

Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

After being named the District 10 Middle School Principal of the Year, Clifford was then nominated by his peers at Greensburg Junior High School and across the State to become the State Principal of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Matthew for this tremendous honor and thank him for his dedication to improving the lives of Hoosier kids and families.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH GRANT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the grant application submitted by the First Christian Church of Columbus. This grant will save one of America's treasures in my district.

The First Christian Church has been a staple in the Columbus community for years and is a jewel of architecture and history.

Since 2001, the First Christian Church has been designated by the National Park Service as a U.S. National Historic Landmark, but now it needs essential renovations. I pledge my support for this program so that this church may be restored to its original beauty.

IU HEALTH COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for IU Health's investment of \$1 million into the Muncie community.

Over the next 3 years, IU Health will give \$1 million toward revitalization of the Thomas Park-Avondale and South Central neighborhoods in southeast Muncie. The investment plans include bike lanes, walking trails, access to better food, a new health center, and much more.

I applaud IU Health for investing in our local community and promoting healthier Hoosiers.

INDIANA BROADBAND EXPANSION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for \$1.3 million in rural broadband expansion in the Sixth District.

In my time in Congress, I have worked with local groups to address broadband in schools and hospitals and supported Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants. I have introduced a bill to make sure Federal agencies effectively work together in this arena.

I am glad to see the Governor announce a boost for grants to counties like Jennings, Scott, and my home county of Bartholomew.

I look forward to seeing the State's continued work on this as I fight for rural high-speed internet on behalf of the Sixth District.

□ 1030

WAYNE COUNTY VETERAN APPRECIATION DINNER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hoosier veterans and their brave families I met at the Veterans Christmas Appreciation Dinner of Wayne County.

Nearly 600 veterans, including World War II vets, gathered in Richmond to

enjoy an evening of celebration and holiday cheer. A career fair was held before dinner to help those in need to access work opportunities, resources, and support.

It was a privilege to speak at this appreciation dinner, and I stand today to wish every veteran across this country and Indiana's Sixth District a very merry Christmas.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS RISING COST OF HEALTHCARE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask, for the American people, Congress to do its job and address the rising cost of healthcare, but Speaker PELOSI's H.R. 3, is not the answer.

H.R. 3 will limit choice and innovation. It is a partisan messaging bill that will not be considered in the Senate or signed into law. We are letting the American people down by not voting on bipartisan legislation that will actually address skyrocketing drug prices.

H.R. 3 would increase premiums while punishing American innovation and enabling foreign competitors to flourish.

H.R. 19, the Republican's alternative drug pricing bill, is filled with more than 40 bipartisan, commonsense reforms that reduce prescription drug costs and increase access to affordable, high-quality and lifesaving care for Americans.

H.R. 19 expands low-cost options for patients by bringing more generic competition to the market.

It lowers out-of-pocket spending, protects patients' access to new medicine and cures, increases transparency, and boosts innovation. The American people should be empowered by bipartisan proposals not restricted by partisan politics to make the best healthcare choices for themselves and their families.

INABILITY TO AFFORD PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SHOULD NOT BE A DEATH SENTENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine named Josh aged out of his parent's health insurance when he turned 26. Josh was a Type 1 diabetic and by then, his insulin cost was nearly \$1,200 per month.

So he switched to over-the-counter insulin because, like so many others, he couldn't afford the prescription brand recommended by his doctors. Already on a tight budget, Josh was engaged and wanted to save up some money for his wedding and building a new life with his fiancée.

His mother knew that he had changed his medication and when she would check on him, his blood sugar would be high, but he assured her that he was all right and the insulin was working.

He was alone at work in June of this year when he suffered a series of

strokes that would prove fatal, and it was his fiancée who found him.

We have miracle drugs that can save lives, but they don't do any good when the American people can't afford them.

In April, I hosted a roundtable with constituents and healthcare providers about the skyrocketing price of diabetes medication. Nurses and pharmacists shared stories about patients who had no option but to ration their insulin, putting their lives and their health in serious jeopardy.

One, who ran a free clinic, spoke about how refugees were absolutely stunned at how much more Americans were paying for their prescription drugs than they had in the countries that they were fleeing from.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act because the inability to afford necessary drugs should not be a death sentence in the United States of America.

We are going to give HHS the power to negotiate lower drug prices for the American people. And those lower prices will be available not only to Medicare beneficiaries, but also to Americans with private health insurance.

With the projected savings from this bill, nearly half a trillion dollars, we will provide vision, dental, and hearing benefits for all Medicare beneficiaries and invest in new medical research.

American families and seniors should not pay more for their medications than what the drug companies charge people in other countries.

This bill is a win for the American people. It represents a historic investment in Medicare and historic savings on the cost of prescription drugs. Without this legislation, the rising price of prescription drugs will continue to take a toll on the finances of American families, and in worst cases, cost lives.

What happened to Josh should never happen to anyone in this country. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this lifesaving legislation.

SOCIALISM IS A PHILOSOPHY OF FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill once said: "Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. Its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."

Despite the truth of these words, unfortunately, more and more young Americans hold positive views of socialism and negative views of capitalism. A recent Gallup Poll found that 51 percent of young Americans view socialism favorably, while only 45 percent view capitalism positively. That marks a 12-point decline in the popularity of capitalism just this decade.