

That is why I included it in the Food Safety Modernization Act and why it is supported by so many people and so many grocery stores across the country as well as consumer groups, the bill I introduced with Senator CHAMBLISS of Georgia, the Food Safety Rapid Response Act. Building on successful efforts at detecting and investigating foodborne illnesses, this will strengthen the ability of the Federal and State and local officials to quickly investigate and respond to foodborne illness outbreaks.

I am proud to have Senator CHAMBLISS, from the State of Georgia, that had to have this experience. When it was finally discovered where this came from, it was from one company, one bad actor in their State. He was willing to come with me on this bill because we said enough is enough. We have to put prevention in there, which is in this bill, to stop these things from ever happening. But if it does happen, you want to solve it as quickly as possible so you don't get more people getting sick and dying.

What this part of the bill does, the part Senator CHAMBLISS and I introduced, it directs the CDC to enhance the Nation's foodborne surveillance systems by improving collection, analysis, reporting, and usefulness of data on foodborne illness.

This includes better sharing of information among Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as with the food industry and the public. It directs the Centers for Disease Control to work with State-level agencies to improve foodborne illness surveillance.

Finally, the legislation establishes food safety centers of excellence. The goal is to set up these food safety centers at select public health departments and higher education institutions around the country. It takes the Minnesota example across the country, first with five centers—not to directly tell each State exactly what to do but to be an example of best practices for a region of the country.

Not many bills that come before Congress enjoy such a wide range of support from some important stakeholders. Not only do consumers recognize the critical need for this major bill, but the legislation has received support from major brand-name food companies. They know what is at stake. Their reputation and their bottom line depends on the trust of their customers, the trust that everything possible is being done to make sure their food is safe.

As a former prosecutor like yourself, Mr. President, I have always believed the first responsibility of government is to protect its citizens. In this most basic duty, our government failed Shirley Almer and many others who have been harmed by recent recalls. We owe it to them and all Americans to fix what is broken in our food safety system.

We can do a lot better with our food safety system. That is why we need to pass this legislation now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.) The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

OUTSOURCING

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I appreciate the comments of Senator KLOBUCHAR, who has been a leader on moving forward on this legislation on food safety. It is so important to our country. I am so sorry that pretty much one obstructionist, or a whole party of obstructionists, unfortunately, have blocked this bill, and one Senator in particular has kept us from moving on this bipartisan bill. It is one of the sad chapters of this Senate that a small minority, again, can block us from doing the things we ought to do in our jobs, what we ought to be doing.

I want to talk for a moment about some positive developments in my State. A couple of weeks ago I went to Lordstown, OH. It has a General Motors plant. I believe Governor Strickland was asked to drive the first red Cruze, Chevy Cruze, their highest mileage new car, off the line, followed by a white Cruze and a blue Cruze. You know the symbolism of that and the beauty of that and the inspiration of that in many ways was all about what has happened in the last 18½ months to the auto industry.

I am particularly proud. I do not come to the floor and endorse one particular company ever. I am not doing that. I am proud of this because of what it looked like a year and a half ago.

Now, 18 months ago we remember what happened: Barack Obama took the oath of office. The banks had about imploded. We knew the financial system was close to collapse. We knew the auto industry was facing bankruptcy.

President Obama took office in the midst of losing 700,000 jobs a month. President Bush was leaving office, having left us—the largest in history at that time—the largest budget deficit in the history of the United States of America. That is what we started with 18½ months ago.

When you think about what it meant in the auto industry—I know my State is considered an auto State. New Mexico may not be, but New Mexico has some number of component manufacturers and a lot of car dealerships.

The car dealerships in Taos or Albuquerque or Truth or Consequences or anywhere necessarily in the State are often so involved in the community: helping Little League, helping scholarships, all of the kinds of things the good citizens, especially auto dealers, do. But I think about what this meant.

So 18 months ago when this auto industry was about to crash, literally—pardon the pun—what it would have meant in my State, it would have meant tens of thousands of retirees would have possibly lost significant amounts of pension and health care they had as 25-, 30-, 40-year employees of General Motors or Chrysler.

We know it would have meant a huge number of lost jobs, thousands of lost jobs, just in the auto companies, let alone all of the suppliers, what are called tier 1 suppliers, tier 2 suppliers, those small companies, small- and medium-sized companies that are suppliers. They are machine shops, tool-and-die makers, stamping plants, all kinds of companies that make components that go into the auto industry, that go into the trucks and the cars. They would have gone out of business.

We knew all of this was about to happen. Because of the Recovery Act, and because this government decided, President Obama and the Democrats in the House and Senate—in spite of the naysayers, in spite of the people out there who said: Let the market work; if the auto industry collapses, it is the market speaking. Just let the market work. Let the free market work. If we had listened to them, listened to the naysayers, listened to the people who are the doom-and-gloom crowd, my State would have gone into a depression. We would have lost thousands of auto jobs. Senior citizens relying on those pensions and health care would have been, in many cases, abandoned. The dealerships, the component manufacturers, and the auto company employees themselves would have been out of work.

As I said, we did not listen to the conservative politicians and say: Let the market work. We did not listen to the naysayers. We did not listen to the doom-and-gloom crowd who said: It is not our problem. The Federal Government has no business.

Well, the fact is, the Federal Government invested in the auto industry. Instead of losing 700,000 jobs a month, as we were when President Obama took office 18, 19 months ago, we are now gaining jobs. We have gained jobs in this country in the private sector for 7 or 8 straight months. Not enough, not even close to what we want to do in New Mexico or Ohio or any other State, but clearly we have seen some good things happen.

What has happened in the auto industry is particularly interesting. At this GM plant in Lordstown, right where I was—and I have been there many times, where I was a couple of weeks ago with Governor Strickland—we have seen—there are 4,500 people working in that plant now. They just added 1,100 jobs to do the third shift of the Chevrolet Cruze. But what is particularly great about that, if you are the Senator from Ohio, is in Defiance, OH, western Ohio, near the Indiana border, is where they make the engines for the Chevy Cruze.

If you travel northeast of there to a Toledo suburb called Northwood, that is where they make the bumpers for the Chevy Cruze. If you go into the city of Toledo, that is where they make the transmission for the Chevy Cruze. Then you go east to Parma, OH, that is where they stamped most of the components for the Chevy Cruze.

Then you drive east to the Youngstown area, Mahoney Valley to Lordstown. They do some of the stamping, and that is where they do the assembly. So hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of new jobs were created—well, thousands—up and down the supply chain, from the most basic bolt, the most basic component in an engine or the most basic component in a car door or anywhere else in that car, to the ultimate assembly in Lordstown. It means thousands of jobs.

Again, if we had listened to the doom-and-gloom crowd and the naysayers, it never would have happened. We also need to learn from history. When government is in partnership with the private sector, with private businesses and communities, some pretty good things can happen. Just take this for a moment.

For 8 years, January 1993 to January 2001, President Clinton, during his time as President, we saw a 22 million private net increase, 22 million job increase.

We also saw wages go up in this country, and President Clinton left us with the largest budget surplus in American history: 22 million jobs, an increase in wages, largest budget surplus in American history.

In the next 8 years, January 20, 2001, to January 20 at noon, 2009, those 8 years of President Bush, 1 million jobs increased, 1 million, not even enough to take care of our sons and daughter who have graduated from high school and are entering the workforce, coming out of the Army, coming out of high school, coming out of college, not even enough to absorb the population growth.

Wages were actually flat or went down for the great majority of Americans during those 8 years, and President Bush left us with record budget deficits. So 22 million jobs, 1 million jobs, incomes went up, incomes flat and went down, biggest budget surplus in American history, record budget deficit under the Bush years.

So if you go back further, you hear the Republicans, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, talk about this philosophy: Cut taxes on the rich, and you cut taxes on corporations, you are going to have job growth. Well, nice try. It is not what happened.

After the Ronald Reagan tax cuts for the rich in 1981, the next 16 months we had declining employment in this country, 16 months in a row of lost jobs after this tax cut, which was going to make the economy take off. Fast-forward 1993, President Clinton. He had some tax increases on the wealthiest taxpayers. He also had some budget cuts, and he moved toward a balanced budget.

Employment took off—22 million jobs. President Bush, 2001, big tax cuts for the rich in 2001, big tax cuts for the rich in 2003, basically no real significant increase in jobs during those 8 years. Now, the mantra of the Republicans, those who are on the ballot this

year and those who sit across the aisle from me, again, is, let's do more tax cuts because that increases jobs.

It does not. What increases jobs is investment in education, investment in health care, investment in infrastructure, reducing the deficits—all the things that Republicans pay lip service to but in the end simply do not deliver on.

We have an opportunity next Monday. This coming Monday, we are going to bring a bill to the floor that is the other part of this: How do we create jobs? That is, we are going to begin to finally move to fix some of our tax laws, and then next will be some of our trade laws so that we quit losing so many jobs to China.

Mr. President, 30 percent of our GDP in 1980 was manufacturing, almost 30 percent. Now it is down to 11 percent of our gross domestic product. A big part of that is trade policy, which the Presiding Officer opposed when he was in the House of Representatives, PNTR with China and the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and before that, when I was in the House, my first year, the North American Free Trade Agreement, which we opposed.

Those trade agreements, coupled with tax law, has encouraged companies to move overseas. Those days have to be behind us. What we are going to do on Monday night is vote on legislation that will begin to turn the corner, will begin to take away those tax incentives for companies to go overseas and replace them with tax incentives for businesses that manufacture in Shelby, OH, and in Ravenna, OH, and Zanesville, Ohio, and all over this country.

At the same time, President Obama, the first President in years in either party, is beginning to enforce trade law. We know what that meant in Findlay, OH, when he enforced trade laws with the International Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce, on Chinese tires that had been dumped, sold illegally into this country.

When President Obama enforced those trade rules against the breaking of the law that the Chinese Government did, immediately we saw several hundred jobs created—100 of them in Findlay, OH—several hundred jobs created all over the country.

When the President did the same thing on something called oil country tubular steel—it is the steel, the seamless steel pipes, these tubes that are used for oil and gas drilling—we immediately saw a commitment, an investment, which will result in 400 jobs in Mahoning Valley in northeast Ohio, and a good many jobs in Lorain, OH, a city I lived in for a decade west of Cleveland on Lake Erie.

We were able to do that because, finally, it is the Democrats, working with President Obama, who are enforcing trade law and beginning to change tax policy so we see job creation.

I do not care where you live in this country. People are just sick and tired

of not being able to find American-made products. This is made in China. This is made in India. This is made in Brazil. This is made in Honduras. This is made in Bangladesh. Nothing against those countries, but oftentimes, especially the Chinese, their government is gaming the system. They are not playing fair on trade. We need a whole different trade regimen. We need a whole different tax system so American companies are no longer going to China to find cheap labor, weak environmental rules, unenforced worker safety rules, and can produce and then send it back to America.

I think this is the first time since colonial days where the business community, where a lot of large manufacturing companies—and I make the distinction between large and small because small manufacturing companies do not do this but the large manufacturing companies. Ten years ago they came to lobby Congress to pass the permanent normal trade relations with China. Ten years ago this month the Senate, for all intents and purposes, sold out American manufacturing. They passed PNTR, it was called. It used to be called most favored nation status with China. They changed the name because it did not sound very good.

Congress passed that 10 years ago. What that has meant is our trade deficit with China has almost tripled in that period of time. What the business community has done, the large companies have done, is this: They lobbied to change the rules. Then they moved production from St. Clairsville, OH, and Portsmouth, OH, and Springfield, OH, to Shanghai and Wuhan and Beijing, and Huang Jo, China, to make those products. Then they sold them back to the United States.

I don't think since colonial times that large companies in one country have adopted that kind of business plan where you move production out of your country, make it somewhere else, add all that value to those products, and then sell them back into the home country where the corporation headquarters is located. It doesn't make sense for us. It means far too many lost jobs.

I will give an example. There is an industry in which many Ohio companies are involved, the paper industry. There is a specific kind of paper called a glossy paper used in magazines. China didn't have that industry. It is called coated paper. Twelve years ago China did not have a coated paper industry. They began it similar to the last decade when they built wind and solar, clean energy industries, and somehow started to lead the world, as we have unilaterally disarmed. Now they buy most of their pulp in Brazil. So they grow the trees, cut down the trees in Brazil. They ship the wood to Chinese paper mills. They manufacture the coated paper in China. They ship it back to the United States. They underprice American paper companies

which buy the wood sometimes within a few miles or a few hundred miles of where they are, which tells me, even though wages are less in China, even though they don't have much enforcement of environmental rules or worker safety rules, they are gaming the system with currency, with subsidies, free land, all the kinds of things the Chinese Communist Government does.

Until we enforce trade laws so we play fair and compete, we will continue to lose manufacturing jobs. That is why Monday night is an important first step as this Senate moves forward on dealing with the problem of outsourcing jobs. There are few things we can do in this body more important than beginning to rebuild manufacturing. We know how to make things. My State is the third largest manufacturing State in the country, behind only California and Texas, which are two and three times the size of Ohio in population. We know how to make big and little things. We have the largest ketchup manufacturing plant in the world in Freemont. We have the largest insulation company making fiberglass anywhere in the United States in Newark. We know how to make things in our State. We just need the opportunity, a level playing field, tax law and trade law that puts the United States of America on a level playing field. We know we can compete with anybody. We just need the opportunity.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to talk about two basic topics today. But first, for today, in light of the news that so many people have been discussing today and reporting on today, which is the implementation today of some parts of our health care bill, the Affordable Care Act, which we passed back in March after many months of debate and work on that legislation, one of the most popular but essential elements to that bill was a whole series of consumer protections which in some ways does not fully describe what they are. I would rather use the phrase "family safeguards," to give families some peace of mind not just on the broader question of insurance coverage for those who get sick and need coverage. We all need health insurance at some point in our life, sometimes more than others, but especially if you are a child with a preexisting condition.

For so many years we have allowed a system to say to that child and to his or her family: We know you have a preexisting condition. It might be some-

thing serious and life threatening, but the system does not allow you to be covered for one reason or another.

Finally, at long last, in 2010, we said no to that denial. So now we are able to say that fear that a child would feel, especially his or her family, can now have peace of mind to know that if a child in the United States has a preexisting condition, that will not be a bar to coverage, therefore, to treatment. Of course, it also impacts adults. We have seen stories about adults who will benefit from the bill on the preexisting condition problem that so many people find themselves in. The implementation of the children's provisions goes into effect now. The adults will come later. But even in the short run, the bill allowed for and developed a high risk pool, even for adults with preexisting conditions. Of course, the full protection won't be in effect for a couple of years. But at least and at long last children will have that protection.

The other protections among what I call family safeguards are some basic protections that we should all have a right to expect but, unfortunately, a lot of families haven't had these protections. For example, preventing insurance companies from arbitrarily throwing people off their insurance coverage or denying them coverage for reasons that do not make a lot of sense, but I guess they made sense to big profitable insurance companies over many years. They won't be able to do that any longer. They will not be able to put lifetime limits on one's coverage or treatment. The limits annual in nature will be more limited. It will be more difficult for insurance companies to place annual limits.

One of the provisions that has received a lot of attention and speaks right to a need a lot of families have is when a young person, say someone who is finishing college and needs some coverage between the time they are in college and the time they reach the age of 26, they will now be covered. So if we go down the list, it is a long and substantial and significant set of consumer protections which does provide some degree of safeguard and some degree of peace of mind to our families.

Unfortunately, in the midst of all that, in that ocean of good news on these consumer protections, we have some bad news which is disturbing. When we were debating health insurance in Washington and around the country, we would have a lot of fights with insurance companies. Some of them came around and worked to pass the bill. Some did not.

But there was an attempt to work together constructively to develop good legislation.

Well, unfortunately, a few—not all but a few—took a step the other day which was outrageous, insulting, egregious, and harmful to what we are trying to do to make sure children and families have that peace of mind I spoke of earlier.

Several health insurance companies have announced they are going to stop offering child-only health insurance plans because they are no longer allowed to discriminate against children with preexisting conditions, such as, for example, asthma, just to name one.

Why would insurance companies do that? Right before this provision goes into effect, at the eleventh hour so to speak, they start dropping this kind of coverage. It puts hundreds of thousands of children at risk. The Obama administration estimates that 100,000 to 700,000 children could be affected by these changes.

I believe it will be outrageous if one child is affected by this—literally one child—when we have provisions going into effect that are going to at long last protect kids; that a couple insurance companies that make a tremendous profit—which I will get to in a moment—take this step to change their strategy as it relates to kids. Many of the children who will be affected by this adverse decision by these few insurance companies are in families who are struggling just to get by now and cannot afford to pay for insurance for their whole family, but they are trying to keep their kids insured.

A lot of parents do that all the time. They forego their own coverage and their own health care and sometimes, literally, their own health in order to protect their children, in order to provide a child with some treatment, some care, some protection. Yet we have these few insurance companies that are taking this action, which is outrageous and disturbing, and that is an understatement.

Several of the companies that have decided to take this action—this action that is harmful to America's children—some of these companies have operations in States such as Pennsylvania. Aetna is one of them. The companies that have decided to stop offering health insurance to children are few. I mentioned Aetna. Another is Cigna and another is Anthem Blue Cross. As we know, Anthem Blue Cross is owned by WellPoint.

Listen to this: In 2009, these three health insurance companies that are discontinuing their child-only plans had \$7.3 billion in profits. That is not gross revenue, folks. That is profit, \$7.3 billion. WellPoint, which owns Anthem Blue Cross, \$4.7 billion in profits; Aetna, \$1.2 billion in profits; and, finally, Cigna, \$1.3 billion in profits. They are firms that are doing this, taking this action just before today's provisions to protect kids on preexisting conditions take effect.

So it is my hope—and I believe they will do this—the Department of Health and Human Services will take every step necessary to have this decision by these companies reversed. I hope there is some way to sanction or punish insurance companies that do that. I am not sure that is possible. There are a lot of debates about what can be done. But I would hope—short of action by a