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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 15, 2019, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In these most important days and debates here in the people's House, we beg You to send Your spirit of wisdom as the Members struggle to do the work that has been entrusted to them. Inspire them to work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress and all who work for the people's House in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STAUBER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROVIDING HEALTHCARE IN INSULAR AREAS

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, good news for the Northern Mariana Islands and all the insular areas: The Territories Health Care Improvement Act was introduced on Tuesday, addressing the Medicaid cliff our areas face when special ObamaCare funding ends this year.

Thursday, the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee reported the bill without dissent. "Let's keep it moving," Chair ESHOO said. I believe full committee Chairman PALLONE intends to do so as well.

I thank them both and Ranking Members BURGESS and WALDEN for understanding the urgency of the Medicaid crisis in the insular areas. I also thank Mr. SOTO and Mr. BILIRAKIS, who led the bill along with myself and seven bipartisan cosponsors.

It provides exactly what the Northern Mariana Islands Medicaid director testified she needed: \$60 million per year. No local match is required as we recover from last year's typhoons. After 6 years, we will get the FMAP any State is offered.

There are new program integrity requirements that I support because every Federal dollar should go to those intended, without fraud or waste.

So, healthcare in the insular areas can be as good as healthcare anywhere in America. That is good news.

RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENCE DAY AND PRESERVATION OF FREEDOM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, my wife, Penny, and I honored those who make Independence Day possible by attending our son Logan's reenlistment and promotion to Army sergeant first class at Fort Drum, New York.

This occasion reminded me that our independence relies upon the vigilance of our citizens and those who have fought to defend our freedoms.

Regarding Independence Day, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail: "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shews, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore.”

Following the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what sort of government the delegates had created. Without hesitation, he responded, “A republic, if you can keep it.”

President Reagan aptly stated that freedom isn’t something passed to our children in the bloodstream.

Preserving our freedom is certainly a responsibility of this generation as any past.

Madam Speaker, I commend those who continue to make these freedoms possible, and I look forward to a future where these freedoms will be defended for generations to come.

DEFEND AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO OVERTURN ACA PROTECTIONS

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, currently, 20 Republican-led States are suing to overturn the Affordable Care Act and the protections that it provides.

Rather than defend the law, the Trump administration is siding with these States and arguing the entire law should be overturned. This is an attack on every single American with a pre-existing condition, including 300,000 people in Illinois’ 14th Congressional District.

If the ACA is overturned, insurers will, once again, have the power to refuse coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, like cancer, asthma, heart conditions, and diabetes.

This is a fear for many of my constituents, including Mike DeBow of Shorewood, Illinois, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age. Mike wrote to me because he is “deathly afraid”—his words—of losing his insurance.

Under the ACA, Mike doesn’t have to worry about being denied coverage for his preexisting condition. He can even stay on his parents’ plan until he turns 26. But if the Republicans’ lawsuit succeeds, 130 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, including Mike, won’t have that peace of mind.

I am proud that my first vote in Congress was to protect the ACA by defending it in court so that Americans like Mike can focus on leading fulfilling lives, not whether their healthcare needs are covered.

TRIBUTE TO ROSS PEROT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, this week, Texas lost a son and America lost one of our finest patriots. Ross Perot was a leader, risk-taker, and a businessman who embodied the meaning of the American Dream.

Growing up in east Texas in what could be described as extreme poverty, Perot sought to make a difference in the lives of many, and he did just that. He was a leading example of the great things that can happen in this great country.

He left his home to serve our country in the U.S. Navy and later returned to grow his family and build his business empire. He was a self-made man who always remembered his humble beginnings, graciously giving time and resources to causes in both our Texas community and around the world.

He especially loved our men and women in uniform and was one of the first to speak out and do something about the treatment of our POWs.

Perot also long warned us about the dangers of our growing national debt and sought to make politics and the economy less complicated.

Remember that he would say, “It’s just that simple.”

Throughout his life, he prioritized love of his family and his country. We will all remember his service to our Nation and his fun and feisty spirit.

May we all say a prayer for his wife, children, and grandchildren and celebrate the life of this amazing man.

God bless Ross Perot. God bless his family. And God bless our country.

INVESTING IN NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Just this week, I returned from a bipartisan congressional mission to the Middle East that underscored the importance of investing in our national security and, of course, in our men and women in uniform.

This year’s bill is the most robust military authorization in the history of our country and includes a much-needed pay raise for our troops.

I was also proud to add support for the Rock Island Arsenal, which is in my district and has supported our men and women in the military going all the way back to the days of the Civil War.

My amendment would allow Army arsenals to approve leases for underused space and would require the Army to study how they can better market available space on military installations.

The House also approved my amendment to expand important leasing protections for Gold Star spouses and injured servicemembers.

Finally, I amended this bill to recognize cadet nurses as honorary veterans for their patriotic service in World War II.

That is why today I will proudly cast a “yes” vote for this National Defense Authorization Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARIAN SPENCER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a Cincinnati legend and civil rights icon, Marian Spencer.

Ms. Spencer passed away Tuesday at the age of 99. She dedicated her life to shaping the community that she loved, Cincinnati, for the better.

Among her many accomplishments, in 1961, she successfully led the effort to integrate Coney Island, Cincinnati’s premier amusement park at the time. She was also a pioneer in Cincinnati politics, becoming the first woman to lead the local NAACP and the first African American woman elected to the Cincinnati City Council.

Over the years, I had the good fortune to get to know Marian Spencer and learn from her experiences. We both served on the city council back in the 1980s, and she was never shy about sharing her opinions with me. I grew to respect her toughness, her honesty, and her conviction.

Madam Speaker, Cincinnati lost an exceptional leader on Tuesday, but Marian Spencer’s legacy will endure for generations to come.

SUPPORT DEMOCRATS’ AGENDA TO LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, this week, the Trump administration is in court, arguing before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to strike down the Affordable Care Act, including taking away coverage for people with pre-existing health conditions. If the President gets his way, tens of millions of Americans lose their health insurance, including a lot of people I represent in Michigan.

For the 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions, insurance companies would then again be able to discriminate against them and deny them coverage.

That is what happens if the Trump administration prevails. If they gut the ACA, caps on annual and lifetime coverage could come back again, and 800,000 Michiganders will lose coverage.

While the President and his followers seek to roll back to those days when people could be denied coverage because they are sick—think about that, denied coverage because you are sick—we are fighting to continue to bring down the cost of healthcare. We have an agenda that is for the people to reduce the cost of healthcare and make sure no American has that fear.

□ 0915

CONCERN ABOUT NDAA

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