

LET'S NOT RETURN TO A BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, last year we took a desperately needed stand for America's families and small businesses over the insurance companies. We took a stand against insurance company abuses like discrimination against the sick, lifetime limits, the prescription drug doughnut hole, and a resulting \$1 trillion increase to our deficit.

We took a stand for hardworking Americans like Vicky Farrar, who moved to Albuquerque only to discover that to reenroll in a health insurance plan she would end up spending close to a third of her income because of her preexisting condition, high blood pressure. That kind of skyrocketing cost burden has stunted the dreams of American families and small businesses while lining the pockets of insurance company CEOs. But thanks to the American Affordable Care Act, Vicky and her doctor will be put back in charge of her health care and able to choose an affordable insurance policy.

I urge my colleagues to vote against a return to the broken health care system that we spent decades trying to fix.

SHOTS ACROSS THE BORDER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, in the border ghost town of Fort Quitman, Texas, a county road crew came under automatic weapon fire. The four Hudspeth County workers reported at least eight shots were fired at them from across the border in Mexico.

The Rio Grande is very narrow in this isolated region and is used by armed drug smugglers to bring drugs into the United States. Speculation by the Texas Rangers is the shooter was trying to protect the drug route from the workers. This newest attack on the road crew is yet another example of the brazen, violent determination of outlaws to invade the United States.

The United States protects the borders of other nations. Why doesn't the Federal Government do its constitutional duty and really protect our border from foreign invaders? Are border States going to have to not only give road crews shovels but rifles to protect them from the drug cartels?

It's time to be serious and protect Americans and put more National Guard troops on the border. Meanwhile, Washington seems to be whistling by the graveyard of indifference.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REPEAL

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of Patricia Maisch. Pat, as her friends call her, lives outside Tucson and has been fittingly hailed as one of the heroes during the tragic shooting of our colleague and friend GABBY GIFFORDS. Pat actually knocked the second gun clip out of the shooter's hand as he was attempting to reload, very likely saving the lives of more innocent people.

She was in line to talk to her Congresswoman, to share that she thought that the title of the health care repeal bill was disingenuous and because Pat and her husband own a small business north of Tucson. The spouse of one of their employees has a preexisting condition and they have been unable to find affordable coverage to cover her. Pat wanted to tell Congresswoman GIFFORDS that the health reform law will help them provide health insurance for this employee. She wanted to ask Gabby to stand up to attempts to repeal health reform.

Pat was unable to deliver her message to her Representative, but she asked me to share it with you now. Heed the words of Pat Maisch. Heed the words of millions of Americans needing health care. Don't repeal vital health care reform.

REPEAL GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of repealing the government takeover of health care forced through Congress without the input of the American people.

This country is currently in the midst of a terrible recession and it's clear that shouldering America's small businesses with heavier tax burdens and increased regulation will only prolong our road to recovery.

By mandating that small businesses and individuals carry government-approved health care, the Federal Government has dramatically overstepped the boundaries of personal freedom guaranteed by our Constitution. It infringes on the rights of the States by forcing new requirements upon them and penalizing them should they choose to opt out of the Federal mandate.

The American people were misled. A government-run health care plan will limit access and choice, and millions of Americans will lose their coverage because of mandates from bureaucrats in Washington.

REPEAL OF THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today we continue debate on the Re-

publicans' most unfortunate effort to repeal health care reform that we passed during the last Congress. This repeal will increase the deficit by \$230 billion. No one disagrees with that but Republicans. That's why the Republican majority exempted this legislation from pay-as-you-go budgeting. You know this repeal will increase the deficit.

Keeping the law in its present form not only decreases the deficit but will provide 32 million uninsured Americans the opportunity to obtain insurance and provide dependable coverage for their families; it allows children to remain on their family's policy to age 26; it closes the doughnut hole, and it does so much more.

Mr. Speaker, I can usually see both sides of an issue, but for the life of me, I can't see what the Republicans are trying to achieve but to score political points with their right-wing base.

I call on my friends to abandon your efforts and let's concentrate on putting Americans to work. That's what my constituents are demanding and your constituents as well.

HISTORIC DAY—REPEAL OF OBAMACARE

(Mr. GRAVES of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day in America. Acting on the will of the voters and the majority of all Americans, today we will vote to repeal ObamaCare.

Now, while the Senate appears less interested in following suit, here in the House this vote marks the beginning of round two of a vigorous and spirited national debate on health care. Over the coming months and weeks, this debate will go from Congress to kitchen tables all across this country. So as we reengage in this debate, the party on the left questions: Why do the American people want this policy repealed so bad? So let's revisit some of those areas.

Number one, the employee mandate, penalizing and punishing businesses for not having government-approved health care; the individual mandate, punishing and taxing Americans who choose not to have government-approved health care; the \$569 billion in new taxes on the American people; jobs being lost; the cost of the bill, \$2.6 trillion with a \$700 billion deficit over the first 10 years of its life; and, yes, 222 corporations already exempt and waived from this policy. That's why.

It's time to reopen the debate, debunk the myths, and replace this law with less costly, market-driven solutions that truly expand access and affordability, and above all, preserve our individual liberties.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, repealing the historic health care legislation that we passed last year would pull the rug out from under millions of Americans and add billions to the deficit.

We can and should talk about CBO scores, tax credits, and unemployment numbers. But what this health care reform is really about is improving the lives of millions of Americans. It's about children with preexisting conditions who can no longer be denied coverage. It's about senior citizens who can now afford to get screened for diabetes or get a mammogram. It's about working families that no longer have to worry that their insurance will be canceled if they get sick.

It's about people like GERALYN from South Portland, Maine, who wrote to me. She said, "My son turned 19 last May and promptly lost his insurance coverage. He has high blood pressure and had to go to the doctor a number of times to get his medication right. It was a struggle to keep up with the bills. He works two part-time jobs, and that doesn't get him health care. As of December 1, I was able to get him back on my insurance and it is a relief knowing he is covered. If this was repealed, it would hurt my son's health."

That's why we need to stick with the health care plan and vote "no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM REPEAL

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

Mr. FINCHER. When the Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act last year, it was promised that Americans would have better access, more affordable and higher quality care. Instead, ObamaCare created what we all despise and know won't work—more government bureaucracy at taxpayer expense: \$500 billion in new taxes, \$500 billion in Medicare cuts, more government bureaucracy, thousands of new IRS employees.

What we need for the American people is transparency and accountability. Do I need to remind our colleagues that the approval rating of Congress is at an all-time low because we're not listening to the folks?

We were sent here in November to do a job, and that's exactly what we're going to do. We're going to keep our promises we made to the American people, and we're going to hold true to that.

So I stand in favor of repealing the health care bill. We have to create jobs and get our economy moving. If we allow this health care bill to stay in effect, that will not do.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The gentleman that spoke before me talked about transparency and accountability. Let's talk about the insurance industry pre-reform. They could cancel your policy if you got sick even though you had been paying the premiums for years. They could refuse to sell you a policy if they don't like the way you look or if you've had a minor health problem. We changed that. People can now get health insurance and keep their health insurance if they've been paying their premiums.

But now they want to go back to those bad old days, and they talk about transparency and accountability. How accountable is an industry that is exempt from antitrust law? Health insurance companies can and do collude to exclude people from coverage, to red line, to drive up premiums, to not sell in one State, not compete with one another. There's no free market and competition and transparency and accountability.

If the Republicans really wanted to do something today, and if they want to showboat with this repeal, they could at least replace it by making the industry comply with the same competitive rules as every other industry in America except for professional sports, and that is they would be subject to antitrust law restrictions.

HEALTH CARE REFORM REPEAL

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we all want to increase access to quality, affordable health care. We know that in this troubled economy, Americans are concerned about making ends meet and ensuring that they are covered in the event of a health care emergency.

However, the misguided health care effort that was pushed through this House during the last Congress is doing much more harm than good. The hard-working families and seniors and small businesses in my district cannot afford this health care overhaul that is costing jobs, increasing red tape, spending trillions of dollars, and actually increasing health care costs.

This week the House is listening to and acting upon the message that Americans sent to Washington this past fall. We will replace the over-reaching health care law with common-sense solutions that will lower costs and increase access to insurance while keeping Americans in charge of their own health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, when the Health Care Reform Act was passed, it had in it section 1560. That section recognizes the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act. Why? Because we have the lowest premiums in the Nation and we have one of the best coverages afforded for that. And why is that? Because we recognized very early on that you need to do a series of things. One, you need to share risks; two, you need to cover everyone; and, three, you need to make things available. Health care has to be available. And for that, we have a great system, a system that still needs to be tweaked, a system that will benefit from the Affordable Health Care Act.

What does that tell you? It took us 36 years to get it right, and we're still working on it. And my colleagues across the aisle want to repeal something that hasn't been around for a year.

Now, the American people do not want that. They want us to learn from when things are done right. Look at what we've done—36 years and we're getting it right. But it's still not perfect. We've got to keep listening, and we've got to hear the people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday I had the privilege of hearing from a Rhode Islander, Alex Lataille, who spoke at the one and only hearing Congress had to discuss the negative effects of repealing the new health care law.

Alex graduated last May with two bachelor's degrees, and while looking for a job after graduation, he is able to afford health insurance because he can stay on his parents' policy. Repealing this law means Alex and millions of Americans will lose their coverage.

I also recently spoke to Beth, a woman from Woonsocket, Rhode Island. She told me she's an insurance agent. She sells insurance every single day, but she's denied access to coverage because of her preexisting condition. Repealing this law would mean she would again be denied access to health care. She said, Please do not let them take my health care.

I was sent here to find practical solutions to solve the problems facing Rhode Island families. Let's work to improve this law, not repeal it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last year and a half as we worked to pass incredibly important protections to Americans, opponents of health care reform continued to try to scare people about what we