

repeal of health insurance and all it would do to average families in taking away their capacity to get care and the confidence that they can get care for their families, it, too, would provide another tax giveaway to the wealthy.

The court case and all it would do in repealing the Affordable Care Act would have life-changing consequences for millions of people in Michigan, including someone I would like to tell you about.

Henry is an outgoing 9-year-old who lives in Grosse Pointe, MI. Henry loves people. He greets everyone he meets with a big hug. He also loves performing. His favorite activity is dance class, and he enjoys singing karaoke at home.

Henry, we have something in common. I like to sing too.

Henry is also living with a number of preexisting conditions, including Down syndrome, autism, and severe reflux.

Henry's mom explains why comprehensive health insurance is so important for her family. Henry was hospitalized at 8 months for an infection that nearly took his life. Saving his life cost over \$1 million. She added this: If we didn't have access to affordable healthcare coverage, we would have been bankrupt before Henry was 1 year old.

No family should go bankrupt because a child was born with a genetic condition or hospitalized with a serious illness. I want to remind my colleagues that this could happen to any of us at any time.

Almost 4 years ago, my nephew and his wonderful wife, Mac and Allie, had their firstborn girl, and she was born with only half a heart and spent most of the first year of her life in the children's hospital at the University of Michigan. She had incredible care. She is now almost 4 years old. Little Leighton is our miracle baby, but she came out with a whole laundry list of preexisting conditions, ongoing challenges, and a huge healthcare bill that I know, if we hadn't had healthcare coverage, if they weren't able to get coverage, they would have done anything—anything—including losing their home, in order to keep Leighton alive and thriving. That is what we do for our kids. That is what we do for our families. Too many people have been put in that position.

That is one of the reasons the Affordable Care Act was put in place, to give some options so that you wouldn't have to focus on losing everything in order to protect your child's life. So that is what is at stake right now.

Unfortunately, this administration is trying to turn the clock back to a time when filing for bankruptcy or not being able to get your child the lifesaving medical care they need was all too common. All people with preexisting conditions deserve to know that their health insurance will be there when they need it, just like Henry's was.

Half of the people in Michigan have preexisting conditions, and they want

to know that they are going to be OK, that their healthcare coverage is not going to be ripped away. I want that for them too. I want that for all of us.

Healthcare isn't political; it is personal. It is time to stop playing politics with people's health and work to protect Henry and his family and all of our families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONG KONG

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, over the past few months we have all watched as the pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong turned the tables on Beijing, and, indeed, we have passed legislation in this Chamber and the President has signed that, addressing the issue.

Hong Kong's recent elections really were a stunning rebuke to Beijing.

Seven in 10 eligible voters risked persecution to speak out at the ballot box, and the government's allies' political control over Hong Kong collapsed. Hong Kong wants their freedom. We are proud of those freedom fighters. We continue to support them. But we also must recognize that Beijing's crimes spread far beyond the world of cellphone cameras and fearless journalism.

In the far west Xinjiang region, Chinese officials are perpetrating a different and even more horrific human rights violation. Xinjiang is home to 11 million Uighurs, an indigenous Turkic Muslim ethnic minority that the Chinese Government has tormented for decades. Although the Uighurs built their lives and a booming economy in China, they feel more culturally and ethnically close to their neighbors living in Central Asian nations.

Much like Tibet, Xinjiang is an autonomous region that, after the Communists subjugated the area in 1949, the central government increased its control over the lives of Uighurs by oppressing commercial, religious, and cultural activity deemed inconsistent with state doctrine. Think about that; the Chinese Communists said these activities are inconsistent with state doctrine.

In the wake of 9/11, China seized on the actions of Uighur separatists to create a propaganda campaign comparing the separatists to Al Qaeda. They use these accusations to blame the Uighur population at large for unrest and crack down mercilessly on even peaceful protest. In 2016, the government further ramped up persecution of Uighurs under the guise of repressing antigovernment activity.

Their current playbook really looks familiar: arbitrary detention of over a million Uighurs and other ethnic minorities in concentration camps that they have labeled "political re-education centers;" torture for those who fail to tell the Communist Party what the Communist Party wants to hear; compulsory digital and physical surveillance and the merciless eradication of free expression, freedom of religion, and basic expectations of privacy.

The camps have garnered widespread international attention, in spite of Chinese officials' uncompromising repression of foreign journalists, but the government's pervasive digital surveillance programs are putting the Communist Party in a position to racially profile and persecute those who threaten China's plans for dominance.

Yesterday's New York Times featured a story detailing how Chinese Government officials are forcibly collecting blood samples from the Uighurs with the ultimate goal of using DNA to improve facial recognition capabilities. Although the government claims that these capabilities will place a new tool in law enforcement's tool box, human rights watchdogs rightfully fear that Beijing will use it to justify even more intense racial profiling and persecution.

These violations are all committed by a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. These are going almost completely ignored by the international community. The EU and the European academic institutions have supported China's research and development of facial recognition technology, often without verifying that the necessary DNA samples were not forcibly obtained.

Unfortunately, American technology companies have supported and profited from China's increasingly sophisticated surveillance capabilities. Tourists and corporate partners will once again flock to Beijing for the 2022 Olympic Games, even though they are fully aware—fully aware—that the Chinese Government will track them, record them, surveil them, and analyze their every move.

The Trump administration's crackdown on tech exports to Huawei and other Chinese entities, that sent a strong message to Beijing. Just last month, I joined my colleagues in a letter to Secretaries Pompeo, Mnuchin, and Ross urging them to sanction individual Chinese officials responsible for ordering and coordinating mass internment and forced labor in Xinjiang.

But most leaders and executives even in the West fail to realize that China's bad behavior is an indication of their global ambitions. China thinks power and the almighty dollar—not freedom—rule the day. Everything China does, from their military activity in the South China Sea and the Horn of Africa, to the flood of Chinese-made products into the global market, is done with the goal of exporting their destructive, repressive ideology.

What they are doing to the Uighurs, to the Hong Kong people, and even to their own supposedly loyal comrades, they intend to do to you. The Chinese surveillance state is an essential means to their end game of absolute control of the thought, movement, and relationships with other global powers.

How far must China go before we reject the notion that their influence will stop at our border? I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to consider their answer carefully, as questions will inevitably rise about the relevance of free speech and the Constitution or the importance of a strong national defense.

We are in the midst of great power competition, and we do not have a National Defense Authorization Act. It would be the first time in 58 years. I encourage my colleagues to work with us. Let's get this complete because the threats are real, and the more we compromise our own values, the easier it will become for foreign influence to take hold in our society.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, atmospheric carbon dioxide just hit new records in our atmosphere, the highest in the history of humankind, and I rise for the 260th time to call this Chamber to wake up.

As we venture further into uncharted dangerous climate change, the National Council for Science and the Environment issued this report, "Climate Science Research in the United States and U.S. Territories." This report surveys climate research papers from public universities across all of our 50 States—every single one of them—to highlight the breadth and the depth of climate science coming out of our State universities and to showcase the climate science centers and institutes that they host.

Some colleagues pay no attention to the threat of climate change, but their home State universities sure do. Ten thousand peer-reviewed research papers published out of 80 universities from 2014 through 2018, that is, on average, 185 peer-reviewed articles published on climate change in each State.

The report says this: "In every State, public universities invest in scholarship and education to advance fields such as climate modeling, climate impacts, adaptation, and more. Increasingly, they go on, climate science has been integrated into course work on sustainability, energy, engineering, architecture, business, and even political science." One wonders what is the hold the fossil fuel industry has over the Republican Party that causes colleagues to ignore the research from their own home state universities?

The report continues: "Climate scientists are studying a wide diversity of topics. They measure carbon dioxide

and other greenhouse gas emissions. They are studying carbon and the impacts of a changing carbon cycle. They are studying impacts of climate change on the Nation's food security, crop yields, heat-stress, health impacts, soil erosion; on water resources, including water quality, balance, river basins, drought, precipitation, mountain snowpack; on impacts to critical infrastructure, such as sea level rise on coasts and on subtropical islands, to the impact of permafrost thaw on sub-Arctic rivers."

"Finally, researchers are also studying the social science of climate change, including changing attitudes, polarization, opinions, beliefs, and their impacts on framing in the media and on decision-making."

Region by region in every State, the report shows our State universities tracking climate change's consequences in fine detail. Quoting from the report, in the Midwest, "Agriculture is a major focal area for climate-related research . . . [with] more occurrences of the word 'agriculture' in climate-related papers from the Midwest between the 2014 and 2018 than in any other region."

In the Southwest, "A key focus of scientific research in the Southwest region is on the impact to people and ecosystems from heat, drought, wildfires, and flooding."

In the Southeast, "The impacts of climate change in the Southeast are becoming most visible through the increase of flooding, temporal and geographic shifts that affect human health, and growing risks of wildfires."

In the Southern Great Plains States, "Scientists in the Southern Great Plains are studying climate impact on food systems, sea level rise, as well as impacts to unique ecosystems in this region, such as a tall grass prairie in Oklahoma."

Across all of these regions, red and purple State universities are churning out climate research. In fact, conservative States' universities are home to some of the most prolific climate science departments and institutions. I wish they were listened to by our Members here.

Texas A&M University, the alma mater of climate-change-denying former Energy Secretary Rick Perry, produced 256 papers—256 papers—covering topics like shifting summer monsoons in the Lone Star State, local surface temperature increases, atmospheric changes, and climate adaptation strategies.

North Carolina State University produced 223 climate papers examining climate change and atmospheric chemistry, surface ozone, regional water research and precipitation, and it is home to the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, which helps coastal North Carolina grapple with rising sea levels, erosion, and flooding.

Go to Idaho. Researchers from Boise State and the University of Idaho issued 164 climate science papers cov-

ering threats like wildfires, bark beetles, shifting precipitation, rising temperatures, and disruption to ecosystems in National Parks like Yellowstone. Idaho also has two academic centers focused on climate change, the Hazard and Climate Resiliency Consortium and the Center for Resilient Communities. For the staff at these two centers, it is all climate, all the time. For the Idaho delegation, it is never climate, ever.

Let's look at what is happening in the home State universities of Republican Senators on our Environment and Public Works Committee. Here is what they will find in their university backyards. The University of Wyoming produced 124 climate change papers on wildfires, endangered species, Yellowstone National Park, and other climate topics—124. The university is home to both the State climatology office and an atmospheric science department, which does modeling and empirical climate research. Its faculty are working on subjects like—quoting here the report here—"the role of climate and variability on vegetation and fire. Using moderate climate analogs to understand past environmental disturbances. Developing Web-based animated maps of climate, and development of 3D climate visualization tools to enhance learning approaches in the classroom." I wonder if our Wyoming delegation has visualized that.

The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University published 183 climate change papers on things like Southern Plains grasslands, rising temperatures, soil respiration, and much more. OU is home to the Oklahoma University Climate Science Center and the Department of the Interior's South Central Adaptation Science Center.

Here is what the dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences said: "On the increasing strength of Earth sciences we can now state that global warming is 'unequivocal.'" He said: "The fact that the planet's warming, and the fact that CO<sub>2</sub>'s a greenhouse gas, and the fact that it's increasing in the atmosphere, and that it increases in the atmosphere due to humans—about those things, there's no debate."

I am not sure the Oklahoma delegation here has taken that in yet.

West Virginia and Marshall Universities have turned out dozens of climate change papers on precipitation, drought, tree growth, and much more. The West Virginia Mountaineers have a Mountain Hydrology Laboratory, which reports on climate change's "important implications for management of fresh water resources," which include that "the highlands region in the central Appalachian Mountains is expected to wet up" as warmer air carrying more moisture leads to what they call "intensification of the water cycle"—what you and I would call worse flooding. The laboratory warns that "the implications of this intensification are immense."