

These words were a deplorable, bigoted act that betrays the principles of our great Nation and demeans the memories of all those who sacrificed so much in our ongoing pursuit of a more perfect Union.

Whether you were born here, arrived as an immigrant, or came as a refugee, every citizen, naturalized or otherwise is an American, every bit as much as our Founders.

Our country is stronger because of our history as a people of diverse backgrounds with diverse experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, the grandson and great-grandson of immigrants who fled the persecution of Jews in Russia a century ago to build a better life in America for themselves and their future generations. We have seen from history what happens when good people stay silent.

To quote the late Elie Wiesel: "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

I urge my colleagues: Do not remain silent. Speak out and defend the values we all share as Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS GRANT HELMS AND ASHTON WHITE

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two exceptional students from Rowan County, North Carolina.

Recently, Grant Helms, a rising senior at West Rowan High School, and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College student Ashton White competed in the SkillsUSA Championships, a national competition for career and technical education students.

Grant and Ashton each won first place in secondary and postsecondary masonry, respectively, and we couldn't be more proud of them.

None of this would have been possible without Rodney Harrington, the masonry teacher at West Rowan High School and mentor to these students.

Mr. Speaker, these skills are imperative in helping build and grow our economy, so I think it is worth mentioning H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act.

This monumental bill, which became law last year, has given States like mine more flexibility to meet the unique needs of their students, educators, and employers.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENECA FALLS CONVENTION

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I often reflect on the wise words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Never has this proven more true than when women of all ages and circumstances gathered in Seneca Falls in upstate New York 161 years ago this week and changed forever the course of history.

These thoughtful, dedicated, passionate women stood up and declared to the world that all men and women are created equal.

The convention sparked a fire in women across the country, formally birthing the women's rights movement and eventually paving the way for women's suffrage.

We hear the echoes of their voices today as we continue the fight they began so long ago. Let this anniversary reinvigorate us as we carry on its legacy, fearlessly committed to securing equal rights, equal pay, and the fundamental right of every woman to choose what happens to her body.

HEALTHCARE PARITY FOR TERRITORY RESIDENTS

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in full support of the Territories Healthcare Act, which is scheduled to be considered in full committee markup tomorrow.

This bill addresses the multiple disparities of the Medicaid program in all U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico.

Medicaid on the island has a funding cap and a limitation of 55 percent of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, impacting the island's ability to furnish healthcare costs and services for close to 1.4 million people in Puerto Rico.

This bill will address these issues, increasing the cap and adjusting the FMAP for 4 years. If we do not address this issue, we are challenging medical access and services to approximately 1.4 million of my people.

Current social and political problems should not eliminate our understanding of what the people need and our responsibility toward them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue their support and advocacy for healthcare parity for territory residents.

TRUMP'S TWEETS MERIT CENSURE

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the blatant racism in the President's tweets.

I believe his rant and his defense of that rant merit censure from this body.

The phrase "Go back where you came from" is a racist trope that has been used by segregationists, neo-Nazis, White nationalists, and the Ku Klux Klansmen to create a framework in which non-White people are not truly American.

Describing non-White countries as "broken" and "crime infested" echoes the racist trope the President has used before that such countries are dysfunctional, dirty, and violent because their populations are Black.

His comments are indefensible, and so is the silence from my colleagues across the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't bother seeking an apology from him, but I do hope Republicans here will join us in fully and roundly condemning his words, and I would remind them that history won't look kindly on those who refuse to stand up for what is right.

It is not lost on me, however, and I hope not my colleagues either, that this is simply a distraction from the President's friendship with a documented pedophile and news reports that he lied to the Supreme Court about his census question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in my district in northern Illinois, many farmers are struggling with the challenges that come from a delayed planting season and an uncertain market.

But, recently, Kaylee Heap invited me to her family's farm to share her story about yet another challenge: healthcare costs.

Kaylee and her husband, Kevin, own a pumpkin farm in Minooka, Illinois, and Kaylee dreams of being able to work on the farm to grow their business.

Unfortunately, that is not an option because health insurance is too expensive for them to purchase on their own—easily over \$20,000 per year in my district—so Kaylee works for an outside employer in order to afford health insurance for their growing family.

Having to make the choice between entrepreneurship and healthcare is unacceptable, and that is why I introduced the Health Care Affordability Act, H.R. 1868, to reduce insurance premiums.

My bill would reduce premiums by hundreds of thousands of dollars for approximately 20 million Americans, 39,000 of whom reside in my district.

A typical Illinois family like Kaylee's would see their premiums cut in half, saving over \$750 per month—and that is real money.