

also known for her work as part of Sky News and as the creator of the Rock the Vote concerts and shows in our area. And I can personally attest, she was a fabulous host to my recent congressional visit to Miami Beach High.

As an elected public official, I understand the great effort and the personal sacrifice that goes along with trying to make a difference in our community. The time that Allison has spent and the care she has demonstrated are truly beyond her years. All of us in south Florida are fortunate to have someone like Allison who gives so generously of her time and energy to our area. This award is yet another shining example of how one individual's hard work can make a difference. Allison is an inspirational and energetic student leader who has created positive results for her school and our greater community.

Allison's public service has also been recognized by organizations such as Voice of America radio as well as many other media and civic groups.

This dedication to civic engagement stems from Allison's family, which has a legacy of public service. Allison is the daughter of Surfside mayor emeritus Paul Novack. Mayor Novack served as mayor for six terms and is himself, also, a graduate of Miami Beach Senior High School, the Hittides. Also, Allison's grandmother Mickey Novack served as Surfside vice mayor, as president of Women in Government Service, WIGS, and as treasurer of several educational and civic organizations, including the PTA and Hadassah.

It is wonderful to see Allison continuing in the family tradition of giving back to our community. Her hard work is fundamental in making our community better for years to come. With the support of wonderful parents like Paul and Denise, I am certain that Allison enjoyed the strong family network of support and guidance that is needed to accomplish so much for this young woman who is soon to be off going to college. Allison's steadfast commitment to public service is a testament to her character and to her family. She is a wonderful example of today's young adults who have the will to affect positive change in our community.

Allison will soon graduate from Miami Beach Senior High School this June as an exemplary student who has been a credit to her school and our community. Next semester, she will be joining the proud ranks of students attending the University of Miami—go Canes—and pursuing a degree in communications.

Again, I congratulate Allison for her recent award as Top Outstanding School Youth Volunteer. I also wish her the best as she makes the transition to college life, and I look forward to hearing from her about her continued work in making this community an even better place in which to live. I know that Allison will continue to ben-

efit our area in her volunteer work and will be a magnificent addition to the University of Miami Canes team.

Congratulations, Allison. Congratulations to the Novack family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the most accomplished, most engaged, and most effective social workers that this country has ever known, Dr. Dorothy Height. Following in the footsteps and tradition of Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. Height became renowned for her dedication to social justice in her roles as administrator, educator, and social activist.

Dr. Height was born in 1912, the same year as my father, and, therefore, experienced and endured all of the social characteristics of her childhood era. Nevertheless, she attended college at New York University and did postgraduate work at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work. Working as a social worker, Dr. Height came into contact with the problems and conditions of the average citizen or common man. These experiences and understandings guided her thinking, ignited her passions, and kept her going until just a few days ago.

Dr. Height joined the National Council of Negro Women and became its voice and leader. She served as the national president of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. for 11 years and was the only woman engaged in leadership of the United Civil Rights Organization with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney Young, Jr., A. Phillip Randolph, James Farmer, Roy Wilkins, and JOHN LEWIS. When the movement subsided, Dr. Height's work continued.

She was energetic, went everywhere and to everything. She developed women by serving as their mentor and friend. The women that I know and worked with in Chicago are Ms. Rosie Bean and Ms. Anetta Wilson, both of whom are always willing to call themselves disciples of Dr. Dorothy Height.

Dr. Height was an incredible, unbelievably committed and dedicated woman whose life was the true essence of living. And I think that the poet Sam Walter Foss may have had Dr. Dorothy Height in mind when he penned, "House by the Side of the Road."

"There are hermit souls that live withdrawn, in the place of their self-content. There are souls like stars that dwell apart, in a fellowless firmament. There are pioneer souls that blaze the paths, where highways never ran. But let me live by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

"Let me live in a house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by.

The men who are good and the men who are bad, as good and as bad as I. I would not sit in the scorner's seat, nor hurl the cynic's ban. Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

"I see from my house by the side of the road, by the side of the highway of life, the men who press with the ardor of hope, the men who faint with the strife. But I turn not away from their smiles and tears, both parts of an infinite plan. Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

"I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead, and mountains of wearisome height; that the road passes on through the long afternoon, and stretches away to the night. And still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice, and weep with the strangers that moan, nor live in my house by the side of the road, like a man who dwells alone.

"Let me live in my house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by. They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, wise, foolish; so am I. Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat, or hurl the cynic's ban? Let me live in my house by the side of the road"—like Dr. Dorothy Height—"and be a friend to man."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORBES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DENT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADDITIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE HEALTH CARE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate being recognized. As we do on occasion on Wednesday, after the main part of the House business is closed, we have an opportunity to take a look at various topics and subjects. Usually we have chosen subjects of significant importance to Americans, ones that affect everybody's lives. And it might seem odd in that we have already passed the government takeover of health care bill that we would go back to that bill, but I think there is continuing information that is being released that a lot of people may not have known about when the bill was passed, additional facts and figures which are, at a minimum, quite disturbing.

The facts and figures that I thought that would be important to talk a little bit about today are the facts and figures that come from the President's own people, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. These are people that the administration has chosen. They are a group of people who are taking a good look at the bill that was proposed and has been passed, what its implications are and some of the financial facts.

So this was something that was actually approved by the Obama administration. This was not the House Congressional Budget Office, which is viewed as being fairly bipartisan and has its own numbers. But these facts have just come out recently. We have to assume the President knew them, and the facts are in sharp contradiction, in complete disagreement with statements made by the President himself.

So I think we need to take a look at some of these things. Particularly, there was the claim in the health care bill that we have to bend the cost curve down because the numbers financially, for our Nation, we can't continue to have increasing health care costs.

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Everything was centered on the fact that we are spending too much on health care. First of all, of course, the premise of that is a little odd. If you are a sick person, maybe you are not spending too much on health care. Maybe you spent what you needed to get well. But we are looking when that comment is made on what the government is spending on health care, particularly Medicare and Medicaid. So we are saying the government runs Medicaid and Medicare and they are spend-

ing too much, so the government needs to take it all over.

But the whole thing was sold on we are going to bend the cost curve down so Medicare and Medicaid, also health care in America, will cost less. Here we have Obama's hand-picked Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services saying that, in fact, this bill is going to increase the cost of health care. Well, that is kind of odd because the whole logic for doing it was because we are going to decrease it. And now we are hearing it will increase it. We are going to look at some of the different promises, quotes, and comments.

I am joined by a good friend of mine from Pennsylvania, and hopefully we will have some other guests on the floor tonight. I will introduce things first, and then we will discuss this.

This was an attempt to try to summarize the 2,000-page bill. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, this picture may be a little tough. I don't know if it is worth 2,000 pages or not, but it is a tough picture. This is a rough idea what the government has to take over on the bill we just passed. So obviously it is going to be complicated. It shouldn't surprise us when we see this and ask: Is this going to save money? The answer now from Obama's own people is, No, this is going to cost more money than it is going to save.

So this is one of those things, just to get a sense of how complex the change is, and people are asking our offices all the time: When is this going to take place? For instance, those of us in Congress, we lose our health care coverage with this bill. So we are asking ourselves: When do we no longer have health insurance; and where do we have to go to buy it?

Well, you have to go to an open exchange. And there are a lot of questions about how is it that the Federal Government is going to take over one-sixth of the U.S. economy and somehow make it more efficient than what we have right now. The answer is they are not. They are not. The authorities appointed by the Obama administration again say it is not going to be more efficient, it is going to be more expensive.

There were all kinds of promises that we heard about, and I think it is important to go back and look at some of those things. Congressman THOMPSON from Pennsylvania may remember some of those quotes.

First, this is one that the President said: If you are among the hundreds of millions of Americans who already have health insurance through your job, Medicare or Medicaid or the VA, nothing will require your employer to change the coverage with the doctor you have. Try to explain that to the Members of Congress who are all losing their health insurance. This doesn't even pass the laugh test. This is ridiculous to make this statement.

The proposal that is before us, and you can probably technically say first,

if you are among those who already have a health insurance policy, nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change. Well, for how long? Well, until the bill goes into effect; then it will make you change. So this is really something here. Particularly the people who are going to be rather cynical when they read this are the people who are the Medicare seniors on Medicare Advantage. I don't know how many hundreds of thousands of people are in Medicare Advantage. You are going to have half a billion dollars taken out, \$500 billion being taken out of Medicare Advantage. And obviously when you take that money out, the people on that plan are not going to have that same plan. About 50 percent of the seniors in Medicare Advantage are not going to have the same thing.

I want to contrast back and forth, the President says something, but yet, it taint necessarily so, as the song goes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank my good friend from Missouri for leading this discussion. It is such an important discussion as we look at the consequences of this health care bill that has been passed.

Mr. AKIN. Do you think we really know the consequences? I don't think people have a clue what the consequences are.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. That's right. I don't think we do either. The original Senate bill was 2,000 pages. We had a manager's amendment, and a reconciliation bill on top of that. We are talking close to 4,000 pages, and now the bureaucrats have to take that bill and put it into regulatory language. We may not know certainly for months and maybe years everything that is in here.

It really comes down to one word, and it is credibility. To say one thing, words one way and your actions completely opposite, it lacks credibility. We shouldn't be surprised. We saw that going back. Stretch our imaginations, we don't have to go that far back, we saw that a little over a year ago with the stimulus bill. The President said we have to do this stimulus bill. It was his words then that said we have to do this stimulus bill because if we don't, unemployment may go over 8 percent. So we spent \$878 billion on the stimulus bill; and in the end, what did we get? Well, we are at 10 percent or just under 10 percent unemployment at this point.

Mr. AKIN. So we are getting this radical, one statement says one thing and yet when you look at it, it is the exact opposite.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Actions as we know, speak louder than words.

Mr. AKIN. The promise was if you don't pass the stimulus bill, this was a year ago, you could have unemployment above 8 percent. I wish we hadn't passed it because our unemployment is now 10 percent.