

Pennsylvania's heritage is rooted in coal. It powered an industrial revolution and won two world wars. However, as more and more coal mines continue to shut their doors, properly closing these mines is incredibly important.

Of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, 43 have abandoned mine lands. My district, Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, has the most, nationwide. These sites are a danger to the environment and to Pennsylvania's residents.

To take action on this, I was pleased to join my colleague, Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT from Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District, in introducing H.R. 4248, the Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization Act.

The Abandoned Mine Land trust fund is set to expire in September of 2021. This bill will not only reauthorize the fund for the next 15 years, but helps for economic growth in coal communities impacted by mine closures.

Since 1977, the AML program has eliminated over 46,000 open mine portals, and reauthorizing the AML trust fund is critical to continued progress.

REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, 3 in 10 adults in America today have reported not taking medicine as prescribed because of the cost. Our seniors and families should not have to choose between paying their monthly bills and affording their prescription drugs.

That is why I introduced the Advancing Enrollment and Reducing Drug Costs Act with my friend from New Hampshire, CHRIS PAPPAS, to simplify how low-income seniors get the help they need affording their medications.

That is why I introduced the Star Rating for Biosimilars Act with my friend from Ohio, BOB GIBBS, to drive down costs and provide greater access to generic biosimilar drugs treating cancer, arthritis, and many other conditions.

And that is why the House is moving forward with H.R. 3, the Low Drug Costs Now Act, which will use competitive price negotiation to save Medicare some \$345 billion and save United States households nearly \$160 billion, combined. Private businesses would save some \$46 billion under our bill.

Across America, seniors and families are struggling to afford the prescription drugs that they need to stay healthy and alive. It is time for Congress to act. Let's act now.

HONORING SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3152 and to honor the life and legacy of Senator Richard Lugar, who passed away earlier this year.

Senator Lugar was a true statesman, whose unwavering dedication to his community and his country led to a lifetime of service. He worked tirelessly to champion freedom, advance democracy, and build peace and prosperity both at home and abroad. His wisdom, bipartisanship, and commitment to America's ideals made our country stronger and safer.

Though we will miss his spirit and conviction, the values he fought for will endure in those who follow his example of servant leadership. He built a foundation of opportunity and empowerment so future generations of Hoosiers could carry on his life's mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3152 to dedicate the Richard G. Lugar Post Office in Indianapolis and to celebrate a leader who never stopped working to make the world a better place.

SOLIDARITY WITH HONG KONG

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of liberal democratic values and in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong. Earlier this week, the House passed legislation in support of these values and of human rights.

A strong nation is one that does not turn to its worst instincts in the face of dissent. A strong nation does not see liberal democratic values as a threat. A strong nation tolerates differences in pursuit of prosperity for itself and prosperity for the world.

To my fellow Americans, I say that we must not turn our backs on our principles in exchange for profit; we must not trade away our freedoms or be indifferent to those who yearn to be free.

To the 2 million courageous young people in Hong Kong who marched, to those who are willing to fight for a prosperous future where their rights will be respected and where their freedoms will be protected: We are with you.

NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I am here once again to sound the alarm bell about our country's addiction to spending the hard-earned tax dollars of its citizens and future generations.

It is with great regret that I report, as many are already aware, that our country's national debt has topped \$1 trillion for fiscal year 2019.

Now, we know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will blame President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for this shortfall; but, in fact, the corporations they attempt to hold responsible have paid \$8 billion more in the 11 months of this fiscal year than they did in 2018, according to issuesinsights.com.

No, the increase in the deficit over the past year is due to rampant spending, stemming from right here in this Chamber. Wasteful spending increases have been seen across the board; and, to add insult to injury, the interest owed on this money is now up more than 14 percent.

This is an issue that can go on no more. I promised my constituents when I came to Washington that I would convey their concern about our runaway national debt. It is time for all lawmakers to understand that we cannot afford to use tax dollars as a piggy bank for pet projects. Spending like what we have seen is a threat to our national security and a disservice to the American people.

Since I started speaking 50 seconds ago, our national debt has risen nearly \$2 million. Therefore, we cannot simply encourage leadership in Congress to commit to restoring regular order in the appropriations process, but we must demand that we address this fiscal crisis before it is too late.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the urgent need to address the high and rising costs of prescription drug prices in this country.

Far too often, I have heard heart-breaking stories from Oklahomans and people in my community who face the unacceptable reality of choosing between putting food on their table and taking the lifesaving medications they need.

Earlier this year, I held a townhall where I heard from many people in Oklahoma, and we released a report about the soaring costs of insulin. In my district alone, more than 22,000 seniors on Medicare and other Oklahomans living with disabilities and diabetes face prescription drug costs of more than \$25 million.

It is time to act and make medicine more affordable and make it possible for people to get the lifesaving prescription drugs they need.

One important solution is limiting the out-of-pocket costs for patients at the pharmacy counter. That is why I introduced the Capping Drug Costs for Seniors Act. This practical solution lowers the cost for patients directly. This bill keeps Medicare part D patients from paying more than \$2,000 out of pocket, which has a real impact for 46 million Americans who rely on this program.

Medication only works if it is taken as prescribed. The high cost of prescription drugs forces too many people to choose between putting food on their table and buying the medicine they need.

We must continue working on this important issue and create pathways to affordable medications and improving health.

□ 0915

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BILL BERKMAN

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, the Tri-Cities community recently lost a leader and a friend. I rise today to honor the memory of Bill Berkman, chairman of the Benton County Republicans. Bill became involved with the local Republican Party as a precinct committee officer in 2016, and later that year, as chairman. I got to know him well while encouraging our fellow community members to get out to vote.

As owner of the MenZone franchises in Kennewick and Pasco, Bill was a passionate voice for limited government and policies that supported small business owners. Even with his strong personal beliefs and conservative principles, though, Bill never let partisanship rise above integrity. He was adamant that we could and should do more to bring more respect into our politics.

He will be remembered for his efforts to build bridges, including with his counterparts in the local Democratic Party.

We will all miss Bill's booming voice, his polite fervent candor, and his desire for facts, for truth, and for solutions for the Nation.

Rest in peace, Bill.

FIX MEDICAID FUNDING IN THE 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. Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee agree that now is the time to fix Medicaid funding in the insular areas.

H.R. 2328, reported out of the committee in July, addresses the serious funding shortfall all the insular areas face now that special ObamaCare Medicaid funding for our areas has ended.

In the Marianas, this special funding has kept our only hospital open, and is a significant source of revenue for doctors in private practice, pharmacists, and an array of healthcare providers.

Take this funding away, and not only low-income families that qualify for Medicaid will suffer, but everyone at every income level who depends on

those doctors, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers will lose service.

The insular areas have reached the Medicaid cliff, but we have a solution. Chairman PALLONE, Ranking Member WALDEN, and all of the Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee agree: Let us bring H.R. 2328 to the floor.

Show that the House is united and fix the insular area Medicaid funding cliff.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MARVIN H. "MARK" CHESSER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. Marvin H. "Mark" Chesser who passed away at the age of 78 on September 25, the mayor pro tem of Ludowici in Long County in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

His friends and colleagues remember him as a valuable servant to the community who served tirelessly and did a great job. Even before becoming the mayor pro tem, Mr. Chesser spent countless hours dedicated to his local community.

One important example of his work includes his time driving school busses for the district there. In addition, he was very active within his church, both in the men's ministry and driving the church van for Wednesday night activities.

During his time as mayor pro tem, Mr. Chesser worked hard to promote policies that boosted the economy, and increased jobs in Ludowici. I am thankful that we had Mr. Chesser in the First Congressional District where his passion made our area a better place to live.

Mr. Chesser's family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

OUTSOURCING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3624, and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 629 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3624.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0919

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the disclosure of the total number of domestic and foreign employees of certain public companies, and for other purposes, with Mr. NEGUSE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3624, the Outsourcing Accountability Act of 2019 crafted by Representative AXNE from Iowa, a new Member to Congress and the Financial Services Committee.

The Outsourcing Accountability Act of 2019 protects American workers by shining a light on companies that are shipping jobs overseas.

Although public companies are required to disclose their total number of employees, there is currently no requirement that they disclose where those employees are geographically based. This allows companies to quietly ship jobs overseas and makes it difficult for investors to know if the companies they are investing in are creating and protecting American jobs.

Moreover, voluntary disclosure of outsourcing data has declined in recent decades. According to the AFL-CIO: ". . . multinational companies have increasingly focused job creation in non-U.S. markets and would prefer not to disclose numbers that could lead to reputational risks."

As a result of the lack of disclosure, some companies that are failing to invest in American workers escape accountability. The limited information the public does have about companies' outsourcing and offshoring usually comes from the news media.

The data that we do have shows that the U.S. is losing jobs to trade. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the United States has lost more than 3 million American jobs to trade with China in the last 20 years. Since 1975, more than 5 million Americans have been certified for Trade Adjustment Assistance after losing wages, hours, or their employment because of trade.

President Trump's 2017 tax scam has also worsened matters by essentially incentivizing certain manufacturers to move entire production lines overseas.

By requiring public companies to disclose the locations of their workforces,