

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the School Food Modernization Act which would help America's school cafeterias modernize its equipment and infrastructure.

Earlier this week, I was proud to introduce this act with Congressman MARK DESAULNIER. We know nutrition plays a critical role in a child's development and for far too many children, sometimes the only meal of the day is the one that they receive at school. That is why it is essential to help schools access funding to purchase modern kitchen equipment and infrastructure.

Some schools may be using the same equipment so long that it not only serves a student, but, quite frankly, served that student's parent as well.

Food service staff needs modern facilities to serve high-quality, nutritious meals that meet the school nutritional standards. Our bill allows schools to participate in a loan assistance program from USDA to help them acquire new kitchen equipment.

Schools would be eligible for Federal guarantees, up to 80 percent of the loan. It also strengthens training for food service personnel who want more education on how to prepare healthier meals.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation to help students form a lifetime of healthier eating habits.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETTY OFFICER RAUL GUERRA

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Petty Officer Raul Guerra and the work of the Bring Raul Home Committee.

Petty Officer Guerra was born in 1942, grew up in Los Angeles County, was beloved by his friends and family, and known for his love of journalism.

Petty Officer Guerra enlisted in the Navy Reserves in 1965 and was deployed to Vietnam as a Navy journalist. On the evening of October 8, 1967, Petty Officer Guerra volunteered for a combat mission to support a major airstrike over North Vietnam. His plane was tragically shot down and crashed. Due to heavy terrain and hostile territory, he was pronounced killed in action. His remains were not recovered.

A local paper, the Whittier Daily News, in 2007 reported that a local Navy seaman's remains had been found, which was part of a long process to return Petty Officer Guerra's remains home.

His former classmates, Ruben Valencia, and Donna and Gary Petersen formed the Bring Raul Home Committee. They worked over 12 years to diligently spread his story, search for living family members, and held many meetings with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

The DPAA, in February 2019, notified the committee of the closure of Petty Officer Guerra's case, that he would finally return home, whereby he received full honors at LAX, Los Angeles International Airport, escorted by numerous, caring people.

Petty Officer Raul Guerra was finally laid to rest after 52 years on April 25, 2019.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of fallen Petty Officer Raul Guerra and recognize the dedication and years of work shown by the Bring Raul Home Committee.

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM UNEXPECTED MEDICAL BILLS

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today our bipartisan group led by Dr. RUIZ is introducing Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act.

This commonsense piece of legislation will give patients peace of mind that an unexpected medical bill will not leave them in financial ruin, while setting up a fair, neutral process to resolve billing disputes between insurers and providers or hospitals.

For far too long, costly unexpected medical bills have caused financial stress, negatively impacting patients and their families all across the Nation. That is why our bill bans the practice of billing patients for unanticipated out-of-network care. It is not fair.

The patients may be incapacitated in an emergency or may have selected a facility that they believe is in network, to be met with a costly medical bill, all because one provider was out of network.

Similarly, providers are between a rock and a hard place because a Federal law called EMTALA requires them to provide care regardless of their ability to pay. Our bill resolves this by setting up a baseball-style arbitration between the medical provider and the insurer to compensate providers for care.

A similar New York State law has been proven successful with out-of-pocket billing records declining by 34 percent after 3 years.

It is time that all States have these protections. I urge support for this approach.

PREEXISTING CONDITIONS LAWSUIT

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give you some facts about healthcare.

Right now, the Trump administration is suing to eliminate the law that guarantees preexisting conditions healthcare coverage for Americans.

You might wonder what constitutes a preexisting condition. Well, I am going to give you some examples. Cancer, which affects over 22 million people is a preexisting condition.

Depression, which affects over 16 million people has been deemed a preexisting condition.

Alzheimer's, which affects over 5 million people has been deemed a preexisting condition.

Epilepsy, which affects over 3.4 million people has been deemed a preexisting condition.

If you, or a family member, or a friend have a preexisting condition, you are in deep trouble if the Trump administration succeeds in their lawsuit.

AMERICANS DESERVE QUALITY HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, since January, the House of Representatives has passed bills lowering prescription drug prices, strengthening protections for preexisting conditions, and making sure Americans can find affordable, quality health insurance coverage.

I know thousands of Delawareans, small businesses, and millennials all across the board are struggling to afford the healthcare that they need, and in 2019 that is unacceptable.

Many of us saw hope and help when the Affordable Care Act was passed, and my commitment to the American people is protecting the ground that we gained while strengthening this landmark legislation.

As part of that commitment, six bills stabilizing the ACA and lowering the cost of prescription drugs were incorporated into my bill, the MORE Health Education Act, and the entire package passed the House a few weeks ago.

This bill will help lower the cost of prescription drugs by bringing generics to the market faster, helping Americans understand health insurance options available to them, and protect those with preexisting conditions.

I am proud that this legislation passed the House of Representatives, and I look forward to working with the Senate to ensure that these bills become law.

Every American deserves quality healthcare that is accessible and affordable, and we will keep fighting for our States and for the country.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, the House Appropriations Committee has the distinction of being the only congressional committee enumerated in Article I of the Constitution.