

community in Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District. I commend Pro-Life Berks for their dedication.

HONORING THOSE WHO STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of every American who has ever struggled with mental illness.

With May being National Mental Health Awareness Month as well as National Nurses Month, we recommit ourselves to:

Building better futures for those struggling with a mental health condition;

Supporting research into diagnoses and treatment;

Erasing the stigma around seeking help; and

Removing barriers to high-quality and timely mental healthcare by educating and training doctors, nurses, and behavioral specialists dedicated to these disabling conditions.

Our Nation is also battling an epidemic of veteran suicide. Tragically, over 7,000 veterans die by suicide every year, more than the total number of American servicemembers killed in action during the entire Global War on Terrorism.

It is no coincidence that our Nation is short 100,000 neuropsychiatrists and 500,000 advance practice nurses in these fields. At the VA alone, today, there are nearly 50,000 medical vacancies.

If we are to make progress, then our country, our Nation, must support investments in educating these physicians and nurses to treat those who, every day, look for a better way of life.

I look forward to partnering with Members of Congress to help America treat these illnesses and create a more humane society for all.

REPUBLICANS HAVE NO PLAN TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act.

I was proud to vote in favor of H.R. 986 yesterday to rescind the Trump administration's dangerous effort to weaken lifesaving protections for people with preexisting conditions under the Affordable Care Act.

The Trump administration has been obsessed and relentless about undoing the historic and meaningful gains made under the ACA. Here, that means undermining the stability of the healthcare market and allowing States to promote junk, so-called short-term, limited-duration insurance options that directly discriminate against people with preexisting conditions.

Let us not forget that before the ACA, a woman's gender was, in effect,

a preexisting condition. One-third of women who tried to buy health plans on their own were either turned down or charged a higher premium.

Republicans have no plan to improve healthcare, only to roll back the progress made in the ACA, putting the health coverage of the 52 million Americans with preexisting conditions in jeopardy.

I am proud of the progress that this House has made to protect Americans' health coverage, and I look forward to continuing action to expand access and lower healthcare costs.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION REFUSES RULE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Trump administration's dangerous final rule that allows healthcare workers to discriminate against patients based on their personal beliefs.

Too often, healthcare in this country is riddled with inequality, and while Democrats in the House are working to address this, the administration is trying to make it worse.

This policy will be most harmful to our sisters of color who often live in areas with hospitals that may refuse comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion and birth control.

Refusals have already threatened the life of women with pregnancy complications. This rule could make the maternal mortality crisis among African American women even worse.

This is yet another attempt by the Trump administration to impose their beliefs and take away our healthcare and our rights, and I will continue to fight to ensure that healthcare is equal for all Americans.

Dr. Lawren, from my home state of Illinois, wrote to the Trump Administration in response to this rule.

She said, "As a physician, it is absolutely crucial that I provide the same level of care for every patient no matter how my own beliefs differ from theirs. I often have patients with whom I disagree about a wide spectrum of political and social causes. It would be so outrageously inappropriate for me to use that as grounds to change my medical care or to alter the level of respect and compassion I show for these patients."

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we have heard a great deal today—actually, from both sides of the aisle pointing fingers across the way at the opposing party—about the issue of children:

taking care of children that are brought here illegally, taking care of children that supposedly come here on their own.

But since we know that nobody crosses from Mexico into the United States illegally without having the permission of the drug cartel that controls that section of the Mexico-U.S. border, it is not really accurate to say a child comes unaccompanied, because a child can't cross Mexico by himself. A child is brought by somebody.

Unfortunately, as we know, the figures from both government groups, Doctors Without Borders, and others are pretty staggering when you realize that such a large percentage—25 percent, 30 percent—of girls who come to the United States through Mexico are raped.

I have seen too many rape trees that it breaks my heart. It is just, as the poet said, incredible, the inhumanity to man. It is staggering.

And sometimes it is difficult to tell people no that want to come here, but there is not a country in the world that lets more people into that country than the United States does. There is nowhere.

Countries that are much bigger geographically, countries that have many more people, countries that have more space per person, there is no country that is as generous with the right being given to come in to a country legally as the United States, and I love that about our country.

But it is important to have rules about who gets to come in. Obviously, some have projected that there may be 1 billion, 1.5 billion people who would like to come to the United States. If the 300, 350 million or so people here were to have a billion people come in, obviously, this country would cease to exist as it has or is or could be. It would cease to exist. It would become a Third World country. There would be so much massive unemployment overwhelming the social services. Disease would become rampant.

As we see people coming here from other countries, there are diseases that we had completely eliminated in the United States that are now being reintroduced to the United States because we have not enforced our borders and made sure that people coming in, as welcome as they are to come in legally, that they are not coming in with a disease that puts people in the United States in jeopardy. Once you do that, then you don't continue to be that light on the hill that so many want to come to. There is no place left.

Last year, there were some people here who said: Well, you know, if we keep losing more and more of our freedom here in the United States, maybe we just can all go to Australia.

I had a few guys that I met with from Australia. I thought they would find that amusing. But they didn't smile; they didn't laugh. They said: Do you not understand? If you lose your freedom here in America, China will take