

She also will be staying in touch with me about potential legislation and ideas to help those who are victims of sexual assault in the military.

There are many in Omaha who deserve recognition for the work they do every day to combat sexual assault and human trafficking to help victims. The Women's Center for Advancement helps victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. They have a hotline that victims can call and make that their first step in getting the help they need.

Project Harmony offers victims of child sexual assault the opportunity to take forensic interviews instead of having to appear in court, which can re-traumatize the victims.

The Coalition on Human Trafficking is training staff at hotels and motels to be able to identify possible victims of sex trafficking. The goal is to provide the awareness training to all hotels within a 50-mile radius of Omaha, and to date they have trained over 85 locations.

Finally, we can't forget the members of law enforcement who work tirelessly to catch those responsible for sexual assault and human trafficking. Without them, there would be so many more victims who would still be abused, assaulted, and traumatized.

And while there are law enforcement and others dedicated to stopping these assaults and human trafficking, there is more that could be done.

Earlier this month I joined my colleagues as an original cosponsor on H.R. 2052, also known as the PRIVATE Act, which would amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to provide harsher penalties to anyone who engages in what is known as revenge porn.

The Violence Against Women's Act of 1994 also helps provide some justice. This act used Federal funds to help investigate and prosecute sex offenders and establish the Office on Violence Against Women in the Department of Justice, a program we must continue to support.

Finally, I have agreed to cosponsor H.R. 1035, the Extending Justice for Sex Crimes Act of 2017, which amends the statute of limitations for a victim of human trafficking or a Federal sexual offense to seek and recover damages.

This bill sets a 10-year statute of limitations from the date the victim discovers the offense or injury and not when it occurred to file a civil action. It also extends the statute of limitations for a minor victim to file a civil action for 10 years from the date that the victim turns 18. Currently it stands at 3 years.

Sexual assault and exploitation is a social problem and a crime. We need to step up and assist with prevention of these acts, prosecute the perpetrators, and provide the provisions for resources for victims.

□ 1045

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, April is National Minority Health Month, and I have pledged to use every opportunity that I can to promote awareness, greater understanding, and direction toward solutions to some of our health needs and problems.

I have with me today a statement from one of the staff members in my district office who describes what it is like to live with sarcoidosis.

She begins her statement by saying: Hello. My name is Shonna Latrice Smith, and I have sarcoidosis. Living with sarcoidosis has been a tough battle for me, not knowing what other parts of my organs could be affected by this terrible disease.

I began having symptoms of experiencing hoarseness for months at a time, swollen lymph nodes, loss of weight, loss of breath, severe joint pain with deformity in my fingers. My face and arms showed noticeable skin lesions with severe swelling. I experience most mornings chronic dry coughs that feel like my chest would burst open.

After a series of blood tests, X-rays, pulmonary testing, and skin biopsies, test results indicated sarcoidosis. I began to have anxiety attacks. Because I had no clue where, when, and how I contacted this disease, I didn't know if it would affect the longevity of my life. I began with small doses of prednisone orally to treat inflammation and swelling, including steroid injections to my face, arms, and fingers to reduce swelling.

My battle with sarcoidosis has affected my getting up, walking with struggling not to lose my balance due to my joints being stiff and sore. Doctors begin treating me for rheumatoid arthritis with a medication called methotrexate, a chemotherapy agent and immune system suppressant to treat autoimmune diseases and rheumatoid arthritis.

After taking methotrexate for about a year, doctors saw no change in the swelling of my hands and face, so I began taking a new medication called Plaquenil also used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, skin diseases, and autoimmune diseases. I am currently taking prednisone to continue to treat severe swelling for my face and hands.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Smith for sharing this information and this experience with us. Therefore, I urge that we continue to support research so that we may find more effective treatment and a cure for sarcoidosis and other disease entities.

It is my position that health is wealth. We can have all of the other attributes of life, but if we have chronic disease that has not been cured or for which we are not sure of a cure for, then that takes away from the quality of life for the individuals with those experiences. Therefore, I reiterate that research could be the answer.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PALMER) at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Melissa Hatch, Prosper United Methodist Church, Prosper, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and gracious God, today we are grateful for Your guidance and Your presence in our lives. We humbly follow Your lead and direction.

When our own decisions seem too difficult to navigate, help us to turn to the One who never slumbers or sleeps. When we are impatient for decisions, help us to wait upon You for the right way to go.

Strengthen us for the work that You have called us to do. Help us to work together for the common good and reach across lines to be Your hands and feet in a world that desperately needs You.

When times and situations seem uncertain, help us cling to the hope that we find in You. And in the words of Micah 6:8, help us to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

We pray all of this in Your mighty name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.