

make it more difficult and less likely people will sign up.

Don't let them do this. Sign up for your healthcare. During this shortened enrollment period, there will also be 12-hour periods of scheduled maintenance when the website will be inaccessible. These periods will occur every Sunday morning, except one, during the open enrollment period. December 15 is the last chance for individuals to sign up for health insurance for 2018, unless you have a major event like getting married, having a child, or moving.

In previous years, individuals were notified of autoenrollment with time to change their choice. This year, that happens on December 16, a day after open enrollment ends, so there is no reason to do it. It just tells you what you have got, and you don't have the opportunity to change. So individuals should not rely on autoenrollment. They should use [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) to find the best plan for them and their families.

In many cases, there are affordable plans. In 2018, in Tennessee, 88 percent can find a bronze plan for under \$75.

□ 1115

In Memphis, many consumers earning \$30,000 to \$48,000 a year can find silver plans for under \$100. This is particularly true for those in their late forties to age 64.

You may qualify for premiums and cost-sharing reductions like in past years. In 2016, 88 percent of Tennesseans on the exchanges received premium assistance, and 58 percent received cost-sharing reduction subsidies.

This is still true even as the President attempts to sabotage the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Marketing funding and funds for navigators to help people through the process have both been slashed. In spite of that fact, we are going to try to find some navigators still around and have a townhall in Memphis possibly Saturday, November 11. We are still in the process of scheduling that, but we want all of our people to get that chance. So we encourage all Americans to get that chance.

Cost-sharing reduction subsidies will be available for individuals who qualify for silver plans despite Trump's decision to stop the government from reimbursing insurers.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. All current efforts to repeal and replace have failed because they have not come up with a better plan. Healthcare is difficult, and we came up with a plan that needs some tweaking but not repealing.

Memphis has recently seen a decrease in the disparity of breast cancer mortality rates between Black and White women, a clear indication that access to affordable care saves lives.

Memphis has done excellent work at expanding access to screenings and coverage. In addition to local efforts, the Affordable Care Act has helped to

reduce or even eliminate copayments that women have to pay for preventive screenings, including mammograms.

Access to affordable healthcare has saved lives in Memphis and throughout this country. The open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act starts today and runs through December 15. Avail yourselves of those opportunities.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Michael W. Waters, Joy Tabernacle AME Church, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Immutable God, greater than all that has or ever will be conceived, hear our prayer:

For ancestors at rest in the abode of angels, accosted and assaulted while present upon these shores, enduring avalanches of animus never atoned; for babies bombarded by bombs, bounties placed upon their beautiful heads at birth; for the cacophony of cries citing crimes against humanity, callous cycles of crisis, casualties colored in chalk.

In Your name, we shall resist evil by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Grant that we become drum majors of justice, promulgators of peace, architects of an America freed from greed, hate, oppression, racism, suppression, indeed, the very threat of tyranny, replete with liberty and justice for all, till that great day when lions shall lie down with lambs and we study war no more, when justice flows like waters, and righteousness, like a mighty stream, and all God's children are finally free.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSKAM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND DR. MICHAEL W. WATERS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to host Reverend Waters as our guest chaplain today.

Reverend Waters is a true community servant and a man of God. He is the founding pastor of Joy Tabernacle African Methodist Episcopal Church—AME—of Dallas, Texas.

Reverend Waters is a pastor, a professor, an award-winning author, a community leader, and a social commentator. Reverend Waters' words of hope and empowerment inspire national and international audiences.

As a notable friend of the community, Reverend Waters served as a keynote speaker at my Annual Dallas Prayer Breakfast this year. His engaging personality and purposeful speech captivated the attention of all those who attended.

As a strong leader, Reverend Waters is able to understand the unique needs of our community. He knows no stranger when he walks into the room, and his charismatic nature allows him to connect with everyone he meets.

It is my pleasure that he has come today to be our guest chaplain. May God continue to bless him.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, cruelty to animals is a scourge, and there is no worse example than animal fighting that is for so-called pleasure and definite profit.

I am pleased today to introduce the Parity in Animal Cruelty Enforcement Act, which is to close a loophole.

Animal fighting is prohibited in the United States, but it is allowed in some U.S. territories. This is important for us because what we have is a situation where animals are manipulated, drugged, and put into situations where their aggression is heightened. It is disgusting.

I am pleased to join with friends on the other side of the aisle—Messrs. BLUMENAUER and NOLAN—and Representatives on the Republican side—Messrs. RODNEY DAVIS, YODER, and KNIGHT—to come together on a bipartisan basis to address this trouble. I ask for cosponsors.

#### BIPARTISAN TAX REFORM

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, not surprisingly, Republicans have had to delay the release of their tax plan because it is so deeply unpopular. We haven't seen all of the details yet, but what we know about it is that this is really bad for working families.

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center says that the Republican plan raises taxes on many middle class families to pay for a massive tax cut for the people at the very top, the wealthiest Americans.

The details matter. A family of four earning \$50,000 could see their taxes go up 380 percent. Meanwhile, 80 percent of the benefits of this "billionaires first" tax plan go to the richest 1 percent—80 percent of the benefits to the richest 1 percent. That is not middle class tax relief.

And how do we pay for these massive tax cuts to the wealthy? What are we going to do?

We are going to see cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, and education.

If anybody thinks we can do this and go big on infrastructure and rebuild America's capacity to produce, they better think twice. Plus, saddling our grandkids with a huge debt.

What happened to the deficit hawks in this place?

This is wrong, and we ought to reject it.

#### IMPROVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2936, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, that was introduced by Congressman WESTERMAN.

The House will consider this bill today, which will improve forest management and cut the bureaucratic red tape that has been preventing sound management practices for the Forest Service.

Mr. Speaker, devastating wildfires have resulted in the loss of property, loss of pristine landscapes, and, most importantly, the loss of life. 2017 has been the costliest wildfire season on record, with the Forest Service spending over \$2 billion. While not the only issue, the greatest cause for this increase in wildfire is a severe lack of forest management.

This bill provides Federal land management agencies the immediate tools

to expedite and increase the scale and efficiency of forest management projects without sacrificing environmental protections.

Mr. Speaker, we must do everything in our power to stop these catastrophic wildfires and encourage better land management of our forests.

Today's bill is one step in the right direction and I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### OPEN ENROLLMENT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, beginning today, millions of Americans have the opportunity to buy or change their healthcare plan through the Affordable Care Act exchange.

The open enrollment period ends December 15, so consumers need to act now. We only have 45 days to shop around, receive assistance from local organizations, and make a final decision. But many people may not know that because the Trump administration has taken several administrative actions to undermine the ACA.

Cutting the open enrollment period in half, to slashing advertising and outreach funding by 90 percent, to announcing a shutdown of healthcare.gov on Sundays during open enrollment and other sabotage efforts, the Trump administration and the Republican majority have tried to restrict the access to healthcare for Americans.

I encourage every American who needs health insurance to visit healthcare.gov and get covered. Financial assistance is available, and about 80 percent of the enrollees who pick plans on healthcare.gov will be able to get insurance for \$75 a month or less.

#### CONGRATULATING OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Oakwood Elementary School in Wayzata for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for academic excellence.

This is a big honor. It is a big deal. I visited Oakwood myself, and only eight schools in Minnesota have received this recognition this year. That is because exemplary, high-performing schools like Oakwood rank among the highest performing schools with top scores in State assessments.

One important note worth mentioning is that Oakwood Elementary School has done significant work addressing the achievement gap in their community so that every one of their students has what they need to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, every one of Oakwood's teachers, staff, students, and parents

should be commended for this accomplishment. Congratulations, again, to Oakwood Elementary School for being named a National Blue Ribbon School.

#### FLIGHT STANDARDS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, no family or community should have to relive the devastating loss we felt on February 12, 2009, the day Colgan Air Flight 3407 crashed in western New York, killing all aboard and one on the ground.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Flight 3407 families and a bipartisan collection of Members of Congress, new flight safety standards have saved other families from similar pain, achieving 7 years of no commercial airline fatalities.

Yet some, including the new nominee to the National Transportation Safety Board, are questioning the need for these hard-fought, commonsense flight safety and training standards.

You have a right to know which airline is flying your plane, you have a right to know that your pilot is well rested, and you have a right to know that the pilot is adequately trained to handle any challenges that might occur in flight. For these rights and for enhanced safety, you can thank the families of Flight 3407 for their work in reaching these standards, and you can join me in fighting to make sure that we keep them.

#### CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, this week, we will see on the floor the Championing Healthy Kids Act. It will include a number of different reforms, which will include the Children's Health Insurance Program, the CHAMPION Act, and my bill, the CARE Act.

We must increase access throughout our communities across the country. By expanding our residency program, we will see new doctors, especially in these underserved areas. Expanding our residency program will allow our medical schools to have people in our communities practicing medicine, and, ultimately, filling this doctor shortage that we have today.

I look forward to the passing of the Championing Healthy Kids Act, which will, again, help our children with their health insurance coverage and expand our residency program at a much-needed time.

#### TAX REFORM

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)