

even before we were sworn in, my freshman colleagues and I were stuck in Williamsburg in a snowstorm. When we were stuck together, we decided to come up with a new course for our class and a new initiative called the Commitment to Civility—thanks to my colleagues, MIKE JOHNSON especially, for this brainchild.

From that day forward, we all agreed, and all of us except, I think, I believe three Members on the Democratic side, signed this with the hope of us finding a different course, finding some more civility and some more work across the aisle.

To this day, I have tried to live up to that commitment. Every bill that I have introduced that is originally sponsored, I have done with the bipartisan support of my Democratic colleagues. We have endeavored to work together on a number of initiatives, whether it is soliciting advice from other committees or the President or any kind of letter to the agencies that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say thank you to all my colleagues who signed this and who continue to live up to our commitment to civility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in encouraging that H. Res. 400, Creating a National Day of Civility, be recognized.

□ 1745

COVERAGE OF PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, President Trump, along with his Republican choir here in Congress, is sabotaging your healthcare.

First, his administration put hurdles to enrollment by slashing outreach for insurance signup efforts, and then he just announced he was slashing navigator funding. Now the administration cut off key payments to insurers that helped stabilize insurance markets.

This Republican Congress repealed the requirement that everyone have insurance, which puts further strains on costs in the healthcare system. Meanwhile, Republicans in States across our Union are urging Federal courts to rule health protections for 130 million people with preexisting conditions unconstitutional.

Ohioans are staring down an 8 percent increase in premiums for 2019, and what is the Trump administration doing? Sabotaging people's healthcare.

His Supreme Court nominee has now questioned the constitutionality of key elements of coverage in the Affordable Care Act.

There are bipartisan solutions to help Americans facing the daunting task of paying rising healthcare costs. This Congress must choose people over the profits of big pharmaceutical insurance companies. Human lives hang in the balance.

MR. TRUMP SHOULD TESTIFY

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Robert Mueller is conducting a criminal investigation. Mr. Trump's attorney doesn't want him to testify.

Rudy Giuliani has taken three outrageous positions: He has claimed that Mr. Trump doesn't have to testify if he doesn't think the prosecutor has a good basis for the investigation; that Mr. Trump doesn't have to testify if he doesn't think the prosecutor is being objective; and that Mr. Trump doesn't have to testify if the prosecutor doesn't already have sufficient evidence of a crime.

On this poster is a picture of Mr. Al Capone. He was forced to testify before a grand jury. Mr. Capone didn't think that there was a basis for that investigation, and Mr. Capone didn't think that the prosecutor was objective. But he testified under oath, as did President Bill Clinton, because no one is above the law. No one is immune from a subpoena, not Mr. Al Capone, not Mr. Donald Trump.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS HURT THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, we are here tonight to speak about how, for far too long, Congress has passed continuing resolutions that have devastating effects on our military and national security apparatus. They have hurt our maintenance, readiness, training, and contracting, causing a cascading and negative effect in extending our deployment schedules, which hurt our strong military families, who are the very foundation of our force.

Indeed, Secretary Mattis said in January 2018:

As hard as the last 16 years have been, no enemy in the field has done more to harm the readiness of the U.S. military than the combined impact of the Budget Control Act's defense spending cuts and operating under continuing resolutions.

Madam Speaker, Congress has passed continuing resolutions for 9 out of the past 10 years.

I will say, Madam Speaker, that I am encouraged, skeptical, and hopeful that Congress will move toward regular order this year and forego a continuing resolution for the defense of this Nation later this year: encouraged, because the Senate has expressed they will take up defense appropriations and move it to the floor for the first time in years; skeptical, because I am a realist, and they will attach another bill to it, which will make it tougher to get passed; hopeful, because I am an optimist. We all know it is the right thing to do, and we are pushing to make it happen.

Madam Speaker, I have the great honor of representing the district with more military and veterans than anywhere in the Nation. If anything is going on in the world, our men and women are there on the front lines, fighting for families, fighting for friends, fighting for freedom.

We, in Congress, owe them better. We must do better. We must get our acts together and lead with the courage and the spirit of our Nation, and the courage and spirit of those men and women in uniform who stand watch for us every single day.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his service. If you don't know, SCOTT TAYLOR enlisted in the Navy SEALs in 1997, got out, and then went back to Iraq in 2005. In Ramadi, as a Navy SEAL sniper, he was injured. And here he is now.

I thank the gentleman for doing this. Like all or most Navy SEALs, the gentleman does great when the camera is on him. As a Congressman, the camera is always on him, so he does very well in this job.

I would like to bring up one point that really struck me, because of the Budget Control Act and the continuing resolutions. The former Speaker of the House, when we passed this 9 years ago, looked us in the eye and said: This will never pass. It is too horrible. This will never happen. It is too horrible for the military. It hurts it too badly.

That is what the former Speaker of the House said. When he looked the Armed Services Committee in the eye and told them that, a lot of the Members proceeded to vote "yes" on the Budget Control Act, and that put us where we are now.

Let me tell you where the Budget Control Act has put us. In 2017, you had about 80 servicemembers die in training. That doesn't include drunk driving or falling off a cliff. But in training in the United States, all four branches of service, you had more than 80 servicemembers die last year just training.

You had 21 servicemembers die in combat. So you had 21 service people die in combat zones where they are getting shot at and fighting the enemy, and more than 80 people died back here at home just training.

The Budget Control Act and the continuing resolutions that we have been