

It should come as no surprise that Utah is consistently ranked among the best in the Nation for innovative startups and small businesses. In fact, small businesses make up over 99 percent of Utah's business, employ one-half of all employees in the State, and are responsible for two-thirds of our job growth.

After spending much of my career as a scrappy small-business owner myself, I strongly believe that small business is the heartbeat of our economy. From emerging tech companies in Silicon Slopes to mom-and-pop shops in rural Utah, I am proud to salute the overwhelming impact of these small businesses.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, for too long, companies like Purdue Pharma have lied, cheated, and swindled the American people, leaving death, addiction, and despair in their wake, all because of their greed and their desire to improve their bottom line.

Through marketing lies and overdistribution of these dangerously addictive drugs, they have oversaturated parts of our country already struggling from high levels of addiction, while knowing but not disclosing their highly addictive nature and risks. Because of their tactics, this opioid epidemic now takes 115 American lives every single day.

The time for holding these drug companies and their leaders accountable is long overdue. These companies rake in billions of dollars in profit every year on the backs of the American people, and not one of them has been prosecuted or held accountable.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting bicameral legislation, the Opioid Crisis Accountability Act, that would prohibit illegal marketing and distribution of opioids and empower prosecutors to punish those who break the law.

We cannot allow perpetrators of this epidemic to continue ruining lives in this country. We must hold those responsible accountable for the damage, heartache, and suffering they have caused.

WELCOMING SETH PARRISH TO CAPITOL FOR TAKE YOUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today there are a lot of boys and girls in the Capitol who are dressed for success and ready to get to work. Of course, I am talking about Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

While my three sons are grown and my oldest has children of his own, I do

have the privilege of having Seth Lewis Parrish with me today.

Seth lives in Maryland, and thanks to the nonprofit Tuesday's Children, he gets to spend the day with me; or, rather, I get to spend the day with him. This is my second year in a row with my friend, Seth. I have had the privilege of hosting him for our Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009, Seth's dad was serving in the Army and lost his life a month and 2 days, Seth tells me, before he was born. Tuesday's Children uses its experience and expertise to help our military families work through their own losses.

April is also the Month of the Military Child, so it is even more of an honor for me to have Seth here again with me today. He is a great young man with a bright future. He is a Cub Scout, hockey player, flag football player, and great kid.

TRUMP JUNK PLANS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the rule that the Trump administration is expected to release shortly, which will allow fake, short-term health insurance plans to be sold.

During the 115th Congress, the Republican majority has taken every action possible to undermine and sabotage the Affordable Care Act. I expect these new regulations will be no different.

No matter how the Trump administration and our majority try to sell short-term insurance plans to the American people, the devil is in the details. These junk plans are just that: junk.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation report, these plans are likely to exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions and not cover essential services such as maternity care, mental health, and substance abuse treatment and prescription drugs. The people need to know what is covered when they buy that insurance and what is not covered when they get sick.

AARP, the American Heart Association, the American Medical Association, and many other health and patient advocacy organizations have urged the President to withdraw this proposed rule. I ask my colleagues to join me and ask President Trump to withdraw this harmful rule.

HONORING DR. RANDY STITH

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize a truly great citizen of Aurora, Colorado, Dr. Randy Stith.

As the executive director and CEO of Aurora Mental Health Center for over

40 years, Randy has exemplified the qualities of a great Colorado leader throughout his entire career. He has spent the last four decades providing access to mental healthcare to those in the greater Aurora area, often committing to 60-hour work weeks, while keeping up-to-date in the behavioral healthcare field, which is constantly evolving.

Randy has been a true trailblazer in championing the expansion of mental healthcare, as it has rapidly progressed as part of the healthcare industry, especially over the past 50 years. He has served his community valiantly through triumph and tragedy, most notably, offering free counseling through the Aurora Mental Health Center to anyone in the Aurora area who had been impacted by the 2012 theater mass shooting.

Randy's commitment to serving his patients, as well as his community, will be difficult to replace. However, I know that the entire Aurora community takes great pride in knowing that we have civic leaders such as Randy who are locally active.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Randy Stith, and to the entire staff of the Aurora Mental Health Center, for their tireless and unwavering commitment to offering excellent mental healthcare services to the people of Aurora, Colorado, over the last 40 years.

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A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the GOP is consumed by chaos and confusion. My fellow Democrats and I are focused on delivering better jobs, better wages, and a better future for hardworking Americans in Philadelphia and neighborhoods nationwide.

When it comes to childcare, the Republicans are offering a raw deal for our future leaders. We must protect, defend, and provide for the American children. That means better childcare, healthcare, and education. I am a firm believer that quality pre-K for our kids is an investment in the continued success of our cities.

That is exactly what we have seen in the city of Philadelphia, a city I have been proud to call home my entire life. Mayor Kenney's pre-K initiative in our city is making quality, reliable pre-K a reality for all kids. I have visited several early education providers: KenCrest, the Parent Infant Center, and Smart Beginnings. I can tell you firsthand that the services they offer are building a stronger city.

As your voice in Congress, please know I am working hard to deliver a better deal for our children and families, and that means to ensure pre-K for our children. Together we can build and level the playing field for a stronger Philadelphia block by block and a better place for all.