

importance of small businesses, entrepreneurs, and the diversity of businessowners.

In New Jersey, small businesses employ nearly 2 million people and make up 99.6 percent of all businesses in the State. Over the last decade, women-owned businesses have increased by 45 percent and generated over \$1.6 trillion in revenue. Minority-owned businesses have produced over \$1.3 trillion and created 7 million jobs.

Small businesses are truly the backbone of our Nation and economy. As Members of Congress, we must do our part to support all efforts to open the doors of opportunity for small business growth. Their success is our success.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH STONE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, I rise to commemorate the precious life of Joseph Stone of Tucson, Arizona. The 36-year-old American was serving his part of an official international peace team monitoring the border conflict between Ukrainian Government troops and Russian-backed separatists who invaded Ukraine.

Mr. Stone was working with a German and a Czech peace monitor when an explosion—likely a mine—damaged their vehicle in Pryshyb, Ukraine. The two other monitors are hospitalized in stable condition. Stone is the first Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe monitor killed in that very important mission.

Stone's career in foreign assistance missions brought him to Afghanistan and Liberia before Ukraine. Before entering the aid community, Stone worked at American Medical Response in southern Arizona for 9 years, starting out as an EMT and rising to the level of paramedic. He graduated from Pima Community College. He is survived by his mother, two brothers, a longtime companion, and 13-year-old daughter.

Since its establishment in 2014, the OSCE has played a vital role in monitoring the Minsk agreements designed to bring peace to eastern Ukraine after Russia's brutal invasion of a sovereign neighbor. This fateful tragedy makes clear the absolute brutality of Vladimir Putin's threats to liberty and democracy in Ukraine.

It also instructs us about the unrecognized selfless heroes among us who define the meaning and cost of liberty. May our recognition of his selfless sacrifice bring comfort to those bearing this great loss, and may he be remembered always in the protracted struggle for a free Ukraine.

#### THE OMNIBUS BILL

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we found a solution to keep the government open through October and that this deal does not include funding for President Trump's border wall, nor does it eliminate money for sanctuary cities. These are several issues that I am proud to champion in addition to programs such as the NIH, Child Care and Development Block Grants, Pell grants, nutrition programs for seniors, Planned Parenthood, affordable housing, and Head Start.

However, the devil is in the details, and after further reviewing this total package, I cannot, in good conscience, support it. This bill will increase funding for homeland security and is essentially \$1.2 billion of President Trump's original proposed \$3 billion request for border security and interior enforcement. We fully know that any funding for homeland security and border security will be used to increase raids and detentions, essentially funding the President's mass deportation agenda.

In addition, this omnibus bill does not provide a long-term solution to Puerto Rico's economic crisis, leaving Puerto Rico's Medicaid funding with only one-third of the funding it needs.

Finally, the bill comes at the same time that Trump and House Republicans continue to push to eliminate ACA. The devil is in the detail, and that, too, will be a nightmare in hell for many of us.

#### CHANGES TO AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT DO NOT REMEDY BILL'S SHORTCOMINGS

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise because evidently, in the House of Representatives, we will be taking up the possible passage of a revised but, as yet, unseen American Health Care Act.

I rise to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote against this. The CBO has not scored it, so we don't know how much it will cost. We don't know how many Americans will be thrown off their health care.

I want to quote Dr. Andrew Gurman, who is the president of the American Medical Association, who said this today:

"Not only would the AHCA eliminate health insurance coverage for millions of Americans, the legislation would, in many cases, eliminate the ban against charging those with underlying medical conditions vastly more for their coverage."

This is a bad bill that has gotten worse with time. We haven't seen it. It hasn't been scored for money or how many patients will be thrown off their health care. It will hurt patients, it will hurt medical providers, it will hurt hospitals, and it will hurt this country.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

#### THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in opposition to this suddenly undead GOP plan to strip millions of Americans of their health insurance and Medicaid coverage and dramatically increase our monthly premiums. Just when you thought we had actually slain the zombie, the repeal-and-replace plan comes back again with no hearings, no witnesses, no budget score, and no policy coherence. It is like the bloody hand emerging from the grave in "Carrie," even as the credits are rolling and the people in the audience have already left for their cars.

Mr. Speaker, let's return this so-called American Health Care Act to its own preexisting legislative condition: dead on arrival.

What makes anyone think it improves the appeal of this plan to strip preexisting coverage from the American people?

The fact that you have a preexisting condition is why you need medical attention. It is not the reason to deny it to someone.

In the last round, I heard colleagues complain that, under the current system, healthy citizens have to pay for other citizens when they get sick. Yes, my friends, that is what insurance is. Any Member who believes that the currently healthy should not help insure the currently sick must believe no one in his or her family will ever get sick. That is magical thinking. But in America, as Bruce Springsteen says: We take care of our own.

#### MATH AND FACTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, we have a whole hour here, and we may actually use the whole hour. This is an opportunity to actually walk through three areas that I care an awful lot about.

One, I actually want to walk through something called math, and math in regards to health care. Some of this is actually to deal with—and I don't want to be mean, because I am going to try to do this in as nonpartisan a way as possible, but some of the things that we have just heard moments ago that lack just sort of basic roots in math and facts.