

pipeline of doctors and medical professionals from underrepresented communities.

A major result of the ACA has been to cut the excessive risk of cancer death in half for African-American men. The same risk factor for Black women was reduced by seven points, according to the American Cancer Society's 2017 report.

They clearly state: "Increasing access to care as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act may contribute to a further narrowing of the racial gap across all population groups."

However, the ACA is not just fighting cancer. It is improving other aspects of care and increasing access to care.

While the Affordable Care Act has made major strides, disparities remain deeply entrenched in our society and our healthcare system today.

Today, I would like to talk about several of them. The first and most entrenched is access to care. Far too often, the sickest among our neighbors are those with the least access to the care they need. They cannot see a provider because they can't afford it, can't get the time off work, can't find transportation; or there is simply no care available in their community.

Let's work together to make sure that everyone can get the care they need, no matter where they live, whether in a city, the suburbs, or on a farm.

This Minority Health Month, we must also address the challenge of mental health being stigmatized in communities of color.

We know that African Americans are 20 percent more likely to report serious psychological distress than their White counterparts, but just 25 percent will seek care, compared to 40 percent of White Americans.

Thankfully, there are some great organizations, like New York City's First Lady Chirlane McCray's Cities Thrive Coalition, working to deconstruct the stigma and improve access to care, but much work remains.

Just like with mental health, another health subset, maternal health, shows stark differences between different demographic groups.

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame and a tragedy that America is the only developed nation where women die from childbirth now more than they did in the recent past.

Despite technology and innovation, it is becoming more dangerous to have a child, especially for women of color. Growing your family shouldn't mean putting your life on the line.

In the coming weeks, I will be introducing comprehensive legislation to start pushing these numbers down.

Another public health crisis that affects some groups more than others is the issue of gun violence.

Last month, hundreds of thousands of young people and supporters came to Washington, D.C., to challenge Congress to act and save lives. Millions

more marched in their own cities with the same message.

Like all public health issues, people of color, women, and rural Americans are far more impacted by gun violence. In fact, it remains the leading cause of death for African-American men from birth to 44.

We are also tragically seeing spikes in rural and veteran suicides by guns, another public health issue that this House has ignored.

Despite these calls for action and the cold, hard facts, this House has yet to act to save lives.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just spoke extensively about many problems and challenges facing the health of Americans, but I want to close by highlighting some recent successes to end health disparities.

First, this February, this House passed my Action for Dental Health Act, a bill that will better target existing resources to more effectively deliver oral and dental healthcare to underserved communities and populations.

And finally, I want to praise the new leaders in the medical, research, and advocacy professions who are working to end these deeply entrenched disparities.

Next week, I will honor the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 Under 40, young leaders in the healthcare field who are working to support and empower minority communities to live longer, healthier lives.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to challenge this House to follow the example of these young people and come together to improve the health of all Americans, especially those who have been forgotten for far too long.

REMEMBERING ZELL MILLER, GEORGIA'S GOVERNOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Georgia's legend in many ways, Zell Miller, who spent the last few years of his life, as he spent all of his life, in Young Harris in my district.

Zell Miller helped shape Georgia into one of the strongest States in the Union. He was a national giant from northeast Georgia, and I looked up to him as a leader who never blinked in the face of a challenge or let politics eclipse his principles.

I will always remember the ways he encouraged me and supported me through many seasons. My family knew and admired and will miss Zell as a true man of the mountains.

In 1932, Zell Bryan Miller was born to a mother who single-handedly built her family's first home with rocks from a nearby stream, which he lived in until his passing.

Zell attended both Young Harris College and Emory University. He put his education on hold in order to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1953.

One year after he joined the Marines, he married Shirley Carver, and they had two sons, Murphy and Matthew.

A few years later, Zell enrolled at the University of Georgia, where he graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in history. His education earned him a teaching position back home at Young Harris College in 1959, and in the same year, the town elected him as their mayor.

After one mayoral term, residents sent him to the Gold Dome as their State senator. In the years following, he worked for Georgia's Governor Maddox, Georgia's Democratic Party, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and, in 1975, he became Georgia's Lieutenant Governor.

In 1990, Zell became the Governor of Georgia, and his positive influence on our State's education system has characterized his tenure.

His vision for brighter futures came to life when voters ratified the State lottery on the 1992 ballot, creating a new fund to support the State's education needs. One year later, the H.O.P.E. Scholarship was created, making higher education accessible for nearly 2 million Georgia students.

In 1999, Georgia Senator Paul Coverdell passed away while in office, and then-Governor Barnes appointed Zell to fill the vacant seat, and Zell came to Washington.

Georgians will remember Zell Miller as one of the State's strongest advocates, a leader who never chose ideology over his duty to the people who elected him, and, in this time of loss, our prayers are focused on his loved ones and the millions of people whom he served.

Zell Miller was an example of a true man of the mountains who was willing to take stands, many times not popular, but he was always willing to take a stand for those that mattered.

Zell Miller will be someone who is missed, whether it be in Atlanta, whether it be in Washington, D.C., all across this country, or basically back home in the Ninth District of Georgia. Zell Miller is someone who we all can look up to and respect. He led in a way that we can try to lead as well.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I today rise to recognize the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force Reserve, created by President Truman on April 14, 1948.

As a member of the Air Force Reserve, I have been privileged to minister and work with airmen since 2002. I can attest to the courage exhibited by my fellow airmen both here at home and while serving abroad in Iraq together.

Since our country's founding, citizens have awaited and answered the call of duty, accomplishing each mission with valor.

Air Force reservists, known as Reserve Citizen Airmen, perform leading roles in military operations, humanitarian crises, and disaster relief across

the globe. The distinguished group of more than 69,000 Citizen Airmen consists of enlisted military troops, officers, and civil servants tasked by law to support our Armed Forces in the defense of our freedom.

The Air Force Reserve traces its roots back to the aeronautical division of the United States Army's Office of the Chief Signal Officer, which took charge of military balloons and air machines in 1907. Ten years later, the first two Air Force Reserve units were deployed to France, as the United States entered World War I, providing the war effort with around 10,000 trained pilots.

With 1,500 Reserve pilots and 1,300 nonrated officers and 400 enlisted airmen, reservists later played a critical role in World War II. The legendary Jimmy Doolittle was among the soldiers in this force and, in response to Pearl Harbor, went on to lead the Doolittle Raid, the first bombing attack on the Japanese mainland.

In wars and in combat operations that followed, Citizen Airmen have supported the core function of the United States Air Force, as well as providing for disaster relief after events like hurricanes and wildfires.

When terrorists attacked our country on September 11, 2001, Air Force reservists responded in full force to protect American cities and assist in the security efforts.

Spanning seven decades, the Air Force Reserve has fulfilled the promise of the early air pioneers and exceeded their expectations. I want to join all of my fellow Citizen Airmen, past and present, in celebrating the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force Reserve.

No matter where you go in the world, you will find an Air Force reservist and the flag flying high and the sound of freedom in the air.

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BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is so poignant that PAUL RYAN announces his retirement the same week that the Republicans bring to the floor the so-called balanced budget amendment, which signals surrender. Republicans can't budget responsibly.

After the largest transfer of wealth in American history with their tax bill that was so flawed they could not even risk having a hearing on it, it was literally being written while we were in work session in the committee. They changed provisions by the hour in a mad scramble for votes and special-interest support.

RYAN leaves as his legacy—a guy who on the Budget Committee railed about deficits, deficit spending, who tried slashing social spending—he leaves as his legacy trillion dollar deficits for as

far as the eye can see, and providing with this balanced budget amendment an excuse to slash spending on programs that matter most to Americans: Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, even ultimately, it would threaten defense itself.

The balanced budget amendment that the Republicans are going to bring to the floor is a classic example of bait and switch. Republicans have the White House, the Senate, and the House of Representatives. If they wanted to actually produce a balanced budget, there is nothing stopping them from doing it now. But instead, they came forward with the omnibus bill that explodes spending and adds to the deficit even further.

So what do they do now? They are offering this proposal as a fig leaf. The balanced budget amendment that they would freeze into the Constitution would force somebody 4 years, 5 years, 8 years in the future to do what Republicans either will not, cannot, or are afraid to do today.

My senior Senator for years was Mark Hatfield, a principled Republican, and even though I am a Democrat, I was proud to help him in his last campaign when he was under some severe pressure.

Mark Hatfield was principled. He chaired the Appropriations Committee in the Senate. When the Republicans brought forth the balanced budget amendment in 1995, it failed by one vote in the Senate. That one vote, and the only Republican vote against it, was Mark Hatfield because he refused to handcuff the United States into the future and be part of a charade, because he knew as chair of the Appropriations Committee, they controlled the budget strings and they could reduce spending if they wanted. He knew the irony that some of the very people who were touting the balanced budget amendment would turn to him asking for increased spending for their pet projects.

Today, Republicans pretend themselves to be outraged over the Obama-era deficits which were incurred when we were trying to protect the economy from global collapse. All of the independent experts agree that that money was important. It was spent on infrastructure. It was spent on medical research. It was spent on providing a safety net for struggling families.

What is the excuse today for a trillion dollar deficit? I mean, after all of that hard work, the economy has stabilized. It is not growing dramatically, but it is growing. The unemployment rate is low. What is the excuse for a trillion dollar deficit and massive tax giveaways? They are feeling the heat.

Now, they are going to try and deflect responsibility for their trillion dollar deficits in a time of relative prosperity and low unemployment as a result of the hard work that the Republicans opposed.

Republicans and PAUL RYAN have made a shambles out of the Tax Code;

a mockery out of tax fairness. They are not cutting spending or raising revenues. They just want to put that off for somebody in the future and pretend all of a sudden they are fiscally responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is going to work.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOSE WITH DOWN SYNDROME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to honor and celebrate the achievements of my constituents with Down syndrome and the worldwide Down syndrome community. I also want to recognize all of their families and loved ones who witness the tremendous struggles individuals with Down syndrome face and the wonderful victories they achieve every day.

This past month, on March 21, marked World Down Syndrome Day. On this day, people with Down syndrome, and those who live and work with them throughout the world, organized and participated in activities and events to raise public awareness and create a single global voice for advocating for their rights, rights such as inclusive education, access to quality and affordable healthcare, meaningful employment, and protection of their civil rights.

On March 21, we celebrated the contributions of individuals with Down syndrome in our communities and the meaningful work of organizations and individuals who dedicate their personal and professional time to ensure individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities achieve their optimal abilities.

Every year, this day is a time for education, increased community awareness, and giving thanks. When individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities are included, we all benefit. Our goal as a society is to prepare today's children for tomorrow's leaders, including those with Down syndrome and other disabilities.

Enabling individuals with Down syndrome to live, work, and participate with confidence and autonomy, fully included in society alongside of their friends and peers, is our duty as a Nation. I personally have seen the hard work of constituents in ensuring individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities have the same educational, financial, civil rights, and opportunities afforded to others, as well as access to services that help them achieve their full potential.

I am appreciative of the work of the Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, the Montgomery County Down Syndrome Interest Group, the Bucks County Down Syndrome Interest Group, The Arc of Pennsylvania, The Arc Alliance, the National Down Syndrome Congress, and other national organizations that are collaborating on