

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.

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CONCERN ABOUT NDAA

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