

And what about jobs? Our first priority should be creating private sector employment opportunities, especially in America's small businesses.

However, the evidence is clear: by raising taxes, imposing new health mandates and regulations, and increasing uncertainty for small business employers, investors and entrepreneurs, ObamaCare is already destroying jobs in our country.

With nearly 10 percent unemployment and massive public debt, the American people want us to focus on cutting spending and expanding our economy.

That's why I will urge my Colleagues to support this important repeal legislation and take the first steps towards replacing it with reforms that will bring down costs, expand health care accessibility and protect American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this week we have the opportunity to ensure that our constituents remain in control of their own health care through a system that is patient-centered and provides health care choices, not Washington-imposed mandates.

I urge support of H.R. 2—the repeal of Obamacare.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address and celebrate the many moments of altruism that have emerged from the simple words, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." It is this expression of love of country, this spirit that President Kennedy evoked in all of us that causes me to rise today for my maiden speech on the floor of the House of Representatives. Even 50 years later, we take from this speech the reminder that we still have work to do to improve our country, and that work is incumbent upon us to finish.

As a young child, I remember watching the ceremony on January 20, 1961. I remember the poet Robert Frost read a poem from the podium as his eyeglasses fogged up. I remember President Kennedy taking the stage, and I could have never imagined the impact he would have on my generation and the generations to come.

Here in Washington, President Kennedy is never far from my mind because I have the distinct honor of coming to work to the same office that President Kennedy had when he was a Member of Congress. Our space is a historic treasure. I am so fortunate to be entrusted with the safekeeping of this memorial and all that it represents to the people of Massachusetts and every American who has been inspired by President Kennedy.

My first days and weeks in Congress have been an incredible privilege, serving my community in Massachusetts and working to find solutions for the challenges that our country faces.

President Kennedy's words are timeless, and we can and should learn from them today. He called on our country to remember that "civility is not a sign of weakness." His words should inform our national conversation as we hopefully renew our commitment to respect and graciousness, where politics means more than stark division and glaring partisanship.

Our country needs healing, and Kennedy would believe that it is up to all of us to participate in restoring this type of civility. Fifty years ago he said, "Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us." I welcome this challenge, and I will spend my time in Congress living up to those words.

Good ideas are not restricted to one political party or the other, so I look forward to hearing from my constituents of all political stripes. If my neighbor in Weymouth has an idea to create jobs, I want to hear it. If a resident of Plymouth has a proposal on how we can move our country forward, I want to help. If a fellow citizen in Barnstable has a plan to make our country safer and stronger, I look forward to working together.

In closing, let us remember that President Kennedy had a long-term vision for this country. He understood that a change in direction takes time, and we understand that a return to the values that he kept will not be immediate. As he said, "All of this will not be finished in the first 100 days, nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days, nor in the life of this administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin."

So as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inauguration, let us begin anew.

PATIENTS' RIGHTS REPEAL ACT WILL HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Tomorrow, the House will vote on the Patients' Rights Repeal Act. While none of us thought that the landmark reform bill passed last year was perfect, repeal would only recreate many problems that last year's bill solved. Instead of identifying specific improvements, Republicans have proposed to repeal every single consumer protection, protections that benefit all of our constituents. We cannot allow this irresponsible bill to become law.

During the debate over health insurance reform in 2009, I received countless letters from individuals throughout my district who testified to the dire need to address high costs and inadequacy in service. For example, a constituent from White Plains told me about her 27-year-old son who was battling cancer and cannot afford some of

the treatments. She wrote, "From discrimination by insurance companies against the millions of us with 'pre-existing conditions' to lack of affordable care, we've had enough."

By ending denials of coverage based on preexisting conditions, 9,200 residents of my congressional district with preexisting conditions will now have access to health insurance. That is just one benefit of reform that's at stake.

If the repeal law were to become law, insurers could impose devastating annual and lifetime benefit caps. Young adults would lose coverage on their parents' plans. Pregnant women and breast cancer and prostate cancer survivors could be denied coverage when they most need it. Seniors would pay higher prescription drug costs. Consumer protections for 445,000 constituents who have private insurance would be rescinded, resulting in higher health care costs and reduced coverage. 22,100 businesses and 91,000 families in my district would not receive tax credits to access better and more affordable coverage. Large insurers would no longer be required to spend at least 85 percent of premiums on health benefits and justify large rate increases.

□ 1950

And reforms the Commonwealth Foundation estimates will lower the rate of premium increases by \$2,000 on average by the end of the decade will be undone.

I am very happy to work with anyone who genuinely wants to improve health coverage and make it more affordable. I am deeply concerned that this vote tomorrow is about keeping campaign promises without serious examination of the impact of this repeal, especially on Americans like my 27-year-old constituent in White Plains who has cancer.

To my colleagues, if you want to help your constituents who have insurance and the millions of Americans who don't, I urge you to vote "no" on repealing every consumer protection that benefits them.

Thank you.

ARLENE BUSH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to commemorate the service of my dear friend Arlene Bush, who is entering her 30th year as a member of the Bloomington School Board of Minnesota. Arlene, who turns 80 later on this year, first joined the school board in 1981. And while times have changed since then, Arlene's dedication to Bloomington students and the schools that they attend has not.

She started her own educational journey in a small two-room schoolhouse in the tiny town of Odin, Minnesota. Later, she moved to Minneapolis, where she graduated from

high school in 1948. Later, she got married and she settled in Bloomington, Minnesota, which at that time was a growing suburb of Minneapolis, where she raised six daughters before beginning her long career in public service.

Arlene's big heart and humble demeanor immediately endeared her to new friends. She makes a point to be a community leader not only through the duties of her position but by being present at sporting events, plays, pep fests, musicals, concerts, and ceremonies celebrating the young people of Bloomington. She not only advocates for Bloomington's students on the board, she encourages them personally every chance she gets.

She understands that children need not only financial and operational support in their education; she exemplifies a leader who invests in their interests, recognizes their achievements, and comforts them in times of adversity.

Arlene's milestone isn't one that can be measured in the number of hours logged in meetings or the number of terms that she's served but rather in the lives of the thousands, the literally thousands of students that have benefited from her commitment to education.

Over the years, the name "Arlene Bush" has become synonymous with education among the generations of Bloomington students whose lives have been enriched through her many years of service. She's a pillar of the community whose presence on the school board has absolutely provided a steady hand as times have changed.

As a father with four daughters in public schools myself, it is reassuring to know there are dedicated public servants like Arlene out there working to give our children the best education possible. And like Arlene, these unsung heroes don't do it for the glory or admiration. They do it simply because they share a common desire to better our community.

And these kind souls prove that you don't have to be a congressman or a senator to change the world or touch someone's life. Inside all of us is the ability to contribute to the public good and to make the world a better place for future generations.

When asked recently to look back on her many years of service on the school board, Arlene replied in very true Minnesota fashion. She wasn't boastful or proud but rather humbled. She said that she was thankful for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I just want to take the time to let Arlene know that we, too, are thankful—thankful for her desire to serve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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 Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the ordering of a 5-minute Special Order in favor of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is vacated.

There was no objection.

SERVING NORTH CHICAGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous honor, excitement, and humility that I rise to the floor of this great Chamber to represent the aspirations and hardworking values of Illinois' 10th Congressional District—Chicago's north and northwest suburbs.

Let me begin by expressing our thoughts and prayers remain with Congresswoman GIFFORDS as she undergoes her recovery. My heart goes out to her and her family, along with the other families whose lives have been changed by this tragedy in Tucson on January 8.

Tonight I am here to continue the tradition of this congressional seat by delivering a speech that lays out how I intend to legislate and explains the manner in which I will work with my colleagues to move this country forward.

Over the past 18 months, I have traveled all over our great district trying to ask people what keeps them up at night. Stretching from Wilmette to Waukegan, Libertyville to Glenview, Highland Park to Palatine, I am fortunate to represent a congressional district that encompasses a diverse community that asks its political leaders to tackle a wide-ranging ambitious agenda. And from all conversations I've had at train stations and town centers, at countless small businesses, in diners and in town hall meetings, there is one thing I know: the 112th Congress must focus on jobs and the economy, on reigning in the out-of-control spending here in Washington, and to make sure that our country remains safe and free.

Beyond talking with members of my community, I also took the time to study the heritage of the congressional seat representing the people of northern Cook and eastern Lake Counties. Beginning with our first representative, John McLean, upon Illinois' founding, statehood in 1818, ours is an area that has always demanded a high standard of leadership, a commitment to local issues, and yet an eye towards American leadership in the world.

Our community is bound by deep-rooted characteristics—namely, a desire for pragmatic, effective leadership; vigorous independence; and the ability to work with the other side of the aisle in a civilized and bipartisan manner. These are the virtues that I pledge to continue in Congress as I begin my service to the people of the 10th Congressional District.

In looking at the work of my predecessors, I have come across a number of individuals who served our area in the highest tradition of public service with the commitment to the greater good. Tonight, I would like to take a moment to speak about a few of them.

The first woman to represent northeastern Illinois in Congress did so with remarkable distinction, skill, and effectiveness. Marguerite Stitt Church took to Congress in 1949, succeeding her late husband, Congressman Ralph Church. She served until 1962 promoting fiscal restraint, equal pay for women, and civil rights initiatives. She held a healthy disdain for extravagant Federal spending, which we can all certainly appreciate today. And foreshadowing the men who would follow her, Marguerite Church encouraged democratic reforms abroad from her position on the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mrs. Church retired in 1963 only to be succeeded in the 88th Congress by a man who also took to the causes of fiscal conservatism and American leadership in the world: Donald Rumsfeld. The people of northeastern Illinois elected Secretary Rumsfeld—a fellow New Trier High School graduate—to Congress at the young age of 30. From 1963 to 1969, he served our area with great distinction. He had a spot on the Joint Economic Committee, and during perhaps the most critical time in the development of our space program, he sat on the House Committee on Science and Aeronautics. As many know, his tenure in Congress was just the beginning of a long career in public service.

Ten years later saw the beginning of another incredible career devoted to public service. For 21 years, John Porter served the people of the 10th district. In that time, he made his great mark both at home and abroad. Serving on the Appropriations Committee and as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, John Porter achieved a record of tremendous legislative success. Reflecting on the values of his district, he advocated for scientific funding and advancements in health care research, displayed a commitment to the environment, championed a strong respect for the taxpayer, and set a standard for high quality constituent service.

John Porter also recorded impressive accomplishments in the area of foreign policy. After a trip to the Soviet Union, he founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. This led him to help free refuseniks in Russia, fight for the rights of North Korean refugees,