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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 29, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO BUILD ON HEALTHCARE PROGRESS

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act.

From skyrocketing prescription drug prices to rising premiums, too many Kansans are struggling to afford the basic costs of healthcare and access to coverage, a problem that has only grown during this public health crisis.

And just last week, in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, this administration asked the Supreme Court to strike down every last protection and benefit afforded by the Affordable Care Act.

A new report found that a number of Americans would lose health coverage if this lawsuit succeeded. Twenty-three million people, including 94,000 Kansans, would lose their health insurance.

We need to build on the progress of the Affordable Care Act to lower the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, not rip away people's healthcare at such an important time during this global pandemic. And that is exactly what the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act would do.

This essential legislation would help lower the cost of healthcare, bring down the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs, crack down on junk insurance plans, and strengthen protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Importantly, it would also help States like Kansas expand Medicaid, providing an estimated 150,000 Kansans with affordable, quality healthcare.

I have long been pushing for Kansas to join the 36 other States that have already expanded Medicaid so we can lower the costs of healthcare and increase access to health coverage, meaning more people are protected during emergencies like the coronavirus pandemic.

I am proud to have helped secure vital provisions in this legislation that would give Kansas more urgently needed money to expand Medicaid.

By renewing the ACA's original expanded Federal match, we could both incentivize States to expand their Medicaid programs and ensure a smooth transition for those that do so.

While this administration works to tear down the ACA in court, I am working alongside my House colleagues to strengthen the ACA and help ensure

that everyone can receive affordable, quality healthcare.

Because during this time of uncertainty, no Kansan should have to worry about whether she will receive the care that they need and that their families need to stay healthy.

THE HOUSE HAS ACTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was excited to see the House take action to promote racial justice this last week. Under the leadership of KAREN BASS, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Democratic leadership, we put forth a comprehensive effort to deal with the crying need that we are hearing demands in the street for more racial justice in America.

The House has acted. There are many provisions there that are going to make a big difference in terms of being able to balance the scale and protect the interests particularly of minority Americans.

Unfortunately, there is one area that remains unaddressed. Perhaps one of the darkest hours in the assault on people of color is Richard Nixon's war on drugs. Nixon's cronies have cynically admitted that it was targeted directly towards people of color and young people. The phony war on drugs contradicted the advice that President Nixon got from his own Blue Ribbon Commission on how to handle cannabis in our country.

Instead, the goal was to criminalize, to amp up enforcement, and was specifically targeted toward people of color and young Americans. This has been admitted by John Ehrlichman, who was assistant to President Nixon for domestic policy. They calculated this would be a way to curry favor from the voters, be able to demonize

□ 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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