

As a doctor, former owner of a healthcare company, and cancer survivor, I believe it is time we allow clinicians to write and form the healthcare laws that will help our Nation, and to base it on a free market solution. That is why I am introducing a bill to innovate Medicaid, a plan that will put the patient in charge of their care with more choice and less cost.

My plan would allow for free market competition and improve care. But above all, for Medicaid, it would not raise taxes and, potentially, could even lead to lower costs, without raising costs for Medicaid patients.

We need less government involvement, not more, to fix our broken healthcare system.

CONGRESSIONAL PFAS TASK FORCE

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, this week, the Congressional PFAS Task Force, including Representatives KILDEE, TONKO, and FITZPATRICK, joined me in my district to address clean water and to address PFAS water contamination. I thank them for joining me. We visited Naval Air Station Joint Base Willow Grove.

Like hundreds of other military installations across the country, Willow Grove used firefighting foam with PFAS chemicals for decades. Today, polluted water continues to flow off this base and into our region's water table.

PFAS is associated with serious health risks, including cancer and impaired immune system performance. The manufacturers, EPA, and DOD have known about some of the dangers for a long time. By the early 2000s, it was clear that PFAS was contaminating drinking water, yet PFAS remains in use, and EPA still has not established a maximum contaminant level.

This week, I introduced H.R. 2600, the Toxic PFAS Control Act. This bill phases out PFAS by banning the manufacturing and processing of these chemicals and will require EPA to regulate its disposal.

I thank Chairman TONKO for his commitment to this issue to live up to our obligation to provide clean drinking water to our families and communities.

□ 0915

HONORING DAVID BLOM OF OHIOHEALTH

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

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of David Blom, who is retiring from his service as president and CEO of OhioHealth this July.

Under David's watch, OhioHealth has grown leaps and bounds into central Ohio's largest healthcare system. In 17 years at the helm, Dave built OhioHealth into a top employer and economic driver in Ohio.

When his tenure began, OhioHealth employed 14,000 associates and caregivers. That number has more than doubled to more than 30,000 OhioHealth associates and caregivers today.

What is more, OhioHealth was just named to the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For in 2019 for the 19th straight year, fostered by Dave's leadership.

Moreover, when Dave took the reins in 2002, not a single OhioHealth hospital existed in what is now my congressional district. Today, OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, Grady Memorial Hospital, Dublin Methodist Hospital, and Westerville Medical Campus all lie in the 12th Congressional District.

Throughout this rapid development, Dave has kept an unwavering commitment to keeping care local for patients across Ohio's communities.

Keeping care local isn't merely a slogan for Dave. Rather, it represents a cultural focus on serving each community, creating access to care, and establishing standard practices and procedures around medicine and patient care, all so Ohioans can receive the healthcare services they need close to home.

Dave has been gracious in sharing his leadership with the central Ohio region. During his tenure as chairman of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the chamber elevated its mission and made a profound impact on regional growth.

Dave also serves on the Columbus Partnership executive committee, a nonprofit organization of more than 70 CEOs of Columbus' leading businesses and institutions.

Dave has positively impacted so many lives by making care accessible for Ohioans—for urban, suburban, and rural areas alike—and by growing OhioHealth into a robust employer in the region I call home. I thank him very much for his service.

KIDS DESERVE LEADERS WORKING TO END GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. WEXTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, a 12-year-old from Highlands Ranch, Nate Holley, explained that he was in his classroom's closet with his hand on a baseball bat because he was going to go down fighting if he was going to go down.

In the span of 2 weeks, two students were killed lunging at shooters in their classrooms to defend their classmates. Their names: Kendrick Castillo, 18 years old, just 3 days away from his high school graduation, and Riley Howell, 21 years old, an ROTC cadet at UNC Charlotte.

These young men are heroes, but they shouldn't have to be.

The Senate majority leader won't even allow a vote on any gun safety bills. What is it going to take? How many shootings, how many more young lives cut short, until we take action?

The STEM School Highlands Ranch shooting marked the 30th incident of gun violence on K-12 school grounds just this year. Our kids deserve leaders who will do everything in their power to end gun violence in America.

No more heroes. No more victims.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2157.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 357 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2157.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Iowa (Ms. FINKENAUER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0919

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with Ms. FINKENAUER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last year, we watched hurricanes pummel Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas; wildfires burn large swaths of the West; and typhoons strike territories in the Pacific.

In addition to the tragic loss of life, families lost everything, businesses were upended, and communities were ripped apart.

That is why, in January, the House passed an emergency disaster relief bill, H.R. 268, to help our fellow Americans recover and rebuild. Unfortunately, the bill languished for months