

CONGRESSIONAL PAYER STATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the formation of the Congressional Payer State Caucus.

I join my colleague, Congressman BILL FOSTER from Illinois, in leading this bipartisan caucus that will examine the disparity States like New Jersey and Illinois experience by paying more in Federal taxes than we receive in Federal spending. In fact, New Jersey is dead last, with a rate of return of just 77 cents for every Federal tax dollar sent to Washington.

The caucus seeks to recommend legislation to ensure that donor States keep more of their hard-earned funds. For example, working to maintain the State and local tax deduction when this body considers an overhaul of our Nation's Tax Code. Eliminating that deduction would further increase the disparity that already exists.

Alexander Hamilton wrote in the Federalist Papers about his fear that the Federal Government might monopolize taxation to the "entire exclusion and destruction of State governments."

The caucus will work to address this problem and for a greater return on the tremendous Federal revenue stream from economic activity and innovation in New Jersey and other States.

ENCOURAGING GIRLS TO TAKE UP COMPUTER SCIENCE

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

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, in Nevada and across the country, we are continuing to see a huge demand for workers in the technical industry, including software developers; engineers; and computer programmers, like myself. Despite the progress we have made, fewer than one in five computer science graduates are women.

I am proud to introduce my bill, H.R. 3316, the Code Like a Girl Act, because I believe in breaking down barriers and closing the gender gap once and for all.

This bipartisan legislation invests in computer science education, opening doors for women to become part of a highly skilled workforce. Funding programs that encourage girls to take up computer science is one of the most important steps we can take to break down barriers and level the playing field for women everywhere. The Code Like a Girl Act will go one step further by teaching our girls that zero is false, one is true, and that we matter, too.

I encourage my colleagues to invest in our girls by supporting my bill.

MADE IN AMERICA WEEK

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the spirit of Made in America Week.

Since taking office in January, I have had the privilege and honor of meeting with American workers and small-business owners in my district, from manufacturers to the farmers who feed our community and our world.

Unfortunately, we have seen far too many of our jobs leave this country. I am focused on addressing the problems in our economy that are destroying jobs and stalling growth.

We have already made significant progress in reducing the regulatory burdens that make it hard for businesses large and small to survive. Congress has passed and the President has signed 14 Congressional Review Acts overturning excessive and ridiculous regulations. I look forward to passing comprehensive tax reform that is simpler and fairer for all Americans so individuals can keep more of their paycheck and for jobs to stay in America. I will continue to advance solutions to help Americans gain skills needed to compete in our changing workforce.

Mr. Speaker, let's remain focused on keeping jobs in America and products made in America.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF COLORADO SHOOTING

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, July 20, 5 years ago, we had a terrible tragedy in Colorado. Twelve young people were killed, 70 were injured, and countless suffered emotional trauma.

Today I want to recognize these 12. Despite the tragedy we suffered and the impact on our community, there were at least two bright spots: the response of law enforcement, firefighters, ambulance drivers, and medical personnel in dealing with what was a war zone.

Over the 5 years, the families have come together and become great friends, recognizing and celebrating the lives of the people who were taken by that crazed shooter.

I want to recognize them, I want to recognize the dedicated people who assisted them, and just let everybody know that we won't forget. Time goes on and the memories dim a little bit, but these were great young people. Our first responders were wonderful.

RECOGNIZING GREG ELLIOT

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding constituent in the field of healthcare, Greg Elliot of Charleston, West Virginia. He has been selected this year as one of the recipients of the prestigious Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award.

The National Center for Assisted Living, the Nation's largest association of professional long-term healthcare providers, bestows this annual award on association members who have worked diligently to educate Members of Congress about the needs of long-term care patients, and to advance the quality in the long-term and post-acute care community.

Mr. Elliot is a second-generation owner of AMFM, which operates 17 long-term, skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers throughout West Virginia.

Greg is frequently in Washington visiting my congressional office, advocating on behalf of West Virginia seniors.

The third-party research institute, My InnerView, has ranked AMFM facilities in the top 10 percent in the Nation 46 times for customer or employee satisfaction.

Greg Elliot resides in Charleston with his wife of 16 years, Jennifer; his 10-year-old daughter, Elizabeth; and their two dogs.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Greg for his years of dedication and care to our Nation's frail, elderly, and disabled. His career reflects the ideals embodied in the Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER ON HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, many health insurance executives say they are raising premiums and leaving exchanges because of uncertainty and the threat of not paying the cost-sharing reductions and not funding them.

Brad Wilson, CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina told The Washington Post in May: "The failure of the administration and the House to bring certainty and clarity by funding CSRs has caused our company to file a 22.9 percent premium increase, rather than one that is materially lower."

We need a bipartisan solution to stabilize exchanges. We need to stop threatening not to pay the CSRs.

I introduced the Marketplace Certainty Act, which provides stability by permanently funding and expanding eligibility for these subsidies. This is pragmatic, commonsense legislation to stop premiums from skyrocketing, keep insurers in exchanges, and help people struggling to afford healthcare.

I urge Republicans and Democrats to put people over partisanship and solutions above ideology by working together, by sponsoring my bill, and helping American families afford healthcare.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

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