

Unfortunately, President Trump has decided that he doesn't value those CSRs and has pulled those subsidies. But last year, before his harmful decision was implemented, my hairdresser fell victim to another form of health care sabotage—our Republican Governor's failure to expand Medicaid.

Since 2014, my hairdresser had comprehensive coverage through Blue Cross, subsidized by cost sharing reductions from the ACA. She had access to primary care appointments and everything she needed to lead a healthy life. Unfortunately, hairdressing is one of the many careers in the service economy in which income fluctuates from year to year. And in 2017, her income fell below the poverty line.

If she lived in an expansion state, she would have had the option to be covered by Medicaid while she continued to work. But instead, she lives in Alabama. She was left without coverage because she made too much to qualify for Medicaid.

She was forced into the commercial market with no premium assistance whatsoever. Premiums are higher in states that didn't expand Medicaid. Therefore, premiums in Alabama are much higher than what she could afford. President Trump's elimination of the cost-sharing reductions has been cited by insurers as a driving force behind premium hikes in 2018.

My hairdresser was anxious about having an emergency in which she would be left with large medical bills she couldn't pay. I was heartbroken seeing her pain. Fortunately, we were able to connect her with patient navigators at a large hospital in Birmingham. The Trump Administration has ended contracts with navigators under the ACA, but since the hospital has sufficient resources, they have taken the cost of continuing the program on themselves.

I was happy we could help her, but there are millions of working Americans like her who don't have that kind of access to their Member of Congress. For these Americans, even a year without basic health care coverage can be catastrophic.

When I think about the health disparities currently plaguing Republican states, I think about all of the constituents I've met while in Congress. We cannot allow our working constituents to continue being victims of political malpractice. We can no longer ignore the vulnerable residents of non-expansion states and their needs.

Make no mistake, the ACA strengthened access to primary health care services across the country, even in non-expansion states. In Alabama alone, the law gave 897,000 mental health and substance use disorder benefits, treated more than two million children and adults for pre-existing conditions, and gave more than 650,000 Medicare enrollees free preventives services. However, approximately 235,000 Alabamians would have gained health insurance coverage if the state expanded Medicaid.

It is my sincere hope that Congress will work together to alleviate the economic constraints of health care access for hardworking individuals across America. We need to restore what was best about the ACA and improve access for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, I was recorded as a NO on Roll Call No. 302. I had intended to vote YES on Roll Call No. 302.

CRISIS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing on human rights abuses and targeted killings in the Anglophone region of the Republic of Cameroon. We explored the roots of this emerging crisis, and U.S. policy options for addressing human rights violations and instability in the Anglophone region, which affects not only stability in Cameroon, but also in the region.

The increased tempo of government repression is fueling secessionist sentiment, leading to instability in the country in advance of presidential elections scheduled for October. Cameroon's political stability is of great importance to the U.S. because the country plays a critical role in American counterterrorism efforts against Boko Haram in the west and central Africa.

We also have ongoing concerns about 85-year-old strongman Paul Biya, who has either served as Prime Minister or as President since 1975 and who seems disconnected if not at odds with many of the people he is supposed to serve—particularly the English-speaking minority.

As the U.S. is involved in training and equipping Cameroonian security forces to strengthen regional capacity to combat terrorism, it is necessary to re-evaluate further counterterrorism cooperation with Cameroon to ensure the protection of Cameroonian civilians and respect for civil and political rights—including the most fundamental of rights, the right to life.

Understanding the history of Cameroon—or, rather, “the Cameroons,” as the choice between the singular and plural form is fraught with significance—is necessary for understanding the present crisis.

While it is a country of great African ethnic diversity, the main dividing line is linguistic, reflecting a colonial past which saw the French-speaking region gain independence from France in 1960 and union with the southern portion of the former mandate territory of British Cameroon the following year.

The country that was formed was the Federal Republic of the Cameroon, and the national flag that was adopted had two stars, signaling to the world the union of two coequal states under one constitution. English speakers were always a minority, however, and the political and constitutional basis under which they entered into a union eroded over time.

In 1972, then-President Ahmadou Ahidjo abolished the federal system of government and created a unitary “United Republic of

Cameroon.” The flag was not changed until 1975 to reflect this new imposition of monist rule, when the two stars gave way to one. In 1984, President Biya again revised the Constitution, which changed the country's name to the present “Republic of Cameroon.” The current Constitutional iteration dates back to 1996, and on paper, at least, restores a certain degree of federalist autonomy in response to Anglophone demands.

The reality is, however, different.

In 2016, the central government triggered a crisis by appointing French-speaking teachers and judges in the Anglophone areas.

To English-speakers, it felt like an occupation. Certain Anglophone activists declared independence of a “Federal Republic of Ambazonia” in 2017, which had led to a heavy-handed response by the military. Security forces have reportedly burned down villages, arrested and killed protesters in Anglophone areas, though it also must be noted that French-speaking teachers have been targeted by English-speaking separatists.

As Congress, we need to address whether we can continue to cooperate with Cameroon's security forces, given the reported abuses, and if so, how.

As the International Crisis Group—which is supplied one of our witnesses—has emphasized, the Cameroonian government's use of the military against its English-speaking citizens has exacerbated the situation. Indeed, our U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon Peter Barlerin has criticized Cameroon's actions and has expressed his concerns about the government's use of disproportionate force.

The Anglophone crisis casts a shadow upon the upcoming presidential elections. The credibility of the election, slated for October, is already under question as the government has yet to make serious preparations. It is assumed that strongman Paul Biya will run for re-election, but given his age and frequent absences abroad it is uncertain who will succeed him eventually.

There are also growing humanitarian concerns attributable to the Anglophone crisis. An estimated 160,000 people have been displaced within Cameroon, and over 21,000 Cameroonians have fled to neighboring Nigeria as refugees.

The continued malign presence of Boko Haram in northeastern Cameroon, attacking people in both Cameroon and in Nigeria, is a further complication which has led to an estimated 96,000 Nigerians fleeing the other way to Cameroon. Congress must then also weigh the need to assist Cameroon in its fight against Boko Haram.

Given all these spillover factors, we can see that a failure to solve the Anglophone crisis is not purely a domestic affair, but a regional one which implicates U.S. security interests.

HONORING ROSA BILSTON

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rosa Bilston, my constituent from New Haven, for her commitment to the nation and to public service. Despite recent shootings at schools across the country, Congress has

failed to pass any meaningful reform to school safety or firearm regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the house not to forget that at the core of this discussion is the fact that the lives of children like Ms. Bilston are impacted every day by gun violence. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the powerful words of Ms. Bilston.

ROSA BILSTON, AGE 11—SPEECH ON GUN VIOLENCE

Today I would like to talk about gun violence. A few months ago, 17 people were killed at Parkland school in Florida. Then, a few weeks ago, 10 people were killed in a shooting in a Texas school.

Hearing about this was very hard for me because my family is from Texas. It shook me to know that children were killed in a place I feel so close to.

When I was in Kindergarten, there was a shooting in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. Many children died. This was told to me at the time, but I didn't remember it for a long while. We were just about to leave for Germany, and our minds were focused on leaving the country.

I remembered it again after the Parkland shooting and at first I found it appalling that two shootings could be so close together in our country.

But then I realized there were lots more school shootings in America. In fact, this year, there have been 22 school shootings. And this spring, a friend of mine lost her friend in Guilford. He was handling a gun. It wasn't a school shooting but he was still killed by a gun. This was appalling to me and to my friend.

I'm talking about guns today for two reasons. The first is that children should be aware of this, because it is happening to children.

The second is that I strongly believe President Trump should ban assault weapons. These kill lots of people very quickly. I would also like to see more background checks: at present people who are mentally troubled are able to own war weapons which are made to kill mass numbers of people. These should not be owned by anyone other than people in the army.

I personally do not believe that anyone should own a gun, but I understand that others do not have this view. My grandmother in England has a gun. I definitely believe, and I think others can agree with this, that the conditions here for gun owning should be the same as they are for my grandmother. Her gun is kept in a locked cabinet, away from ammunition. The police check this every year, and every year she completes paperwork to prove that she is still healthy. I believe this should be the norm here too.

The way I think we should change policy is by protesting. Over the past years it has been the grown-ups who have been saying that things are not okay. Congress has not changed anything. The government has not changed anything. Obama tried to ban assault rifles during his presidency but Congress said no. So now grown-ups have tried everything they can. Congress must hear a new voice. That is the voice of children, our friends and our neighbors and classmates. It should not just be those with personal connections to those who've died, it should be all those who see something here is wrong.

If the new generation doesn't step up to the plate, nothing will happen. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." We must not be silent. Thank you.

HONORING ROSETTA SEXTON

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Rosetta Sexton, a valued, respected and devoted member of my staff. After over twenty-one years of service to the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, Mrs. Sexton will be retiring from her role as Senior Outreach Coordinator with the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rosetta, one of 5 children born in Chicago, Illinois to Joe and Rose Ferazzo, attended St. Angela Grade School. She attended Notre Dame High School for Girls located on the northwest side of the City of Chicago. When she was 15, she met the love of her life, John Sexton. They married in 1972 and together raised their family. John and Rosetta were very active in the 36th Ward Regular Democratic Organization working with Alderman William J.P. Banks and State Senator James DeLeo. In 2001, when John was diagnosed with throat cancer, Rosetta remained by his side offering immeasurable love and support and living up to her designation as the rock of their family. Since her husband's death in 2004, she continues to provide the same warmth and strength to her family.

Rosetta would be the first to tell you that her family is her first priority; they are the loves of her life. Her family includes her daughter, Laurie Moran and her husband, Joseph, and their children, Jack and Alyssa; her son, John Jr., and her daughter Diana Bowler, her husband, Matt, and their children, Blake, Brooklyn, Brynn, and their fourth child due in July. I am pleased that her retirement will offer her the opportunity to spend more quality time with those closest to her.

I invite my colleagues, my staff, and my constituents to join me in thanking her for her unrelenting dedication to the people of Illinois' Fifth District. I thank her for her invaluable service, professionalism and friendship and wish her well in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY ZAC BUTTERCASE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deputy Zac Buttercase of Sidney, Iowa on his selection as the 2018 Iowa American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Zac is a Deputy with the Fremont County Sheriff's Department. The Williams-Jobe-Gibson American Legion Post No. 128 nominated Deputy Buttercase for this Award.

Deputy Buttercase has been with the Fremont County Sheriff's Department since 2014. He is a K-9 handler with his canine partner, Judge. Deputy Buttercase is a veteran of the Iowa National Guard and has served deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Deputy Zac Buttercase for his selection for

this award. Zac has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to the Fremont County and to his country and I wish him all the best in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROGER MATTES, JR., GOVERNOR OF ROTARY DISTRICT 7410

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roger Mattes, Jr., who will become governor of Rotary District 7410 on Sunday, July 1. District 7410 covers forty-three Rotary clubs in ten counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania and serves over a thousand members. Roger joined Rotary International in 1985. Since then, he has served the organization in many capacities, including as president of his local chapter and on the Board of Directors. He is a graduate of Rotary Leadership Institute and a recipient of Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

Roger is a 1976 graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy. He attended DePauw University, graduating in 1980 with a Bachelor's degree in English. He went on to obtain his G.R.I. from the Pennsylvania Realtors Institute. In 1991, Roger received his Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa.

Roger has been practicing law for over twenty years and is president of Mattes & Mattes, P.C. in Scranton. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court Middle District of Pennsylvania, among others. His outstanding work as an attorney has earned him several awards, including the American Lawyer's Distinguished Service Citation and the Winner's Circle Award.

It is an honor to recognize Roger Mattes as he assumes the role of governor for Rotary District 7410. His achievements are significant, and his service to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania is immeasurable. May he continue his commitment to community service, and I wish him all the best.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MARKUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today we held a markup on various important measures. I'd like to express support of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Democracy and Accountability Act, H.R. 6207, of which I am the proud sponsor, along with our lead Democratic cosponsor, my good friend and ranking member of our subcommittee, Rep. KAREN BASS.