

Anglican theology and ethics at Yale University's Divinity School.

Father Gunn heard the call of ministry at a young age. During service in Tennessee, he served the Department of Corrections, bringing hope and wisdom to those incarcerated. He then brought his ministry to St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, completing a clinical residency where he brought comfort to patients and their families.

Father Gunn was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 2002, and his assignments brought him to Bronxville, New York; Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Clarksboro, New Jersey; and Ridgewood, New Jersey. Father Gunn was then named priest-in-charge and superintendent of St. Andrew's in New Providence, New Jersey.

I thank him for his stewardship at St. Andrew's. Its mission statement gives the church the welcoming moniker of "a big heart, making God's love known to the world."

I thank Father Gunn for being here and for offering our daily prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S REFUSAL TO PROTECT PATIENTS WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 115 people in America die from opioid overdose every day—115. While we are spending the next 2 weeks passing bipartisan legislation to combat the opioid crisis, President Trump's Department of Justice is abandoning the Affordable Care Act and its popular rule that protects Americans from preexisting conditions like opioid addiction. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 130 million adults under the age of 65 have preexisting conditions.

This action taken by the Justice Department is bad policy, and it will do more harm to Texas, which already has the highest population of uninsured in the Nation.

In fact, it will add more uncertainty to the Affordable Care Act markets at a time when Americans throughout the country will witness double-digit rate increases for the ACA plans next year. We can't combat the opioid crisis if we deny treatment and access to care for Americans with substance abuse.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, speak out, and oppose the huge health insurance premium increases.

RECOGNIZING THE ILLINOIS MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY, HOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCIENCE FAIR

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aurora's Illinois Math and Science Academy as the first-ever U.S. host of the International Student Science Fair.

This month, 35 STEM schools from 20 countries will focus particularly on "significantly influencing life on our planet through cooperation and collaboration."

IMSA began with an idea from Fermilab Director Leon Lederman and leadership from its first president, Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall. Its own mission is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition.

IMSA knows that careers in STEM are not just about learning math and science as isolated individuals. It is about how mastering these subjects as a team can solve problems and improve lives, as I have seen in the high school students that are part of my own STEM Scholars program.

IMSA has consistently pushed students to work together in a community, propelling their graduates to Silicon Valley and beyond. This year's science fair is in good hands, and I congratulate IMSA on this historic achievement.

AMERICA'S OPIOID CRISIS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House is voting on bills meant to address the opioid crisis, a crisis facing communities across the country. This crisis deserves our full attention and bipartisan action. Mr. Speaker, 115 people die every day from overdose. These are real human beings.

I think of Katie Lethbridge, from my home community of Brendan Bye, lost to this terrible, terrible addiction, this terrible tragic disease.

We need more than just the legislation that is coming before us this week. We need a serious commitment to treatment, to funding treatment, not just with direct funding to ensure that the programs that support treatment are in place, but actually making sure that people have healthcare coverage that includes coverage for treatment.

When this House works to undermine the guarantee that people with a pre-existing condition, which could include addiction, if it is taken from them, we are really not living up to the promise that we owe to these folks.

AMERICA'S OPIOID CRISIS

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, in America today, in every State, in too many families, there is a profound sense of pain, loss, and suffering caused by the horrendous opioid crisis.

Unfortunately, my home State of Georgia is not immune to this growing epidemic. Many of my closest friends have lost family members or children, and the question is always: Why? How can this happen?

From 1999 to 2014, prescription opioid deaths increased tenfold in Georgia. We saw over 500 deaths in 2015 as a result of opioid abuse.

Over the next few weeks, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives are bringing opioid addiction out of the shadows and voting on over 50 pieces of legislation to prevent further opioid abuse and assist those currently dealing with addiction. We must take proactive steps to fight opioid addiction and focus on treating the mind, the body, and, most important in my view, the spirit.

The road to recovery may be long and hard-fought, but the American will be as strong as ever and shall prevail. We are at war with drugs, and we must defeat this enemy.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting the nearly 40 opioid-related bills before this House this week. America needs us.

MEDICARE IS THE BEST PUBLIC HEALTHCARE OPTION

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department last week said to a Federal court that it will not defend against efforts to dismantle the individual market and protections for preexisting conditions of the healthcare law.

Mr. Speaker, the 50 to 64 demographic in America that buys health insurance on the exchanges is about to get clobbered with 30 to 40 percent premium increases and no protection against denial for preexisting conditions. The 60 million people between the ages of 50 and 64 need the protection of Medicare now by allowing them to buy into the program to give them medical coverage.

Medicare is fully compliant with the Affordable Care Act, and Medicare always covers preexisting conditions. Medicare is the best health care insurance, and it is the best public option that already exists. Let's make that accessible to the people who are age 50 to 64.

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for and