

bubble and the false wealth that it created. As a result, we faced a rapid decline in job creation when the housing bubble burst.

Point B represents the beginning of a new administration with new policies and different results. The lines change direction rather sharply.

Madam Speaker, this is the picture of progress.

□ 1015

PATIENT-CENTERED HEALTH REFORM

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is so interesting to be a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives at this time. One of the things that makes it most interesting is the issues that we have to deal with, and it boils down to making choices: what are you going to support and what are you going to oppose.

The Republicans have supported health reform that would be patient centered. What we saw transpire in this House last weekend was a bill that is government centered and government first. There was a choice of how to move forward with health care, and decisions were made. The Democrat majority chose to put government at the top of health care decisions, government in charge of deciding what kind of health care you can access, what kind of insurance product you can buy, what will be available to buy by the time we get to the year 2013.

Those are not decisions that government should make. Those are decisions that should be made by individuals, by small businesses, by employers. And as our phones continue to ring as people find out more and more about the reconciliation bill, they say reconsider, pull the bill back and focus on the economy, focus on jobs and get this Nation on the right track.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the phenomenal accomplishment we made this weekend, my constituent and Senator, MITCH MCCONNELL, said, We have a new slogan for the fall, "Repeal and Replace." Well, that really doesn't surprise because while we have been legislating for the American people, our opponents on the Republican side have been doing little more than sloganeering.

I hope MITCH MCCONNELL does come home to Kentucky this year and tells parents like my niece, whose 1-year-old son was rejected for insurance because he had had an ear infection, that we are going to repeal that provision that guarantees kids be protected against being disqualified for preexisting con-

ditions. I hope he says we are going to repeal the provision that says that 15,000 small businesses in my district alone, and in his district, his hometown, will be denied that tax credit providing insurance for their employees. I hope he says that we are going to repeal that provision that narrows the doughnut hole for about 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

I say I have a slogan to combat "Repeal and Replace," "Just Wait and See."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to have been here this week when we finally answered the call of the American people to reform the health care system. This is not a government takeover. People woke up on Monday to find they still have their doctors, if they have one; and they still have an insurance policy, if they have one. And, in fact, medical stocks went up on the stock market.

Because of our actions here, people with preexisting conditions will be protected from their insurance companies. Seniors will see the cost of their prescription drugs drop. All plans for all Americans will offer free, preventative care. Small businesses will now get tax credits to provide health care to their employees, and 32 million Americans currently uninsured will have access to high-quality, affordable health care.

I have heard the horror stories from my constituents. Many of them have told me that their insurance company refused to pay for treatment that their doctor ordered, or dropped them once they got sick and needed that coverage the most. Their stories inspired me to keep fighting for health reform, and I am proud to say that this body delivered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JUSTICE O'CONNOR

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

Just last week, the House unanimously passed a resolution in recognition of her distinguished career during Women's History Month. Justice O'Connor truly embodies the Arizona spirit of hard work and rugged individualism.

After growing up on her family's ranch, the Lazy B located in the high deserts of Arizona, she quickly achieved success. Justice O'Connor graduated cum laude from Stanford University in 1950 and in the top three of her class at Stanford University Law School. Justice O'Connor began her ca-

reer in public service as the Arizona Assistant Attorney General in 1965 and went on to the State legislature. She became the first woman in the country to serve as a Senate Majority Leader. Justice O'Connor was catapulted into our Nation's limelight when President Ronald Reagan nominated her to the United States Supreme Court in 1981. She served 24 terms on the Supreme Court in a centrist role with her commitment to uphold law and our Constitution. Just last year she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, the highest recognition for any civilian.

Today we honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor because this Friday we celebrate her 80th birthday. This resolution is a small birthday gift to a daughter of Arizona from a grateful Nation that she so proudly served.

UNDO FLAWED HEALTH BILL

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, America is a democracy, not a monarchy; but you wouldn't know it by the way the American people's voices have been ignored by President Obama, Speaker PELOSI, and Senator REID. The American people are angry. They are not adequately represented in Washington. As representatives of the people, it is necessary that we fix this bill and give Americans what they want: quality and affordable health care reform, not increased taxes and sweetheart deals.

We must fight to repeal and replace this bill. We must fight to uphold the Constitution of the United States. I am here today to speak for the people of Arkansas and the people of America who are overwhelmingly in opposition to the flawed health care bill. We see how the government is infringing on our rights. The American people have had enough and want to see legal action. I too am concerned that this bill is unconstitutional, and I am supportive of States challenging this flawed health care bill. We must abide by States' rights. This bill is just another violation of those rights and it is something we must undo.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in celebration of the historic passage of health care reform for our country. I am going to quote from our Declaration of Independence: All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men.

Yes, it is the purpose of our government that we the people have set up to

secure the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The pursuit of life, the right of living, to be able to live and get the right medical care you need shouldn't depend on whether you had cancer as a 25-year-old, shouldn't depend on whether you had a stroke when you were a kid. These are not somebody's fault; it can happen to anybody. And just because of a preexisting condition, you should not be denied coverage.

That is what this bill means for America. Our Founding Fathers would be proud today that we stood up for the principle to protect the lives of all Americans by ensuring that all Americans can access affordable, quality health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, our middle class families and small business owners need fast action if they are to pull themselves out of the recession. The health care legislation that passed the House floor Sunday evening does just that. Beginning this week, health care reform will begin to impact my district in upstate New York. My constituents' number one concern is to create jobs. For our small business owners, tax credits of up to 35 percent of insurance costs are now available, allowing them to free up funds to hire new employees and expand.

The bill will help our seniors pay for their medication, closing the Medicare part D doughnut hole within a decade, and improve the system for over 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries in our communities. No longer will our neighbors have to worry about losing or being denied quality insurance because they get sick. The bill will end rescissions and denials based on preexisting conditions. The bill will make our health care more efficient, providing new investment in training programs for primary care professionals and fund 12 new health care facilities in upstate New York. Health care reform will set our college graduates off on the right foot, allowing 65,000 young adults in my district to obtain coverage through their parents' plan until they are 26.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked a historic day as President Obama signed the reform legislation that will give families more control over their health care and the same kind of choices that Members of Congress have.

Yet before the ink was even dry on the President's signature, Republicans pledged they would repeal health care reform if given the opportunity. Reform that will end discrimination from

preexisting conditions, Republicans would repeal it. Reform that will close the prescription drug doughnut hole that so many seniors fall into, Republicans would repeal it. Reform that will give the largest health care tax cut in history to families and small businesses to purchase insurance, Republicans would repeal it.

Yesterday we took an important step forward with commonsense reform that will improve coverage for over 1.1 million people in southern Nevada. Nevada's families cannot afford a return to the status quo of skyrocketing costs, of living every day with the fear that they are just one illness or one injury away from losing it all. We cannot repeal that.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, it has been interesting listening to the other side of the aisle talk today. One gentleman got up and talked about the health care bill in a cold and calculating fashion that made me think that he wanted the trains to run on time. Never did he consider the fact that the Congressional Budget Office said that this is the largest deficit-reducing bill in the history of the United States, over a trillion dollars in the second 10 years, and \$123 billion in the first 10 years.

Another said it is patient centered, patient centered. It sounds nice, Madam Speaker. What that means is that if the patient has money now, they can get health care; and if the patient doesn't, they don't get health care. And if you don't get health care and you don't get wellness programs and you don't get prevention programs, you die. You don't get mammograms and you don't get colonoscopies. You don't find out if you have cancer, and you die. Patient centered, very cold and calculating.

They say we need to fix this bill. They never explained what part of the bill they liked. They were against it all. Daniel Webster said to do something worthy to be remembered. What the other side did was say you lie, baby killer, and encourage outsiders that almost brought about civil unrest.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members not to traffic the well when other Members are speaking.

HEALTH REFORM HELPS SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today as someone who

has been building and starting small businesses for my entire adult life. The small businesses in my district have been asking me for a long time what will this health insurance reform do for them. I think it is very important that we make it clear to them, for our small businesses that are less than 50 people, it will not require that they provide insurance but rather it will help if they are trying to provide insurance.

For our small businesses, they will be able to get tax incentives to help them pay for that insurance that they are trying to buy for their employees. It will allow them to band together and purchase as a group in a block on an exchange, much like they do with their local chambers of commerce today, to try to get purchasing power against those big insurance companies so they can hold their costs down.

It will also help solve one of the biggest costs they face. Today my small business owners know that they pay the cost of all of the people who use the emergency room for care and can't pay the bills. That is all shifted to our small businesses. With this legislation, that will go away, providing a big help in terms of keeping their costs down and helping our small businesses provide insurance to their employees.

This bill is going to help our small businesses and help all Americans.

HEALTH BILL IS BAD MEDICINE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have voted for a bill that is a government takeover of the health care system of this country. They talk about all of the good things that they see in the bill that Republicans want to repeal. Republicans want to replace the bad parts of this bill with good things.

The main message of this bill is that it is going to tax us for 10 years for benefits for 6 years. The tax increases begin immediately, the benefits in most cases don't begin for 4 more years, and that is not good news for the American people. We need to put the people in charge of their own health care. We do not need government bureaucrats making decisions for us. This is a bad bill. It is bad medicine for the United States. It is bad medicine for our people, and we are going to do everything we can to replace the bad aspects of the bill with good things.

□ 1030

MAKE MY DAY

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

Mr. FILNER. My Republican friends need to chill out. The previous speaker said this is a government takeover of a health care system. Come on. Let it go. We've got a private system here. We've