

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESTORING AMERICANS' HEALTHCARE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my strong support for the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3762, the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015. Mr. Speaker, this legislation caps a long march by House Republicans to repeal President Obama's job-killing health care legislation, the so-called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). But you don't have to just take my word for it. Since its enactment, PPACA has never been popular with a majority of the America people. The Kaiser Family Foundation has maintained a monthly tracking poll of the law's popularity and only once in the last five years was its favorability as high as 50%. House Republicans recognized this and voted over 60 times to repeal or modify provisions of PPACA. Because of this, eighteen different provisions of PPACA have been considered and passed by both the House and the Senate and have been signed into law by the President.

The Senate Amendment to H.R. 3762 does three important things: it repeals the individual mandate, eliminates the employer mandates, eliminates the taxes on prescription drugs and medical devices, and it places a moratorium on taxpayer funding to abortion providers. These provisions are estimated to repeal more than \$1.2 trillion in tax hikes on hardworking families, and reduces spending by nearly \$1.5 trillion, over the next 10 years. As a member of the Budget Committee, I am proud to have played a role in shaping this reconciliation bill to repeal a law that a majority of Americans have never wanted, a law that has taken away coverage that people liked and replaced it with inferior coverage which costs even more.

In addition to this, Mr. Speaker, the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3762 includes a moratorium on taxpayer funding to abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, and redirects those funds to community health centers. Like you, Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to abortion and have been a consistent proponent of laws and policies that respect life and protect the unborn. I am pleased this legislation provides for a moratorium of funding to Planned Parenthood.

Broadly, I do not believe that taxpayers should fund Planned Parenthood. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 217, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, which would prohibit family planning assistance to an entity unless it certifies that it will not provide funds to another entity that performs abortions except in the cases of rape, incest, or the life of the mother. I have also cosponsored H.R. 3134, the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015, which would prevent any funds from going to

Planned Parenthood until it is certified that they do not perform abortions and supported this legislation when it passed the House, by a vote of 241–187, on September 18, 2015. In addition, I voted in favor of H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, which gives states the flexibility to exclude abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, from their Medicaid programs. I do not believe it is appropriate to use public funds to pay for abortions and am pleased to see this further limitation as a part of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3762.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few moments to respond to some of my colleagues' remarks that seemed to imply that funding for Planned Parenthood was included in the omnibus. Approximately 90 percent of Planned Parenthood's federal funding comes from Medicaid reimbursements, which is mandatory or entitlement spending, and not included in the omnibus at all. The other 10 percent of Planned Parenthood's federal money comes primarily from the Title X Family Planning Program in the form of competitive grants. This amounts to around \$60 million in any given year that Planned Parenthood must compete for. Obviously, with this Administration, it seems likely that Planned Parenthood will receive funds; however, electing a pro-life President who will also select like-minded appointees and cabinet members is the long-term solution. Ultimately, even with a government shutdown, Planned Parenthood would still receive the vast amount of the funding it currently receives.

As the Chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee responsible for funding the Department of Health and Human Services, I removed all funding for Title X programs that fund organizations conducting abortions, such as Planned Parenthood as part of the House version of this legislation. Unfortunately, we were not able to maintain that funding prohibition or the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act in the final version of the bill. For some to suggest, as they have, that more could have been done to stop this horrifying practice in the omnibus, is simply untrue.

I am opposed to abortion and have been a consistent proponent of laws and policies that respect life and protect the unborn. Since becoming a Member of Congress, I have made protection of life one of my highest priorities. As stewards of the laws of this country, protecting the most vulnerable, including the unborn, should be one of Congress' highest priorities. I have a 100 percent pro-life voting record and intend to continue building on that record.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this legislation demonstrates what the American people have known for a long time: that Obamacare is deeply unpopular in both Washington and back at home. Forcing the President to veto this legislation demonstrates that the support is here in Washington for a full repeal. If a Republican President would be elected in 2016, I am sure this albatross around the neck of the American people would be no more.

I encourage all of my colleagues to listen to the voices of the American people and vote yes on repeal of Obamacare and a temporary moratorium on federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

SUNSHINE FOR REGULATORY DECREES AND SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 712) to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, today I rise in opposition to The Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015.

In our first legislative week of 2016 the Republican agenda is clear—continue to erode the rights of Americans. Despite its sunny title, this bill does nothing more than make it more difficult for agencies to implement environmental, public health and consumer regulations. This bill helps big corporations that do not want to comply with agency promulgations at the expense and health of the American people.

It is for this reason Mr. Speaker that I must vote no.

FAIRNESS IN CLASS ACTION LITIGATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 8, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1927) to amend title 28, United States Code, to improve fairness in class action litigation.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my opposition to the Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act of 2015.

On Monday of this week, the Justice Department filed a civil complaint against Volkswagen after discovering that Volkswagen manipulated over half a million diesel engines to circumvent our environmental standards. By the end of the week Republicans brought legislation to the floor that will make it exceedingly difficult for consumers harmed by deliberately deceitful corporations to file class action lawsuits. The problem that Republicans are pretending to solve with this bill does not exist, but the consequences of this bill are

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

very real. If this bill passes it will limit the ability of consumers to have access to courts and prevent them from holding companies accountable.

We have spent this week on policies that deprive Americans of their health care, deprive women of safe and secure healthcare, and protect corporations instead of protecting American citizens. If this week is a harbinger of the legislative agenda that Republicans have for 2016 then the people's House will fail to do the people's business.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO
SUFFER FROM GLIOBLASTOMA

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the scourge of glioblastoma.

The glial cells are the glue of the brain. Glial tumors, which attack and destroy this glue, account for over eighty percent of all malignant brain tumors. Glioblastomas are both the most frequent and the most aggressive kind of glial tumor. Put simply, glioblastoma is the most malignant form of brain cancer known to medical science.

The suffering caused by glioblastoma is hard to overstate. As the glue of the brain breaks down, glioblastoma causes great difficulties for patients and their loved ones. Life expectancy after diagnosis is about three months without treatment, and even with treatment, typical life expectancy is between one and two years. The five-year survival rate for patients receiving treatment is less than ten percent.

Despite these enormous odds, many patients and their families continue to fight bravely and advocate for a cure. I would like to join them in that cause. The National Institutes of Health recently received a major funding increase, and I urge them, along with other centers of medical research, to take seriously the enormous importance of finding new and better treatments for glioblastoma, which represents such a challenge for so many Americans and their families.

I also want to recognize in particular Mr. Joseph J. Rullo, a constituent of mine from Beachwood, New Jersey, who passed away after his battle with this terrible disease. His son, Joe, is an active voice in the fight to combat glioblastoma, and I thank him—and all glioblastoma advocates—for their dedication to the hard work of advocacy on behalf of those who suffer from glioblastoma and their families. It's my honor to represent them in Congress as they continue fighting the good fight.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE GIBSON

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Mike Gibson. Mr. Gibson served as the manager of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, and recently retired after

14 years to the area. He is a standout citizen, demonstrated by his hard work and dedication to his former job, and was recently named Water Manager of the Year by the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division 3 of the Rio Grande Basin. This is the second time he received this award in seven years. Mr. Gibson's ability to effectively manage water reinforces his commitment to excellent service to the people of Southern Colorado.

The Colorado Division of Water presents this award to a person involved in water management within the Rio Grande Basin who has shown outstanding effort in the management of their water, and demonstrated leadership in the larger water issues facing the basin. Water is a scarce resource in Colorado and the effective management of it is a top priority. Mr. Gibson has consistently demonstrated his ability to manage water and, as a result, has earned multiple Manager of the Year awards, respect from his colleagues, and the gratitude of the Southern Colorado communities which he serves.

Mr. Gibson's passion for water related issues was reflected not only by his work at the San Luis Valley Water Conservation District, but also by his leadership on other organizations, including the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Rio Grande Natural Area Commission, and his past duties as president of the Colorado Water Congress. His willingness to collaborate and volunteer speaks to his dedication not only to protecting the basin's water resources but to educating its citizens as well.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Gibson truly deserves the admiration he has received from the Colorado water community over the years. His services were immensely important for the communities in the San Luis Valley, and he is among the very best of the water managers in the Third Congressional District of Colorado. Mr. Gibson's work has been invaluable over the last several years. I applaud him for his outstanding accolades and his successful career, and I wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAT A.
GENTILE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Pat A. Gentile, 87, who passed away on Friday January 1, 2016. Pat was born on February 2, 1928 in Belltown, Pennsylvania, a son of Antonio and Liberta DelSignore Gentile.

Pat attended Struthers High School and graduated from the New Castle School of Trades. Pat enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was in the Sea Bee Division, from where he was honorably discharged in 1948.

Pat worked in the steel mills and Kaiser Refractories and then became a self-employed carpenter for 50 years. One of his greatest accomplishments was the building of his children's homes. He was known as a jokester and loved to play tricks on the kids. Pat was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, especially at his cabin in the Allegheny National Forest. He loved ani-

mals and music, especially his accordion. Pat was a member of the Christ Our Savior/St. Nicholas Church in Struthers.

Pat will be deeply missed by his family. He leaves behind his wife, Marian "Honey" Caggiano, whom he married on April 17, 1948, at St. Lucy's Church in Campbell. They raised four children, Patrick (Denise) Gentile of New Middletown, Michael (Lori) Gentile of Poland, Carole "Mimi" (Pat) Patterson of Fresno, Calif., and Laraine (Gary) Solvesky of Poland. He leaves one brother, Joseph P. (Eleanor) Gentile of Struthers; 12 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren, with one on the way; and many nieces, nephews and cousins, all of whom adored him.

Pat was preceded in death by six brothers, Nick, Chris, Fred, Sam, William, and Dominic Gentile; five sisters, Emma Genova, Amelia Quatro, Mary Quatro, Anne Spano, and Anne Gentile; one great-grandson, Dylan Solvesky; and one daughter-in-law, Rochelle Hudock Gentile.

Losses like these are never easy, but we can all take solace in the fact that Pat led a long and fulfilling life. He will live on in the memory of his beautiful family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ROOSEVELT D. ALLEN, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness and the utmost respect that I take this time to remember a dear friend and one of Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Roosevelt D. Allen, Jr., Lake County Commissioner. On Saturday, January 9, 2016, Roosevelt Allen passed away at the age of 68. Commissioner Allen devoted his life to serving the people of Northwest Indiana, and he will be greatly missed by his family, friends, coworkers, and the many grateful constituents throughout the community whose lives he touched.

In 1965, Roosevelt Allen graduated from Roosevelt High School in Gary, Indiana, before continuing his studies at Howard University. From there, he graduated magna cum laude from Indiana University, receiving a bachelor's degree in accounting, before completing graduate classes at DePaul University. Roosevelt went on to become a successful and admired funeral director for the family business, Guy & Allen Funeral Directors, Inc., in Gary, which has served the community for eighty years.

Public service was a way of life for Commissioner Allen. He served the community of Northwest Indiana because he wanted to make a difference, and he did so with passion and enthusiasm. Roosevelt served on the Calumet Township Advisory Board for twenty-seven years. In 2006, he was elected to serve as Lake County Commissioner for the first district. Commissioner Allen was in his third term, and was serving as President of the Board of Commissioners, at the time of his passing. Fellow officials remember him as a true gentleman, a mentor to all, and an exemplary government leader. During his time in office, Roosevelt also served as the commissioners' representative on the Northwestern Indiana