

not have a place to live, some of them will not have food, and it is because of the policies of this administration.

The Department of Homeland Security must serve the Nation, it must not serve one single President. I maintain that we are going to fight to fix this broken immigration system.

RECOGNIZING WEST JEFFERSON'S 33RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY FESTIVAL

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the city of West Jefferson in North Carolina's Fifth District on yet another successful Christmas in July Festival. For the last 33 years, the festival has taken place on the first weekend of July to celebrate Ashe County's vibrant and nationally renowned Christmas tree industry.

The dedicated volunteers of the festival committee and board of directors bring together this wonderfully patriotic community around America's independence and the best Christmas trees in the country. As a former Christmas tree grower myself, I can attest to the importance of recognizing this often overlooked, yet highly significant, farming industry, not just during the Christmas season, but all year round.

It is not only an honor to represent these patriots and tree growers, it is an honor for me to share this tradition with them every year.

PROTECT HEALTHCARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, 9 years ago, the House passed the Affordable Care Act to ensure that tens of millions of Americans had health insurance.

Thanks to the ACA, over a million Floridians were able to get healthcare coverage.

In these past 9 years, Republicans have consistently tried to repeal and sabotage the Affordable Care Act. As a result, families in Florida are often unable to afford their healthcare.

Today, the President tried once again to repeal the Affordable Care Act. If the President gets his way, more than 1.6 million Floridians would lose their coverage, and insurance companies could charge even more, resulting in higher costs for American families. Women could be charged more than men for the same services, and people living with preexisting conditions could lose coverage.

Floridians cannot afford these attacks on their healthcare. I implore the Senate to pass the bills that we have already sent them to protect healthcare for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ELSIE WAITES

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Elsie Waites, who passed away on May 28, 2019.

Mrs. Waites was a native Louisianan from Gloster and was born on May 9, 1920. Throughout her life, she was always known as someone who loved and cared for those around her.

Of her many accomplishments, Mrs. Waites was an avid volunteer in her local community, helping young children achieve their dreams. She also took it upon herself to organize a local quartet group, where she sang for several years traveling throughout the State.

While Mrs. Waites lived an extraordinary life dedicated and devoted to service and compassion, her first priority was always her family. She was a loving mother and grandmother to 8 children, 21 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

One of Mrs. Waites' children, Mrs. Barbara Norton, is my good friend and former colleague in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

I wish to extend my sincere and deepest sympathies to all of the family and friends whose lives were blessed by Mrs. Waites. I pray that God's grace gives them comfort during this time, and that they are able to reflect on all the joyful memories that she provided.

Proverbs 31 reminds us that:

A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done . . . Her children arise and call her blessed.

INJUSTICE AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the continued injustices at our southern border.

Recent reports have continued to highlight the conditions at DHS detention camps are deplorable, inhumane, and abusive to children. Current and former Border Patrol agents have attested to the horrible conditions these children are being subjected to.

Now that we have provided emergency funding, we must stop this abuse by the Trump administration in its tracks. We need far greater accountability, we need to set required standards for medical care, we need to strictly limit the time spent in detention facilities, and we need to institute protocols to ensure compassionate processing of children and families.

What is going on at our border does not reflect our values. It does not reflect who we are. And the impact on these children will last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to stop this stain on our great Nation's long history of compassion, refuge, and inclusion.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn President Trump, his administration, and all the anti-life Republicans in Congress who seek to strike down the Affordable Care Act using the judicial system this time. Their callousness would cut off millions of Americans from their affordable healthcare plans.

Today, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit began hearing oral arguments in *Texas v. United States*, a case supported by the Trump administration that would strike down every health benefit afforded to the American people under the Affordable Care Act.

If Republicans strike down the Affordable Care Act, then the protections for 130 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, more than a third of our people, would be erased, including nearly 5 million Ohioans. The uninsured rate would go up by 65 percent. The Affordable Care Act's historic Medicaid expansion, which covers 17 million people, would go out the window. And protections for women that prevent insurance companies from charging them higher rates than men would disappear, as well.

These popular and lifesaving provisions would be repealed.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, the Affordable Care Act has provided quality coverage for more than 16 million Americans. Let's ensure that high-quality healthcare remains a right for all, not a privilege for just a few.

CONGRATULATING JOE DIETTERICK

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, when Joe Dietterick was told by his guidance counselor that he should join the Vineland High School crew team, the Fighting Clan, he wasn't interested at first. But Joe, a 16-year-old with cerebral palsy, isn't one to back down from a challenge. All he needed was one practice on the lake, pushing his boat through the water with his doubles partner, Jason Wheeler, to immediately fall in love with rowing.

Joe and Jason went on to become Vineland High School's first adaptive boat to row in the Atlantic County rowing championships, and they also went on to compete in the Stotesbury Cup Regatta.

Joe's perseverance and willingness to challenge himself is an inspiration to

his teammates; to his coach, Paul Myers; and to all who gave him the Most Courageous award at their team's award banquet. Joe says that the comradery and friendship that he has found with his teammates is what means the most to him.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Dietterick for being an important part of our community. He is an inspiration and he is a hero.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT LAWSUIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I just put this placard up to emphasize what our Democratic Caucus is attempting to do. We have a program called "For the People," and we are trying to deal with the issues of healthcare across this Nation.

We know, as do basically all the American public, that healthcare is, in many cases, not affordable. So how can we deal with this?

Well, one way is to deal with the cost of prescription medicines. We have a program. We have actually voted it off the floor. It is over in the Senate where it will linger as the Grim Reaper. Senator MCCONNELL, kills legislation that would be for the people. So this is one example of many that we Democrats are trying to address.

Back in 2010, we addressed this issue, at least in part, with the Affordable Care Act, which was promptly called ObamaCare by our Republican colleagues at that time. They campaigned against it and, ultimately, succeeded in winning the House in the 2010 election, and then spent 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 in an effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Fortunately, they did not succeed.

When the new President, Mr. Trump, came to office, they tried, once again, to repeal the Affordable Care Act in 2017. They failed, largely because a Senator from Arizona, who was then suffering from cancer, voted no in the Senate. So I thank Senator McCain for having the courage and the understanding of what it meant to have a preexisting condition.

□ 1945

So here we are today with all kinds of charts that I am not going to put up. I am just going to speak directly to this issue.

As was said just a moment ago by my colleague from Ohio, the appellate court in New Orleans is taking up an issue that Republicans, including the President, have put before the court. Unable to gain a repeal in the Congress of the United States, they are now pursuing in the courts of the land a repeal put forward by, I think, 16 attorneys general—all Republicans—to use the courts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

I want us to understand what this means. The fight of the last 8 years, unsuccessfully, in the court of the people, the Congress and the Senate of the United States, being unsuccessful, they are now attempting in the courts of this land to do what they could not do through the representatives of the people of the United States.

The cynical effort to do this actually began with the December 2017 tax cuts that the Republicans rammed through Congress without one hearing: not a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee, not a hearing in the Senate Committee on Finance, not a hearing at all.

Attached to that legislation was a repeal of the mandate that was in the Affordable Care Act that every American must either purchase insurance or have insurance through their employer. That repeal then opened the door to the current attempt now in the appellate court in New Orleans that could give rise to a decision that might ultimately be made by the U.S. Supreme Court that would totally repeal all aspects of the Affordable Care Act.

So what does this mean? Mr. Speaker, what does this mean for you and me?

I hope you do not have a preexisting condition. I do, because I am over 65, and 130 million Americans have a preexisting condition. The repeal of the Affordable Care Act would remove the protections that those Americans have that would guarantee them coverage without discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I was the insurance commissioner in California in the early 1990s and again in 2002 to 2005. I know what it means when the insurance companies discriminate based upon preexisting conditions. I have seen the documents that they would require men and women to fill out before they would issue a health insurance program.

Every conceivable issue that a human being would have, from high blood pressure to, indeed, being a female, was on that list, and the insurance companies had unilateral, total discretion to charge more or not provide insurance at all.

So the President of the United States, at this moment, together with those attorneys general and, apparently, the support of our Republican colleagues are, at this moment, attempting to reestablish a burden on 130 million Americans who do have a preexisting condition, who are protected but, if they have their way in court, would lose that protection and face, once again, the onerous and, in many cases, deadly burden of having a preexisting condition and not being able to get healthcare insurance or having to pay several times more because of their preexisting condition.

Who among us does not have that? Well, perhaps the other 40 percent—actually, 50 percent of Americans who stand at risk of developing high blood pressure, diabetes, or some other illness.

That is not all. In my district in the Sacramento Valley of California, the Affordable Care Act has allowed the creation of what we call Federally Qualified Health Centers, which now are the principal providers of initial healthcare in my district.

It is not just for poor people, not just for transients who have moved from one job to another, but for people who have been insured for years but, because of a lack of medical services, could not get insurance.

These Federally Qualified Health Centers are totally dependent upon the Affordable Care Act. Repeal the Affordable Care Act and those clinics are gone, and the services that they provide will not be in communities, both urban and rural, across America.

How bad is it that those attorneys general are so stuck on repealing ObamaCare that they are ignoring the reality that millions upon millions of Americans have come to depend upon these clinics? If the Affordable Care Act is found to be contrary to law and the Constitution by the courts and by the cynical, diabolical repeal of one section of the Affordable Care Act, those people will not be able to get primary care services.

And that is not all. The Affordable Care Act expanded the Medicaid program across this Nation, and some 15 million Americans have been able to gain healthcare access through the Medicaid programs. In California, we call it Medi-Cal. The Medi-Cal program in California provides, perhaps, 3 million Californians with access to healthcare services. That, too, the expansion will be gone, and the support for States across this Nation will be eliminated if the Affordable Care Act is found to no longer exist because of court action.

How cynical, how sad, how harmful, but that is what they are pursuing. And that is not all. There is a problem that existed before the Affordable Care Act.

Young men and women found coverage in some universities, in some jobs through either the university and the fees or through an employer; but most, when they became 18 years of age, lost their family insurance. The Affordable Care Act said that is not good. They would be able to stay on their family's insurance until the age of 26, where, presumably, they would be better able to buy insurance themselves or be able to have a job in which insurance would be provided.

Insurance is expensive, so the exchanges were set up across the Nation, insurance exchanges where people could shop for insurance. Those exchanges provided not only access to insurance markets, but they also provided, through the Affordable Care Act, tax credits that would make the insurance affordable to them.

Nope, it is going to be gone. It is going to disappear if the court in New Orleans rules against the Affordable Care Act.