

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Mental Health Services for All Veterans Act.

Last week, on May 18, just before noon, a man in his car did a U-turn in Times Square, New York, and mowed down 23 people, killing a young woman. This man is obviously mentally ill. This man is also a Navy veteran.

He is not alone. Every day in America, roughly 22 veterans commit suicide. In fact, according to a study by the GAO, 60 percent of troops that have been discharged for misconduct in recent years suffered from a mental illness.

It is simply too difficult for many veterans in this country to receive mental health counseling, and we need to make mental health counseling available for every single veteran in this country, regardless of whether they were in the National Guard, in the Reserves, or in Active Duty.

It is obvious when someone loses a limb or is injured tragically in war to identify that their injury is service related. But for veterans who go home at night and are alone by themselves suffering with a mental illness, too many are suffering alone, and it is not easy to identify these problems—especially when they are in crisis—to show up at a counseling center or to show up at a VA and demonstrate that their injury, their mental illness, is service related.

We need to change this in this country. We need to make mental health services available for every single veteran in this country, regardless of their status and regardless of their income, in every single circumstance.

VA SCHEDULING

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the passage of the Veterans Administration Scheduling Accountability Act.

All too often, I hear from veterans across the 22nd District of New York who have waited months, and some years, to have their claims addressed.

In their service to our great Nation, our veterans sacrifice so much. They should never die waiting for care they deserve and need. That is why the House took important steps to reform the scheduling and appeals process while expanding access to the important resources that our veterans depend on. This bill will hold every VA accountable. We seek to correct a wrong that has hurt so many of our veterans.

On behalf of the veterans in the 22nd District, I thank my colleague, Rep-

resentative JACKIE WALORSKI, and my colleagues in the House, for putting our Nation's heroes first and unanimously passing this important piece of legislation right before Memorial Day.

NATIONAL ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, May is Asthma Awareness Month. As co-chair of the House Asthma and Allergy Caucus, I would like to talk about what we can do for our constituents living with asthma.

About 24 million Americans have asthma, and more than one-quarter are children. Asthma costs our health system more than \$56 billion every year, along with billions lost in lost productivity.

In New York, where more than one and a half million live with asthma, we are all too familiar with these staggering costs which come on top of a heartbreaking human toll: about 3,600 Americans die every year because of asthma.

I have asked appropriators to fund the CDC's National Asthma Control Program which helps States monitor and treat asthma at \$29 million. This program has brought down asthma-related costs by billions and literally saves lives.

Since the program's inception, deaths from asthma episodes have fallen nearly one-quarter. So this works. It is money well spent, and we can't afford not to have it.

In honor of Asthma Awareness Month, I implore my colleagues to support this program and bring Americans living with asthma much-needed relief.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSITY WITHOUT WALLS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 45th anniversary of the University of Massachusetts Amherst University Without Walls, one of the oldest and most highly regarded adult bachelor's degree completion programs in the Nation.

Founded in 1971, UWW provides non-traditional students with access to the resources of our best universities. It has developed into a national leader in adult education, having graduated nearly 4,300 students, including basketball legend, Julius Erving.

One of the first programs in the Nation to offer an innovative blend of online and classroom learning, UWW provides an excellent education to students, including many veterans who are unable to complete a traditional college degree due to financial con-

straints, family obligations, or personal hardship.

The key to success is the incredible team of UMass Amherst faculty and staff who have dedicated their lives to teaching and supporting adult students as they balance family, community, and academic responsibilities.

I wish to personally thank all of the faculty, staff, and UWW students for their dedication to excellence.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S BUDGET

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to President Trump's proposed budget. This budget proposal confirms our worst fears about the priorities of his administration.

The budget is cruel, it is shortsighted, and would be a disaster for efforts to strengthen the middle class in my district and across this country.

It will hurt hardworking families and communities throughout New Hampshire. It guts public education, after-school programs, and student loan support. It jeopardizes clean air, clean water, and our response to the opioid epidemic that is reaching crisis proportions.

It eliminates critical programs for the most vulnerable, like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program which keeps low-income seniors and families warm in the cold winter months and SNAP which helps families feed their children, and decimates successful economic development programs like the Northern Border Regional Commission and community development block grants.

The last thing we should be doing is eliminating effective programs that create jobs and boost our economic competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose these misguided cuts.

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SEXUAL ASSAULT IN CALIFORNIA

(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, Nolan Bruder's younger sister believed that she could trust her big brother. So when this 19-year-old brother offered her marijuana "dabs" and the opportunity to get high, she accepted, trusting him. But with Nolan's pushing, she became so stoned that she no longer recognized the man in front of her, that it was her older brother.

Taking advantage of her drugged state, he sexually assaulted his own 16-year-old sister. This is repugnant, Mr. Speaker.

On May 17, Nolan was sentenced for rape of an intoxicated person. The sentence? A mere 240 days in prison and