others.

We are fortunate to have had such a gifted adviser, exceptional leader, tireless advocate at the helm of this committee staff for the last 6 years.

It has been a real honor, Gary, to work with you. I wish you, Sue, and your whole family the very best in the years ahead. You have given this country incredible service, and we appreciate you for that.

God bless you and Godspeed.

BABY FATEMEH

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, this is Fatemeh. She is not a terrorist. She is a 4-month-old baby girl who is in immediate need of open heart surgery. Her parents desperately want the best care for her, so they planned to bring her from their home in Iran to Portland, Oregon, to one of the best hospitals for pediatric heart surgery. That is where Fatemeh's uncle and grandparents all live. They are U.S. citizens.

Then President Trump hastily issued the executive order, and the family's plans were brought to a halt. The order is supposed to expire in 90 days, but Fatemeh's family does not know if she can wait that long.

Now, I don't know what the President had in mind when he signed that order, but it probably wasn't baby Fatemeh. Keeping 4-month-old babies out of our country does not make us safer. It puts her life in danger and it diminishes the United States in the eyes of the world.

My office has reached out to Fatemeh's family in Oregon to be of assistance, but it is heartbreaking and disgraceful that this even happened. I hope the courts invalidate this unconstitutional executive order soon, and I hope it is in time for baby Fatemeh.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance and impact of mentoring in our society.

I recently heard from a constituent, Karissa, who works with the Boys &

Girls Club in my district in Bryant, Arkansas.

One of her mentees was struggling, having trouble in school, finding it difficult to build friendships with her fellow students. Karissa's guidance and encouragement helped build confidence, which led to participation in the school's JROTC program and improving her camaraderie with her fellow cadets.

At-risk youth face many difficult challenges, and life is infinitely more challenging without the support of caring adults.

With mentors, at-risk youth are less likely than their peers to skip school or use drugs and are more likely to go to college, play sports, and volunteer in our communities.

Whether it is through a mentoring organization like Scouting or the Boys & Girls Clubs, a nonprofit, a religious institution, or school, being a positive influence for our young people goes a long way in strengthening our communities and serving the best interest of our children.

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DON'T REPEAL ACA WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, Shirley is from my district, and I heard from her this past December when she told me about her daughter, Sarah. Sarah has had health problems all of her life and, unfortunately, because it has been too expensive, she has not been able to afford health insurance, but she was finally able to be covered under the Affordable Care Act because of the historic Medicaid expansion. It made a big difference in her life because just 2 years ago, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

Now, Sarah may be just a statistic to some, and, indeed, she is 1 of 601,000 Washingtonians who have been covered under the Medicaid expansion; 20,000 of whom have been treated for cancer.

But to Sarah's mother, Sarah can't just be boiled down to an ACA statistic. To Shirley, Sarah is her daughter who will lose this coverage if Congress repeals the healthcare law without a comparable replacement. It would put Sarah, in her fight against thyroid cancer, back to square one.

Friends and colleagues, I plead with you, go to your districts. Talk to the Shirleys; talk to the Sarahs. Listen to them.

Their stories matter because they matter.

THE MENACE OF THE DESERT—WARMONGER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Ayatollah, the menace of the desert, had defied yet another U.N. resolution prohibiting missile tests. No surprise. Iran just can't follow the rules. Time and time again, Iran has tested ballistic missiles with no consequences. The last time, they launched two missiles with "Israel must be wiped off the Earth" written on them in Hebrew. Also, the Ayatollah has clearly stated numerous times he wants to destroy the United States.

Even worse, Mr. Speaker, we are paying him to do it. Yes, that is right. Obama slipped the rogue tyrant \$150 billion hoping that appeasement would make the Ayatollah be nice. Well, guess what? Obama was wrong, and the U.S. is less safe. The Ayatollah, in my opinion, is using our money to build weapons to destroy us.

Mr. Speaker, there must be clear consequences for the dictator of Iran and his mullah cronies for warmongering. The people of Iran need to change this regime, and the menace of the desert just needs to go.

And that is just the way it is.

CONDEMNING ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE BY RUSSIAN-BACKED SEPARATISTS

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I strongly condemn the escalation of violence in eastern Ukraine by Russian-backed separatists and call for an immediate withdrawal of heavy weapons.

I am deeply concerned about the loss of life and deteriorating humanitarian conditions that exist there. There has been an "uncountable" amount of violations of the Minsk agreement according to the OSCE. Russian separatist forces must immediately honor the ceasefire to allow for humanitarian assistance.

I call on this administration to step up and see this through. Thousands have already died in this conflict, including at least eight in just the last 5 days. Seventeen thousand civilians, including 2,500 children, do not have access to water, electricity, or heat during the height of winter.

I urge Secretary Tillerson to provide Ukraine with defensive weapons—as Congress has already approved—and to provide meaningful support to our Ukrainian allies against Putin's aggression.

When it comes to Russia, we must see this administration's true colors.

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(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, today marks the conclusion of the annual Catholic Schools