Congressman Blumenauer provided the keynote speech at the third annual FolkTime breakfast. FolkTime is a program where people with mental illnesses can find community support and resources.

Blumenauer began his speech recounting what he considers the worst vote of his career - when he was in the Oregon legislature in the 1970s. His support of that legislation was designed to move the state away from institutionalizing the mentally ill in facilities that were being managed by the state and toward a system that encouraged treating these patients in the community. Unfortunately, Blumenauer recounted, the support that had been offered at the state level did not move into the community.

Blumenauer offered up the recent health care reform bill and mental health parity legislation authored by his colleagues Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Rep. Jim Ramstad as examples of mental health being worked with on the federal level.